

ACTIVITY REPORT
JANUARY - MARCH 2016

metropolis ●

World Association of the Major Metropolises

Metropolis Secretariat General

Barcelona

METROPOLIS MEMBERS

Metropolis currently has 137 members.

Fees situation: at 31 of March 2015, 22 members had paid their fees, for a total amount of 181.772 €.

We remind all our member cities that they must be up to date with the payment of their annual fees to the Association.

Thanks to these annual fees, Metropolis can maintain its activities and enhance services delivered to member cities.

A reminder letter was sent late December to all members who, by that date, had not paid their annual fees

STATUTORY EVENTS

REGIONAL SECRETARIES MEETING

15-16 February | **Barcelona**

Attendance: representatives of the Metropolis regional secretaries in Africa (Dakar), Asia (Guangzhou), Europe (Berlin) and Latin America and the Caribbean (State of São Paulo); Presidency (Montreal), Copresidencies (Barcelona Metropolitan Region), Treasury (Brussels); staff of the general secretariat.

Goal: discuss the new strategic directions of the association

Treated subjects:

- the agenda proposed for the Board of Directors meeting in Mexico City (March 2016)
- Current situation of the Metropolis finances
- The new presidency held by Montreal
- Reorganization of the Barcelona Secretariat general
- Challenges and opportunities: the relationship with other global networks, the relationship with our members and the services Metropolis offers to them, the roles assigned to the regional secretaries and elected representatives of the association, and the Metropolis international positioning



Metropolis Regional Secretaries meeting in Barcelona

Metropolis Secretariat General

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

9 March | **Mexico City**

Attendance: political representatives of Abidjan, Barcelona, Berlin, Dakar, Guangzhou, Johannesburg, Mexico City, Montreal, Santiago de Chile, State of Sao Paulo and Quito (Buenos Aires, Hyderabad, Porto Alegre, Seoul, Victoria and the presidency of Metropolis Women excused their absence and delegated their votes).

The first meeting of the Metropolis Board of Directors in 2016 concluded with the discussion of the financial status of the association and the ratification of the Mayor of Montreal, Mr. Denis Coderre, as the President of Metropolis.

The meeting was organized jointly with the City of Mexico and its Urban Development and Housing Department. During the meeting, Board members stressed that Metropolis needs to strengthen its position as the representative of large cities, develop its own urban agenda in the center of which lies the debate of metropolitan governance, and get involved with drafting the work plan presented by large cities in Habitat III.

During his speech, Mayor Coderre acknowledged the regional secretaries for their work, and stressed the importance of progressing in the approach to metropolitan governance and exercising effective leadership over in the debate over the identity of the large urban areas.

The Secretary General Felip Roca seized the meeting to introduce the new executive director of the Secretariat General, Octavi de la Varga Mas, and reiterate the role of Metropolis as a catalyst of knowledge of largest urbanized areas of the world, from the perspective of metropolitan governance and the relationship between the major cities and the territories in their periphery.

Moreover, the meeting expressed the desire to structure the work of the Secretariat General in symbiosis with the Regional Secretaries (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and North America Latin) and the Co-presidents of Metropolis.

This meeting also served to confirm the resignation of the Province of Buenos Aires, the governments of the State of Mexico and New South Wales, and the cities of Tirupati, Vijayawada and Vishakhapatnam.

Furthermore, the Board took the opportunity to discuss the "Living Together" declaration, which will serve as the theme of the Metropolis World Congress in Montreal (2017), the Global Social Economy Forum to be held in Montreal next September, themes of political and fiscal autonomy, and the various challenges to meet the climate change objectives of the COP-21, signed in Paris last December.



Metropolis Secretariat General

Metropolis Board of Directors meeting in Mexico City.

TRAINING

MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT OF METROPOLIS AND THE DIRECTOR OF EAP

8 March | Mexico City

The president of Metropolis, Denis Coderre met with the director of the School of Public Administration (EAP, for its acronym in Spanish) of Mexico City, Leon Aceves, to boost the activities of EAP within the scope of Metropolis Training programs in the Americas.

The Secretary General Felip Roca and the executive director of Metropolis, Octavi de la Varga Mas, were also present at this meeting.

This meeting was an opportunity to align the priorities and lines of work of both EAP and Metropolis, in order to deliver better training and more replicable professionalization models Metropolis members, keys to good governance and management of cities and metropolitan areas.

Metropolis will work together with the EAP to deliver overall training on public management and identify innovative practices on governance and applied research. From a perspective that considers the complexity and challenges of metropolitan governance, training activities will be oriented around broad themes such as the design of social policies, the right to the city, the social economy, among others.



Mexico Municipality Government

Felip Roca (Metropolis secretary general), León Aceves (director of the EAP of Mexico City) and Denis Coderre (Mayor of Montreal) meet in Mexico City.

TRAINING PROGRAM ON URBAN TRANSPORTATION POLICY

15-23 March | Seoul

Organized by Seoul Human Resource Development Center (SHRDC)

Attendance: 15 participants from five cities member of Metropolis – Guangzhou, Jakarta, Río de Janeiro, Shanghai and Shiraz, as well as the cities of Cuenca, Hong Kong, Kidapawan, Prague, Seberang Perai, Tungurahua and Ulaanbaatar.

Activities conducted:

- Conferences on the Seoul transportation system.
- Field visits to transportation hubs in Seoul: the Seoul Station Bus Transfer Center, the Korea Smartcard Company, the headquarters of the Transport Operation and Information Service (Topis), and the Han River.
- Exchange of the practices and challenges from participant's local contexts.

The workshop applied action plan and group discussion methodologies.

Results achieved:

- Identification of the key role of metropolitan authorities in the provision of transportation services to growing urban populations
- Challenges and concerns of each city shared.
- Discussion on how to improve our cooperative relations



SHRDC

Training program on urban transportation policy held in Seoul

METROPOLIS WOMEN

DEVELOPMENT OF A POSITION PAPER

27 January

Metropolis Women International Network has been working on developing a position paper entitled "Big cities and women: the importance of gender mainstreaming in local policies". Drawn up jointly with the antennas and partner organizations, this text seeks to reflect what kind of cities women want: safe, inclusive, just and equitable cities, as well as to promote gender equality and human rights in our cities.

The document highlights some proposals to foster gender mainstreaming in local public policies to achieve gender equality in our cities. The document is available by clicking [here](#).

WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN URBAN LIFE

2-3 March | **Mashhad**

Organized by Mashhad's International Scientific Cooperation Office (ISCO)

Attendance: 52 participants, some of them in representation of the cities member of Mashhad, Karaj and Shiraz; and a representative of the Metropolis General Secretariat.

Goals:

- to reestablish an Iranian Women Network gathering women city councilors, many of them recently elected in their municipalities
- to encourage them to be more active in the international arena

Activities conducted: institutional presentations and participatory sessions with the focus group format. Each team identified needs, problems and challenges related to the selected subject and proposed project-oriented solutions for the next year.

An internal women network has been established with five committees focusing on the challenges facing women: Governance and urban management

- Urban Economics
- Family and Culture
- Urban Planning and development
- Climate change and Urban Environment



Mashhad ISCO

Workshop on the role of women in urban life held in Mashhad

INITIATIVES

SECOND WORKSHOP OF THE CLIMATE METROPOLE+ INITIATIVE "CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION - STRATEGIES, ACTIONS AND CHALLENGES"

8-9 February | Lyon

Attendance: eight participants, representing the following institutions: Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Metropolis of Lyon, City-Region of Liverpool and Climate Research Potsdam Institute.

Activities during the first day:

- Presentations
 - Lyon's climate and energy plan
 - the climate change adaptation plan
 - local climate observatory
 - Tree Charter
- Technical visits
 - a visit to the Garibaldi road, as an example of road requalification where green and blue elements were combined
 - park Kaplan
 - water management department which focused on the use of rainwater and the strategy of "permeable city"
 - the local information centre of the Confluence district

Activities during the second day:

- preliminary analysis of the No Regrets Charter
- discussion of the climate change adaptation actions undertaken by:
 - Barcelona Metropolitan Area
 - Berlin
 - Grand Lyon
 - Liverpool Region
- Presentation of other on-going initiatives at global and EU level, particularly, the new Integrated Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.



Grand Lyon

Second workshop of the Climate Metropole+ initiative "Climate Change Adaptation - Strategies, Actions and Challenges"

WORKSHOP OF THE PLAYFUL CITY INITIATIVE

13-14 February | Mexico City

A workshop to explore the possibilities of play as a learning tool and to boost creativity and critical thinking, co-designed by Amica Dall, founder and project manager at Assemble.

A play space in two different areas of Mexico City had been prepared:

- The first was called Peace Space, at the Mixcoac station on metro line 12, built to connect to another line but not currently in use.
- The second at Alameda de Santa María park, which is popular with children and their parents.

This intervention showed that any space can become a playful space.



Mixcoac station



Santa María park

Laboratorio para la Ciudad

GLOBAL AGENDA

II FORUM "EUROPEAN METROPOLITAN AUTHORITIES" – EMA 2016

12 February | Turin

The Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB) convened the event which highlighted the leadership of the metropolitan areas of the region to stimulate as dynamic territorial actors in the region.

Attendees: mayors, presidents and political representatives of around thirty metropolitan areas in Europe.

- Representation of Metropolis members: Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, Athens, Lisbon and Madrid; General Secretariat (Felip Roca).
- Other Metropolitan Areas: Akershus, Bilbao, Bologna, Budapest, Catania, Cologne, Florence, Hannover, Helsinki, Lisbon, Lodz, Lyon, Milan, Nice, Oporto, Oslo, Palermo, Poznan, Stuttgart, Thessaloniki, Tirana, Warsaw and Vienna.

In the opening speech of the forum, the metropolitan mayor of Turin, Piero Fassino, and Alfred Bosch, AMB's Vice President of International Cooperation, stressed that the metropolitan dimension is increasingly important for the development of the states and that metropolitan cities are the engine of economic and social development.

Alfred Bosch participated in the round table "EU, national and regional policies for metropolitan areas" in the role of Copresident of Metropolis (representing Ada Colau, President of AMB).

The forum concluded with the adoption of the Declaration of Turin, which calls for a stronger role of metropolitan areas in the definition of policies in Europe, and stresses the importance of the collaboration between metropolitan authorities and forums of local governments such as Metropolis.

Our Secretary General Felip Roca accompanied all sessions of the program and said that the forum presented initiatives that can guide the work strategy of Metropolis onwards.



II Forum "European Metropolitan Authorities" (EMA 2016) in Turin

UCLG RETREAT

15-19 February | **Barcelona**

Metropolis, acting as a founding member and Metropolitan section, was present at the retreat organized by the network of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) represented by Secretary General Felip Roca and three cities member: Berlin, Bogota and Guangzhou

This retreat, held each year, brings together different parts of the network of cities and local governments and, for one week, works to improve collaboration and synergies in order to achieve the goals established by the political leaders in the organization.

Attendees: 80 participants from 23 countries on all continents as well as representatives from other associations in the network, such as FLACMA, UCLG Africa, NORAM, MEWA and CEMR.

Contribution of the secretary general to the discussion:

- Emphasis on the need to strengthen the perspectives for metropolitan governance
- The impact of cities and metropolitan areas goes beyond their own space and can have a positive or negative effect on the territory around them
- The metropolitan approach must reflect the real situation and be sensitive to the cities and towns nearby, with which they have to resolve their shared territorial challenges.

Presentations of Guangzhou during the retreat:

- New edition of the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation.
- The challenges of the Urban Innovation Community.



Annual UCLG Retreat

HABITAT III THEMATIC MEETING ON FINANCING URBAN DEVELOPMENT 9-11 March | Mexico City

The meeting opened up a space to identify key aspects of locating urban financing, to compare past experiences, and to identify instruments and strategies that will give cities proper, sustainable financing.

Attendees: There were 700 participants at the conference from six continents, representing local, regional and national governments, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector and global networks.

The meeting was organized by the Secretariat of Urban Development and Housing (Seduvi) of the Government of Mexico City and the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) in collaboration with the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE) and the Secretariat of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development of the Federal Government of Mexico (SEDATU); and it was inaugurated by Secretary General of UN HABITAT Joan Clos and Mayor of Mexico City Miguel Ángel Mancera. President of Metropolis and Mayor of Montreal Denis Coderre and Co-President of Metropolis and Mayor of Johannesburg Mpho Tau Parks also spoke at the meeting, highlighting the specific problems facing large cities and metropolitan areas.

Furthermore, Mr Mpho Tau Parks, in the session on “governance of global finance”, and Executive Director of Metropolis Octavi de la Varga, in the session on “the metropolitan phenomenon: sub-national economies and regional development”

The conference came to a close with Mexico’s Declaration for Habitat III, “Financing for inclusive change”, which shows the need to finance urban development and to recognize that cities are “trustworthy partners” in investment. This declaration comes on top of the others from the previous thematic and regional meetings held, and is another contribution to the New Urban Agenda that will be passed at the Habitat III Conference (Quito, October 2016).



Metropolis General Secretariat

Habitat III Thematic meeting – Financing urban development

VISITS TO THE METROPOLIS GENERAL SECRETARIAT

BOGOTÁ MUNICIPALITY

15 February

The Secretary-General of Metropolis, Felip Roca, met with the new Director of International Relations of the Bogota City Hall, Valentina Wieser, and Deputy Natalia Currea, during their visit to Barcelona, last Monday.

This meeting had two goals: for Metropolis, to explain the new priorities of the association, among which are the establishment of closer relations with our members and an orientation towards the development of projects; and for Bogota, to reiterate its commitment to Metropolis, focus on the projects currently underway, explore new avenues of cooperation, and strengthen its role as a leading member in South America.



Metropolis Secretariat General

Visit of Bogota Municipality.

From left to right: Xavier Borrell, responsible for follow up of the members of Latin America and the Caribbean; Natalia Currea, Deputy Director of International Relations of the Bogota; Felip Roca, general secretary of Metropolis; Valentina Wieser, Director of International Relations of the Bogota City Hall; Rovena Negreiros, director of Sao Paulo State metropolitan planning company and regional secretary of Metropolis for Latin America and the Caribbean.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT OF GUANGZHOU

4 March

Headed by the Vice-Mayor of Guangzhou, Mr. Cai Chaolin, the official delegation counted on the presence of high officials from the Foreign Affairs Office, the Aerotropolis development district, and the Tourism department. They met the Metropolis Secretariat General team, as part of a broader program of visits in Europe.

The visit was a great opportunity to reaffirm the role of Guangzhou as one of our most active members: besides hosting the Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific, the city drives the Urban Innovation Community and its Mayor, Mr. Guohui Wen, is one of Metropolis' co-presidents. The meeting also made it possible to reaffirm the commitment of Metropolis to provide greater support to the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation.

The Secretary General Felip Roca reaffirmed his wish to spread and replicate among all Metropolis Regional Secretariats the work which is being performed by the Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific, in order to reactivate our membership worldwide and encourage other big cities and metropolitan regions to join our association..

Another topic of discussion was the initiative Sustainable Airport Areas, in which the Director General of Guangzhou's Aerotropolis Development District, Mr. Sun, was particularly interested. The Secretary General strongly encouraged Guangzhou to join this collaborative project that is led by Île-de-France and already counts on the participation of Atlanta, Barcelona, Beijing, Guarulhos, Incheon and Shanghai.



Metropolis General Secretariat

Official visit of Guangzhou Municipal People's Government.

For detailed information on all the activities of Metropolis, please visit our [website](http://www.metropolis.org).