

4. Activities report | January- September 2016

4.6 Metropolis North America region report

Metropolis

Regional Secretariat
North America:
Activities Report

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PRESENTATION

A decision to give the regional secretaries new functions was taken at the February 2015 strategic meeting in Barcelona and ratified by the Association's board of directors at its Buenos Aires meeting in May that year. The main responsibilities of the regional secretaries, based on article 13 of the Metropolis articles of association, include "submit regular progress reports to the Secretary-General".

Mexico City has been a Metropolis member since 2008, where it plays the following statutory roles:

- **Regional Vice Presidency** - Miguel Ángel Mancera Espinosa, Mexico City Head of Government
- **Regional Secretariat North America** - Eugene Zapata Garesché, International Consultant, Office of the Head of Government

The Mexico City School of Public Administration also houses the **Regional Training Center America**, part of the Metropolis International Training Institute's centers' network.

This activities report covers the period February 2015-July 2016.

MEXICO CITY IN METROPOLIS

INITIATIVES

Ludic City – City Laboratory (Coordinator)

This consists of a methodology which draws on play and learning to create new urban spaces that are a platform for future agents of change. Activities began in March 2015, when links were established with other Metropolis cities interested in sharing and implementing the proposed methodology.

The event "Explorations for a Megalopolis" was held in December 2015, where national and international speakers explained how they link their professional work with play and why they consider it a valuable tool for community-building, the appropriation of public spaces and civic education.

The activity "Will You Stop to Play or Walk On By?" was organized in February 2016, a recreational-exploratory workshop guided by one simple question: if children were

given carte blanche to build places that encouraged playing in unconventional areas, what would they do?

Water and Cities Alliance – Environment Secretariat

This involves the participation of Bogotá, Rio de Janeiro and Mexico City for capacity-building in the protection of water ecosystems. Activities began in March 2015.

A collaboration agreement on water matters was signed by the three cities and Mexico City representatives engaged in the September 2015 meetings, part of the Bogotá Climate Summit, and the November 2015 meeting in Rio de Janeiro.

Caring Cities – System for the Development of Family

Mexico City attended the launch activity in Johannesburg in January 2015 and the follow-up meeting in Buenos Aires in May that year. Initially the Secretariat of Social Development was responsible for providing continuity; as of August 2015 it has been the System for the Development of Family (DIF).

TRAINING

International Seminar on Urban Renewal

Organized in November 2015 by the Regional Training Centre North America (Mexico City School of Public Administration) and the Secretariat for Urban Development and Housing in preparation for the Habitat III thematic meeting “Financing Urban Development: The Millennium Challenge”. The Regional Secretariat North America supported the international speakers at the event.

WOMEN

The Regional Secretariat facilitated communication between the Office of the President of Metropolis Women, the Metropolis World Secretariat, and Mexico City's Women's Institute.

Institutional bonds were also promoted between Metropolis Women and the following associations: CERMI Women's Foundation (Spain) and Costa Rica's National Institute for Women (INAMU).

EVENTS

VISIBILITY

International Forum on Metropolitan Governance Innovation

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Organized by the Mexican Secretariat of Agricultural, Territorial, and Urban Development, with the government of State of Jalisco and UN-Habitat, the forum was designed to find solutions to the challenges of metropolitan governance and assess their application in the Mexican context. The event was held in Guadalajara, Jalisco (Mexico) in November 2015.

The Regional Secretariat added Metropolis to the international partners to raise the Association's visibility at the event. It also extended an invitation to the following Metropolis members: Medellin, Guangzhou, Santiago, Montreal, Sao Paulo (State), Montevideo, Paris, Porto Alegre, Buenos Aires, Quito, Berlin, Johannesburg, Seoul, Sao Paulo (City), Barcelona, Caracas.

Latin American Mayors Forum

As part of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) meeting held in Paris in December 2015, Latin American local authorities networks met to propose collaborative work, strengthen the impact of Latin American cities in the global context, and approve the "Unity in Diversity" text of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Metropolis was invited to engage in this historical event held on 3 December, which drew close to 20 Latin American mayors and over 50 representatives of city and local-government associations.

REPRESENTATION

Smart City Expo Montreal

The Regional Secretariat represented Metropolis at Smart City Expo Montreal in March 2015. The purpose of the mission was to identify potential members and partners for the Association and to complement the activities of the Mexico City representative who spoke at the event.

5th Annual Conference on Crime Observation and Criminal Analysis

The Regional Secretariat represented Metropolis at this event organized by the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime in November 2015. The conference emphasized the importance of integrating actions implemented by security forces into civil society surveillance and monitoring to guarantee effective operations for safer societies.

HABITAT III

FINANCING URBAN DEVELOPMENT: THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE

Mexico City, through the Secretariat for Development and Housing and the Global Fund for Cities Development Regional Office Latin America, organized this thematic meeting for the preparatory process of Habitat III, held from 9 to 11 March 2016. Metropolis's presence was guaranteed in the different spaces and it was given institutional credit as an official event collaborator.

Thematic Conference

The Metropolis Secretariat-General intervened in Session 1C "The Metropolitan Phenomenon: Subnational Economies and Regional Development", where it shared the table with representatives from local governments (Huelva, Spain; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Mexico City, Mexico) and academia (National Autonomous University of Mexico).

Metropolis was invited to participate in the advisory board, responsible for the final drafting of the Declaration of Mexico City and for making important contributions to the process of preparing the document in its initial draft.

Statutory Meetings

The Regional Secretariat supported the organization of three Metropolis statutory meetings: Regional Secretaries, Executive and Finance Committee, and Board of Directors.

Parallel Events

The Regional Secretariat facilitated Metropolis' participation in other parallel Conference events, such as the "Latin America and European Union Forum: Dialogue and Cooperation from the Local Sphere" run by Mexico City via the AL-LAs Project in collaboration with Mexico's Secretariat for Foreign Relations. In addition to the presentation by the Metropolis Secretary-General, the following member cities had the opportunity to speak: Barcelona, Berlin, Guadalajara, Medellin, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Quito, Paris, Montevideo and Belo Horizonte.

The Metropolis Secretary-General also signed the Euro-Latin American Alliance Between Cities (AL-LAs) commitment for the 2016-2018 period.

PREPCITY

Buenos Aires

The Mexico City Secretary for Urban Development and Housing attended the PrepCity launch meeting organized by the City of Berlin on 20 May 2015.

Mexico City

The Mexico City Secretary for Urban Development and Housing delivered a presentation at the second PrepCity meeting held on 9 March 2016.

Berlin

a) The head consultant at the Secretariat for Urban Development and Housing participated in the “Cities as Actors” workshop held from 2 to 4 May 2016.

b) The Executive Secretary of the Council for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination in Mexico City (COPRED) attended the German Habitat Forum and engaged in the latest PrepCity meeting held on 1 and 2 June 2016.

MEMBERSHIP

Strategy for North America

As part of its actions to drive regional membership, the Regional Secretariat convened a joint meeting with the cities of Buenos Aires and Montreal at the 2015 Metropolis Annual Meeting. Invitation letters were sent to: Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary y Ottawa (Canada); Chicago, Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Seattle, Boston, Miami and San Francisco (USA); State of Mexico, Guadalajara, Puebla, and Monterrey (Mexico).

It also presented a document with specific actions at the Metropolis strategic reflection held in Barcelona in July 2016.

Member Monitoring

Communications between the Secretariat-General and cities which had not paid their annual fee were shored up in 2015 with phone calls and emails. The Regional Secretariat facilitated a meeting between the Metropolis Secretariat-General and the City of Guadalajara (Mexico) to reactivate its participation in the Association.

OTHERS

2016 Guangzhou Award

The Regional Secretariat supports the outreach of events organized by Metropolis and its members. Four projects from Mexico City were promoted for submission to the third Guangzhou Award. Promotional work included aid in drafting the candidate documents and linking parties responsible to provide monitoring for the awards in Guangzhou and Barcelona. The submitted projects were:

1. CONDUSE Program – Secretariat for Urban Development and Housing

2. Participative Process for the Urban Transformation of Mexico City International Airport – Secretariat for Economic Development
3. Mexico City Mapathon – City Laboratory
4. SMART Mexico City – General coordination of administrative modernization

Statutory and Strategic Meetings

The Regional Secretariat North America actively engaged in the following Metropolis statutory and strategic meetings:

Barcelona 2015 – Participation in the discussions for the preparation of the 2015 Board of Directors meeting in Buenos Aires. Contribution to the debates regarding the Metropolis Action Plan, linking the Association to the Habitat III process, reviewing the charter of ethics and procedural and budgetary rules, and alternative funding sources for Metropolis activities.

Buenos Aires 2015 – As part of the Metropolis Annual World Meeting that went under the slogan “Live the City”, participation in the regional secretaries and board of directors meetings (with the presence of Mexico City’s Secretary for Urban Development and Housing).

Mexico City 2016 – As part of the thematic meeting for the preparatory process of Habitat III “Financing Urban Development: The Millennium Challenge”, participation in the regional secretaries, executive and finance committee, and board of directors meetings.

The Regional Secretariat emailed its contributions to the Barcelona 2016 strategic meeting in the run-up to the event. They consisted of evaluating the Associations’ strengths and weaknesses, proposing strategies to maintain and grow the member base and identifying the leading challenges facing major metropolises.