

metropolis ●

UN HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

A look  
back on **World**  
**Metropolitan**  
**Day 2022**



# Forward

The 2022 World Metropolitan Day in this important Urban October comes at a time when we are facing many challenges.

Global challenges, from the climate crisis and health to achieving an equitable society, must be successfully addressed in urban areas. Since these challenges do not recognise administrative boundaries, the metropolitan scale is becoming increasingly prominent to respond to the needs of people and communities all over the world.

The theme of this year's World Metropolitan Day 'Crossing Boundaries', reminds us to be brave to tackle the complexity of territorial dynamics taking place on an inter-jurisdictional space and the urban-rural continuum.

This makes a tandem with the theme of World Habitat Day on *Minding the Gap to Leave No One and No Place Behind*, and with the theme of World Cities Day on *Act Local to Go Global*, all within the Urban October, a whole month to promote a better urban future. Crossing boundaries encourages us all to bring our societies closer together.

We know that an estimated sixty percent of the world's urban population is living, working and caring for each other in metropolitan spaces. It is projected that one billion more people will live in metropolitan areas in the next decade. We therefore need a robust and consistent approach for better metropolitan management.

I urge all of us to support metropolitan sustainable development through enacting targeted legal frameworks, promoting effective metropolitan governance, including accounting for metropolitan scales in national and sub-national policies and planning systems, and establishing sound financing mechanisms.

Metropolitan scale is an important scale to engage in. This is so because solutions at metropolitan scale reach more people in less time, optimising resources, and including peri-urban and rural communities. Today, metropolises of diverse sizes and typologies are already boosting SDG localisation and New Urban Agenda implementation through cooperative, subsidiary and collective action approaches.

At UN-Habitat, we are convinced that recovery from global shocks and continuing our journey towards sustainability will depend on how well we manage metropolitan spaces for generations to come.

On World Metropolitan Day, let us continue advancing global awareness and advocacy for sustainable urbanisation from a wider perspective!



**Maimunah Mohd-Sharif**

Under Secretary General  
and Executive Director  
United Nations Human Settlements  
Programme, UN-Habitat

# Introduction

World Metropolitan Day is a global campaign led by Metropolis and UN-Habitat promoting collective action to build more equitable, resilient and prosperous metropolises. It commemorates, on 7 October, the adoption of the Montreal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas. Since 2018, Metropolis and UN-Habitat promote a better urban future by advancing World Metropolitan Day in the framework of Urban October.

With a growing proportion of the world's population projected to live in larger and intermediate urban agglomerations, global challenges, from climate crisis to gender equality, must be successfully addressed in cities and metropolitan spaces.

The metropolitan scale is often the most appropriate one to deal with issues that are essential to the lives of individuals and communities and to address global issues. However, efforts to manage and plan at this scale are often put in jeopardy by administrative and political boundaries, disputes over competencies, and the lack of a shared strategic vision. Metropolitan management will only be effective if it manages to tear down invisible barriers that prevent the consolidation of common vision, joint strategy and coordinated action to bring about change and improve wellbeing.

The motto for World Metropolitan Day 2022 was **Crossing Boundaries**. This evoked, first and foremost, the essence of metropolitan governance: collaborating across boundaries to best serve the dwellers of metropolitan spaces. 'Crossing Boundaries' also referred to the erasure of social and physical obstacles, even national borders, that cut across the urban and metropolitan tissue. Today, there is a growing recognition that the impact of global megatrends may be indirect and cross-bor-

der. This is especially the case for the drop-in quality of life due to deepening poverty and inequality, inflation and lack of access to affordable housing and adequate support in our care systems. As insecurity becomes the norm and our everyday lives are disrupted by the very tangible consequences of the climate, food, water and energy crises, our societies seem to be increasingly drifting apart.

On 7 October 2022, World Metropolitan Day, societies and authorities of metropolitan cities across the world reaffirmed their commitment to crossing boundaries, tearing down walls and bridging the gaps to achieve more integrated metropolitan areas. In practice, more than 40 cities, metropolitan areas, universities and international organisations organised and participated in activities to celebrate World Metropolitan Day.

At UN-Habitat, we are convinced that recovery from global shocks and our journey towards sustainability will depend on how well we manage metropolitan spaces for generations to come. ”

**Maimunah Mohd Sharif**  
UN-Habitat  
Executive Director



**Jordi Vaquer**  
Metropolis  
Secretary-General

World Metropolitan Day is an opportunity to give due attention to metropolitan realities





# Bogota became the first World Metropolitan Day global observance

As part of World Metropolitan Day, Bogota, Metropolis and UN-Habitat celebrated a global conversation about the relevance of care as a framework for strengthening metropolitan governance.



World Metropolitan Day main event in Bogota. Credits: City of Bogota.



World Metropolitan Day main event in Bogota. Credits: City of Bogota.

In 2022, Bogotá became the first city to host the global commemoration of World Metropolitan Day and organised an event fostering a space for debate between **Mayor Claudia López**, her counterpart in Montevideo, Carolina Cosse, and the Governor of the State of Cundinamarca, **Nicolás García**. Other key figures in metropolitan management and international organisations such as **Elkin Velásquez**, Regional Director LAC at UN-Habitat also participated in the celebration.

During the day, attendees reflected on how reorganising the metropolis to focus on caring can create the necessary conditions to guarantee the well-being of people, the planet and democracy. Care can be used as a transversal and cohesive element connecting gender, housing, mobility and environmental policies, and changing our approach from competing across boundaries to collaborating effectively in light of global challenges.

**Jordi Vaquer**, Metropolis Secretary-General, stated that administrative boundaries have nothing to do with people's lives and governments must break the old idea that there is a dichotomy between the city and nature. Neither nature nor people have frontiers. This is why our cities cannot remain stuck

in the administrative divisions of the past. In the same vein, **Elkin Velásquez**, UN-Habitat's Regional Director for LAC, expressed that adopting a metropolitan perspective allows us to bridge different land uses, bring diverse actors together and combine different narratives such as the 15-minute city with a metropolitan strategy. A vision that is key to ensuring sustainable mobility, housing, safe access to water, culture and security, among other issues.

**Nicolás García**, Governor of Cundinamarca explained that, in practice, applying a metropolitan vision is a question of democracy, equality and trust. All these three factors have strengthened and pushed forward the creation of the first supra-departmental public entity in Colombia made up of: Bogotá, Boyacá, Cundinamarca, Huila, Meta and Tolima. This argument was further developed by **Carolina Cosse, Mayor of Montevideo**. She stated that cities and the way they work are much more than geographical issues, they are a profoundly human phenomenon. As such, cities need to be in tune with their communities. Cosse also highlighted the key role of cooperation and diplomacy between municipalities to build a better society based on democracy and diversity.





Care Block programme in Bogota. Credits: City of Bogota.

**Mayor Claudia López** Bogota's focused the day's dialogue on care and governance. The Mayor explained that it is no coincidence that local care systems are being implemented in Latin America, as half of the population lives in the informal economy, without access to a health or a pension system. As women are the main providers of care, Bogota's care system has a simple objective: to identify women's needs and to respond to them. Bogotá now provides more than 2000 services for women in existing schools, health centres, sports centres, and public offices. The city is, therefore, expanding its services offer, not its infrastructure. According to Mayor López, there is work to be done, but we are on the right track: "Latin America can leave violence and inequality behind in two generations", she announced in closing remarks.

In the second and third panels of the event, the importance of metropolises in the construction of the future was highlighted, as well as issues related to solidarity, equality and trust. For instance, Pablo Marcelo Maturana, Deputy Director of Cooperation of the Metropolitan Area of Valle de Aburrá, highlighted that the metropolitan structure is a scheme of solidarity between the core city and the rest of the municipalities.

The main lessons learned from both panels revolved around the concept of improving the management of common issues between territories through metropolisation processes and fostering trust through good performance, democratic processes and transparent communication with local communities.

In the wrap-up, Vaquer brought to light that this paradigm shift means redesigning and transcending the traditional political and administrative boundaries to resolve responsibility disputes and to work together to build a shared vision that better serves our citizens. In short, crossing boundaries is all about humility, empathy and perseverance. Metropolis Secretary-General closed the event by encouraging local and metropolitan leaders all over the world to call upon the UN General Assembly to proclaim World Metropolitan Day an official international day.

# World Metropolitan Day events around the world

## IMF Metro Hackathon and Congress 2022

02-31 October 2022

International Metropolitan Fellowship

As a follow-up to the first International Metropolitan Fellowship (IMF) Congress and Metro Hackathon, IMF conducted in October 2022 a Metro Hackathon

and a Congress with experts, professionals and partners to discuss ways to enable and harness the metropolis.

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## Internationalisation and Recovery: Lessons learned for metropolises

03 October

Paradiplomacia

This event analysed how metropolitan internationalisation strategies were impacted by the pandemic and how cities managed to adapt their strategies to cope with the emergency.

Three experts leading internationalisation in Buenos Aires, Mexico City and Bogota shared their experiences in transforming international action to respond to a new global scenario that exacerbated the need to build more resilient, safe, sustainable and smart cities.

### Speakers

- **Carolina Cuenca**, City of Buenos Aires
- **Mariana Flores Mayén**, City of Mexico City
- **Luz Amparo Medina**, City of Bogotá
- **Lia Brum**, Metropolis



# Equitable society: Participation and democracy

04 October

Asian Mayors Forum

This event aimed to share the experiences, best practices and challenges of metropolitan cities to remove barriers and bridge the gaps to build more equitable societies for all

With this objective, the role of metropolitan cities and local governance was highlighted in light of reducing social inequality, namely poverty, inflation and homelessness beyond borders.

## Speakers

- **Jordi Vaquer**, Secretary General of Metropolis
- **Hamidreza Gholamzadeh**, Secretary General of AMF
- **Ibrahim Evrim**, Advisor to the Mayor of Mersin, Turkey

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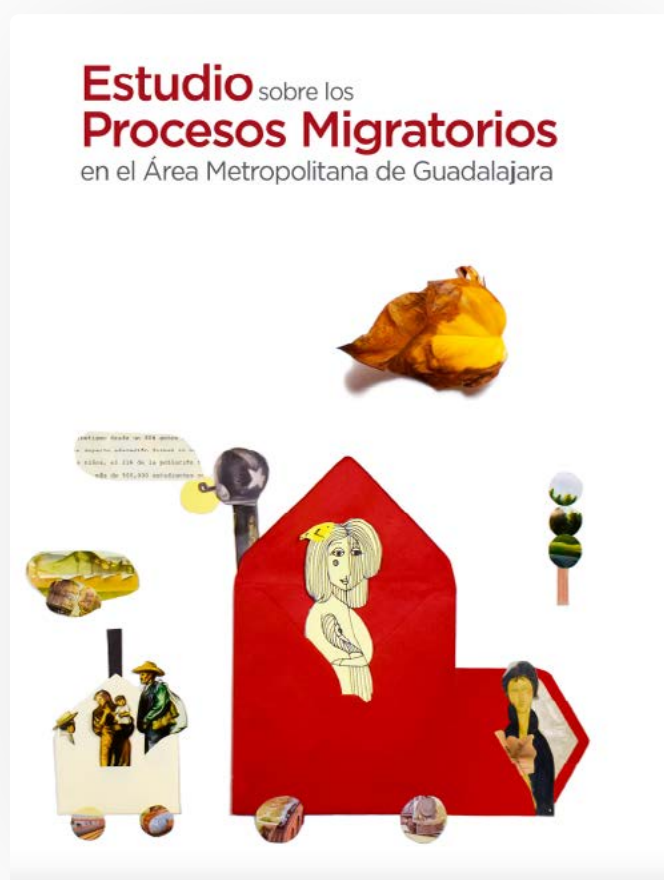
## Presentation of the study on migratory processes in the Guadalajara Metropolitan Area

05 October

IMEPLAN

The Institute for Planning and Development Management of the Guadalajara Metropolitan Area (IMEPLAN) developed a study on Migration Processes in the Guadalajara Metropolitan Area to contribute to the compilation and systematisation of data and information on migration processes in the metropolis. The aim of this study is to support and promote the construction of technical instruments and public policies that favour integration processes and the protection of human rights in a situation of human mobility.

In line with the vision of the metropolis and its international action, the presentation of the study took place within the framework of the activities of the annual celebration of World Metropolitan Day, promoted by UN-Habitat and Metropolis.



# Essential elements towards global cities and urban diplomacy

06 October

Mashhad

This one-day seminar on “essential elements towards global cities and urban diplomacy” for national and local officials sought to build synergies

on how to deal with the challenges that Mashhad and other cities are facing regarding all dimensions of urban diplomacy.

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## Improving metropolitan governance quality

06 October

Argüden Governance Academy

This webinar highlighted the significance of improving the quality of metropolitan authorities’ governance through measurement. In this context, the Metropolitan Governance Scorecard Model created by the Academy was presented and discussed.

This webinar was related to spatial equity, democracy, coordination, and financing topics mentioned on World Metropolitan Day.

### Speakers

- Keynote Speaker: **Yilmaz Argüden**, Founder of Argüden Governance Academy
- Moderator: **Erkin Erimez**, Argüden Governance Academy
- **Niall Sheerin**, Council of Europe
- **Oscar Huerta Melchor**, OECD
- **Nuno F. da Cruz**, LSE Cities
- **İnan İzci**, Argüden Governance Academy



Credits: Jack Finnigan, Unsplash.

# Urban Talks: A metropolis in 5 senses

06 October

Marmara Municipalities Union

Urban Talks is a series of conversations that enables sharing knowledge, experiences and debates on issues that affect cities and societies such as urban space, transportation, environment, culture and arts, development, governance, social inclusion, and population movements. Urban Talks aims to convey the perspectives of different disciplines on urbanisation issues.

On 6 October, Marmara Municipalities Union organised an event called 'Urban Talks: A Metropolis in 5 Senses' in partnership with Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality to discuss the largest metropolis and the megapolis of Turkey. Five speakers addressed their experience and perception of Istanbul through the five senses, i.e. sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch.

The Urban Talks was followed by a five-day workshop with the participation of the youth. This workshop aimed to discover and experience the Golden Horn area, one of the oldest parts of Istanbul, through the senses and discuss the experience with different methods by 24 young people under 30.

During the field trip, participants were divided into five thematic groups. The "sight group" recorded scenes and created a collage video. The "hearing group" created sound collages by bringing together 133 sounds recorded in the Golden Horn. The "smell group" created a smell map and matched the scents of the Golden Horn with specific colours, and "the taste group" created a taste map for the past, present and future of the area, including a "recipe of the Golden Horn". Finally, the "touch group" made a model by using materials collected from the area.

## Speakers

- **Cengiz Özdemir**, Broadcaster and Writer (moderator)
- **Merin Sever**, Food Writer & Editor
- **Selin Arslan**, Architect
- **Sinan Logie**, Architect and Artist
- **Vedat Ozan**, Perfumer and Photographer
- **Ece Ceylan Baba**, Architect



Workshop with young people in the Golden Horn. Credits: Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality



# Digital human rights in metropolises: A global and local challenge

07 October

Cities Coalition for Digital Rights

Digital technologies are ubiquitous and invisibly cross boundaries. They increasingly and systematically impact the social ‘fabric’ of societies worldwide. Digital technologies and internet access have a tremendous potential to contribute to addressing inequalities, but also exacerbate them when not well governed. “Digital human rights” are interpreted as existing human rights which also need to be protected in the context of digital technologies. In cities and metropolitan areas, governments must deal with spatial equity also on the digital space, so the policies ensure that opportunities, services, and infrastructure are accessible. Cities also need to expand their capacities to be prepared and equipped to lead digital transformation strategies that are people-centric and support sustainable urbanisation for the public good.

Metropolises appear when the functional systems of a territory exceed administrative boundaries and inhabitants connect with different jurisdictions to access opportunities, goods, services, and infrastructure. Many of them have successfully addressed the urgency to protect citizens from the possible negative

effect of emerging technologies. The metropolitan scale is often the most appropriate one to deal with issues that are essential to the lives of individuals and communities and to address global issues.

During this roundtable session, experts involved in the Digital Rights Governance Framework project shared best-case scenarios of local protection of human rights against the negative scenario of no regulation on this topic, considering cross-border effects.

## Speakers

- **Davi Rossiter**, Municipality of Maceió
- **Antonio Carvalho e Silva Neto**, Municipality of Maceió
- **Paula Boet Serrano**, Cities Coalition for Digital Rights
- **Susan Qu**, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Cambridge University
- **Gala Camacho**, Founding Member and Data Scientist, Diagonal



Credits: Hugh Han, Unsplash.

# Metropolitan planning and governance

07 October

CIDEU

In partnership with Metropolis and in the framework of World Metropolitan Day, CIDEU launched the Metropolitan Planning and Governance Micro-Network, in which 10 cities and entities from 6 countries participate: San Martín (Argentina), Bogotá and Neiva (Colombia), San José (Costa Rica), Quito (Ecuador), Pamplona, Zaragoza and the Metropolitan Strategic Plan of Barcelona (Spain), and Santiago de los Caballeros and the Strategic Plan of the Es-paillat Province (Dominican Republic).

This micro-network aims to survey challenges in terms of metropolitan governance and to work on them from a collaborative approach, identifying possible lines of action for the participating cities.

In this first session, Rosa Arlene María, Executive Director of CIDEU, explained the origin of the micro-networks and highlighted the benefits of sharing, learning and being inspired in a network; then Jordi Vaquer, Secretary General of Metropolis, highlighted the importance of planning, the vision of the future and the imperative to think about urban space on a metropolitan scale.

Mariona Tomás Fornés, expert in metropolitan governance and urban policies, shared her vision of what are the fundamental issues when talking about metropolitan governance and planning, emphasising 3 questions: why start a metropolisation process, how to do it and who should participate in this process.

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## Crossing Boundaries in commemoration of World Day Metropolitan

07 October

Valle de Aburrá

The theme of World Metropolitan Day 2022 “Crossing Boundaries” is relevant when we talk about the declining quality of life due to increasing poverty and inequalities, inflation and lack of access to affordable housing and adequate support in our care systems. At a time when our societies seem to be growing further apart and our daily lives are being disrupted by the consequences of the climate, water, energy and food crises.

This webinar promoted a space for the exchange of experiences and best practices in fauna, flora and/or biodiversity management and to understand how different cities, metropolises and metropolitan areas face current challenges.

The conversation took place online with representatives from the Metropolitan Area of Valle de Aburrá, São Paulo and San Salvador.

# Chinese cities light up their buildings for World Metropolitan Day

07 October

Guangzhou, Yiwu & Zhengzhou

## Guangzhou



## Zhengzhou



## Yiwu





# Tackling complexity: Metropolitan experiences

13 October

Sociedad Central de Arquitectos

This event explored the multiscale, multidimensional and multidisciplinary approach to the effective planning and management of our metropolises.

Metropolises are the unavoidable territories of our 21st century. Transcending jurisdictional limits, they put institutional mechanisms under tension, demanding their approach as key functional spaces for the deployment of strategies that promote equity, productivity and sustainability to achieve development.

World Metropolitan Day is an excellent opportunity to continue exchanging experiences to strengthen our awareness of metropolitan challenges. To celebrate and explore these issues, the following experts participated in the event:

- Rafael Forero, UN-Habitat
- Gabriel Lanfranchi, PUM-FADU-UBA
- María Victoria Boix, CIPPEC
- Graciela Guliani, SCA
- Fernando Murillo, FADU-UBA

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## MetroSolutions International Congress

17-18 October

Metropolitan Area of Barcelona

Convened by the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB), the international congress MetroSolutions discussed possible solutions to the great current metropolitan threats and challenges that different metropolises are facing around the world.

Three themes we explored in-depth solutions to improve 1) governance, legitimacy and good government, 2) inclusion and equity, and 3) resilience and innovation.

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## Steering the metropolis: cross-perspectives between Guadalajara, Buenos Aires and the Greater Geneva

20 October

University of Geneva

Based on the Mexican, Argentinean and Swiss case studies, the sustainable development of metropolitanisation was discussed during this round table which brought together specialists in architecture, urban planning and public policies. Crossing disciplines and perspectives between the Americas and Europe allowed addressing the complexity of an urban process transforming the territories of the world, their resources and their inhabitants.

The roundtable responded to the main question of how can we plan the ecological transition, mobility or the economy according to the logic of metropolitan networks.

# Dialogue Forum Climate Change and resilient metropolitan future for the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador

26 October

San Salvador

The Forum brought together decision-makers, representatives of central and local governments and key actors in the field of national and metropolitan urban policy as well as climate change and resilience.

## Speakers

- **Jorge Aldana**, Mayor of Central District of Honduras
- **Mario Durán**, Mayor of San Salvador
- **Fernando López**, Minister of Environment of El Salvador
- **Joaquín Martín**, Salvadoran Water Authority

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## World Metropolitan Day in Buenos Aires

4 November

Buenos Aires

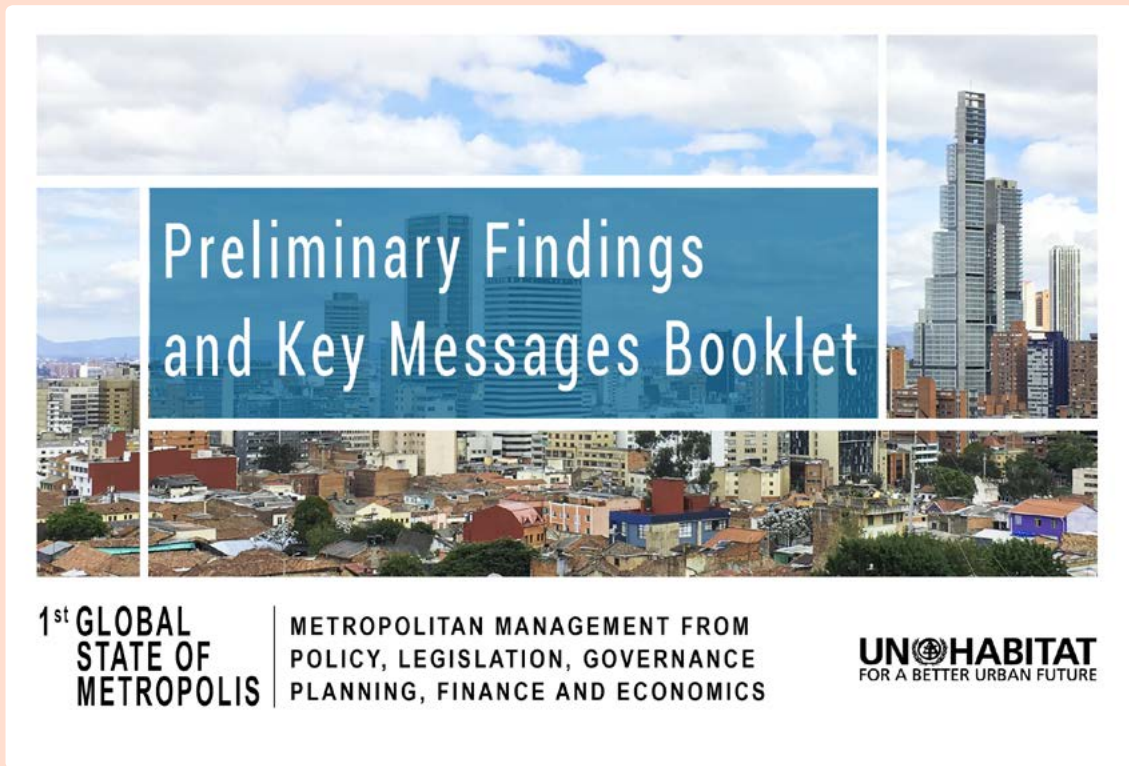
From the Directorate General of Relations with Provinces and Municipalities, together with the Secretariat of Urban Development and the Training Unit on Urban Strategies and City Networks, Buenos Aires carried out activities after World Metropolitan Day in a hybrid event.

The event featured cities that are concentrating efforts and working to remove the social and physical barriers that divide the urban and metropolitan fabric. These cities shared experiences together with the Government of the City of Buenos Aires in an event with government officials from Argentinian cities and other countries.



Credits: Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.

# UN-Habitat introduces the most recent global trends on metropolitan management during World Metropolitan Day



As part of World Metropolitan Day commemoration, UN-Habitat released the **1st Global State of Metropolis - Preliminary Findings and Key Messages Booklet**. The publication illustrates that there is a global metropolitan management gap, since most of the world's metropolises are not managed in a differentiated way, meaning they do not have neither a metropolitan plan nor institution.

In addition, according to the Booklet, existing metropolitan management systems are currently unbalanced. While several metropolises have advanced their governance arrangements and planning instruments, and metropolitan policies and legal frameworks are emerging in many parts of the world, the financing mechanisms both for implementing projects with metropolitan impact and maintaining metropolitan institutions working properly, are highly relegated.

The Booklet presents the preliminary findings and key messages from the metropolitan management assessment made to a Global Sample of Metropolises defined and analysed jointly by UN-Habitat and metropolitan authorities and experts between 2019-2022, including Metropolis participation and contribution. The trends distilled from the analyses configure a sound milestone towards the forthcoming UN-Habitat's 1st Global State of Metropolis Report.

[See publication](#)



# In the news

## UN-Habitat Executive Director's message for World Metropolitan Day



## Latest articles on World Metropolitan Day

Metropolis: Cities are on the edge: Bogota prompts a call to action

Press Release: Bogota to host World Metropolitan Day 2022

Urban Policy Platform UN-Habitat

AETU

Rosario Noticias

Ciudadanía Metropolitana

Región de Cundinamarca

Bogotá

Lider Empresarial

# A historical view of World Metropolitan Day

World Metropolitan Day started in 2018 as a campaign promoted by Metropolis, the Centre for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth (CIPPEC) and UN-Habitat's MetroHUB. In 2019, UN-Habitat started fully supporting the campaign along with partner organisations such

as Cities Alliance. This campaign quickly gained momentum and engaged cities, regions and metropolitan areas all over the world. In 2022, the continuous and ever-growing interest in World Metropolitan Day led to Bogota becoming the first city to host a Global Observance on 7 October.

## More information available in:

Explainer video:

English

Spanish

French

- 2022**  
**World Metropolitan Day 2022**  
[+ Info](#)
- 2021**  
**World Metropolitan Day 2021**  
[+ Info](#)  
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