

DOSSIER: “15 YEARS OF THE CITY STATUTE” PRESENTATION

Only a handful of occasions of the Brazilian city management history had a so significant convergence as the one that occurred during the legislation approval process of the City Statute, its assimilation in municipal laws and, now, in the efforts for its compliance.

Actually, in the ideal and speech levels, there was a great national consensus in defense of this legislation’s contributions to transform the use, occupation, and appropriation of urban soil and to its management’s democratic mechanisms.

From an optimist perspective, although the fulfillment of the City Statute by most Brazilian cities is considerably improbable, its resulting debate represents an improvement in understanding the city and in presenting its problems. From a more immediate perspective, there are few benefits and an even greater distance between the desired goal and our reality.

With features that can generate discussions not just about its mechanisms but also about the city itself as a capital to be built and lived democratically, the City Statute has been widely discussed by several bodies of the national society and also analyzed in other international urban situations. The so-called Brazilian “urban laboratory” is now recognized outside our borders not only due to its solutions tested in informal compartment and in so-called alternative urban public policy levels. With the Statute, this laboratory is also presented as capable of influencing complex legal structure systems to manage foreign cities.

This dossier takes advantage of the City Statute’s 15-year approval “celebration” context and of the several discussion opportunities that occurred in 2016 in the academic, legal, and national public and private administration environments. More than a difficult construction of the state of the art on the advancements or setbacks regarding this legislation, we believe that the texts printed herein also reveal a propositional posture.

Gislene Pereira and Fabiana Maria Galli Wütrich support the principles that guided the defense and consequent approval of the Metropolis Statute and discuss one of its main instruments – Improvement Contribution –, which is justified by the necessary recovery of public investments and by the principle that they are collectively approved.

The text by Paulo Nascimento is skeptical and enlightening. The study of the City Statute’s instruments in the Master Plan of Curitiba suggests a discouraging situation in terms of applicability in comparison with what really was intended by the approval of the federal law.

The text by Claudio Carvalho and Raoni Rodrigues supports the idea of a social pact in the City Statute and that, consequently, such Law is justified by its democratic potential in the distribution of contributions and by the approval of the gains generated in the city. With this principle, a discussion is developed on one of its main instruments: the Master Plan, the only one that is mandatory. The main concern of the text is the institutional and urban environment that exists in Brazil nowadays so this law may be

applied and that the advancements that it defends may be enforced. Sometimes it looks like it is advancing, and in others, it looks like it has some setbacks.

The text of Daniela Campos Libório, written as an essay, retrospectively explains the recent Brazilian urbanization process, underscoring the receptive context at the City Statute's approval. Analyzing the last few decades, Daniela underscores the importance of the State's role and criticizes its absence as a regulating or mediating body capable of reducing the characteristic dualities of our cities.

When these papers were being written and when this issue of the *Revista Paranaense de Desenvolvimento* was being published, we noticed some efforts to enforce the City Statute, which was adopting a process similar to the Metropolis Statute's. We hope that, after another 15 years, we might celebrate it somehow.

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