

CONCEPT NOTE

METROPOLISES FACING THE PANDEMIC A WORLDWIDE COMMEMORATION

Context:

To mark the anniversary of the Montréal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas (2015), on October 7th, we commemorate the World Metropolitan Day. Every year, on that date, we observe the metropolitan nature of many territories worldwide. For those spaces, where greatest transformations happen, affecting at least a third part of the global population and the 60% of world's urban residents, we promote cooperation to achieve sustainable and integrative territorial development.

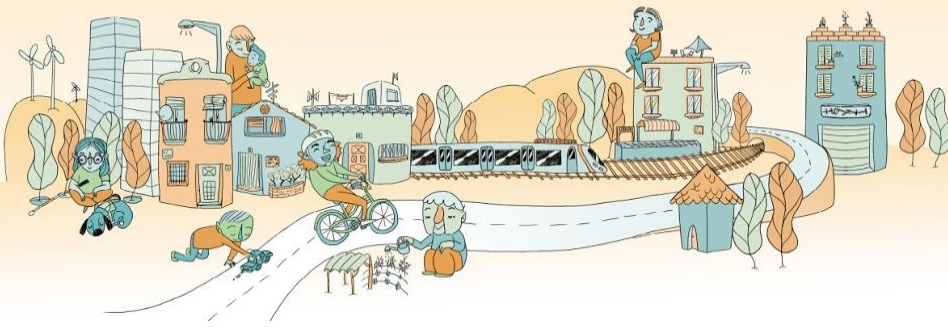
More than ever, this year it has been made visible how metropolitan spaces are complex and fragile at the same time. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic is having - and will have - consequences on all dimensions of life in our metropolises, but it is also triggering opportunities to rethink the role of metropolitan governance in emergency situations like that one. In this context, World Metropolitan Day 2020 provides the occasion to discuss the challenges and opportunities that metropolitan governments have in addressing the world's premier crisis and respond to the Decade of Action to deliver the Global Goals.

Metropolis & UN-Habitat invite all metropolitan governments and interested institutions (private companies, academic institutions, civil society organizations, multilateral entities, city networks, urban influencers) worldwide to join the celebration of #WorldMetropolitanDay2020 and shine a light on all initiatives aimed at accelerating a positive transformation of urban realities as a response to the COVID-19 emergency and the Decade of Action to deliver the Global Goals. Counting with the participation of over 20 local governments and institutions around the world, this year's celebrations affirm the importance of having a common metropolitan narrative to face urban challenges in the current interconnected reality.

The World Metropolitan Day 2020 campaign culminates in a virtual event co-hosted by Metropolis and UN-Habitat when representatives from local governments and institutions will have the opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas among diverse stakeholders of metropolitan governance. Most importantly, this will be a space to understand common challenges that metropolises around the world are facing in this period and identify opportunities for overcoming them.

World Metropolitan Day

October 7th,
2020



The event:

Aiming to stimulate dialogue between diverse stakeholders of metropolitan governance, this event will be guided by a set of questions focused on 3 different topics, namely: metropolitan governance and COVID-19; urban violence in metropolitan spaces; and metropolitan participatory democracy, all of them under the COVID-19 emergency lens. The three different panels will shape the World Metropolitan Day 2020 Virtual Event:

1. Framing metropolitan governance: institutional solutions, decision-making and collective action
2. Metropolitan inequalities: urban conflicts and socio-spatial solutions
3. Democracy for all: citizens' participation at the metropolitan scale

Each of these moments will provide a space of discussion to 2-3 speakers for around half an hour. Considerations from the public, and from governments and institutions that previously held an event in the framework of World Metropolitan Day 2020, will be collected in the chat and will serve as a starting point for a final debate among speakers.

The event will have simultaneous translation to English, Spanish and French.

Questions:

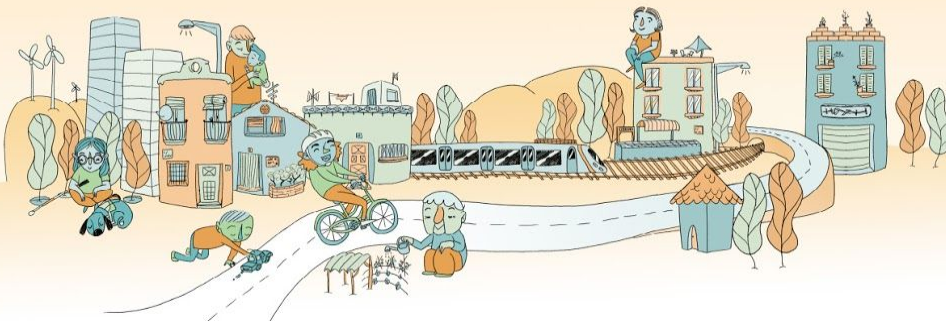
1. The crisis generated by COVID-19 made us understand, more than ever before, the importance of coordination across both administrative borders and the urban-rural continuum. In this context, what are the main obstacles that we'll have to overcome for the future of metropolises?
2. When not managed, high population density and urban expansion make metropolitan territories more and more unequal, often generating violence as a result of urban conflicts. This year, social distancing and quarantine have probably exacerbated this phenomenon. How can we start to rethink metropolitan governance and the design of metropolitan spaces to ensure fewer inequalities and less urban conflicts?
3. The complexity of metropolitan spaces makes citizens' participation difficult to be implemented. How can citizens' voices be heard over the administrative boundaries to create an effective participatory democracy?

Participants:

1. Opening by Metropolis and UN-Habitat – 15min
2. Master of ceremony to set the scene and guide through the different panels - Octavi de la Varga

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3. Framing metropolitan governance: institutional solutions, decision-making and collective action
 - A representative from Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB) TBC
 - A representative from UN-Habitat
 - moderated by: Octavi de la Varga
4. Metropolitan inequalities: urban conflicts and socio-spatial solutions
 - Arnau Gutiérrez Camps, Head of the Department of International Alliances and Networks at Madrid City Council, author of Metropolis Issue Paper 11
 - A representative from Mexico City (CDMX) TBC
 - moderated by: Lia Brum, Metropolis Observatory Officer
5. Democracy for all: citizens' participation at the metropolitan scale
 - A representative from the "Participatory Democracy" presenting pilot project TBC
 - Phédia Gottot, Team leader, Innovation and experimentation at Ville de Montréal
 - moderated by: a representative from UN-Habitat
6. Wrap-up and Closing by Metropolis and UN-Habitat – 10min