

G20
FAVELAS

COMMUNIQUÉ





G20 FAVELAS



FRENTE PARLAMENTAR EM DEFESA DAS FAVELAS
E RESPEITO À CIDADANIA DOS SEUS MORADORES



Preamble

Over one billion people live in favelas and informal settlements worldwide (UN-Habitat, 2022). In Brazil, favelas are home to about 17.1 million people living in over 5 million households distributed in more than 13,100 communities (Data Favela, 2022; IBGE, 2020). Rapid urbanisation, ineffective planning and lack of affordable housing are key drivers of these numbers, especially in the Global South. If the current trend is not reversed, the future of cities will be marked by what UN-HABITAT calls 'mega slums', where residents will experience multiple deprivations, which will prevent socioeconomic mobility and a better urban future. Lack of infrastructure and basic urban services, including insufficient access to water and sanitation, continue to drive multidimensional poverty in the favelas, impacting, in particular, women and children. In addition to all these factors, favela dwellers face unemployment, food insecurity, poor health, risk of eviction and stigmatisation.

Favelas are urban spaces made of multiple and contradictory layers, at once exposed and hidden by a complex topography and sharp social divisions, in which stigma and discrimination continue to play a central role. The material and symbolic distances between people and spaces are huge and work at many levels. Social inequalities are vast, and despite progress, indicators continue to tell a story in which early death by homicide, low income, poor health and fragmented education have a clear address in the city. To live in a favela is a major determinant of life outcomes in Brazil and worldwide.

Within this context, Brazil has witnessed the emergence of new organised groups of favela-dwellers and their bottom-up organisations. Organisations such as Central Única das Favelas (CUFA) have played a unique role in embracing a new kind of protagonism that resists stigmatisation and fights marginalisation by making visible the potential of favela communities. The lessons and directions they offer are worth paying attention to because the efficacy of these voices derives from the culture, identity and lived experience of the communities of which they are part and represent. They challenge governments, policymakers, and societies at large to recognise their communities as powerful and required contributors in all efforts to generate effective and sustainable social development and to transform societies for the better.

For over a decade now, CUFA, the London School of Economics (LSE) and UNESCO have been working together on a series of research activities and international

policy events that emphasise understanding and partnering effectively with favela organisations to transform communities and life trajectories in territories of exclusion. A central question has been how to leverage the knowledge, actions and experience of favela communities to influence policymakers and states at the institutional level. A guiding premise is that recognition of the voice and potential of the peoples, culture and economy of the favelas is essential for the fight against poverty and inequalities, for developing inclusive governance, more just and efficient decision-making processes and sustainable social, economic and environmental development.

To this end, CUFA, LSE and UNESCO came together once again to systematise the extensive work conducted by CUFA in preparing for the G20 Social. It included an analysis of the detailed consultation in more than 3,000 favelas, Quilombolas settlements, Indigenous and Riverine communities about topics such as inequalities, sustainability, global challenges faced by favelas and peripheral communities, and human rights. The results of this effort, involving more than 3,000 conferences in Brazil and internationally, and that was denominated G20 Favelas, offer insights into the concerns and experiences expressed by the voices of the favelas and peripheries worldwide, as well as into the potential of the model of work developed by CUFA for addressing socio-economic development. To this end, an analysis of this model and the aims, activities and projects delivered by CUFA are included here, as evidenced by the development of its projects and the vision of its leaders over the last decade.

This work shows that the social capital of Brazil and its capacity for successful social development is not being produced in a top-down manner by technocrats and experts alone but is being forged by multiple civil society actors in the collaborations of the democratic public sphere. Innovative and unconventional forms of association and activism, as well as novel partnerships between different, at times historically opposed social sectors, are producing a new push for social development that links economic growth, citizenship and the reclaimed self-esteem of historically excluded populations.

G20 Favelas reaffirms its commitment to address the key priorities laid out by the Brazilian Presidency for the G20 and work with all relevant partners towards designing actions and policies that create social inclusion and sustainable futures for all.

Integrating Civil Society into Global Discussions: The Brazilian Participatory Model

The G20 Social introduces a transformative shift in global governance by embedding civil society as a central participant in policy discussions at the G20 level. For the first time, Brazil's G20 presidency established formal mechanisms for direct civil society engagement, creating a framework with the potential to shape future G20 summits. This model allows representatives from historically marginalized communities to contribute to global decision-making processes, emphasizing the importance of diverse perspectives in addressing complex global challenges.

At the core of this breakthrough is the “G20 Favelas” initiative, an innovative platform developed by CUFA to incorporate voices from Brazil's favelas, Quilombolas, Indigenous and Riverine communities. These communities, often overlooked despite being disproportionately affected by issues like poverty, hunger, and climate vulnerability, were given a direct voice in the global forum. The G20 Favelas underscored a commitment to inclusive representation, demonstrating that effective policies are strengthened by the perspectives of those who face these challenges most acutely. UNESCO has been working with CUFA since 1999 to promote activities in the fields of education, leisure, sports, culture and citizenship, contributing towards the human development of people from the most vulnerable communities in Brazil.

Through this comprehensive inclusion of civil society, Brazil's presidency has shown that a participatory model can enhance the effectiveness and legitimacy of the G20. Direct dialogues between civil society representatives and key officials—including central bank presidents, finance ministers, and G20 sherpas—marked a historic milestone in inclusive governance, setting a benchmark for future hosts. This platform for diverse engagement shows that a collaborative approach can bring valuable insights and foster accountability among decision-makers.

The engagement model of the G20 Social Summit also reflects the approach to policymaking long supported by UNESCO through its Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme. Designed to link social science research with policy on social inclusion, poverty reduction, and sustainable development, MOST emphasizes integrating local knowledge and community perspectives into policy frameworks.

By elevating traditionally underrepresented communities, the G20 Social Summit exemplifies how policy can be enriched through insights provided directly from

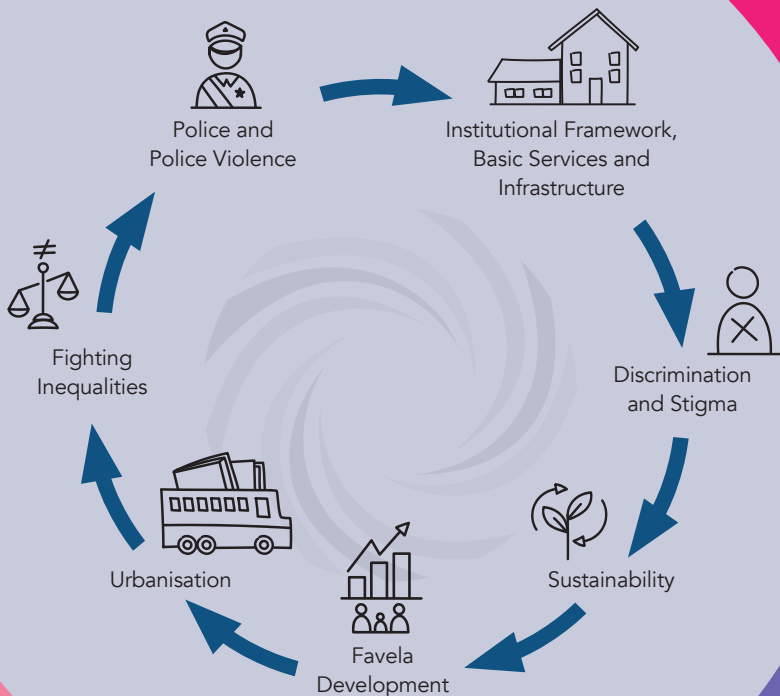
those affected. This model, echoing MOST principles, sets a precedent for other international summits by demonstrating that inclusive governance benefits from both practical and research-informed contributions of marginalized communities.

The achievements of the G20 Social highlight the importance of institutionalizing civil society engagement within the G20. As the presidency transitions to South Africa in 2025, continuing this model will be essential for ensuring global policies that reflect the needs of all citizens. This year's G20 Social offers a foundational example of how civil society can enhance the G20's work, advocating for a governance model rooted in social, economic, and environmental responsibility.

Voices from the Favelas

Between April and November 2024, CUFA, in partnership with UNESCO, the National Antiracist Coalition (FNA in Portuguese) and the Parliamentary Coalition for the Defence of Favelas and Respect to Citizenship, organised the International Conferences of the Favelas in favelas and peripheral communities of all 26 Brazilian states, and the Federal District of the country, as well as 48 countries, including Guinea-Bissau, Angola, France, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Germany, Luxemburg, the United States of America, Republic of Cameroon, Mozambique, Sweden, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Central-African Republic, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Greece, Italy, Democratic Republic of Congo, Qatar, Sudan, Colombia, Uruguay, Denmark, South Africa, Belgium, Netherlands, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Togo, Tunisia, Spain, Switzerland, Cape Verde, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Argentina, Bolivia, Ghana, Honduras, Nepal, Paraguay, Peru, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Kenya, Uzbekistan, and Russian Federation.

Figure 1. Summary of the Key Themes
(CUFA Conferences, Voices from the Favelas)



These meetings brought together more than 10,000 residents of favelas and peripheral communities, who participated in collective discussions across four policy dimensions, namely, reduction of inequalities, sustainability, global challenges faced by favelas and peripheries, and human rights. In addressing these issues, participants raised seven themes related to the most pressing needs of people living in these territories (Figure 1): improvement of institutions and services in the favela, discrimination and stigma, sustainability, socio-economic development of favela communities, urbanisation, inequality and policing/police violence. These themes are close to the everyday experience and challenges faced by favela-dwellers and represent their concerns and aspirations.

The conferences occurred in multiple stages, from local and regional gatherings to international meetings. The objective was to create a platform for discussion in which the people who live in favelas and peripheral communities, including Riverine, Quilombola and Indigenous communities, could be active participants and articulate the experiences, demands and propositions to be presented to the leaders of the G20.

G20 Favelas was created to integrate favelas and peripheral communities in the context of the global discussions of G20, and to influence the debate in a propositive manner. In this way, it innovated by creating a new protocol for implementing international debates in these communities. In addressing the issues that matter to the favelas, the main objective was to create a stage for the voices of a significant part of the global population that tends to be excluded from centres of decision-making and policy-making. In this vein, the G20 Favelas seeks to promote change in dominant perceptions about these communities, not only as spaces of poverty and exclusion but as centres of vibrant social innovation, resistance and transformative potential.



The scarcity and precariousness of state infrastructure is a central mark of favelas and irregular settlements worldwide. Lack of access to essential services and adequate state institutions is part of everyday life in favela communities and one of their main concerns. It is followed by community safety, transportation, education, health and access to arts and sports. Many favelas have no access to schools or health services inside their communities, and residents struggle daily to commute to work and gain access to other parts of cities. Favela communities identify institutional precariousness as one of the main areas in which public policy towards human rights and inequality reduction must be developed, and the G20 Favelas calls on G20 leaders to:

- 1) Invest in public policies that guarantee universal access to essential state services in favela communities, including public transport, health, and education. Actions could include improving hospitals and health centres to the level of other regions in the city and committing private health companies supported by public funds to offer services in favela communities.
- 2) Recognise the urgent need for community safety in favela territories and offer support to victims of crime and violence; secure centres of support for victims of crime, in which psychological, social and legal assistance is provided.
- 3) Ensure transportation inside favelas to improve access to work, education, and leisure and the right to move freely in the city.
- 4) Support education inside the favela, scaffolding young favela-dwellers in their decision-making and educational journeys so they stay in school; focus on programmes that can support the mother-infant dyad and educate for childhood development and attention to early childhood.



The reality of discrimination and stigma is another main concern of favela-dwellers, as important for these communities as the precariousness of institutions and services inside favelas. Favela communities are exposed to a level of discrimination and stigma that starts with socio-economic indicators, the fragility of services provided by states inside these territories and the difficulty of engaging private providers to work inside favelas. It continues in the everyday experience of individuals living in these territories, shaped by negative representations of the favela and the identity of a favela-dweller. To be of the favela, to live in the favela, and to go about the city with the favela's social marking creates an identity that is made of discrimination and stigma that challenges the right of favela residents to a positive self-interpretation. The stigma associated with favelas continues to be a key determinant of life in these territories, creating intersectionalities with multiple identities. The position of women, especially mothers and black women, is a key concern in experiences of stigma. We work to transform these negative lenses and reveal the potential, agency and resilience of favela communities, emphasising the importance of rebuilding self-esteem and the contribution of favela communities to society. The G20 Favelas calls leaders of the G20 to:

- 1) Collaborate with favela communities in education campaigns that challenge negative representations about favela-dwellers and educate the public about the value and importance of favela communities in cities and society; create policies that prevent the private sector from discriminating and excluding favela-dwellers from job recruitment and selection based on their address in a favela.
- 2) Recognise the importance of fighting against discrimination and violence against women, specifically against black women; create a policy that supports single mothers and scaffolds their role via education, health and social security. The safety, education and empowerment of women supports the safety, education and empowerment of multiple others, the community and future generations.
- 3) Emphasise that there is no place for racism and discrimination of any kind and educate societies towards the rights and humanity of favela residents; promote solidarity and equality of opportunity for favela residents independent of race, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability and religion.
- 4) Educate people about human rights and create safe spaces for people of different sexual orientations, races, genders, religions, and abilities to meet; develop educational interventions in schools and programmes of conscientization for favela communities and society at large.
- 5) Defend the rights of religious minorities and those religious practices linked to ancestral cultural traditions of favela communities, such as Afro-religious traditions in Brazil; promote the understanding and respect for the religious practices of minorities.



Climate change and urban poverty collide in multiple ways, disproportionately and unjustly affecting favela communities. The nearly one billion residents of informal settlements worldwide bear the brunt of global warming, being most exposed to the consequences of changing rainfall patterns, erosion and temperature increase. The precarity of urban infrastructure in these territories further compounds their vulnerability. Floods and landslides cause permanent damage to their livelihoods and sweep away their homes. Lack of adequate public services imposes many unsustainable coping strategies, such as cutting trees and building in areas prone to erosion. A central issue for favelas is selective waste disposal and food security, especially access to affordable fresh food and vegetables. Communities require urgent solutions in this direction, with investment in green infrastructure and the commitment of governments and leaders with participatory deliberation for creating sustainable policies that are intertwined with reducing inequalities. The G20 Favelas asks the G20 to:

- 1) Improve waste disposal and recycling infrastructure in the favelas, implementing selective waste collection in points accessible to the community. Actions could include creating incentive programmes for residents participating in selective waste disposal.
- 2) Create educational programmes that focus on environmental awareness and training towards sustainable actions within the reality of favela communities; involve communities in mapping problems and consequences of climate change, partnering with schools and local organisations to develop solutions that are specific and adapted to vulnerable territories.
- 3) Create a policy to eliminate food insecurity by addressing the challenge of food deserts in which poor public transport, poverty and a lack of shops selling adequate food make it difficult for communities to have access to fresh food and eat well; invest in the creation and allocation of land for community gardens, where favela residents can grow fresh vegetables and fruit and create a circular economy.
- 4) Build green infrastructure such as cisterns for collecting rainwater, solar panels and ecological sanitation; support programmes of community recycling and the formation of cooperatives dedicated to reusing and recycling waste, monetising disposed material and enhancing the economy of the favela.

Socio-economic Development of the Favelas



The precarity of services and institutions, in combination with discrimination and stigma towards favela communities, creates a lack of opportunities and a diminished environment for driving socio-economic development. Favela communities are acutely aware of the 'minimal state' presence in their everyday lives and have increased awareness of the importance of creating structures and capabilities that can generate socio-economic development within their territories. Professional training and education, employability, enhancing the economy of the favela and leveraging its internal power are the main concerns of favela-dwellers, with emphasis on issues such as reintegration in society of former offenders and the development of economic opportunities based on internal resources and capacities of favela-dwellers. CUFA and its offshoot, Favela Holding, have been engaged in creating drivers for the socio-economic development of favelas, and examples that can create models for other contexts. Thus, the G20 Favelas asks the G20 to:

- 1) Ensure investment in capacity building and professional training for young people living in favelas; create programmes for the professional development of single mothers who represent the majority of main bread-winners and heads of households in favela communities; invest in the capacity strengthening of social entrepreneurs inside favelas, with emphasis on activities that enhance pride and self-esteem inside favela territories.
- 2) Invest in programmes of training that create key employability skills for favela-dwellers; incentivise businesses that create jobs and invest in the socio-economic development of favela territories. Actions could include fiscal incentives for businesses that support and employ residents in favelas and the development of favela businesses.
- 3) Create projects to incentivise community-based tourism, with a focus on sustainable development, creative economies and community empowerment.
- 4) Support the development of the local economy by creating programmes that explore the economy of favela communities, the development of entrepreneurship skills and the reintegration of former offenders into jobs.



Favelas and informal settlements are an outcome of urban growth and integral to the reality of cities in the Global South. At the same time, many of its socio-economic and cultural characteristics can be found in peripheral communities of cities everywhere in the world in areas of poverty and social exclusion. Urbanisation remains a challenge for favela communities, with most communities experiencing a lack of adequate sanitation, lighting, paving and leisure spaces such as parks. Irregular housing is frequent and a major concern for favela-dwellers. These issues overlap significantly with climate change and environmental insecurity in favela territories, where residents are acutely aware of the dangers of floods, landslides and large fires. The urbanisation of favela communities goes hand in hand with building infrastructure and developing the institutional framework of the state inside the favelas. While favelas are characterised by the precarious nature of their habitat, they are much more than that. They are also a space of intense cultural and economic innovation where individuals create their own solutions to the manifold problems posed by their surroundings. CUFA seeks to emphasise the creative solutions developed by favela communities; it recognises that favelas are not to go away in the near future and believes that the development of policies to upgrade the favela habitat must be undertaken in partnership with local favela communities and learning from solutions created by favela residents themselves. Within this framework, G20 Favelas asks the G20 to:

- 1) Create national and international public-private partnerships that draw on a wider knowledge and policy base to enhance equitable access to drinking water and sanitation in favela communities.
- 2) Guarantee the regularisation of favela property and the right of residents to the land and homes they have built and inhabit.
- 3) Invest in the urban infrastructure of favelas, especially lighting, paving, electricity, sewer systems and areas of conviviality and leisure inside the favelas. The absence of this infrastructure is a compounding factor in furthering the consequences of climate change, including floods, landslides and fires.
- 4) Commit national research institutes such as the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE in Portuguese) to partner with favela communities and map out the reality of these territories, creating solid and grounded evidence to guide the development of urbanisation policy.

Fight against Inequalities



The fight against inequality remains a crucial concern of favelas. Inequality is experienced first and foremost as poverty and the importance of having access to basic income and food. Both accessing an income that makes it possible to cover essential needs and fighting against hunger exemplify well the priorities established by favela communities concerning inequalities. These priorities are expressed in conjunction with the importance of participatory democracy in tackling inequalities. There is awareness of how this participation is needed and emphasis on the centrality of considering voices from the favelas in designing policy and solutions for the manifold consequences of inequality in their lives. This discussion is also punctuated by the need for affirmative actions, working rights, the social security safety net and access to the arts, all seen as integral to the fight against inequality. G20 Favelas asks the G20 to:

- 1) Recognise the importance of a basic income and the fight against hunger in favela communities, supporting the flows of income and resources to these territories through interventions that guarantee support and emergency transfers, especially for those in extreme poverty.
- 2) Facilitate the participation of favela communities and their representatives in decision-making processes pertaining to the formulation of policies related to their communities; develop co-production protocols that incorporate the favela's voices in debates on matters related to favela communities.
- 3) Defend quotas that enable the participation and presence of favela-dwellers in spaces from where they have been historically excluded, such as universities, civil service and spaces of power and decision-making.
- 4) Recognise the non-conventional work of favela-dwellers and guarantee rights for those making a living as informal workers and entrepreneurs; map social vulnerability and identify those in favela communities who are not benefiting from social security.
- 5) Invest in the cultural work of favela communities and enable their access to spaces of art.



Policing and police violence are the final key themes raised by favela communities. Experiences of violence, discrimination and mutual lack of trust are recurrent between the police and peripheral communities. Exposure to violence and crime is a frequent experience of residents in the favelas and all territories of exclusion; it belongs to the everyday and pertains to the implicit knowledge that residents carry with them about their communities. Most residents have been directly affected by police violence and express the importance of reforming the police through the introduction of new legal frameworks for policing and, importantly, training the police force and changing the negative attitudes and assumptions it holds about favela-dwellers. CUFA asks the G20 to:

- 1) Develop community policing programmes with investment in training community policemen and policewomen, including knowledge of human rights, human diversity, the needs of different groups, and the mediation of conflicts.
- 2) Train all police forces working with favelas in human rights and the consequences of racism in policing.
- 3) End policies of hyper-incarceration, developing policies that identify alternative forms of punishment in the context of rehabilitation.

CUFA and its Model of Socio-economic Development

CUFA is a hybrid organisation characterised by a complex identity: it combines elements of NGO, business and entrepreneurs, social movement and activism, social workers and affirmative action developers. They emerged from peripheral communities, favelas and street culture but have expanded well beyond the boundaries of these territories to reach multiple partners in regional, national and global spaces. They are openly political but are not afraid of engaging with money and markets to be financially independent and feedback economic gains into the socio-economic development of favela communities. They rely on a powerful combination of charismatic leaders with an organisational philosophy of autonomy and decentralisation. Their activists and leaders were born, grew up and continue to have a direct relation with the experience of the favela and the territory, its rules, its culture, its needs and its people. From its early beginnings to the present day, CUFA has widely expanded its reach and its aims, but has kept a firm and profound connection to the place in which it originated.

Expansion and Growth: Regional, National, Global

From its regional beginnings in the city of Rio de Janeiro, CUFA has now been present in all regions of Brazil. Its international push has been steady and successful, currently present in 48 countries worldwide. CUFA has expanded with the awareness that inequality and social exclusion are a global problem that poses specific challenges for approximately one billion people around the world. This vast community of favela-dwellers and historically excluded actors are exposed to socio-material conditions that create commonalities of experience that transcend regions and borders. These similarities require solutions that can only be effective with the coordination and participation of those directly affected. CUFA is driven by the belief that these shared experiences enable its model to work everywhere and explain its efficacy. The “accents” of exclusion may vary from place to place. Still there is a culture and an ethic that underpins the lives of favela-dwellers everywhere. This enables CUFA’s model of social development to be replicated globally and successfully adapted to local conditions.

Autonomy and Decentralisation

CUFA's model of organisational growth and management is unique and innovative. Over the last decade, it evolved a method for combining decentralisation and autonomy as drivers of its expansion. CUFA has a federalist vision that guides its growth and grants full autonomy for local leaders to organise and execute the organisation as they find best at the local level while keeping the results and rewards of what they do. It is an essential guiding principle of CUFA: collaborators own the rewards of the work they realise on behalf of the institution. The result is a clear understanding that people are not only working for CUFA, but they are working for themselves, their families and their communities' benefit, creating highly motivated participants with a deep sense of responsibility and ownership.

CUFA's model offers multiple lessons for effective organisational development and expansion. A sense of ownership and clear incentives, in combination with the huge demand of the territories, makes every person who works with CUFA a committed participant in its growth and development. The model fosters local autonomy while ensuring a network of coordinated actions that can leverage a joint national and global agenda that remains connected to local realities and the integration of favela communities. It ensures effective communication flows within CUFA so that centrally designed ideas and projects are locally adapted and have effective community buy-in, a challenge for all social development interventions. The result is an incentive structure ready to expand and an extremely resilient organisation.

Favela Holding: Sustainability and Entrepreneurship

Perhaps one of the more innovative aspects of CUFA's overall expansion and development is the creation of its offshoot, Favela Holding, an expression of both the economic potential that lies within the favelas and how they dare to break the taboo of money, markets and business within social movements to create sustainability, independence and economic opportunities within favela territories. From 2016 onwards, Favela Holding emerged as a holding company that acts as a source of funding for CUFA's activities and a business that aims to harness the economic potential of the favelas, both inside and outside their borders. Guided by the firm belief that favelas cannot be defined by deprivation alone but must be seen as places of potential (*favela não é carência, favela é potência*), CUFA soon identified multiple niches for developing the economy of the favela and, importantly, keeping in the community the profits of that economy. On the one hand, it involves enabling external companies to operate in favelas as partners of Favela Holding,

sharing the language, codes, and skills needed to enter favela environments and, in this way, keeping the profits from such knowledge-sharing within the community. On the other hand, the businesses and partnerships created offer jobs and opportunities for those inside the favelas, driving socio-economic development and circumventing many of the difficulties residents face when looking for jobs.

The ability of CUFA to break long-held taboos about poverty and money-making unsettles established prejudices about being poor. It also creates a cycle of hope and development for people who are excluded from the economy due to stigma and marginalisation. Favela holding offers jobs, skills, training, opportunities and a livelihood, enhancing self-esteem and changing identities. As a self-sustained favela organisation that values entrepreneurship, it creates new employability pathways and significantly competes with illegal routes of socialisation present in favela territories. It demonstrates the power of economic development as guided by community logic and constitutes a relevant lesson for social development experiences around the world.

Focus on the Favela: Economy, Culture and Social Development

A focus on the territory favela is a key characteristic of CUFA. The organisation understands how the multiple intersectionalities of identity in the territory can be a compounded factor in experiences of discrimination and exclusion. Still, its focus is on the favela as a whole, its culture, economy, development, and psychology. Being of the favela, living in a favela, and experiencing the marginalisation attached to the territory in its material and symbolic configurations creates the experience that CUFA intends to address. It does so by sustaining organic links with this territory through a deep understanding of its codes and everyday culture. Contrary to many traditional models of social development in which external agents propose and lead the execution of projects or even participatory models in which local communities are included in the decision-making of processes initiated by external actors, CUFA has not been built by outsiders. Its focus on the culture of the favela is grounded in a deep knowledge of the lived experience of its people and is mirrored in the life stories of its leaders and activists. The deep correspondence between the lived experience of the community and CUFA is what can explain the effectiveness of this focus: it offers hope and positive models of identification, creating new stories that mix languages of exclusion, poverty, loss and contravention with stories of resilience, resistance, coping with failure, reintegration and ultimately success.

It creates the conditions to project the culture of the favela as potency and 'make the invisible visible', a key motto of CUFA. Its focus on the favela and its overall

development subverts negative representations of these communities. It introduces protagonists who are prepared to turn these representations upside down to show that despite social exclusion, there is a vibrant culture and a proud and powerful collective intelligence living in the city's margins.

Projects: Affirmative Actions, Sustainability, Individual and Community Development

Evidence from the development of CUFA's projects over the last decade shows both continuity and change. CUFA originated from the hip-hop culture and projects focused on developing skills and employability, the structuring of everyday life and psychosocial support, especially for youth with little access to education and positive activities. It provided contexts of care and support, articulating the attention to individuals with community development. Much of its work evolved in actions that provided the structures of support typically provided by families and schools but are absent or precarious for many in favela communities. Many favela residents use metaphors such as 'father' and 'mother' to speak about CUFA and its actions, demonstrating its importance in helping individuals, in 'giving a hand', and taking people away from routes of criminalisation.

Over the past decade, these initial actions focused on arts, competencies, and skills for children and youth that gradually evolved into broader populations and scope, targeting the community, society at large and the global arena. Whereas conscientization, self-expression and developing skills and competencies continue to play a role, entrepreneurship and more comprehensive affirmative assistance actions are growing. Today, much of CUFA's actions take the role of the state thanks to the capabilities of Favela Holding and its national and international penetration, which can offer jobs and opportunities for favela residents. An example is Expo Favela, a series of business conferences that puts favela's entrepreneurs in contact with potential investors and gives favela start-ups renewed possibilities for development.

Despite these changes, CUFA's core insight and vision remains: to develop actions that forge and foresee a different and positive future for the favelas by opening horizons, recuperating self-esteem and enabling crossings between the favelas and the wider public sphere of cities. CUFA has not lost sight of the delicate relationship between individuals and their communities and has not changed the balance between caring for individuals and pushing community development. A central lesson of CUFA's projects throughout its history is to show that by caring and incentivising individual lives, it also fosters communities because individuals and communities must thrive mutually, and when individuals are unwell, so are communities.

Emergency and Crisis Response: Pandemic and Climate Change

CUFA has evolved as an organisation capable of responding to complex emergencies such as the pandemic and climate change disasters. Its deep roots in favela territories and capacity for engaging local-level networks have been instrumental in bringing support and relief to people across the country, meaning effectively the capture of approximately one billion Brazilian reais in funds, donations and materials to those most affected by the pandemic and climate change. The Brazilian private sector and the government have closely observed their expertise, professionalism and effectiveness, demonstrating that their territorial knowledge is an asset for social and economic development and the implementation of public policy and services during emergencies. This is evident in the projects and actions implemented by CUFA during the COVID-19 pandemic and the floods of the last years in Brazil. Such actions not only support millions of people in favelas and outside favelas but also contribute to forging different perceptions about favela communities and their organisations, demonstrating the overall contribution they can make to society.

Conclusions: The Periphery at the Centre of the Global Agenda

In developing the International Favela Conferences as a preparatory step for the G20, CUFA demonstrated in action its work model by collaborating with partners to create the G20 favelas to produce the systematisation reported here. G20 Favelas has sought to identify the reality of favela communities as expressed by the voices and everyday experience of its residents. In doing so, it has been guided by the belief that despite the precarity of their habitat and basic infrastructure, favelas are spaces of potency, solutions, adaptation and cultural vibrancy.

We hope these voices can inspire the countries of the G20 in their decision-making processes. G20 Favelas is committed to working with all partners and leaders of the G20 to challenge the negative representations that are still linked to the territory favela and leverage the potential of its people, guaranteeing that they have the resources, capabilities and support that will enable them to fully realise this potential.

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G20 FAVELAS



FRENTE PARLAMENTAR EM DEFESA DAS FAVELAS
E RESPEITO À CIDADANIA DOS SEUS MORADORES



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