

“The Copenhagen Manifesto”

A policy fiction by Six Silberman — Draft — 13 September 2017 15:43



Barcelona • Copenhagen • Stockholm

Agenda for Inclusive Digitalisation

8 December 2025

Joint press release of the Municipality of Barcelona (Ajuntament de Barcelona), the Municipality of Copenhagen (Københavns Kommune), and the City of Stockholm (Stockholms stad)

Barcelona / Copenhagen / Stockholm — The city governments of Barcelona, Copenhagen, and Stockholm, in collaboration with local community leaders and civil society organizations as well as an international network of business leaders, foundations, researchers, and politicians announced today the launch of a new agenda for inclusive digitalization. The agenda consists of the five orienting principles of **care, inclusion, cooperation, sustainability, and democratic accountability** and the nine operational pillars of public safety; housing; water, power, and sanitation; transport; nutrition; health care; education; civic participation; and economic participation.

The city governments and collaborators made the following joint statement: “In an era of globalization, digitalization, ‘flexibilization’ of

work, uncontrolled international capital flows in search of quick returns, growing economic inequality, growing political polarization and anti-democratic tendencies, and gridlock in national and European politics, it is long past time for municipal governments to take action to create social and economic policies to halt these corrosive developments. In our cities the five principles of care, inclusion, cooperation, sustainability, and democratic accountability shall explicitly replace previously central, often implicit, guiding principles of urban policy and decision making such as economic growth, competitiveness, and efficiency for its own sake. We commit to choosing cooperation toward the common goal of establishing and maintaining the institutional, material, and cultural conditions for human flourishing in our cities instead of 'zero-sum' competition for the fickle investments of global financial elites.”

The agenda declares specific, measurable, and time-bound intentions in each of the nine operational domains, including:

- a commitment to community-based policing, including substantially increased investments in extensive training in conflict mediation and nonviolent intervention for public safety officers
- a commitment that no citizen shall be involuntarily unhoused, including an intention to transition up to 75% of all housing stock within city borders into municipal ownership and a commitment to free housing and water, power, and sanitation services for all citizens
- a commitment to provide efficient transportation free of charge to all citizens and at affordable rates to visitors
- a commitment to provide nutritionally balanced, locally and ecologically sustainably produced food, in amounts up to at least

2000 kilocalories per day, free of charge to all citizens and at affordable prices to visitors

- a commitment to provide comprehensive health care free of charge to all citizens and emergency health care free of charge to all visitors
- a commitment to provide ‘international-quality’ education free of charge to all citizens and at affordable prices to noncitizens
- a commitment to ensuring that all citizens are equipped to participate in civic governance
- a commitment to ensuring that no citizen is involuntarily un- or underemployed

The ‘tripartite’ monetary system composed of municipally issued non-tradeable individual basic entitlement credits, municipally administered local credit hours, and internationally tradeable currency will be enlisted to realize these commitments.

“Neither our cities nor our democracies have flourished under neoliberal globalization,” said Kala Aresal, special advisor to the initiative on inclusive digitalization that was begun by the three city governments in 2021. “With this agenda, we have developed an alternative approach. With this approach we seek to revitalize local economic activity and democratic self-governance; ensure basic rights such as housing, nutrition, health care, and education for all citizens regardless of income or social capital; and simultaneously to maintain and even deepen our cities’ cultural and social openness to the rest of the world. We have no expectation that this agenda will solve all of our cities’ problems. But we have long known that we must choose a new road. Today we take our first steps down that road together.”