

METROPOLIS Annual Activity Report

January – December 2012



This report is a summary of the reports sent to all members of METROPOLIS during 2012.

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Informe Anual de Actividades 2012

JANUARY – MARCH 2012

1. ACTION PLAN

Mandate Given to the President

The Secretariat-General and the regional secretariats have embarked on a reflection about the function and positioning of the secretariats with respect to the proposal to create Metropolis “offices”, particularly in China and India, but not only there. This work will make it possible to deliver on the mandate which the Board of Directors gave the Metropolis President after the Action Plan was adopted at the Porto Alegre Congress of 26 November 2011.

The reflection was structured on the basis of the following questions:

- What is a regional secretariat (RS) in the Metropolis organization? What responsibilities does it have? What are its missions and tasks? What human and financial resources are required to perform these missions? Where do the resources come from?
- What is a Metropolis Office (MO)? What responsibilities does it have? What are its mission and tasks? What human and financial resources are required to perform these missions? Where do the resources come from?
- What is the best form of collaboration that can be achieved between the RSs and the MOs? Is there a hierarchical link between the two structures? If not, how are their relations organized?
- What modifications should be made to the articles of association and Metropolis’s internal regulations, considering the abovementioned approaches? A working meeting is scheduled in São Paulo on 15 June to prepare a common response from the secretariats.

Metropolis Initiatives

Following a considerable publishing effort, the eight initiatives can now be consulted on the Metropolis website. Contracts have been drawn up to formalize the relations

between Metropolis and the heads of the Initiatives, and the contracts are ready to be signed.

The preliminary Initiative results are scheduled to be presented during the next Board of Directors meeting in Guangzhou, in accordance with how far along each one is. New Initiatives will also be able to be chosen at the Board of Directors meeting.

The Metropolis Secretary-General has proposed a new project, called “**Urban Development Also Involves Cooking**”, aimed at fostering cordiality among members and shoring up the capacity to exchange specialized knowledge on their local economies in a fun fashion (see Attachment 1).

2. STATUTORY MEETINGS

Organization of the upcoming Board of Directors meeting and Metropolis Congress

Recent experiences at the Porto Alegre Congress show there is still room for improvement in the way of organizing the statutory events.

The improvements should address the relationship between the Secretariat-General and the city hosting the event to more precisely define the responsibilities of each with regard to organization and financing.

In this regard, the Secretariat-General has drawn up a number of specific contracts concerning the role and participation of each stakeholder.

In terms of the actual organization of the statutory meetings, the Secretariat-General will propose a simplified format.

Furthermore, the Secretariat-General is working to improve communication with all members. The present report is one example, as it is designed to keep the Association's members informed throughout the whole of the year and to facilitate enhanced interaction between members and the Secretariat-General.

Board of Directors Meeting in Guangzhou

A technical visit by the Secretariat-General in Guangzhou in February 2012 made it possible to prepare the organization of the next Board of Directors meeting, confirm the dates of 14 to 17 November and validate a draft program (see Attachment 2).

In particular, the organization of a forum of mayors, governors and presidents of metropolitan regions is scheduled for Friday 16 November to address the issue of urban innovation. This meeting will take the form of a television set with high-ranking elected officials, the mayor of Guangzhou, the president of Metropolis, the president of UCLG and the mayors of Barcelona, Montreal, and Johannesburg.

During the forum the elected officials will be able to exchange opinions on innovation trends with regard to urban development. A preliminary experience will be addressed to implement a forum to be held various times during the year and which will make it possible to boost the visibility of the elected officials who are Metropolis members (see Attachment 3).

Congress

A preliminary visit in preparation for Hyderabad took place in early April to organize the 2014 Congress. During the visit, the relations between Metropolis and the local authorities of Hyderabad, the state of Andhra Pradesh, and the Delhi region were formalized.

2. GUANGZHOU INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR URBAN INNOVATION WITH THE SUPPORT OF METROPOLIS AND UCLG

The urban innovation award proposed by the mayor of Guangzhou will be organized every year starting from 2012. The award ceremony for the first Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation will take place on the night of 16 November.

The mayor of Guangzhou has sought support from Metropolis and UCLG to promote the Guangzhou International Award at the world level. As the Metropolis and Guangzhou awards were both due to be held in 2014, it has been decided to change the date of the latter in order to not interfere with the Metropolis Award.

A press conference was held in Guangzhou on 28 March to present and launch the award, with the participation of Metropolis and UCLG.

Please note that mayor Wan Qingliang was recently appointed to be the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party in Guangzhou and Chen Jianhua has now taken over as mayor.

3. METROPOLIS AWARD

The Secretariat-General team is reflecting on the developments of the Metropolis Award which could be proposed at the 2014 Congress.

4. MEMBERS

New Members

The following cities have joined the Association since the Metropolis Congress held in Porto Alegre in November 2011:

Buenos Aires, Durban, Haikou, Hyderabad, Kaohsiung, Minas Gerais, New Delhi, Rosario, Shenzhen, Tirupati, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam.

Applications to Join Metropolis

The cities of Cordoba, Salvador de Bahia, and Santiago have indicated they would like to join Metropolis.

Fees

At 13 March 2012 there were 10 members who had paid the annual fee, amounting to a total of €58,950.

4. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

GOLD III in Barcelona

The Secretariat-General participated in the meeting organized by UCLG to implement GOLD III on the issue of access to basic services (water, sewerage, public transport, energy, and waste). A number of Metropolis member cities were selected within the framework of the study. The FMDC will provide Metropolis with technical support to prepare the metropolitan section report.

20th CIDEU Congress in Barcelona

The Secretariat-General attended the congress held from 13 to 16 March 2012. The projects presented by the cities in the CIDEU network on the topic “Neo-Tertiary Urban Spaces” were classified into four categories: Smart Cities and Citizens; Spaces with Glocal Reach; Spaces for Knowledge Generation and Management; and Spaces for the Promotion of Values.

FLACMA Congress in Santiago de Chile

The Metropolis president and secretary-general attended the FLACMA conference entitled “ExperienciAmérica” in Santiago de Chile. President Jean-Paul Huchon met with UCLG president Kadir Topbas. The Metropolis secretary-general participated in a workshop on local economic development and met with the representatives of Bogota, Cordoba, and Santiago (city and region).

World Water Forum in Marseille

The Secretariat-General participated in the World Water Forum which took place in Marseille from 12 to 17 March 2012, where UCLG, together with the World Water Council, organized the 3rd International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities.

In a parallel session, Metropolis took part in the seventh meeting of the World Urban Campaign Steering Committee organized by UN-Habitat, during which the initiative “I’m a City Changer” was launched. Metropolis also attended the UCLG working group meeting on regional authorities and the role they play in the world organization.

Seminar Organized by the World Bank in Washington

The Metropolis Secretariat-General participated in the seminar entitled “Smart Cities for All”, organized by the World Bank and held in Washington on 5 and 6 March 2012. Thirty-six speakers presented papers before over a hundred elected officials and representatives of international organizations, city networks, technology firms, consultancies, and universities. The discussions addressed the fundamental role that “smart cities” play in responding to the challenge of the inevitable urbanization of the world population.

56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, organized by UN Women in New York

As part of the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, elected officials and representatives of the United Nations, civil society, associations, the private sector, and the media met in New York from 27 February to 9 March.

The main theme of this session was the empowerment of rural women and the role they play in poverty and hunger eradication, as well as development and current challenges. The Metropolis Women’s Network representative took the chance to meet with Bibiana Aído, special advisor to UN Women executive director Michelle Bachelet to shore up the bonds between the UN and the Association.

The 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held next year, will focus on violence against women and girls.

4. ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR THE APRIL-JUNE 2012 QUARTER

Training seminar at the Metropolis Training Center, Middle East branch, in Mashhad, 14 to 17 May 2012

The Metropolis Training Center (Middle East branch) is organizing three parallel training sessions with the help of the Metropolis International Institute: "Public Education on Natural Disaster Preparedness", "Urban Projects and their Cultural Effects" and "Mass Transit and BRT Planning". The seminars will be held in Mashhad from 14 to 17 May 2012.

Metropolis Initiative / Melbourne Workshop: "Integrated Strategic Planning and Public/Private Partnerships", New Delhi, 28 May 2012

Management of the workshop will be the responsibility of Melbourne City Council in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in Delhi and the UN's Global Compact Cities Program (UNGCCP).

More information at: <http://www.metropolis.org/>

Metropolis Initiative /State of São Paulo Workshop: "Comparative Study on Metropolitan Governance", São Paulo, 13 and 14 June 2012

More information at: <http://www.metropolis.org/>

Metropolis Initiative / Île-de-France and Porto Alegre Workshop, Belo Horizonte, 14 June 2012

The workshop will be held as part of the ICLEI congress in Belo Horizonte.

More information at: <http://www.metropolis.org/>

Working meeting with the regional secretaries, São Paulo, 15 June 2012

4. VISITS TO THE METROPOLIS SECRETARIAT GENERAL IN BARCELONA

The heads of the cities of Rosario, Salvador de Bahía, Buenos Aires, and Caracas, as well as UN-Habitat, visited the Secretariat-General offices in Barcelona for a meeting on the World Urban Forum and the World Urban Campaign.

APRIL –JUNE 2012

1. METROPOLIS INITIATIVES

1.1. New Submissions for the Metropolis Initiatives

For the second year, Metropolis is accepting submissions for the Metropolis Initiatives. With the Initiatives, Metropolis aims to consolidate a more networked way of managing its activities, one that is more targeted at projects and outcomes, more open to partnerships and external funding, and that offers greater possibilities of incorporating new members.

Eight Metropolis Initiatives are currently being successfully carried out as part of the global movement [I'm a City Changer](#) promoted by UN-Habitat. The Initiatives, which form the basis of the Metropolis Action Plan, have been endorsed by the campaign to roll out actions and projects designed to improve life in urban areas and the habitability of cities.

Metropolis members are encouraged to join the existing Initiatives in the areas of urban innovation, urban governance, urban and social planning, and climate change and to submit new proposals, especially in the areas of transport and sustainable urban mobility, job creation and economic development, promotion of rights, and local democracy.

The Guide to Metropolis Initiatives, as well as more detailed information about the Initiatives themselves, can be found on the [Metropolis website](#).

The Initiatives jury will meet on November 14, 2012, in Guangzhou to select the Initiatives to be submitted to the board of directors for final approval on November 17, 2012.

1.2. Metropolis Initiatives Satisfaction Survey

In order to evaluate the Metropolis Initiatives, a satisfaction survey is given to the participants in the different workshops to gather feedback.

The November 15 Metropolis meeting in Guangzhou will offer an opportunity to exchange ideas, suggestions for improvement, and observations regarding the Metropolis Initiatives within the framework of an internal Initiative coordinator meeting.

1.3 Agreements

In the second quarter of 2012, agreements were signed for the following Metropolis Initiatives:

- April 12: “Integrated Strategic Planning and Public-Private Partnerships,” by the city of Melbourne in collaboration with the United Nations Global Compact Cities Program.

- May 2: “Integrated Urban Governance: Successful Policy Transfer,” by the city of Berlin in collaboration with the Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance (HVSoG).
- June 6: “Agile Cities for a New Age of Accessibility, Efficiency and Growth,” by the international organizations Living Labs, Citymart.com and the Climate Group.
- June 12: “Mentoring on Upgrading Informal Settlements,” by the cities of Durban and São Paulo and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

1.4. Metropolis Initiative “Comparative Study of Metropolitan Governance” Workshop, São Paulo

The first meeting of the Metropolis Initiative on metropolitan governance, led by the Secretariat for Metropolitan Development of the State of São Paulo, took place in the city of São Paulo on June 13 and 14. The meeting compared the different strategies followed by cities in relation to governance models and analyzed how public-private partnerships can determine the execution and financing of public and social policies in metropolitan areas. [Learn more.](#)

1.5. Metropolis Initiative on Climate Change Meeting at the ICLEI World Congress in Belo Horizonte

The first Metropolis Initiative workshop on climate change, organized within the framework of the ICLEI World Congress in Belo Horizonte, offered members a chance to share the plans they had implemented to tackle climate change in their cities. On June 14, 2012, seven cities gave presentations on their sustainable actions: Buenos Aires, Île-de-France, Johannesburg, Mexico City, New Delhi, Porto Alegre and Quito. [Learn more.](#)

2. STATUTORY MEETINGS

2.1. Board of Directors Meeting in Guangzhou, 14-17 November 2012

The website for the Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting in Guangzhou is already live. Online registration is now open so that participants can register and begin to arrange their accommodations.

The agenda will include a joint session, with the overarching theme of governance and innovation, on the Initiatives promoted by the State of São Paulo, Berlin, Melbourne, and Île-de-France.

Meetings will also be held by the “Metropolis Women International Network and Asian Cities” sections, the jury tasked with approving new Metropolis Initiatives, and the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) jury.

Moreover, Agile Cities will carry out a 2 hour demonstration of Citymart.com, the online marketplace for innovations in cities. This demo will include best practices on using the platform, its social networking and social media tools.

2.2. Board of Directors Meeting in Johannesburg, July 2013

From July 16 to 19, 2012, a Metropolis delegation will undertake a preparatory visit to Johannesburg in order to start organizing the Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for July 2013.

At Rio+20, conversations were held between Johannesburg and Metropolis, and it was decided that the theme of the meeting would be food security.

2.3. Metropolis World Congress in Hyderabad, April 2014

In April 2012, a Metropolis delegation organized a preparatory visit to Hyderabad for the 2014 Metropolis World Congress. A series of discussions with Hyderabad’s elected officials and city managers were held, as well as meetings with various political and administrative representatives.

The Metropolis delegation also met with the elected members of the Standing Committee of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and with the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) Department. The delegation inspected the proposed congress venue – Hyderabad International Convention Center – and the Hyderabad Convention Visitors Bureau. A meeting was likewise held with the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation and Hyderabad International Trade Expositions Ltd (HITEX). (See Annex 2: Preparatory Visit Report)

2.4. Amendment

The “Minutes of the Extraordinary and Ordinary General Assembly Meetings, November 26, 2011, Porto Alegre” stated that the position of “Executive Vice President for Europe” as a confirmed member of the “new Board of Directors” would be held by Klaus Wowereit.

By request of the City of Berlin in June 2012, the position was amended, and Mr. Wowereit was replaced by Senator for Urban Development and the Environment Michael Müller.

2.5. Mandates

Little has changed since the first quarter report with regard to the mandates given to the president at the last Board of Directors Meeting held in Porto Alegre in 2011. The issue of regional secretaries and global offices remains under consideration.

In the second quarter of 2012, the secretary general was able to meet with the regional secretaries for North America, Africa and Latin America, as well as with the representative of the regional secretary for Asia Pacific.

As for training, which was the subject of a mandate given to Amara Ouerghi, the secretary general will propose that a strategic planning session be held on the issue in the third quarter of 2012.

3. MEMBERS

3.1. New Confirmed Members

The Metropolis Congress, held in Porto Alegre on November 26, 2011, approved the admission of the following members: Durban, Haikou, the State of Minas Gerais, Rosario, Hyderabad, Tirupati, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh, India).

3.2. Metropolis Membership Applications

Since then, the following cities have submitted membership applications, which must be approved at the Guangzhou board meeting in November 2012: Buenos Aires (Argentina), Kaohsiung (China), Shenzhen (China), Lahore (Pakistán) y Gujranwala (Pakistán).

3.3. Fees

As of June 21, 2012, membership fees have been paid amounting to a total of €270,826.00. In July, a reminder for the payment of the membership fees for 2012 will be sent to all the members of Metropolis.

4. GUANGZHOU INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR URBAN INNOVATION

Following the call to the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, as of 31 May, the [Guangzhou Award](#) Secretariat had received a great number of applications from cities and local governments around the world, to wit: 135 projects from 80 cities in 38 countries.

Considering that some applications include more than one initiative, and as the summer holiday is approaching, the Guangzhou Award Organizing Committee has decided to extend the submission deadline to 30 September 2012, in order to give applicants more time to prepare their submissions.

To date, the Metropolis Secretariat General has distributed information on the 1st Guangzhou Innovation Award at the following forums and meetings:

- First meeting of the Metropolis Initiative “Comparative Study on Metropolitan Governance,” São Paulo, May 2012
- Indian city communication and promotion campaign (Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, among others), May 2012
- Living Labs Global Awards 2012 Summit for Service Innovation in Cities, Rio de Janeiro, May 2012
- National Federation of Tunisian Cities (FNVT) international conference “Decentralization: A Tool for Democracy and Development,” Tunisia, May 2012
- Ibero-American Union of Municipalists seminar, Granada, June 2012

On July 18, 2012, a delegation from TV China visited UCLG and Metropolis. The purpose of the visit was to meet with the people responsible for the Guangzhou Award in both secretariats general in order to discuss the campaign to publicize it through both associations.

5. ACTIVITIES OF THE METROPOLIS WOMEN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

The Metropolis Women International Network, which has been coordinated since the Porto Alegre Congress by the Metropolis Secretariat General, is expanding its Barcelona section to include representatives from a variety of sectors: academia, healthcare, young people, seniors, businesswomen, women elected officials, etc.

In the second quarter of 2012, Metropolis attended different forums and meetings held in Barcelona with both elected women and women professionals and entrepreneurs.

The Metropolis Women International Network's agenda for the next few months, which is currently being prepared by the Barcelona section, is as follows:

- Co-organization of the "Capacity-Building Workshop for Local Elected Women in Africa," Abidjan, July 24-28, 2012
- Participation in the "World Urban Forum" in collaboration with UCLG, Naples, September 1-7, 2012
- Organization of the conference "Urban Planning and Gender" in collaboration and coordination with the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Barcelona, October 23, 2012 (date subject to confirmation)
- "Metropolis Women International Network and Asian Cities" section meeting, Guangzhou, November 14, 2012, within the framework of the Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting
- African section meeting within the framework of "Africities," Dakar, December 1-6, 2012
- Organization, in collaboration with the City Council of Paris and UCLG, of the third edition of the international forum "Dynamic Cities Need Women," Paris, January 31 and February 1, 2013
- Participation in the 57th edition of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), organized by UN Women, the theme of which will be the elimination and prevention of violence against women, New York, March 2013

6. PARTICIPACIÓN EN EVENTOS INTERNACIONALES

APRIL

• High-Level Meeting of Local and Sub-national Authorities, New York

On April 23, 2012, Metropolis participated in a high-level meeting of local and regional government leaders and networks in New York at which key messages for Rio+20 were presented to both United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN-Habitat Executive Director Joan Clos. Metropolis was represented by Gerald Tremblay, mayor of Montreal. The Metropolis secretary general and regional secretaries for North America and Africa also participated in the event.

At the meeting, local and regional authorities engaged in a dialogue with the Group of Friends of Sustainable Cities on how to ensure that the views of local and sub-national governments are included. The document "Joint Messages of Local and Sub-national Governments," signed by UCLG, ICLEI, Metropolis, C40 Cities, NRG4SD, and

FOGAR, with the support of the Ford Foundation and UN-Habitat, put forward eight recommendations for achieving sustainable urbanization, metropolization, and regionalization. The agreement emphasizes urbanization as a driver of global economic growth and development.

MAY

• **Metropolis Initiative “Agile Cities” in the Rio Summit on Service Innovation in Cities and the Living Labs Global Awards Ceremony, Rio de Janeiro**

Metropolis was an event partner at the Rio Summit on Service Innovation in Cities as part of the Initiative “Agile Cities for a New Age of Accessibility, Efficiency and Growth,” a joint effort to meet global challenges through technology and innovation and to help cities determine how to effectively use new technologies to meet climate, urban service, social and economic objectives. Living Labs Global, together with the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Barcelona, Oracle and the Climate Group, co-sponsored the summit, which was held on May 2 and 3, 2012, in Rio de Janeiro.

The event enabled the backing of new forms of cooperation between businesses, public sector leaders, and experts to expand the market of innovative services in cities.

• **New Cities Foundation Summit “Thinking Ahead, Building Together,” Paris**

Metropolis attended the inaugural New Cities Summit, organized by the New Cities Foundation, which took place in Paris on May 14 to 16, 2012. The summit gathered together recognized global urban thought leaders and decision-makers – mayors, CEOs and business leaders, academics, architects, media leaders, and entrepreneurs – and offered innovative demos and interactive workshops. Workshop topics included mobility, the creative and connected city, water, greener buildings, infrastructure finance, and regional sessions. China, India and Latin America were the main focus of the discussions.

• **“Workshop on Slum-Free Urban India – Policy and Practice: Lessons from International Experiences,” Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India**

Metropolis supported the Workshop on Slum-Free Urban India led by the Government of the State of Andhra Pradesh in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh, India) on May 14 and 15. Leading policymakers and practitioners from Brazil, South Africa and the Philippines discussed their national and local experiences at the workshop, which aimed to offer a platform for sharing international experiences in achieving a slum-free urban habitat.

- **Training seminar at the Metropolis Training Center, Middle East branch, Mashhad**

From May 14 to 17, 2012, the Metropolis Training Center (Middle East branch) organized three parallel training sessions with the support of the Metropolis International Institute: “Public Education on Natural Disaster Preparedness,” “Urban Projects and Their Cultural Effects,” and “Mass Transit and BRT Planning.”

- **Conference on “Decentralization: A Tool for Democracy and Local Development,” Tunisia**

From May 18 to 30, 2012, Metropolis attended the conference “Decentralization: A Tool for Democracy and Local Development” sponsored by the Fédération Nationale des Villes Tunisiennes (National Federation of Tunisian Cities, FNVT), UCLG, the provincial government of Barcelona, the International Association of Francophone Mayors, and the Arab Towns Organization, with the support of the French development cooperation agency, FIIAP-Goberna (Spain), the UCLG Mediterranean Commission, and the Cities Alliance. Metropolis, together with the other international partners in attendance, undertook to support the transition process in Tunisia and to strengthen the role of local governments by promoting decentralization through its knowledge-exchange network, training seminars, and technical assistance programs.

- **The Metropolis workshop “Integrated Strategic Planning and Public-Private Partnerships,” originally scheduled for May 27 in Delhi, has been postponed to July 26-27, 2012.**

JUNE

- **FMDV: New Regional Office in Mexico City**

The Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) has opened a regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico City. The office, which has a three-person staff, will be directed by Eugene Zapata, a familiar name to Metropolis members. In June, the Metropolis secretary general met with Mara Robles, director of the Mexico City School of Public Administration (EAPDF), with the aim of developing joint projects in the field of training. A meeting was likewise held with Marcelo Abrard to discuss the loss of knowledge and know-how that comes with the departure of a mayor or regional president at the end of his or her term. Unfortunately, Metropolis has not yet been able to capitalize on this experience. This point merits further discussion by members in the future.

- **Rio+20, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro**

Mayors and local government officials sent a strong message to leaders gathered at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Summit), held in June 2012, evoking the role of local and sub-national authorities in effective global governance and of cities as the testing grounds for innovative ideas for achieving sustainable development. Although the outcome document does not contain stronger commitments, countries around the world formally recognized the important role that local and sub-national authorities play in sustainable development.

As the leading association defending the interests of metropolises, Metropolis actively participated in the Rio+20 process:

- **Advocacy and outreach:** Metropolis supported the advocacy work undertaken by UCLG, ICLEI, and nrg4SD as the Local Authorities Major Group Organizing Partners.

Metropolis and UCLG launched a joint communication campaign aimed at drawing attention to issues related to sustainable urban development by seeding the hashtag #citieswewant. The campaign gained the support of many organizations and individuals. [Learn more.](#)

Metropolis also participated in the online “Rio Dialogues” and put forward by one of the local authorities’ partners’ recommendations.

- **Urban Summit:** UCLG and UN-Habitat, with the support of Metropolis and under the auspices of the City of Rio, brought together over 300 local government representatives to discuss their contributions to a sustainable future. Metropolis participated in the round table “Multilevel Governance: The Fair Place of Local and Regional Authorities,” which highlighted the importance of metropolitan governance in attaining a sustainable future for cities. [Learn more.](#)

- **Metropolis Initiatives exhibition:** At the Rio+20 Urban Summit (Espacio Humanidade 2012–Forte do Copacabana), Metropolis put together an exhibition to showcase the Initiatives as the main service provided by Metropolis to cities and their partners. The traveling exhibition can be seen in Naples (as part of the [World Urban Forum](#), September 1-7, 2012) and at the [Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting](#) to be held in Guangzhou in November 2012. [Learn more.](#)

- **Participation in side events:** Metropolis political representatives and senior staff members participated in a variety of events organized by international partners, including the ICLEI Global Town Hall and the C40 Mayors Summit.

- The working meeting with the regional secretaries, to have been held in São Paulo on June 15, 2012, was cancelled.

7. ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR THE JULY-SEPTEMBER 2012 QUARTER

- **City Protocol Meeting, Barcelona, July 16-17, 2012**

Barcelona is becoming a “Smart City.” As part of this strategic goal, the city aims to create a global association through which members can join forces to ensure sustainable urban development through the use of information and communication technology. This association, to be called the City Protocol Society, will be launched in November, during the Smart City Expo & Congress 2012 in Barcelona.

The City Protocol Society’s first preparatory meeting will be held in Barcelona on July 16 and 17, 2012. At the meeting, cities, international organizations, universities and companies will be invited to discuss proposals and content to be included in the initial draft City Protocol to be presented in November 2012 in Barcelona.

- **Metropolis Workshop “Integrated Strategic Planning and Public-Private Partnerships,” New Delhi, July 26-27, 2012**

The inaugural meeting of the Metropolis Initiative “Integrated Strategic Planning and Public-Private Partnerships” will take place on July 26 and 27, 2012, in New Delhi. The workshop will be conducted over the course of both days and is primarily aimed at Indian government and municipal staff engaged in planning the provision and maintenance of basic infrastructure. While the Initiative will focus on Indian cities, other interested Metropolis members are welcome. [Learn more.](#)

- **World Urban Forum (WUF), Naples, September 1-7, 2012**

UN-Habitat, working jointly with the Italian hosts, will hold the 6th Session of the [World Urban Forum](#) from September 1 to 7 in Naples. This year’s theme, “The Urban Future,” will be addressed through four focused dialogues:

1. Urban Planning: Institutions and Regulations, Including the Improvement of Quality of Life
2. Equity and Prosperity: Distribution of Wealth and Opportunities
3. Productive Cities: Competitive and Innovative Cities

4. Urban Mobility, Energy and Environment

Metropolis will participate in the following meetings: the annual meeting of the United Nations Advisory Committee for Local Authorities (UNACLA), the “Mayors” round table, the special session on the World Urban Campaign, the special session on South-South cooperation, the networking side event “Peer Exchange of City Leaders,” the special session “Basic Services and Decentralization,” the “Gender and Women” round table, and the special session “Delivering the Urban Advantage.”

Within the framework of the WUF, Metropolis will organize the Initiative workshop “Metropolises at Work: Governance, Finance and the Execution of Public Policies” on September 4, 2012.

8. AGREEMENTS WITH INSTITUTIONS

• New Agreement between NIUA and Metropolis for 2012-2014

Metropolis and the Indian National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have renewed their ongoing collaboration for the period 2012-2014. The new agreement was signed during the recent visit by a Metropolis delegation to New Delhi regarding the upcoming Metropolis World Congress to be held in Hyderabad in 2014.

• Memorandum of Understanding with INTA

The Metropolis secretary general met with the International Urban Development Association (INTA) secretary general in order to exchange information about the organizations. While Metropolis carries out its Initiatives, INTA has turned its commissions into four “Communities of Competences”: Metropolization, Tomorrow’s Habitat, Innovation for Services, and Workspace Urbanism.

Metropolis has invited INTA to participate in the Metropolis strategic reflection on training. The current memorandum of understanding should be amended to make the cooperation between Metropolis and INTA more dynamic.

9. VISITS TO THE METROPOLIS SECRETARIAT GENERAL IN BARCELONA

Regional Secretary for Africa Emile Danho visited the Metropolis secretariat general in Barcelona and engaged in a week of intensive work with the Metropolis team in order to discuss the activities to be carried out in the African continent during 2012.

A delegation from the City of Taipei headed by its mayor, Lung Bin-Hau, Ph.D., visited the Metropolis and UCLG headquarters, as well as Barcelona City Hall, in order to strengthen the city's ties with these institutions.

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2012

1. ACTION PLAN

METROPOLIS AND UCLG GATHER MEMBERS, PARTNERS AND EXPERTS TO SET A RENEWED CITY-TO-CITY LEARNING AGENDA

Metropolis and UCLG hosted leaders from selected cities, development partners and networks to debate on management and learning practices in diverse urban frameworks in order to set their new agenda on City-to-City Learning and discuss possible synergies between both organizations' approaches. This meeting builds on the Metropolis' Action Plan that commits to increase and improve activities on Learning from and for members.

The strategic planning session on learning was held in Barcelona from 12 to 14 September and gathered around 60 members, partners and experts that shared and compared Metropolis and UCLG methodologies for knowledge exchange with local and metropolitan governments and partner networks. It also set the guidelines for building a learning agenda for the upcoming years, with the identification of key services and activities to develop and reinforce.

During the second day Metropolis and UCLG worked separately in order to elaborate proposals taking into account the needs of their respective members. The Metropolis team identified three ways to explore Learning linked to Metropolis Initiatives and oriented by the key concept of "Love, Learn, Trust (2LT)":

- 1) Accreditation on selected products of training, courses and experts in order to offer reliable learning resources to the cities.
- 2) Create a General Framework for the learning process to assess, monitor and evaluate the services offered.
- 3) Create an umbrella for all of activities of "Exchanges", complementing Metropolis Initiatives as a value-proposal for cities and its partners.

In the third day Metropolis and UCLG shared the conclusions and outlined the possible synergies between both organizations' approaches specially related to the accreditation and knowledge, knowledge and networking platform, connection between Metropolis Initiatives and UCLG Commissions, and joint Peer Learning Exchange.

The outcomes of the meeting have been posted online and the final Strategic Plan will be presented in the next Board of Directors meeting and Innovation Award to be held in Guangzhou (14-17 November 2012).

See Appendix 1: Outcomes of this strategic meeting and a first version of the Recommendations on accreditation, Framework and Exchanges.

2. METROPOLIS INITIATIVES

2.1 Call for 2013 Metropolis Initiatives

The following four proposals were received in the call for 2013 Metropolis Initiatives published in July:

- “Permanent Workshop on Comprehensive Risk Management in Latin American Cities,” submitted by the government of the Federal District of Mexico in partnership with the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) Regional Office for Latin America;
- “Developing Sustainable Urban Tourism: A New Framework for Institutional Collaboration,” submitted by Consorci de Turisme de Barcelona [Barcelona Tourism Consortium] in partnership with the city council of Barcelona and the Spanish state tourism innovation and technology company SEGITTUR;
- “Green Economy Center,” submitted by the government of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires; and
- “Comprehensive Recovery of Metropolitan River Areas: The Experience of the Llobregat River,” submitted by the Greater Barcelona authority Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona (AMB) in partnership with Barcelona Regional, the Consortium for the Recovery and Conservation of the Llobregat River, the Center for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF), and the Forest Sciences Center of Catalonia (CTFC).

The jury for the Initiatives will meet on November 14 in Guangzhou to select the proposals to be submitted to the Board of Directors for final approval at its meeting on November 17, 2012.

2.2. Metropolis Initiative Workshop “Integrated Strategic Planning and Public Private Partnerships”, New Delhi, 26-27 July 2012

The inaugural workshop of the Melbourne led Metropolis Initiative “Integrated Strategic Planning and Public Private Partnerships” was held in New Delhi during 26-27 July 2012. Titled 'Planning Partnerships for Sustainability' the event brought together over 40 practitioners from across government agencies, educational and research

institutes, the private sector, and non government organisations. The workshop provided participants with the opportunity to learn more about the Initiative, exposure to the basis and use of the 'Circles of Sustainability method', share their views on the critical issues facing cities, and to identify future engagements. Good integrated strategic planning requires both general protocols and local knowledge. This project enables both sides of that equation to be developed. The project involves a partnership between Metropolis, the Cities Programme, Indian municipal authorities and global experts on urban sustainability both in India and elsewhere. The project will develop a model that incorporates considerations of public-private partnership into a working process designed to assist Indian cities in tackling urgent infrastructure needs. It is intended that the model will be useful—with careful adaptation—to local circumstances of other cities around India and the world.

Representatives came from Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Faridabad and Bangalore, together with delegations from Sao Paulo and Tehran. The workshop was jointly hosted by Prof. Chetan Vaidya from the National Institute of Urban Affairs and Prof Paul James of UN Global Compact Cities Programme at the RMIT University. They were supported by Sunil Dubey, the Metropolis - Country Director, and Christine Oakley from Victorian State Government, under the guidance of the Project Director, Mary Lewin, also from the Victorian State Government.

For detailed information about the workshop, please refer to the full report (available on our website: www.metropolis.org)

2.3. Metropolis Initiative: “Metropolises at Work: Governance, Finance, and the Execution of Public Policies” Networking event

Metropolis and the State Government of São Paulo organized the networking event “Metropolises at Work: Governance, Finance, and the Execution of Public Policies” in the framework of the World Urban Forum (WUF6), held in Naples in September 2012. This event compared the strategies of establishing a structure of metropolitan governability and engaging private stakeholders in the financing of metropolitan projects of cities as different as Barcelona, Johannesburg, Tlajomulco (Guadalajara metropolitan region) and Sao Paulo.

2.4 Metropolis Initiative: Mentoring on on Slum upgrading in the WUF6

In the framework of the World Urban Forum (WUF6), the Durban - São Paulo's Metropolis Initiative on Slum upgrading was showcased at the networking event organized by UCLG's Committee on Strategic Urban Planning.

3. STATUTORY MEETINGS

3.1 Board of Directors Meeting in Guangzhou, 14-17 November 2012

The countdown has begun to the Metropolis Board of Director's meetings, which will take place in Guangzhou between 14 and 17 November 2012 when the winners of the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation will be unveiled. We encourage all members and partners to register online at the event's webpage which also provides the latest updates on the program, useful information and visa procedures: <http://guangzhou2012.metropolis.org>.

Urban Innovation will be the cross-cutting theme and Metropolis Mayors' Forum will offer a political discussion on innovative urban development trends. The Mayor of Guangzhou, Mr. Chen Jinhua; the President of Metropolis and of the Ile-de-France Region, Mr. Jean-Paul Huchon; the Mayor of Istanbul and President of UCLG, Mr. Kadir Topbas; the Governor of Abidjan, Mr. Breugé Robert Mambe, and the President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Ms. Li Xiaolin, have been invited to participate at this Political Forum.

As board members have received quarterly activity reports over the year, we propose that the Board of Directors meeting have a more compact format in order to leave more time for discussion.

3.2 Board of Directors Meeting in Johannesburg, July 2013

The first preparatory visit to Johannesburg for the 2013 Metropolis Board of Directors meetings took place from 16 to 19 July 2012 when a delegation from Metropolis travelled to Johannesburg in order to discuss in depth the following issues related to the organization of the Metropolis Board of Directors to be held in 2013:

- Program
- General logistics (organizing manual)
- Venues and accommodation options
- Budget
- Agreement Metropolis – Johannesburg
- Communication, Marketing and Protocol

The meetings, visits, as well as the conversations shared with the City Manager, enabled to accomplish the main objectives of the visit, establishing solid bases in view of the forthcoming collaboration and set agreements on relevant details of the organization of the event.

4. MEMBERS

4.1 New Members in 2012

The new Metropolis members include:

- 1) The City of Buenos Aires
- 2) Kaohsiung
- 3) Lahore
- 4) Gujranwala
- 5) Fuzhou
- 6) Kunming
- 7) Xian
- 8) Shenzhen (member since 2011, but pending ratification by the Board of Directors, which will meet in Guangzhou on November 17, 2012)

Metropolis is still awaiting receipt of the membership applications of Faisalabad (Pakistan) and Changchun (China), who have conveyed their wish to join Metropolis through UCLG-ASPAC.

4.2. Status of 2012 Fee Payments

As of October 25, 52 members had paid their membership fees, amounting to a total of €427,024.

5. GUANGZHOU INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR URBAN INNOVATION

Since the launch of the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation in March 2012, the Award has received great attention from cities and local governments around the world. By the application deadline of September 30th, the Secretariat in Guangzhou has received in total 255 registrations from 153 cities, among which there are altogether 210 valid submissions from 134 cities.

An assessment meeting by the Technical Committee will take place on October 15th—17th in Guangzhou, during which experts in urban issues will review all submissions and produce a short-list of 15 initiatives, to be submitted to the Jury for their decision on the 5 final winners on November 14th.

Given the warm response from global cities, and to encourage innovations in promoting urban development, Co-President Wan Qingliang has proposed to increase the number of cities/initiatives awarded. Apart from the 15 short-listed initiatives, the Technical Committee will also select 30 more initiatives that they think worthy of wide attention and publicity, which do not enter for final assessment by the Jury, but will be presented the title of TC's Special Recognition Award.

6. METROPOLIS WOMEN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK ACTIVITIES

Over the third quarter of 2012, the Metropolis Women International Network has attended meetings of female entrepreneurs from the Barcelona-based NUST (New Social Uses of Time) network and holding meetings with representatives from the health, volunteer and business sectors, as well as with members of the disabled community. All of the meetings were held with a view to having a core driver for the Barcelona section in place by year-end, with representatives from multiple sectors.

6.1. INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

The Metropolis Women International Network's international agenda over the third quarter was as follows:

Participation in the Capacity-building Seminar for the International Network of Local Elected Female Representatives in Africa “WOMEN IN CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN SOCIETY,” organized by the Women in Africa section and coordinated by Barcelona. Abidjan, July 24–27, 2012.

The seminar was attended by 500 women representatives from local governments in 21 African countries, who shared their experiences in order to tackle new challenges in the spheres of the environment, governance, sustainability and innovation. On Thursday, July 26, the Metropolis Women International Network delegation, accompanied by Governor Beugré Mambe, was received by the Ivorian prime minister, Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio. The purpose of the meeting, in addition to thanking the prime minister for his country’s hospitality, was to present the conclusions of the seminar. See Appendix 2: General Report on the Seminar (available in French only).

Separately, the governor of Abidjan took advantage of the seminar to notify Metropolis of his intention to establish a secretariat for the Women of Africa Network in the city, as well to host, in the fall of 2013, the third edition of the INTERNATIONAL FORUM “DYNAMIC CITIES NEED WOMEN.”

Participation in the workshops in advance of the WORLD URBAN FORUM hosted by the Huairou Commission in collaboration with UN-Habitat. Naples, August 29–31, 2012. Grassroots Women’s International Academy.

As part of the preparatory activities for the World Urban Forum (WUF), the Metropolis Women International Network attended the meeting of more than 60 women from 12 different countries held from August 29 to 31 at the L.U.P.T. Interdepartmental Research Centre at the University of Naples Federico II.

Joan Clos, under-secretary general of the UN and executive director of UN-Habitat, expressed his gratitude to Metropolis for its involvement in the workshops and thanked the Huairou Commission for hosting the Grassroots Women International Academy. He underscored the importance of “bringing together women from different grassroots organizations in order to designate common priorities and a common goal to bring into the WUF so as to shape both deliberations and policy orientations during the event.” According to Clos, one of the Habitat Program’s key recommendations is to recognize the crucial role that women play in “achieving sustainable human settlements.”

Participation in the WORLD URBAN FORUM Naples, September 1–7, 2012

For just over a week, the Metropolis Women International Network actively participated in the debates, sessions and roundtables on urban planning issues from a gender perspective held within the framework of the World Urban Forum, which culminated in the drafting of a statement in the form of recommendations that underscored the important role that women play in planning, developing and managing space. See Appendix 3: Recommendations (available in English only).

Additionally, the Metropolis Women International Network took advantage of the WUF to contact and meet with Metropolis partners, such as the Huairou Commission, in order to strengthen the ties between the two associations. Meetings were also held with representatives from the Abidjan, Mashhad and Seoul sections and with UN-Habitat to coordinate a conference on urban planning and gender to be held in the first quarter of 2013. The conference will be hosted by the Barcelona section in collaboration with the Greater Barcelona authority Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona (AMB), and Joan Clos will be the keynote speaker.

Participation in the FLEXIBLE WORKPLACE CATALONIA award

In June, the Metropolis secretariat general submitted its candidacy to participate in the **7th edition of the Catalu a Empresa Flexible [Flexible Workplace Catalonia] award**, which celebrates those companies that show an unwavering commitment to facilitating work-life balance for their employees. The winning company in each category – large companies, medium-sized companies and small companies – is entered in the running for the **National Flexible Workplace Award** along with the finalists from Spain’s other autonomous regions. The award is given jointly by CValora and ManpowerGroup and is sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality. So far, Metropolis has been chosen as a finalist in the “Small companies” category from among nearly 300 candidates.

6.2. AGENDA FOR THE COMING MONTHS

The Metropolis Women International Network’s agenda for the coming months, which is currently put together by the Barcelona section, is as follows:

- Coordination of and attendance at a meeting of the Metropolis Women International Network sections in Guangzhou, China, on November 14, 2012, within the framework of the Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting.

- Meeting of the African section within the framework of the Africities Summit scheduled to take place in Dakar, from December 1 to 6, 2012.
- Collaboration with UCLG and the city council of Paris to hold the Global Conference on Women in Local Decision Making, Paris, January 30, 2013.
- Organization of the conference “Urban Planning from a Gender Perspective: Making Cities Safe” in collaboration with the Greater Barcelona authority Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona (AMB). First quarter 2013.
- Participation in the 57th edition of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), organized by UN Women, the priority theme for which will be the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. New York, March 2013.
- Co-organization with the Abidjan section of the third INTERNATIONAL FORUM “DYNAMIC CITIES NEED WOMEN.” Abidjan, fall 2013.

7. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

7.1. City Protocol Seminar, Barcelona, July 16 and 17, 2012

The City Protocol Seminar was held in Barcelona on July 16 and 17, 2012. The seminar seeks to promote a certification system for assessing city’s efficiency and quality. The event was attended by approximately 200 representatives, including two representatives from Metropolis, who actively participated in the debates to establish a new framework for improving and transforming cities.

The city council of Barcelona is the driving force behind the project, which also receives support from CISCO and GDF Suez and is held in collaboration with more than 90 cities, organizations, universities and companies.

7.2. World Urban Forum (WUF6), Naples, 1-7 September 2012

The Sixth session of the World Urban Forum held in Naples was officially brought to a close on the 6 September hosting over 8.000 international participants and a large number of events. The Forum was the first milestone in the preparatory process towards the Third Conference of Sustainable Human Settlements (Habitat III 2016) when all Habitat partners will come together and commit to a renewed global urban

agenda. Metropolis and UCLG hosted a booth at the Exhibition hall that showcased the Metropolis Initiatives and became the meeting point for local authorities and partners and organized two networking events on “Metropolitan Governance” and “Peer Learning”.

The Metropolis secretary general took advantage of the WUF to meet with the mayor of Johannesburg, the governor of Abidjan, the director general for international relations of Guangzhou, and a representative of the governor of the city of Kinshasa.

Metropolis participated in the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) meeting, as well as the mayors’ roundtable at the WUF6.

8. INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

8.1. 2012–2014 Agreement between the City Council of Barcelona and Metropolis

An agreement between Metropolis and the city council of Barcelona was signed in September for the 2012–2014 period with a view to establishing a framework for international collaboration between the city council’s Office of International Relations and Cooperation and the Metropolis secretariat general.

8.2. Request from the governor of Abidjan, Robert Beugré Mambe, to enter into collaboration agreements with the Greater Barcelona authority Área Metropolitana de Barcelona (AMB) and the city council of Barcelona. August 17, 2012.

Within the framework of the Capacity-building Seminar for the International Network of Local Elected Female Representatives in Africa held in the city of Abidjan, Governor Robert Beugré Mambe conveyed to Metropolis his city’s interest in establishing a framework for cooperation with both AMB and the city council of Barcelona.

OCTUBRE – DICIEMBRE 2012

1. STATUTORY MEETINGS

1.1. Outcomes of the Metropolis Board of Directors meetings

The Metropolis Board of Directors meetings, brought to a close on 17 November 2012 in Guangzhou, hosted over 500 national and international participants and urban thought leaders.

One year after the launch of the Metropolis Initiatives, Guangzhou became the perfect occasion to present the Initiatives progress to encourage further participation, partnerships and peer evaluation. The event also unveiled the five winners of the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation co-organized by the City of Guangzhou, Metropolis and UCLG.

Urban Innovation was the major theme of the 2012 event which culminated at the Political Forum on Governance and Innovation when Mayors discussed on how the new life styles, aspirations and heightened expectations and demands for quality of life are now influencing new and innovative urban and metropolitan public policies.

The Metropolis Board of Directors meeting concluded the event. Among the decisions taken the Initiative on “Green Economy” proposed by the City of Buenos Aires was approved, also the transfer of the Metropolis Training Institute from Montreal to Seoul and the creation of two new Institute Antennas in Mexico City and Porto Alegre. A task force for local governments to take the lead regarding the sustainable urban financing towards Habitat III was created. Metropolis currently has 121 members, ten of which formalized their membership at the Board of Directors Guangzhou: Buenos Aires (City), Kaoshing, Lahore, Gujranwala, Fuzhou, Kunming, Xian, Shenzhen, Karaj and Medellin.

1.2. Metropolis Women International Network sections meeting in Guangzhou

The annual meeting of the antennae of the Metropolis Women International Network was held on 14 November. It brought together representatives from Abidjan, Amman, Bamako, Bangui, the Brussels-Capital Region, Dakar and Mashhad, coordinated by Barcelona. Also present were representatives from Johannesburg, the city that shall host the next Board of Directors meeting. Montreal’s decision at the last Metropolis

Congress in Porto Alegre not to continue coordinating the network was announced, which is now being assumed by the Secretariat General.

1.3. Metropolis annual Meeting in Johannesburg, 16-19 July 2013

The meeting website and registration to the event is available since February 2013 (<http://joburg2.metropolis.org/>).

The Metropolis Secretariat General and the Johannesburg team are working jointly on the event's website contents and on the development of the program sessions (see provisional program attached).

The theme of the event is "Caring Cities", based on the concept of Ubuntu, an African ethic or humanist philosophy focusing on people's allegiances and relations with each other.

The underlying values of this extraordinary philosophy seek to honor the dignity of each person and are concerned with the development and maintenance of mutually affirming and enhancing relationships.

In addition to the technical visits, the host city will organize 6 thematic sessions around the following key issues of "care":

- Hungry citizens, cities and food resilience
- Smart / agile cities in developing countries
- The power of the informal economy
- Resource resilience
- Engaged citizens and
- Social cohesion in a caring city

In addition to Metropolis' statutory meetings, the Metropolis Initiatives will organise dynamic sessions; the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) shall hold its Board of Directors meeting and the Metropolis Women International Network will organise its annual meeting of antennae in which it will elect the city that will lead the network in the forthcoming years. At the same time, it will be responsible for organising two round-table discussions on "Safe Cities for Women". Finally, the South African Cities Network and UN-Habitat's Global Network on Safer Cities will take part in the debate with the common goal of making our cities an appropriate place of refuge for all.

A second preparatory visit of a Metropolis delegation has been held from 8-10 April 2013.

2. FIRST EDITION OF THE GUANGZHOU INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR URBAN INNOVATION

The Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, co-organized by the City of Guangzhou, Metropolis and UCLG, granted a global recognition to five successful practices in urban innovation carried out by: Kocaeli (Turkey), Lilongwe (Malawi), Seoul (South Korea), Vancouver (Canada) and Vienna (Austria). The participation of the fifteen nominated cities was highlighted at Guangzhou International Exhibition on Urban Innovation, in additions to the achievements made by Guangzhou in urban innovation. The publication “Deserving and outstanding initiatives of the 2012 Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation” is available on the Metropolis website.

3. METROPOLIS INITIATIVES

In the framework of the Board of Directors Meeting held on 17 November 2012, the panel of judges for the Metropolis Initiatives assessed the four proposals submitted in the 2013 call for proposals, with the following results:

- “Green Economy Center” project, submitted by Buenos Aires

The appraisal undertaken by the panel of judges concluded that this project meets the stipulated requirements. Metropolis has granted a final budget of 15,000 euros per year to the two-year project.

- “Permanent Workshop on Comprehensive Risk Management in Latin American Cities” project, submitted by Mexico City and FMDV

The panel of judges’ overall assessment was very positive, but approval was withheld on account of the project’s conception as a training workshop, among other reasons. It was decided that the project developers should instead be invited to take part in the workshop and seminar program to be run by the Metropolis Training Institute in Seoul with a training proposal on comprehensive risk management in Latin American cities.

- “Developing Sustainable Urban Tourism: A New Framework for Institutional Collaboration” project, submitted by the Barcelona Tourism Consortium

Despite a positive appraisal of various aspects of the project, the panel of judges ultimately withheld its approval of the project as a Metropolis Initiative. It was decided that the project developers should instead be invited to take part in the workshop and seminar program to be run by the Metropolis Training Institute in Seoul with a training proposal on sustainable urban tourism.

- “Comprehensive Recovery of Metropolitan River Areas: The Experience of the Llobregat River” project, presented by the Barcelona Metropolitan Area

The project was rejected in the current call for proposals as it was considered that the scope of its benefits was limited to the local arena and that it had low potential for replicability in other metropolises, as it targeted a very specific area.

Moreover, at the appraisal and follow-up meeting of the ongoing Metropolis Initiatives corresponding to the call for proposals the previous year, the panel of judges decided to adopt the Initiatives “Promotion and Development of the Barcelona Institute of Technology for the Habitat and the City Protocol” and “Concrete Actions Taken by Metropolises to Mitigate, Anticipate and Adapt to Climate Change.”

Thus, the panel of judges decided to set December 31, 2012, as the deadline for both Initiatives to submit the signed agreements offering the necessary guarantees to continue the corresponding projects. If, by the stipulated deadline, the agreements have not been signed, the Initiative in question will be suspended in light of the serious risk posed to the project’s viability by the failure to declare project support and commitment.

4. MEMBERSHIP FEES

In compliance with the decisions taken during the Porto Alegre Congress, and then confirmed by the Board of directors held in Guangzhou, the following cities have been suspended as members of Metropolis.

Unsubscribed members 2013

As agreed during the Berlin meeting, February 2013.

Nº	Member	Country
1	ALGER	<i>Algeria</i>
2	BUENOS AIRES PROVINCIA	<i>Argentina</i>
3	CHANGSHA	<i>China</i>

4	DILI	<i>East Timor</i>
5	DUBAI	<i>United Arab Emirates</i>
6	HANGZHOU	<i>China</i>
7	KAMPALA	<i>Uganda</i>
8	LIBREVILLE	<i>Gabón</i>
9	MANILA	<i>Philippines</i>
10	MONTREAL	<i>Canada</i>
11	OMSK	<i>Russia</i>
12	PORT MORESBY	<i>Papua-New Guinea</i>
13	SHENYANG	<i>China</i>
14	SOFIA	<i>Bulgaria</i>
15	TEL AVIV	<i>Israel</i>

Remarks:

- These are all members with pending payment for several years and they haven't answered to different reminders from General Secretariat. Montreal has called for voluntary redundancy, will be withdrawn from Metropolis.
- Tunis belonged to the list of members with pending payments for several years to unsubscribe, but on 20 February the city informed the Secretariat General the intention to continue belonging to the Association and requests for more time due to the crises in the country.

5. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

5.1. Asian Mayors Forum, Bangkok, November 2012

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has hosted the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF), a platform for regional mayors to share their experiences in urban management, in Bangkok, 28-30 November 2012. During this Forum, Metropolis engaged with city leaders, urban managers and administrators to discuss the various cooperation, capacity building and training aspects to jointly address the challenges of the cities and urban regions.

The Metropolis International Relations manager represented the Metropolis Secretary General during the Asian Mayors Forum in Bangkok.

5.2. 6th Africities Summit, Dakar, December 2012

Metropolis participated in the 6th Africities Summit, which took place in Dakar from 4 to 6 December 2012, coinciding with the holding of the UCLG World Council and the Executive Bureau.

5.3. Global Conference of Local Elected Women, Paris

The conference “Gender Equality, a Priority for Global Development”, organized by Paris City Council with the support of UCLG and Metropolis, was held on 31 January and 1 February 2013. The conference brought together participants from different parts of the world, among whom were representatives from various antennae of the Metropolis Women International Network, including Abidjan, Dakar, Pune, Santiago de Chile, Barcelona and Brussels.

A Plan of Action was put forward to make the participation of women in decision-making across all spheres (political, economic, financial and human development) a priority on the United Nations Post-2015 Global Development Agenda.

Preparations are now underway in Metropolis to successfully bring to fruition the 3rd International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women, to be hosted by the city of Abidjan (Ivory Coast) from 24 to 27 September 2013, under the title of “Women and Armed Conflicts”.

5.4. UN Women, New York City 2013

The coordinator of the Metropolis Women International Network attended the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, organised by UN Women in New York, coinciding with International Women’s Day on 8 March 2013.

The session’s main theme was violence against women and it was highlighted that the 21st century is the century for the inclusion of women across all fields, including full and equal rights and participation. The 21st century must be the century in which gender equality is made a reality, for which firm commitment will be required to prevent and put an end to violence against women and girls. The representative from

the Women's Network availed of the opportunity to meet with Begoña Lasagabaster, Chief of Leadership and Governance, to strengthen the links between the UN and the Metropolis Women International Network, particularly regarding safety in cities, violence against women and women's empowerment.

5.5. Metropolis engaging Urban India in connecting with Global Cities

During 13, 14 and 15 March 2013 Metropolis participated, as one of the support institutions, in one of the largest Urban Infrastructure conferences in India, Municipalika – making cities better. The three day conference in Delhi NCR focused on governance, urban reforms in India, energy, environment and affordable housing. The conference was attended by over 800 national and international delegates from public, private and urban organisations. Some of the key Metropolis partners from India also attended this conference. Metropolis engaged with various cities and urban agencies through its promotional and information desk at the Municipalika Expo area.

The Metropolis team also met with NIUA vice president, Prof O P Mathur and acting director Prof Usha Raghupathi to discuss various programs on urban capacity building and applied research platforms to bring successful international experiences to be shared with policy makers and urban managers in India. Prof Mathur discussed the frameworks of International training at NIUA and greater need for Indian cities to plan for desirable urbanization. NIUA and Metropolis discussed the next stages of Capacity Building fund to be focused on urban reforms, administration and management. The fund would put specific focus on tier two cities of Indian. As per Census of India 2011, there are currently thirty three (33) urban agglomerations/Cities in India over one million population.

5.6 International taskforce of local and regional governments for Post 2015 and Habitat III process

The Metropolis General Secretariat took part at the creation meeting of local and regional government's taskforce organized by CGLU with the purpose of contributing to Post 2015 and Habitat III process.

On this occasion the Metropolis General Secretariat proposed a contribution for OMD financing.

5.7. World Forum for Local Authorities of Periphery (FALP)

The 12th March, at Barcelona Metropolitan Area headquarters, the Metropolis General Secretariat joined the preliminary convention during the Third Edition of World Forum for Local Authorities of Periphery (FALP). This convention established the rights required to achieve more supportive and sustainable metropolitan areas, the required democracy model for these activities, the role of local authorities of metropolitan peripheries and their connection with relevant cities.

5.8. Cities Alliance Strategic Meeting

The Metropolis Regional Secretary for Africa, Émile Danho, attended the strategic meeting of Cities Alliances held from 22nd to 24th March in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, as the representative of the organization.