Commitment no. 5:
Facilitating Greater Participation and the Empowerment of City Dwellers through Access to Information

To ensure better information for city dwellers on their rights and obligations, on protection and legal options, and on the penalties for racist and discriminatory acts or behaviour, by using a participatory approach, notably through consultations with service users and service providers.

Examples of Action:

a) To publish and disseminate, as widely as possible, a brochure, or municipal bulletin, audio-visual materials, etc., giving relevant information on local residents’ rights, the obligations of a multiethnic and multicultural society, and the city authority’s anti-discrimination commitments, as well as penalties for racist and discriminatory acts and behavior.

b) To disseminate, in various public places, forms or contact information that victims or witnesses can use in the case of racist and discriminatory acts or behavior in order to contact competent authorities or support groups.

c) To organize at the community level, on a regular basis, municipal forums open to public, in collaboration with existing organs and mechanisms, as well as civil society organizations, in order to offer an opportunity to discuss the issues related to peace, security and harmonious relations.

d) To collaborate with local radio and newspapers to disseminate useful information for those needing assistance.

e) To empower local NGOs and/or designated “goodwill ambassadors” to pursue actions in providing information on, and developing actions against, racism and discrimination.

f) To compile and disseminate, in collaboration with OHCHR and UNESCO, as well as relevant national institutions, key documents in regard to the major international and national instruments translated into local languages, and print and/or post these on the Internet, and make them available at easy to access sites.

g) To set up a consultative committee composed of foreign residents within the municipality on the issues of their concern.

h) To organize a series of information sessions for local employers and employees on available social services provided by the municipality.

i) To commemorate symbolic national and international Days (e.g. the International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March), with a range of initiatives to promote awareness and to encourage participation among city dwellers.

j) To collaborate with local folk performance groups in helping deliver the message of mutual respect and equality for all to the public.