

METROPOLIS

ACTIVITIES REPORT
JANUARY-MARCH 2015

30
YEARS
metropolis ●

1. PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION OF "LIVING THE CITY", THE ANNUAL MEETING OF METROPOLIS IN BUENOS AIRES 2015

The METROPOLIS Secretariat General and the Buenos Aires City Government move forward with the organization of our next Annual Meeting, which is taking place in the Argentina capital from May 18th to 21st. In January, the event coordinators from the Secretariat General, Xavier Borrell and Lia Brum, visited Buenos Aires along with Marie-Christine Bourgeois, advisor to the President of METROPOLIS and President of Île-de-France, Jean Paul Huchon. During this visit, they defined all the logistical details and agreed on the contents of the program with the team of the host city. All updates about the event, including program details and instructions on how to register, are available at the website buenosaires2015.metropolis.org.

2. REGIONAL SECRETARIES MEETING

The METROPOLIS General Secretariat hosted the Regional Secretaries Meeting which was held from February 9-10, 2015 in Barcelona.

The meeting counted on the following participants:

PRESIDENCY

- ILE-DE-FRANCE

CO-PRESIDENCY

- BARCELONA
- MONTREAL
- BERLIN
- JOHANNESBURG
- GUANGZHOU

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

- BARCELONA

TREASURER AND DEPUTY TREASURER

- BRUXELLES CAPITAL REGION

REGIONAL SECRETARIES

- BERLIN
- MEXICO
- DAKAR
- GUANGZHOU

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENCIES - WOMEN AND YOUTH NETWORKS

- MASHHAD
- BARCELONA

The meeting offered attendees a chance to conduct an in-depth discussion of the main key issues to be submitted for approval at the next METROPOLIS Board of Directors Meeting, which will be held in Buenos Aires in May 18-21, 2015:

- 1) METROPOLIS Treasury
- 2) Contribution of METROPOLIS to Habitat III and Participation of METROPOLIS to Gold IV
- 3) METROPOLIS Action Plan Coordination of Actions
- 4) Presentation of the selection procedure of the New METROPOLIS Secretary General

3

3. TREASURER

On 21 and 22 January 2015, the Secretary-General of METROPOLIS, Alain Le Saux, accompanied by the head of finance, Montserrat Pallarès, met with the association's treasurer in Brussels. The treasurer, Jean-Luc Vanraes, wished to delineate the most immediate goals sought to be accomplished prior to the METROPOLIS Board of Directors Meeting 2015 in Buenos Aires. Noteworthy among said goals are the amendment of the association's Internal Rules of Procedure, the establishment and strengthening of financial management procedures and the development of an "ethical code" to be followed in the association's sponsorship cases.

Moreover, and also with the aim of reaching a consensus in Buenos Aires, the treasurer suggested a "Finance Committee" be set up, tasked with examining and setting forth new "criteria" for appraising the association's membership fees, among other responsibilities.

4. METROPOLIS MEMBERS

METROPOLIS Members

METROPOLIS currently has 139 members.

2015 fees situation

At 1st of March 2015, 3 members had paid their fees, for a total amount of € 28.482.

All members wishing to participate in the meeting of the Board of METROPOLIS must be current in the payment of their annual dues to the Association

5. METROPOLIS Initiatives | 2015-17 Period

After being approved by the Board of Directors in Hyderabad in October, the 13 new METROPOLIS initiatives selected are now underway.

Since January, the Secretariat General has signed several collaboration agreements with the bodies promoting the initiatives.

4

	Leader City/Organization	Project Title	Duration / Budget	Themes
1	BARCELONA Barcelona Activa	Cibernàrium	2 years- Budget 0	Urban Innovation
2	FUNDACIÓN KREANTA	Ciudades creativas	3 years 15.000€/year	Urban Innovation
3	MÉXICO DF	Ciudad lúdica	2,5 years 9.000€/year	Urban Innovation Social Inclusion
4	AGRA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION	Smart, sustainable and inclusive slum development	3 years 20.000€/year	Urban Innovation Social Inclusion
5	SAO PAULO EMPLASA	Capacity development for metropolitan projects	3 years 10.000€/year	Metropolitan Governance
6	BERLIN City Senate Department for Urban Development and the Environment	Policy transfer	3 years 20.000€/year	Metropolitan Governance
7	BARCELONA Institut Barcelona Esports	El deporte para la inclusión social	3 years 4.000€/year	Social Inclusion
8	ILE-DE-FRANCE Institut d'aménagement et d'urbanisme d'Ile-de-France	Sustainable airport areas?	3 years 10.000€/year	Sustainability
9	JOBURG City	Caring cities	2 Years 20.000€/year	Social Inclusion
10	BUENOS AIRES City	Gestión social del hábitat	2 years 15.000€/year	Social Inclusion
11	BOGOTÁ Secretaría Distrital de Ambiente	Ciudades y alianza agua	2 years 10.000€/year	Sustainability
12	Área Metropolitana de Barcelona – AMB	Climate-metropole +	2 years 10.000€/year	Sustainability
13	BUENOS AIRES City	Centro de economía verde	2 years Budget 0	Sustainability

METROPOLIS Secretariat-General

Avinyó, 15. 08002 Barcelona / Tel. (+34) 93 342 94 60 / Fax: (+34) 93 342 94 66 / metropolis@metropolis.org

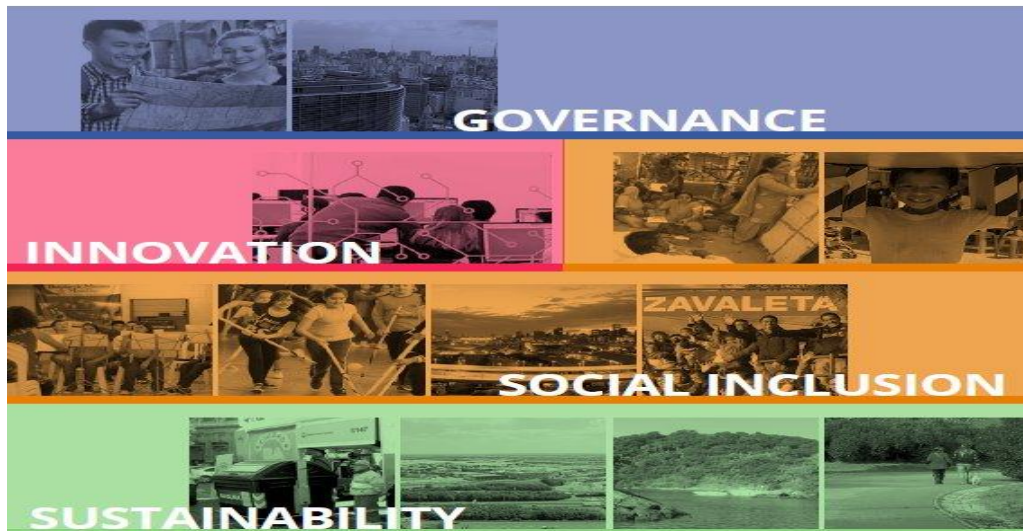
www.metropolis.org / [@metropolis_org](https://www.facebook.com/metropolis.org) / [/metropolis.org](https://www.facebook.com/metropolis.org)

The “Caring Cities” initiative promoted by the city of Johannesburg has already held its first international exchange workshop, from 31 January to 1 February 2015 in this city, to kick off the work.

Read more on: <http://metropolis.org/es/noticias/taking-lead-building-caring-cit>

5

A dossier to promote the new initiatives is being prepared to share at international meetings, on the web and on social media of METROPOLIS.



6. COLLABORATION METROPOLIS – WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

WHO Kobe Centre calls on Mayors from the METROPOLIS Community to share their vision for improving health of their citizens

In late 2015, WHO and UN HABITAT will publish their second joint report on urban health. The focus of this report will be to highlight solutions undertaken by different sectors of government to improve health and health equity in cities. The global report **“Hidden Cities: unmasking and overcoming health inequities in urban settings”** is one important component of the overall WHO and UN-HABITAT strategy to strengthen the response of the local, national and global health communities to reduce health inequities in an increasingly urbanized world. The report exposes the extent to which the urban poor suffer disproportionately from a wide range of diseases and health problems, which can be traced back to inequalities in their social and living conditions. It also provides evidence-based information and tools to help municipal and health authorities tackle health inequities in their cities.

Hidden Cities, the first joint report, was published in 2010 and emphasized the magnitude of health inequities in urban areas around the world. It also laid out a governance framework for cities to effectively tackle health equity.

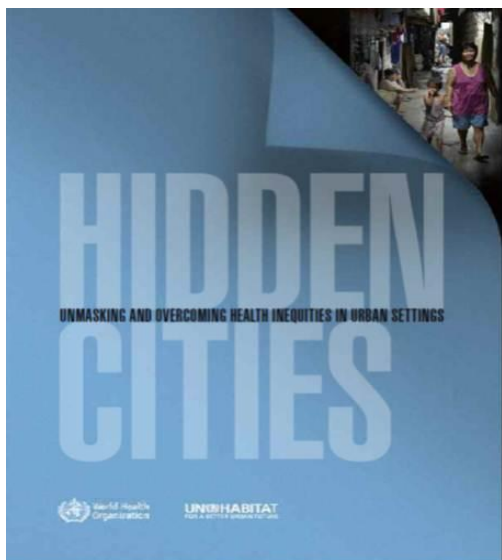
For this second joint report on urban health METROPOLIS and WHO Kobe Centre are currently liaising with Mexico City, one of METROPOLIS Regional Vice President and Regional Secretary for North America and METROPOLIS Training Institute Antenna for Americas. A collaboration from the Municipality of Guangzhou, METROPOLIS Co president and Regional Secretary for Asia Pacific is under development as well. More Mayors are expected to participate and engage further with WHO Kobe Centre through their personal insight on urban equity and urban issues.

Mayors have been at the forefront of applying innovative solutions to ensure the health and welfare of their citizens. Increasingly, Mayors are emphasizing the importance of reducing gaps in health achievements between better-off and worse-off groups of people. **Therefore, WHO Kobe Centre would like to invite Mayors to share with audiences of the upcoming report, their vision to improve health and health equity in their cities.**

While the World Health Organisation is keen on learning about Mayors' visions in depth, there are two important overarching questions we would request you to consider first:

What are your top priorities and strategies with respect to improving health and health equity in your cities, such as reducing air pollution, healthy urban planning, improving access to health services etc.?

Which public health achievements would you most like to be remembered by?



Your responses to the questions will be much appreciated and credited appropriately. Mayors and numerous other policy makers will learn and benefit from your participation in the report. **We are certain that you, too, will benefit from the shared experiences of other leaders and policy-makers. Please feel free to share your perspectives directly or request for more information on the new report by contacting the WHO Kobe Centre at prasada@who.int.**

To access the First joint report HIDDEN CITIES click [here](#)

7. METROPOLIS TRAINING INSTITUTE (MITI)

Check out our New Brochure with an overview of upcoming activities for 2015: Participate in one of our 12 courses scheduled along this year in

SEOUL | MASHHAD | MEXICO | CAIRO | PARIS

- Join a METROPOLIS member friendly and conducive platform for networking opportunities
- Benefit from unique METROPOLIS know how and sharing on urban issues and best practices
- Gain thorough and comprehensive knowledge on urban challenges and sustainable development
- Participate in **interactive workshops** with other participants from overseas

Download the **2015 MITI TRAINING Brochure** or visit our **website** to find more about our training and learning programme. Special conditions are available for member cities of METROPOLIS and UCLG.

A certificate of completion will be issued by the METROPOLIS Training Regional Center to all participants who successfully complete the course-related assignments. Course schedule is subject to change. Free of charge course are according to each METROPOLIS MITI Regional Center's policy.

LINK WEBSITE : http://www.metropolis.org/sites/default/files/user/pictures/miti_final.pdf



METROPOLIS Secretariat-General

Avinyó, 15. 08002 Barcelona / Tel. (+34) 93 342 94 60 / Fax: (+34) 93 342 94 66 / metropolis@metropolis.org

www.metropolis.org/ [@metropolis_org](https://twitter.com/metropolis_org) [/metropolis.org](https://www.facebook.com/metropolis.org)

8. The VOICE of MAYORS

Gradually, more and more political representatives of METROPOLIS participate in the Voice of the Mayors project. Currently, the collection counts on 18 publications from 14 different METROPOLIS member cities. In the next printing of the collection, scheduled for the METROPOLIS Annual Meeting in Buenos Aires, new political representatives from Medellín, Montreal, Nouakchott, Paris and São Paulo (State) should join the project. This Annual Meeting also presents a great opportunity to give more projection to project, with [an exclusive plenary session with the political representatives of METROPOLIS](#).

On the other hand, the Secretariat General is completing the administrative procedures to obtain support from Cities Alliance to the project. Not only will this support make possible the continuity of the collection of publications over the next two years, but also will it help us reach goals such as the increased participation of women in the project, and the thematic alignment of the publications with our common agendas of governance, sustainability, social-economic inclusion and innovation, considered key to the global urban future.

[To check the representatives who have already joined Voice of the Mayors, please click here](#). If your main political representative is still not part of Voice of the Mayors, we kindly invite you to contact Ms. Lia Brum from the Secretariat General of METROPOLIS in Barcelona (lbrum@metropolis.org).

9. METROPOLIS Youth

On March 26, the political advisor Hossein Kashiri, and Director of METROPOLIS Youth from the city of Mashhad, visited the office of the METROPOLIS Secretariat General. Kashiri devoted part of his agenda in Barcelona to plan, together with the project officer Lia Brum (from the Secretariat General staff) the dynamics and contents of the [METROPOLIS Youth workshop](#) to be held in the framework of our next Annual Meeting in Buenos Aires. If your city wants to share experiences on youth participation in urban management, [please click here and fill out our METROPOLIS Youth survey](#).

10. METROPOLIS New website | Achievements Communication | Part III - D of the Action Plan 2015-17

9

As part of the new Action Plan 2015-17 of the association, METROPOLIS General Secretariat is working on the implementation of a new website that will be launched at the beginning of April 2015.

The new METROPOLIS website has been conceived to accomplish 3 main goals:

1. Alignment with the Action Plan 2015-17 approved in Hyderabad, October 2014.

It has actually been designed within the following axes:

- The METROPOLIS Agenda

- The Metropolis core Activities

2. Become the virtual encounter of our members and stakeholders. Turn the website into the agora where the member city is the key actor and the hub where all the core activities of METROPOLIS happen. In fact, the more a city participates, the more visibility it will have.

3. Offer a clearer design and make the most of the user's visit.

What's new?

The new website will represent a leap forward regarding the current website. The new website will be more visible, more effective and much more optimized.

The main new features are:

- A more modern, clear and visual design. The use of green as a highlighting colour.

- All the content at the website is crosscut with two axes: the METROPOLIS Agenda (innovation, socioeconomic inclusion, governance, sustainability and gender mainstreaming) and the METROPOLIS activities (Initiatives, Women, Training, Youth)

- The city is the hub to all METROPOLIS information. The city is the heart and the key actor of the association.

- The new service of the Policy Platform produced by the City of Berlin as the result of one of their leading METROPOLIS Initiative.

- The new user will have the ability to update its personal profile, its city profile and post content.

11. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

11.1 Meeting UCLG. Nanterre. 05/02/2015

On 5 February, the city of Nanterre hosted a meeting between the UCLG “Peripheral Cities” and “Social Inclusion, Participative Democracy and Human Rights” committees in order to contribute to Habitat III and prepare the upcoming UCLG Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy (Gold 4), under the framework of Habitat III.

The members of both committees invited the METROPOLIS Secretary General to share in this day of reflection. The discussion focused on relations between peripheral cities and central cities and the difficulties related with dialogue between them and the lack of recognition that peripheral cities often encounter in negotiating with central governments. When in reality they play a key role in the most essential decisions, like housing, local economic development and culture, among others.

This first meeting highlighted how important it is for METROPOLIS and the members of both the UCLG committees, which are all first-tier members, to work together to draft the upcoming Gold 4 report. These conversations will continue at the meeting to be held in Barcelona on 30 and 31 March, which will define the main lines for the “Metropolitan Chapter” of the report. More information at: www.uclg.org

11.2 CGLU. Barcelona. 9-13/02/2015

As Metropolitan section of UCLG, METROPOLIS took part in the first UCLG Retreat which was held in Barcelona from 9-13 February. The aim of the week-long gathering was to define synergies between the actions in different parts of the network and develop joint strategies and activities, in line with the objectives set out by the governing bodies. The exercise aimed at enhancing the quality of collaboration in the different parts of UCLG and fosters the role of UCLG as a network of networks, providing consistency to the activities developed at global, regional and thematic levels. It should also facilitate the direct involvement of political leaders in UCLG’s global strategy and tactics. To this end, a reduced but representative group of UCLG’s “key actors” were invited, namely: Secretariats of the Sections, Secretariats of the Committees and Working Groups, a few elected representatives directly involved in the work of the Committees, the UCLG Presidency and major partners.

More information at: www.uclg.org

11.3 Barcelona's Experience in Resilience. 24-25/02/2015

Barcelona is one of the major cities in Europe with a strong commitment to building urban resilience. In 2009, and as a response to different hazard related episodes suffered in the past, Barcelona launched an integrative disaster risk management and failure prevention focused program, based on stakeholder engagement and cross departmental working groups.

This working methodology contributed to the recognition of Barcelona as a role model city for infrastructures and Services supply in 2013 by UNISDIR's "[Making Cities Resilient Campaign](#)". By the same token, the city was selected as one of the first 10 partner's cities taking part in [UN Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Programme](#) (CRPP) and to host its headquarters. Only recently, the Rockefeller Foundation selected Barcelona as one of the [100 Resilient Cities network](#), a position awarded to those cities who have demonstrated a commitment in building their own capacities to navigate the shocks and stresses of an increasingly complex urban environment

A group of 13 companies and high-level research centers based in Barcelona and with a high level of engagement in the building resilience process have set up a public private alliance with [Barcelona City Council](#) and UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Programme. One of its aims is to boost the city's resilience strategy.

In this context and with the aim of sharing Barcelona's Resilience model from a multiple stakeholder perspective, the BCN Urban Resilience Partnership organized "Barcelona's Experience in Resilience", a two days event in Barcelona on the 24 and 25 February 2015 in Barcelona. METROPOLIS was kindly invited by the organization to participate at the event to learn how Barcelona builds urban resilience.

Barcelona's Experience in Resilience brought together over 170 participants from local governments, research centres, international institutions and the private sector, coming from 30 cities.

Click [here](#) to read the full program of the event.

11.4 UN Women Summit. Santiago de Chile. 27-28/02/2015

The UN Women summit entitled "Women in Power and Decision-Making: Building a Different World" was held in Santiago de Chile (<http://www.metropolis.org/member/santiago-0>) on 27 and 28 February.

Marina Klemensiewicz, head of the Habitat and Inclusion Secretariat at the Ministry of Economic Development within Buenos Aires City Government (<http://www.metropolis.org/member/buenos-aires-ciudad>), was invited to participate on behalf of the METROPOLIS Women International Network (<http://womennetwork.metropolis.org/>).

As the Buenos Aires City Government will host the **METROPOLIS Annual Meeting** (<http://buenosaires2015.metropolis.org/>) scheduled for 18 to 21 May this year, the work focused strongly on rolling out strategies to put **urbanism with a gender perspective** on the map in Latin America. The attendees discussed how women can engage in the design of their communities and play an instrumental role in the physical and social transformation of their neighborhoods. Tools were also generated to help establish more antennae in the METROPOLIS Women International Network in the region.

The event in Chile was a great international opportunity to discuss **women's leadership** and the role that the METROPOLIS Women International Network plays. Experiences were exchanged on gender mainstreaming in public policies, tools to strengthen women's presence in areas of power and in pursuit of mobilization and social knowledge regarding gender equality and the civic, political and social empowerment of women.

Marina Klemensiewicz, the METROPOLIS Women's antennae representative for Buenos Aires, took part in the event along with Michelle Bachelet, President of Chile and former executive director of UN Women, who discussed the challenge facing women in positions of power and the goal of building a different world. Experiences were also exchanged on ways in which women can and must be part of the urban design of their city, neighborhood or community, together with María Isabel Allende, president of the Chilean Senate, and María Antonieta de Saa, regional councilor and Santiago de Chile antennae representative in the METROPOLIS Women International Network.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women are crucial to achieving inclusive development and a more egalitarian society. There is also international consensus on the need to develop public policies that make it possible to overcome women's scarce representation in decision-making spheres.

The summit round-tables were a debate space for sharing the gender experiences of women who have taken interesting and varied routes to becoming public leaders, the expectations on women in positions of power and strategies for promoting reforms that are gender-sensitive.

Also, in 2014, METROPOLIS agreed to fund the **Initiative on Social Habitat Management** (<http://www.metropolis.org/initiatives/social-habitat-management>) submitted by the Secretariat of Habitat and Inclusion, which fosters inclusion programs. With the funding received, the idea is to help take this public policy international during 2015 and 2016. Marina Klemensiewicz also had the opportunity to share and explain to the event's attendees what Social Habitat Management means.

11.5 European Metropolitan Authorities Congress. AMB-Barcelona. 13/03/2015

The Barcelona Metropolitan Area (AMB) has assembled major European cities and metropolises to call for a greater role in the European Union and Member States.

The [European Metropolitan Authorities congress](#) brought the mayors and presidents of some of Europe's leading cities and metropolises together in Barcelona on 13 March.

The event ended with the reading of the Barcelona Declaration, calling on the European Union and Member States to award more importance and resources to metropolitan governments.

Jean-Luc Vanraes METROPOLIS Treasurer participated in this meeting beside Xavier Trias Mayor of Barcelona.



11.6 CSW59. New York. 9-20/03/2015

Various representatives of METROPOLIS member cities met in New York as part of the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women ([CSW59](#)), organized by UN Women from 9 to 20 March. [Abidjan](#), [Bamako](#), [Barcelona](#), [Brussels](#), [Dakar](#), [Rio de Janeiro](#), [Santiago de Chile](#) and [Seoul](#) met at the UN Women headquarters in the week from 9 to 13 March to celebrate 20 years of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration

and Platform for Action, a commitment assumed by the States in 1995 for the advancement of women's rights.

During the event, the member city delegates could share experiences, build on their knowledge and establish and/or shore up contacts between them and the representatives of other organizations such as UN Women, UN Habitat, the Huairou Commission, Women in Cities International, the Latin American Women and Habitat Network, etc.

On 11 March, METROPOLIS, in collaboration with the Brussels Capital Region and Barcelona City Council, organized a round table on the role of the Information and Communications Technology (ICTs) in the empowerment of women as a key element in the real transformation of cities. During the session, jointly presided by Bianca Debaets, State Secretary for Equal Opportunities at Brussels, and Francina Vila, Councilor for Women and Civil Rights at Barcelona, the public could discover good practices carried out particularly in Brussels, Barcelona and Seoul. A report collecting the best practices that featured at the session will be published shortly.

The next day, the [METROPOLIS Women International Network](#) held an internal meeting which drew seven of the fifteen antennae in the Network today. The meeting discussed the positioning documents being developed by various antennae as well as the role the Network should take at the [next METROPOLIS Board of Directors meeting](#), which will be held in Buenos Aires from 18 to 21 May 2015.



CSW59, which involved the participation of 1,100 members of NGOs and 8,600 government delegates, analyzed the progress made in the past 20 years. At the closing ceremony, UN Women executive director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka said: *“Gender equality must be at the core of sustainable development and we must continue to work, systematically and relentlessly, to bring about transformation in our families, societies, economies, and political and public spaces. (...) There is a pressing need to step up the present pace. Women’s low representation in political and economic decision-making threatens women’s empowerment and gender equality, and men can and must be part of the approach to the solution”.*

11.7 III World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Sendai, Japan, 14-18/03/2015

Representatives from 187 UN member States today adopted the first major agreement of the Post-2015 development agenda, a far reaching new framework for disaster risk reduction with seven targets and four priorities for action.

Conference President, Ms. Eriko Yamatani, Minister of State for Disaster Management, announced agreement on the text, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 – the new international framework for disaster risk reduction, following a marathon final round of negotiations which went on for over 30 hours.

One of the milestones of these negotiations is the inclusion of disabled people for the Post 2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. For the first time, the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) recognizes that **local authorities have a crucial role to play in disaster risk reduction.**

Margareta Wahlström, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, said: "The adoption of this new framework for disaster risk reduction opens a major new chapter in sustainable development as it outlines clear targets and priorities for action which will lead to a substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health. Wahlström also emphasized the **essential role of local governments in DRR.**

"Implementation of **the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** over the next 15 years will require strong commitment and political leadership and will be vital to the achievement of future agreements on sustainable development goals and climate later this year. As the UN Secretary-General said here on the opening day, sustainability starts in Sendai."

The framework outlines **seven global targets** to be achieved over the next 15 years: a substantial reduction in global disaster mortality; a substantial reduction in numbers of affected people; a reduction in economic losses in relation to global GDP; substantial reduction in disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, including health and education facilities; an increase in the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020; enhanced international cooperation; and increased access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments.

During the conference, the Major Group of Local Authorities, led by the organizing partners UCLG and ICLEI, organized a Round table of local authorities and signed the [Sendai Declaration of Local Authorities](#), to which METROPOLIS as the Metropolitan section of UCLG had an active role, one of the clear messages of the declaration is the need to connect the Sendai Framework for Action with the fight against poverty, the urban agenda, the fight against climate change, the clear need of education and the Post-2015 agenda.

For the first time, the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) recognizes that **local authorities have a crucial role to play in disaster risk reduction**. The local level and local authorities are mentioned many times in the final text.

The need to better connect the new agenda on resilience with the global urban agenda that is currently being defined (Habitat III) and the new development agenda (Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals) was also raised. The success of local governments in Sendai should be seen in parallel with the work carried out within the framework of the [Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III](#)

The World Conference was attended by over 6,500 participants including 2,800 government representatives from 187 governments. The Public Forum had 143,000 visitors over the five days of the conference making it one of the largest UN gatherings ever held in Japan.

The WCDRR was for METROPOLIS the occasion to meet those member cities directly involved through its activities or policies in disaster risk reduction and resilience.

METROPOLIS took the opportunity to meet with a very active member in DRR, Mexico City, the city that leads the regional training center for America and offers in its schedule for 2015, training on disaster risk reduction, in addition to further topics. METROPOLIS participation in this event is aimed at strengthening its commitment and recognition of Disaster Risk Reduction as a part of the agenda of the association.

11.8 UCLG Culture Summit. Bilbao. 18-20/03/2015

METROPOLIS participated in the UCLG Culture Summit, held in Bilbao from 18 to 20 March. The participants met under the slogan “The culture and sustainable cities” to exchange ideas and best practices with a clear desire to kick off specific actions, which culminated in the approval of the “Culture 21: Actions” program, which will feature many different METROPOLIS members: Buenos Aires, Accra, Rabat, Santiago de Chile, Belo Horizonte, Bogota, Dakar, Montreal, Mexico and Barcelona, among others.

The implementation of Agenda 21 for culture has a positive impact on local development, not only on a social scale but also on the local economy. The idea that culture is the fourth pillar of sustainable development can no longer be called into question.

The METROPOLIS Secretary General moderated a workshop on cities and cultural policies.

11.9 Meeting of the Secretary-General of METROPOLIS, Alain Le Saux, with the Mayor of Santiago de Chile, Carolina Tohá

On 24 March last, the Secretary-General of METROPOLIS, Alain Le Saux, met with the Mayor of Santiago de Chile, Carolina Tohá, in Barcelona.

The meeting took place in the Saló de la Ciutatat Barcelona City Council. Over the course of the meeting, the Secretary-General of METROPOLIS outlined the main lines of action currently being carried out by METROPOLIS to the mayor. This includes the organisation of the association's annual meeting to be held in Buenos Aires from 18 to 21 May 2015. The Secretary-General extended an invitation to the mayor, placing particular emphasis on the "mayors' round table", which she is expected to attend.

Among the other issues addressed was the 4th World Forum "Dynamic Cities Need Women", to be held in late November and organised every two years by the METROPOLIS Women International Network. In this regard, an endeavour is being made to have the forum jointly organised by the Regional Council of Santiago de Chile and the Municipality of Santiago de Chile and to have it coincide, in terms of dates, with the 4th Ibero-American Summit organised by the Ibero-American Union of Municipal Leaders (UIM). The goal is to pool efforts and thereby achieve results of greater significance that allows us to make progress as regards women's social and political status.

The following day, Carolina Tohá took part in the conference "The Americas Are Female", organised by Casa América and Barcelona Metropolitan Area. In her speech, Carolina Tohá addressed the issue "**The point of view of a female politician**", in which she reflected upon the role of the Latin American woman in the political and cultural landscape. According to Mayor Tohá, **"women are far from equality, in politics and in every sphere. And wherever there are female directors or presidents, the whole entourage is male"**.



METROPOLIS Secretariat-General

Avinyó, 15. 08002 Barcelona / Tel. (+34) 93 342 94 60 / Fax: (+34) 93 342 94 66 / metropolis@metropolis.org

www.metropolis.org / [@metropolis_org](https://www.facebook.com/metropolis.org) / [/metropolis.org](https://www.facebook.com/metropolis.org)

12. VISITS TO THE METROPOLIS SECRETARIAT GENERAL

12.1 Bogotá Visits the METROPOLIS Secretariat General

Gustavo Torres, International Relations Director at the Office of the Mayor of Bogotá, visited the METROPOLIS Secretariat General offices in Barcelona on 12 February. Matters being worked on in conjunction with the city of Bogotá, a very active member within the Association and in the international arena, were discussed at the meeting.

Bogotá is leading the METROPOLIS Initiative entitled “Water and Cities Alliance” in the 2015-2017 period. To develop the Initiative and coordinate the activities agenda, the meeting involved going over the key points on the international agenda in order to promote the project being run by the Colombian city. With this goal, Bogotá will be present at the following events to promote the METROPOLIS Initiative:

- ICLEI Congress in Seoul (8-12 April)
- World Water Forum in Daegu (12-17 April)
- METROPOLIS Annual Meeting in Buenos Aires (18-21 May 2015)

Additionally, the visit served to express Bogotá’s interest in matters relating to climate change and the 2016 agenda with Habitat III. For this reason the mayor of the city, Gustavo Petro, is keen to represent Latin America’s position at COP21 in Paris (1-2 December 2015).

Bogotá will also be the host city of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, the 5th UCLG Congress in 2016.



12.2 The President of the Urban Community of Nouakchott visits the METROPOLIS Secretariat General

Ms. Maty Mint Hamady, President of the Urban Community of Nouakchott and member of the METROPOLIS Board of Directors, visited the METROPOLIS Secretary General on 13 February. During the meeting, Ms Hamady reported on two strategic projects currently being carried out in the city: one urban planning project and one survey put to households. The President of the Urban Community of Nouakchott attended the meeting along with Ms. Fatimetou Boukhreiss, head of the project monitoring and coordination service, and Mr. Abdellatif, director of studies, projects and service organization.

Secretary General Alain Le Saux informed Ms Hamady of the activities METROPOLIS is currently engaged in and the upcoming challenges the Association has set for 2015 and 2016, two key years on the global urban agenda.

The representatives of the Urban Community of Nouakchott made use of their time in Barcelona to hold meetings with the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, among other institutions.

The Secretary General invited Maty Mint Hamady to attend the next meeting of Buenos Aires in a panel discussion of the Voice of Mayors.

The President of the Urban Community of Nouakchott also participates in the publication of the Voice of Mayors.

Representatives of the Urban Community of Nouakchott used their stay in Barcelona to meet other local authorities, including leaders of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.

13. 2015 INTERNATIONAL SCHEDULE

APRIL 2015

3			Bordeaux	Forum Smart City: Build our Metropolis in an urbanized world
7-15	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Seoul, Republic of Korea	TRAINING. Climate Change.
8-12			Seoul, Republic of Korea	ICLEI World Congress “Sustainable Solutions For An Urban Future”
12-17			Daegu & Gyeongbuk, Republic of Korea	7th World Water Forum
14-16			Nairobi, Kenya	Preparatory Committee 2 for Habitat III
25-27	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Mashhad, Iran	TRAINING. Women Engagement in Neighborhoods Management.
25-27	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Mashhad, Iran	TRAINING. Youth Engagement in Social Development.
Dates TBC	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Cairo, Egypt	TRAINING. Geoinformatics practices in upgrading informal settlements.

MAY 2015

12-15	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Valparaiso, Chile	WORKSHOP. Encuentro de Innovación Cultural y Creatividad. Fundación Kreanta
18-21	●		Buenos Aires, Argentina	METROPOLIS Annual Meeting 2015 “Live the City”
		METROPOLIS PROGRAMS		METROPOLIS Women Internal Meeting.
		METROPOLIS PROGRAMS		WORKSHOP. Sports for Youth Inclusion Initiative. Barcelona Initiative and Buenos Aires Municipality
		METROPOLIS PROGRAMS		WORKSHOP. Social Habitat Management Initiative. Buenos Aires Municipality
20-22			Kyoto, Japan	Kyoto Smart City Expo 2015
Dates TBC	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Mexico DF, Mexico	ONLINE TRAINING. Results Based Management: Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation.

METROPOLIS Secretariat-General

OTHER ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED ALONG THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 2015

DATE TO BE CONFIRMED	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Buenos Aires, Argentina	WORKSHOP. Green Economy Center
		Agra, India	WORKSHOP. Smart Sustainable and Inclusive slum development
		TBC	WORKSHOP. Creative Cities
		Berlin, Germany	WORKSHOP. Policy Transfer
		Sao Paulo, Brazil	WORKSHOP. Capacity Development for Metropolitan Projects

JUNE 2015

3-5			Cape Town, South Africa	World Economic Forum on Africa 2015
10-11			Montreal, Canada	Summit "Living Together"
10-12			Porto Alegre, Brazil	UCLG Executive Bureau
2-4			Nantes, France	Velo-City 2015, Cycling: Future Maker
8-10			Bonn, Germany	6th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation
9-11			Jakarta, Indonesia	4 th New Cities Summit 2015
23-26	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Paris Île-de-France, France	TRAINING. Adaptability and Resilience of the Metropolis to Climate Change and Natural Disaster.
Dates TBA	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Berlin, Germany	WORKSHOP. Climate + Initiative. Berlin and Area Metropolitana Barcelona

JULY 2015

13-16			Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Third International Conference on Financing for Development
19-26	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Seoul, Republic of Korea	TRAINING. Urban Management.

AUGUST 2015

18-26	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Seoul, Republic of Korea	TRAINING. e-Government.
-------	---	---------------------	--------------------------	---

SEPTEMBER 2015

22

16-24	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Seoul, Republic of Korea	TRAINING. Urban transportation.
15-28			New York, United States	70th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 70)
21-23			New York, United States	UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

OCTOBER 2015

5-10			Montreal, Canada	Metropolitan policies and collaborative mechanisms for sustainable development
21-23			Richmond CA, USA	Meeting of the Minds 2015
Dates TBC	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Cairo, Egypt	TRAINING. Challenges of relocation of informal areas and sustainable projects.
Dates TBC	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Paris, France	WORKSHOP. Sustainable airport areas initiative

NOVEMBER 2015

22-29	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Seoul, Republic of Korea	TRAINING. Water Management.
Date TBA	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMS	Santiago de Chile	IV World Forum: Dynamic Cities need women

DECEMBER 2015

30-11			Le Bourget, France	Paris Climat Conference 2015 (COP 21)
5-7			Paris, France	UCLG World Council
29-3			Johannesburg, South Africa	Africités Summit 2015