

OIDP General Assembly Preparatory Meeting 15 September 2026

1. Opening and welcome

The meeting opened with remarks from **Pedro Aguilera**, OIDP Secretary General and Commissioner of Citizen Participation of the City of Barcelona, who welcomed participants and highlighted the importance of the upcoming Kraków Conference as a key space for addressing the major challenges facing democracy, participation and human rights. He stressed the role of local governments and networks in responding to growing authoritarianism and hate speech.

Emilio Garbino, speaking on behalf of **Juan Domingo Viola** (Secretary of Citizen Participation and Youth) and Córdoba, our OIDP Co-President, highlighted OIDP's recent engagement with the 3rd Federal Youth Congress 2026, organized by Córdoba and hosted by the city of La Plata, and expressed interest in creating a dedicated space within the network to work on **gender and democracy**. **Cintia Haypanteli** presented the work carried out by the municipality on the topic of women's networks and gender, and underlined the objective of broadening participation and bringing this work to a wider audience, through the OIDP Committee on Gender and Diversity.

2. 25th OIDP Conference – Kraków, Poland

Mateusz Ploskonka, representing the City of Kraków, presented the programme of the **25th OIDP Conference**, taking place from 21 to 23 September 2026. The programme includes workshops, panels and plenary sessions addressing both global and Polish challenges, with discussions on participatory budgeting, artificial intelligence, participation and the future of democracy, as well as the OIDP Award ceremony.

Kraków is expecting approximately **450 participants**, with more than **600 participants registered**.

Practical information was also shared regarding registration, interpretation and conference materials. Participants will receive a booklet with additional information, also available in PDF format. Official conference languages are **English, French, Spanish and Polish**. An AI-powered translation system will additionally provide interpretation in **52 languages**.

On Sunday, participants will also have the opportunity to join **free guided tours of Kraków**, with English-speaking guides.

More information about the Conference can be found here: [LINK](#)

3. Celebrating 25 years of OIDP

Participants were shown the **25th Anniversary video of the OIDP**, marking 25 years of work to strengthen participatory democracy at the local level.

Additional resources are available on the OIDP website:
<https://www.oidp.net/en/25years.php>

4. General Assembly documents

- ***Kraków Final Declaration***

The draft **Kraków Final Declaration**, prepared by the Scientific Committee of the Conference with support of the OIDP Technical Secretariat was presented for members' consideration. The document is structured around a diagnosis and context, commitments and a call to action.

Participants were invited to provide comments and contributions ahead of its adoption by the General Assembly of OIDP.

A discussion followed on how the Declaration could be used beyond the network. It was clarified that, once adopted by the General Assembly, it will serve as the OIDP's **political roadmap for the coming year**, be published on the OIDP website and shared across the network.

Silvia Cervellini suggested developing follow-up advocacy activities around the Declaration and exploring ways to involve other networks and coalitions in supporting and endorsing the document, particularly given the current challenges facing democracy and civic space.

Please find it here: [LINK](#)

- ***Work Plan 2027***

The draft of the **2027 Work Plan** was presented, highlighting the 26th OIDP Conference (Niterói), with members invited to submit comments, proposals for activities and events, thematic priorities and suggestions concerning the OIDP Award.

Giovanni Allegretti highlighted the planned Kraków session on AI and proposed creating a new **special mention on Artificial Intelligence for the next edition of the OIDP Award**, aimed at recognising cities that are developing AI systems for the common good.

Please find it here: [LINK](#)

- ***Management Report 2025***

The **2025 Management Report** was also presented as part of the documentation for the General Assembly.

Please find it here: [LINK](#)

5. Leadership renewal

Participants were reminded of the OIDP's leadership structure and the different positions and bodies involved in the renewal process.

- **Youth Council**

Kilonzo Mutie (Kenya) presented his candidacy for the Youth Council. He expressed particular interest in the discussion on AI.

- **Gender and Diversity Advisory Committee**

Gretel Galeano presented her experience working with the City of Córdoba team and with the CataLab team in Catamarca, including the organisation of the Women's Meeting held in the framework of the previous annual conference.

Amira Khammassi presented her experience working on diversity and the promotion of interculturality at both local and international levels. She expressed her interest in joining the Committee and contributing initiatives and experiences to the OIDP network.

- **Advisory Committee**

No interventions were made regarding the Advisory Committee.

- **Regional Offices**

Regarding the possibility of creating other regional offices in Africa, a representative of **OIDP Africa, Khadim Rassou**, noted that an existing regional office is already in place and suggested coordinating with other initiatives in order to avoid duplication of structures and efforts.

- **Promoter Members**

Mehdi Fallahi Panah, representing the city of Tehran, expressed the city's interest in becoming an active partner of the OIDP. He stressed the growing importance of translating participatory democracy into local action and highlighted Tehran's willingness to contribute financially, share its experience and strengthen the OIDP's presence in Asia.

Philippe Bourke, representing the Office de consultation publique de Montréal, expressed the organisation's readiness to resume an active role within the OIDP and reaffirmed the importance of participatory democracy, dialogue and civic engagement in the current global context.

6. Looking ahead: 26th OIDP Conference – Niterói

Representatives of **Niterói** presented the initial preparations of the **26th OIDP Conference**.

Fernando Stern thanked the OIDP for the opportunity to host the next conference and announced that Niterói intends to focus on **digital democracy**, building on the city's longstanding tradition of participatory democracy and its commitment to innovation.

Pedro Spadale highlighted Niterói's experience in participatory democracy and public administration, stressing the city's interest in learning from other OIDP members while sharing its own experience. Particular attention will be given to **democracy networks, digital participation and strengthening public services**.

8. Closing

Pedro Aguilera thanked all participants for their contributions and expressed his appreciation to the **City of Kraków** for its work in preparing the upcoming conference, as well as to **Niterói** and **Córdoba** for their continued engagement with the OIDP.

The meeting concluded with a shared focus on strengthening the OIDP's role as a global network for participatory democracy and preparing for the discussions and decisions to take place during the **25th OIDP Conference and General Assembly in Kraków**.