

THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

Resolution 452 (2019)¹ Revised Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe,

1. referring to Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe, which recognised “the essential contribution made by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to the development and realisation of democracy and human rights, in particular through the promotion of public awareness, participation in public life and securing the transparency and accountability of public authorities”;

2. noting the adoption in 2009 by the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) of the Council of Europe (hereafter “the Conference”) of the Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process (hereafter “the Code”), a document which laid out the rationale, framework and the means for enhanced civil participation, and which received support from both the Congress and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;

3. recalling that the Congress was willing to promote the Code and use it in its own work and that it adopted in 2015 its Resolution 385 on fostering active citizenship by building partnerships with civil society, in which it asked the Conference to revise the Code to keep the content up-to-date;

4. convinced that the implementation of the Code will contribute to United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goal 11, making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable; Goal 16, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and Goal 17, strengthening the means of implementation and revitalising the global partnership for sustainable development;

5. having held joint meetings with the Conference in 2018 and 2019 to discuss revisions that needed to be implemented and which have subsequently led to the updated version of the Code:

a. welcomes the adoption of the revised Code by the Standing Committee of the Conference at its meeting on 24 June 2019 and takes note that the Conference will be asked to adopt it at its plenary session in October 2019;

b. calls upon its members to endorse the Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process, as revised, and to promote its implementation by local and regional authorities in member States of the Council of Europe.

1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 30 October 2019, 2nd sitting (see Document [CG37\(2019\)16](#), appendix), rapporteur: Thomas ANDERSSON, Sweden (R, ILDG).