

"Gender Equity in the digital economy"

Wednesday 16 November

3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Agora Exhibition

Smart City Expo World Congress 2022

Background

Relying on smart technologies and data analysis, smart cities optimize city functions and promote economic growth while improving the quality of life for residents. Smart cities are places where people choose to work, but also to live, raise their families, and use city resources. They are characterized by functional and reliable transportation, tech-based infrastructure, environmental-focused action, and governance guided by a bold vision and collaboration across sectors.

In some cases, smart city investments have demonstrably harmed marginalized, urban populations. To build and sustain this kind of city, local leaders must focus on the experiences of those who have not been served by traditional metropolitan systems and structures. Integrating a gender lens in local governance and urban innovation is a necessary first step in creating spaces that live up to the bold ideas of the smart city. Women and girls, and all gender minorities, must feel safe, connected, and have the opportunities to positively contribute to their communities.

Metropolis and CHANGE are working to equip local leaders with the tools and knowledge they need to mainstream gender in their governance, city design, and service provision. Our membership includes some of the most progressive and influential global cities in the world and collectively represents more than 50 million urban residents. Metropolis and CHANGE cities and metropolitan spaces are leading in gender-sensitive urban planning, are deploying innovative public-private partnerships to address gender-based violence in public spaces, bridging the digital gender divide and bringing more women into formal employment in critical STEM fields, and much more.

Objectives

At the Smart City Expo World Congress 2022, Metropolis and CHANGE seek to make the case that innovative cities and metropolitan spaces must center the experiences of their most disconnected, underserved residents in their plans and actions to the benefit of all residents. We will bring together experts and local leaders to demonstrate how cities are currently doing this work and what challenges must be addressed before we can achieve a smart city that effectively optimizes city functions and promotes economic growth while improving the quality of life for residents.

Proposed Format & Program

Metropolis and CHANGE will create an exhibition space that enables Agora visitors to listen to expert speakers, meet representatives from across our global network who are embedding innovative gender equity initiatives into urban innovation, and explore existing digital learning resources. The conversation will focus on how cities can work together with the private sector to advance gender equity in the digital economy with a focus on labor rights and infrastructure development.

Speakers:

- *Ms. Jeanne Holm, Deputy Mayor of Budget and Innovation, **Los Angeles City Council***
- *Ms. Agathe Fourquet, Head of Innovation and Digital Department, **Greater Paris Metropolis***
- *Ms. Manuela López Menéndez; Secretary of Transport and Public Works, **City of Buenos Aires***
- *Ms. Sonia Ruiz, Director of Gender and Time Policy Services, **Barcelona City Council***
- *Mr. Jordi Vaquer, Secretary General, **Metropolis***