

METROPOLIS

ACTIVITY REPORT
APRIL-JUNE 2015

30
YEARS
metropolis ●

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

2

"Live the City", the METROPOLIS Annual Meeting held in Buenos Aires, ended on 21 May and marked a milestone in our Association's history. At the conclusion of its 30th anniversary celebrations, METROPOLIS was able to join the expressive presence of its leading political representatives with an unprecedented joining of discussions and specific experiences in urban management.

The event drew 623 accredited participants from 151 organizations in 63 cities (from 37 countries) across the world. It involved the participation of 31 delegations with political and technical representatives of METROPOLIS members, including top-level political representatives (mayors, governors and other city leaders) from 11 metropolises: Berlin, Buenos Aires, Île-de-France, Johannesburg, Karaj, Montevideo, Montreal, Porto Alegre, Santiago de Chile Metropolitan Region, Rosario and Quito. Other senior political representatives (deputy mayors, secretaries, ministers, councilors and their counterparts) from 15 cities were also actively engaged.

It was the first Annual Meeting where on-the-ground urban experiences were the starting point of the discussions on the three cross-cutting themes on which the event was based: inclusion, innovation, and sustainability. Presented at the opening ceremony by Mauricio Macri, Buenos Aires City Head of Government, and Jean-Paul Huchon, Île-de-France Region and METROPOLIS President, the themes were considered in depth in the thematic sessions and experienced live in specific on-the-ground experiences. The [Zona Sur experience](#) provided a first-hand view of the revitalization of an historically marginalized area which was carried out with significant public participation, while the participants' [experience at the city center](#) meant they could witness in person the major changes made to promote mobility and sustainability in the city's downtown area.

On the first day of the event, traditionally dedicated to METROPOLIS internal meetings, there was also innovation in the form of workshops open to all event participants that focused on METROPOLIS Youth and on [gender mainstreaming in public policies](#). The "[Connecting the Dots](#)" workshop brought together, for the first time in METROPOLIS's history, its leading collaborators in a technical and dynamic workshop focused on action with the goal of exploring synergy opportunities through different points of contact of the Association's current operating structure.

Finally, outgoing Secretary-General Alain Le Saux was farewelled at the [Board of Directors meeting](#) and the new Secretary-General Felip Roca was welcomed. Welcome too were the two new METROPOLIS members of [San Salvador](#) and [Ramallah](#). The

events to celebrate our 30th anniversary were closed by President Jean-Paul Huchon at the Gala Dinner in a night enlivened by a wonderful display of Argentinean tango.

Likewise, the Global Fund for Cities Development held its General Assembly Meeting while the city of Berlin and its Mayor, Michael Müller, gave the session “PrepCity: Getting ready for HABITAT III and the new urban agenda”. This session aimed to initiate the process of reflecting on the implementation of the sustainability goals in the new United Nations development agenda in metropolitan cities and regions. Contributions to the discussion on a new urban agenda, which will be agreed upon during the Habitat III Conference, were also discussed in the workshop.

3



[Click here to check the pictures of the event.](#)

2. MAIN DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE METROPOLIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4

- Approval of the Agenda.
- Approval of the Minutes of the 2014 Board of Directors meeting held in Hyderabad.
- Approval of the Activity Report (August 2014 to March 2015).
- Approval to incorporate the presented aspects into the Action Plan 2015-2017.
- Approval of the report on the activities of the city of Guangzhou in promoting and valuing urban innovation.
- Approval of the creation and composition of the Finance Committee within the Executive Committee.
- Mandate given to the Treasurer to pursue improvements to budgetary and accounting procedures.
- Approval of the amendments made to the Rules of Procedure approved in Hyderabad on 8 October 2014.
- Approval of the admission to the association of San Salvador and Ramallah as new member cities.
- Approval of the Ethics Charter and the fundraising dossier.
- Approval of the 2014 Financial Execution Report to 31 December.
- Approval to close the accounts of the financial year for the 2014 budget execution.
- Approval of the execution to 31 March of the amended 2015 budget and forecast to 31 December 2015, and of the 2016 draft budget.
- Approval to give the Mayor of Montreal, Denis Coderre, a mandate to represent METROPOLIS on the climate change issue.
- Approval of the METROPOLIS declaration for the preparatory meeting of COP 21, which will be held in Lyon on 1-2 July 2015.
- METROPOLIS's provision of the necessary policy support for the Île-de-France initiative to commission a study to FMDV on local and regional authorities' conditions of access to funding.
- Approval for METROPOLIS to join the UCLG Risk Management Task Force led by Cités Unies France (CUF)
- Approval of the process led by the Berlin Co-Presidency, Michael Müller, and the proposed work dynamic.
- METROPOLIS's support for the organisation of the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities and approval of the METROPOLIS declaration proposed and read by the President at this meeting.
- Approval to give the Mayor of Johannesburg, Mpho Parks Tau, a mandate to represent METROPOLIS on basic services and social inclusion.

- Approval given to Montreal for the organization of the 12th World Congress of METROPOLIS 2017 in the framework of the celebration of the 30st Anniversary of METROPOLIS which was created in Montreal in 1985 and in the presence of its main founding members. Montreal has previously organized a METROPOLIS Congress in 1993.
- Approval to organise the 2017 METROPOLIS World Congress in Montreal.
- Ratification of Felip Roca's nomination as the new METROPOLIS Secretary General.

3. NEW SECRETARY GENERAL OF METROPOLIS

After the Board of Directors meeting held in the framework of the METROPOLIS Annual Meeting 2015 in Buenos Aires (18-21 May), Felip Roca was ratified as Secretary General of METROPOLIS and will officially take office the 1st of September 2015 when the current Secretary General, Alain Le Saux, leave the position.



Felip Roca will be the fifth Secretary General coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the association that faces its future with many challenges at international level, the management of 141 members as well as addressing new governance within the association, among others.

For 15 years he has worked for diverse public institutions within the framework of international cooperation and institutional relations of the city of Barcelona and Catalonia.

He studied Communication Sciences at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, and International Relations at Johns Hopkins University, he speaks fluently three foreign languages and has extensive experience in the field of international diplomacy, especially from local and regional government fields. In the last four years, he has held the position of Director of International Cooperation in the Barcelona City Council.

4. METROPOLIS MEMBERS

METROPOLIS Members

METROPOLIS currently has 141 members.

Admissions: San Salvador (El Salvador) and Ramallah (Palestine)

2015 fees situation

At 11 of June 2015, 35 members had paid their fees, for a total amount of € 269.226.

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 as well as enhance its activities and services delivered to member cities.

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

5. METROPOLIS TRAINING INSTITUTE

5.1. “The Climate Change Training Program”. Seoul, South Korea. June 8-14, 2015

The Climate Change Training Program for foreign public officials has been held in Seoul from April 8-14. Among the participants, some member cities of METROPOLIS were represented by their respective public officials dedicated in the environment: Beijing, Guangzhou, Jakarta, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Quito which attended the program and had the opportunity to share participating cities’ efforts in preserving the earth and environment. This METROPOLIS Training program was in line with ICLEI World Congress held in Seoul which, in turn, provided an opportunity of thinking hard and sharing the theme of ICLEI World Congress- Sustainable Solutions for an Urban Future and enabled the Mayor of Montreal Denis Coderre to represent and speak on behalf of METROPOLIS on Climate Change issues.

In addition, participants visited the fields of best cases like World Cup Park and Energy Dream Center after listening to lectures on Environmental Policies of Seoul and One

Less Nuclear Power Plant while improving the understanding on environmental policies of Seoul with detailed explanations.

Click in the City to download the presentation

7

- [Baguio City](#)
- [Beijing](#)
- [Guangzhou \(1\), Guangzhou \(2\), Guangzhou & Quito, Guangzhou & Shenzhen](#)
- [Shanghai](#)
- [Seoul: One less Nuclear Plant Plant Director Kang Pil Young](#)
- [Seoul, a Model for a Sustainable Eco-City, Dr. Song jae Ming](#)

Participate in the [upcoming METROPOLIS Training activities](#) and learn how to develop your city in a more sustainable way.

5.2. “Women Engagement in Neighborhoods Management” Mashhad, Iran. 25-27 April, 2015

Urban governance must be gender-sensitive if it is to be equitable, sustainable and effective. Participation and civic engagement are critical determinants of good governance, a concept which addresses issues of social equity and political legitimacy and not merely the efficient management of infrastructure and services. The training seminar held in Mashhad on April 25-27, 2015 addressed women participation in neighborhoods management to build and promote the infrastructure and resources needed to ensure families experience better results around education, employment, safety, housing and other key areas. Some of the main key issues have been illustrated by examples and case studies.

The objectives of the training seminar were the following:

- Define the scope of women engagement in neighborhoods management in an urban context;
- Identify which factors urban practitioners (officials in Municipalities, professional advisors and developers) ought to take into account when considering gender-sensitive policies and women participation;
- Highlight some of the benefits of inclusive cities and social diversity;
- Develop the knowledge, skills, relationships, interactions and resources that enable civic leaders, the public and private sectors and local organizations to create comprehensive neighborhood plans with an approach towards women participation.
- Be an Introduction to the "best practices" and "bad practices" in this field;

The public targeted was composed of policy makers, managers and Local professionals. The aim of the training course was to raise questions and identify issues rather than to provide ready-made solutions. Trainees and delegates were encouraged to challenge the presenters, contributing ideas based on their own experience or study and suggesting alternatives to the approaches presented in the workshop.

5.3. “Youth Engagement in Social Development” Mashhad, Iran. 25-27 April 2015

Youth are engaged in many cities around the world, both acting in collaboration with municipal councils as well as forging their own associations and leading their own activities. Youth engagement is a cross-cutting strategy that intersects youth development, youth leadership, organizational development, civic activism, and community development.

This training seminar addressed some of the main key issues when considering the youth engagement in social development which have been illustrated by examples and case studies. It related primarily to the direct experience of experts from Iran and around the world at international level.

The objectives of the training seminar were the following:

- Define the scope of social and cultural impact of youth engagement in an urban context;
- Identify which factors urban practitioners (officials in Municipalities, professional advisors and developers) ought to take into account when considering youth engagement;
- Highlight some of the benefits of youth engagement and its socio-cultural effects;
- Outline different forms of youth engagement in Urban organizations;
- Decide on various models of youth participation which can be followed when attempting to get young people involved with decision making or acting for change

5.4. “Adaptability and resilience of the metropolis to climate change and natural disaster”. IAU Paris, June 22-25, 2015

The Paris-Ile-de-France Regional Centre is part of IAU Île-de-France and is accommodated by the Institute of arrangement and town planning of the region Ile-de-France and chaired by Mr. Jean-Paul Huchon, also president of METROPOLIS and president of Ile-de-France Region Council.

The training program, addressed by international experts, has developed the following topics:

- ✓ The Global challenge of climate change and the vagaries of natural hazards
- ✓ A territorial approach of resilience and adaptability to climate change
- ✓ The methods and tools for resilience and adaptability to climate change
- ✓ The international benchmarking of coastal cities

Additional information concerning this workshop, [\(here\)](#)

6. GUANGZHOU AWARD - URBAN INNOVATION COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTE

6.1. Study Tours to 15 cities that take the lead in URBAN Innovation

In November last year, UCLG and METROPOLIS along with the city of Guangzhou co-sponsored the 2nd Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation. This second cycle attracted 259 entries from 177 cities worldwide. Of these entries, 15 were elected by an independent Technical Committee as outstanding initiatives. All fifteen local authorities were invited to present their initiatives during an international conference on learning from urban innovation after which an international jury selected the five award-winners. As disclosed in our previous communication, our Community together with the Guangzhou Award Secretariat and Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation are planning to conduct a series of study tours to the fifteen short-listed cities and local authorities. The study tours will include scholars, local & regional officials as well as media from around the world. These 15 cities will be our target destinations for the months to come starting in April 2015. The purpose of these tours is to compile more in depth case studies and documentation and to promote peer learning within the METROPOLIS network. [The Community cordially invites you to join us in this endeavor.](#)

Why you should be part of this project:

1. To gain FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE on the best practices selected by the Guangzhou Award
2. To CONNECT with Community members and expand your learning and knowledge sharing networks
3. To benefit from EXPERT ADVICE on urban management for your city or organization
4. To better understand and apply urban innovation to problem solving
5. To interact with and enjoy new experiences with experts and your peers from different cultures!

The proposed study tours plan for 2015 can be found [on the next page](#). Your ideas and

suggestions to improve this project are very welcome. Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact Urban Innovation Community Secretariat in Guangzhou at community@guangzhouaward.org.

Acting as an integrated learning platform, Urban Innovation Community is dedicated to decentralized cooperation and peer learning. We would like to thank you for your constant support. Also, it is never too late to join our Community and interact with our members.

No	Date	Venue	Name of the Initiative	Proposed Activity
1	May 18	Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)	Rio Operations Center: integrating data and monitoring utilities in a truly intelligent system	Field Study
2	May 21	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	Buenos Aires City's Collaborative Roundtable for Innovation and Creativity See next Article 6.2	Workshop titled Interdepartmental Collaboration and Urban Governance
3	July	Christchurch (New Zealand)	Christchurch: Our Ever Evolving City	Workshop (TBC):Proposed topic Planning for Post-Disaster Reconstruction <i>or</i> Participatory Urban Planning
4	July	Melbourne (Australia)	4°C Cooler – Using green infrastructure to build a climate resilient and prosperous Melbourne	Workshop (TBC) and Field Study
5	August (TBC)	Boston (United States)	Youth Lead the Change: Participatory Budgeting Boston	Workshop (TBC):Proposed topic Participatory Budgeting
6	August (TBC)	Antioquia (Columbia)	Educational Parks: innovating the educational system in Antioquia.	Field Study
7	September	Eskişehir (Turkey)	Cherish the Memory of the City: Eskisehir City Memory Museum	Field Study
8	September	Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates)	Estidama	Field Study
9	TBC	Dakar– (Senegal)	Darkar Municipal finance program: Accessing the Power of Capita Markets to Improve the Quality of Life for the Urban Poor	Field Study
10	September	Gwangju (Korea)	GHGs Emission Program in Household Carbon Bank in Gwangju	Field Study
11	September	Jakarta (Indonesia)	The Pluit Reservoir Revitalization Project	Field Study
12	October	Bristol (United Kingdom)	Smart City Bristol	Workshop (TBC):Proposed topic Green City, Green Life
13	October	Hamburg (Germany)	The International Building Exhibition IBA Hamburg and its Climate Protection Concept “Renewable Wilhelmsburg”	Field Study
14	October	Linköping (Sweden)	Linköpi–g - Carbon Neutral 2025-where ideas come	Field Study

			to life	
15	TBC	Hangzhou (China)	Public Bike Sharing System	TBC

NOTE:

1. Preliminary Research

* All participants for the study tour are supposed to pre-study the related initiatives before the trip.

2. Field Trip

* All study tour will composed by on-site visit to the projects and thematic seminars/workshops, co-organized by the local governments, Urban Innovation Community, Guangzhou Award Secretariat and Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation.

3. Findings and Reports

* Every participant should compile a final report on the project research. All findings and reports should be submitted to the Guangzhou Award Secretariat, which will publish the results of the research.

4. Expenses

* Participants take this tour (s) at their own expense.

6.2. Guangzhou leads the Urban Innovations dialogue in Buenos Aires

A high level delegation, headed by Vice President of CPPCC Guangzhou Committee Mr Yang Jiancheng lead a roundtable discussion with partner city of Buenos Aires on emerging issues of urban innovations and importance of engaging with global societies and communities on implementation of urban innovations. The roundtable was attended by city representatives of Buenos Aires, Barcelona, Sydney, Paris and Melbourne. Mr Yang Jiancheng led the discussions with a fundamental assertion that successful Urban Innovation must be focused on social communities and citizens are the biggest stakeholders for future innovations. He provided engagement examples from the city of Guangzhou, where people focused urban innovations assisted with the future of city’s development. He also emphasized that Guangzhou International Awards are recognition of the cities solidarity and cooperation among each other. It celebrates and recognizes the most influential stakeholder in any global city – Its People Its Citizen.

The host city of Buenos Aires presented their recent studies and programs on Innovation corridors and city government’s policies in engaging with local communities, institutions and specially with youth in ensuring the benefits of urban innovation is shared by all members of the society. It emphasized on appreciating and encouraging indigenous innovation and technology, which would have local characteristics and opportunity to scale up with efficiencies.

For more information on Urban Innovations please contact:

- ✓ Ms Agnes Bickart at METROPOLIS abickart@metropolis.org
- ✓ Mr Zhou for Guangzhou International Awards zhoujianromeo@aliyun.com
- ✓ Ms Cecelia Luca at Buenos Aires City cecilialucca1@gmail.com

12

7. VOICE OF THE MAYORS

On May 20, the “[Voice of the Mayors](#)” Plenary Session in Buenos Aires invited the leading political representatives of METROPOLIS member cities to give a live explanation of their own experiences managing their cities, the evolution they have gone through to today and their vision for the urban future. The session consisted on three modules of questions and answers directed to the present political representatives, listed below:

- 1) How are the major metropolises included in the post-2015 development goals?**
Questions moderated by Jean François Habeau, Executive Director of the Global fund for cities development (FMDV). Answers by: Mpho Parks Tau, Mayor of Johannesburg; Helen Fernández, Mayor in Charge of Caracas; Bianca Debaets, State Secretary of the Brussels-Capital Region; Mónica Fein, Mayor of Rosario; Felipe de Jesús Gutierrez, Secretary for Urban Development and Housing of Mexico City
- 2) How are the major metropolises dealing with climate change?**
Questions moderated by Alain Le Saux, METROPOLIS Secretary-General. Answers by: Pierre Desrochers, Executive Committee Chair of Montreal; Jean-Paul Huchon, President of the Île-de-France Region; José Fortunati, Mayor of Porto Alegre; Claudio Orrego, Governor of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago de Chile; Ana Olivera, Mayor of Montevideo.
- 3) What is the role of the major metropolises in the global commitment to sustainable urbanization?**
Questions moderated by Josep Roig, UCLG Secretary-General. Answers by: Michael Müller, Governing Mayor of Berlin; Daniela Chacón, Vice-Mayor of Quito; Yang Jiancheng, Vice President of the Guangzhou CPPCC Committee; Edson Aparecido, Civil House Chief, State of São Paulo.

The statements given in Buenos Aires will be crucial for METROPOLIS to express its position regarding three upcoming events of worldwide significance, given their considerable impact on the vision of urban development, urbanization and the life of citizens in the 21st century: the United Nations Summit for the Adoption of the Post 2015 Development Agenda (New York, September 2015); the United Nations Climate Change Conference (Paris, December 2015); and Habitat III, the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Quito, October 2016).



8. METROPOLIS INITIATIVES

The leaders of the METROPOLIS Initiatives met during the association’s Annual Meeting in **Buenos Aires from 18 to 21 May 2015**. The purpose of their meeting was to **share their views** on the experiences, difficulties and opportunities that arise from the **METROPOLIS Initiatives, to get to know each other better and to create synergies** between them. The exchange was very positive and led to greater knowledge and mutual understanding between the leaders of the individual initiatives and resulted in the launch of collaboration that will see some of them working together and the sharing of information via METROPOLIS as a platform (website, social networks and group e-mails).

Connecting the Dots, a METROPOLIS cross-cutting co-ordination workshop (METROPOLIS Women, METROPOLIS Initiatives, METROPOLIS International Training Institute and METROPOLIS Youth), was held for the first time, providing an opportunity for all the activity stakeholders and leaders to meet each other and share information

about their activities, thereby generating a cross flow of knowledge between them and resulting in an exceptional occasion for boosting networking.

The following also took place in Buenos Aires:

- The second contact meeting of the Caring Cities Initiative led by the city of Johannesburg.

Young experts from cities around the world met at the end of January 2015 in Rose bank to discuss practical measures that can be introduced to make cities more inclusive and welcoming. The working group's first contact session concluded with a conceptual framework that was to be confirmed with supporting content to be developed. The event was attended by delegates from Berlin, São Paulo, Mashhad, Mexico City, Ramallah and Buenos Aires. The Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO) joined the group as a content development partner.

As a result of this session, nine dimensions that constitute a Caring City were developed. However, these have been further refined during in-depth joint work and ten dimensions are now proposed. This session had two main aims: firstly, to improve the indicators in order to create a barometer that can evaluate Caring Cities; and secondly, to identify pilot cities where this barometer can be trialled.

- The internal meeting of the Initiative on Sports and Social Inclusion, attended by the four partners involved: the cities of Barcelona, Medellin and Buenos Aires and the Kreanta Foundation.
- Various leaders of the METROPOLIS Initiatives took part in the workshops and sessions.

9. METROPOLIS WOMEN NETWORK

9.1. The importance of gender mainstreaming in local policies: the central issue for the Women Network at the Annual Meeting in Buenos Aires

Seven of the antennas of the Women Network attended the last METROPOLIS Annual Meeting, held in Buenos Aires from 18 to 21 May, to defend the importance of gender mainstreaming in local policies. During a workshop organised by the METROPOLIS Women International Network, Buenos Aires, the host city, and Barcelona and Brussels presented practical case studies that demonstrated the applicability of gender mainstreaming, a subject of considerable debate over the last 20 years since the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). The second part of the workshop was a participative working session to gather ideas that will promote gender mainstreaming in our cities. The suggestions made included:

- Designing, implementing and rolling out educational programmes with a gender perspective. Monitoring compliance with gender mainstreaming.
- Capacity-building among public employees, especially in local authorities.
- Raising the public's awareness by directly influencing neighbourhoods and residents' associations. Not repeating stereotypes.
- Involving society as a whole (cross-generational aspect), including men.
- The effectiveness of laws to combat gender violence was questioned.
- Allocating financial resources to guarantee more effective implementation.

The Network also played an active part in the Meeting of the Board of Directors, during which the new 2015-2017 Action Plan was approved. Thanks to the promotional work of the Women Network in recent months, the Action Plan incorporates the gender perspective. The Network's interest in ensuring that contributions with a gender perspective are also respected as far as possible in the document that METROPOLIS will be presenting at the Habitat III Conference in 2016 was also voiced.

In order to raise the visibility of the Network's efforts during the drafting and agreeing of a declaration for the UN Conference, Buenos Aires and Barcelona represented the Network at the *PrepCity – Getting Ready for Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda* session, together with other political representatives of METROPOLIS.

In addition, an internal meeting of the Women Network was held on Monday 18 May, during which, among other issues, there was a discussion concerning the organisation of the Fourth World Forum "Dynamic Cities Need Women" in Latin America in late November, which will be focusing on the issue of gender mainstreaming in public policies.

9.2 Women Network accompanies residents in Barcelona Metropolitan Area to learn more about their neighborhood

Representatives of the METROPOLIS Women International Network and the Secretariat General participated in an activity called Jane's Walk on 9 May, organized by Col·lectiu Punt 6 in the La Mina neighborhood of Sant Adrià del Besòs, in the Barcelona Metropolitan Area. Accompanied by members of the Association of Residents, they got a first-hand look at the urban transformations that have been underway for years, designed to improve quality of life for residents of La Mina, a neighborhood stigmatized for drugs affecting it socially, economically, culturally, territorially and in terms of employment.

"Jane's Walk is a series of walking tours around the neighborhoods that allow participants to connect with their community and neighbors, closing social and geographical gaps and creating a space where cities can discover themselves. Jane's

Walk began in 2007 in cities in North America and other cities around the world have gradually joined this initiative.”

10. METROPOLIS YOUTH INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

On 18 May 2015, the first day of “Live the City” – the METROPOLIS Annual Meeting in Buenos Aires, an open workshop for METROPOLIS Youth was held in the Porteña Legislative Chamber.

In the first part of the session, Hossein Kashiri, leader of METROPOLIS Youth, gave a presentation about the work being done in his city (Mashhad) to involve young people in urban management. He presented the content of the [Youth Engagement in Social Development](#) workshop held last April as part of the METROPOLIS International Training Institute programme.

The second part of the workshop was given over to roundtables, in which the participants were able to present their experiences from a very personal perspective. Several examples of youth participation in the governments of major cities were given. Among the cases discussed, participants spoke, for example, of programmes launched by local governments (such as those of Berlin, Buenos Aires and Mashhad) to enable youths to develop their professional careers in public administration. Other noteworthy topics of conversation were the increasing participation of young representatives in metropolitan legislative bodies and the high importance of listening to the voice of young citizens through initiatives that blend perspectives on the future of cities with sport, artistic expression and sustainability (experiences undertaken by [Medellin](#) and [Buenos Aires](#), for example).

11. METROPOLIS New website

The new METROPOLIS website is now online

The new [METROPOLIS website](#) is live and ready to become the virtual encounter of all METROPOLIS members and stakeholders.

The new site launched by end April was greeted with enthusiasm by all, however in order to collect the opinions of our members and improve certain aspects and features, the website is currently in beta version. We invite our members to send their comments and questions as soon as possible by contacting us by email (metropolis@metropolis.org) or by filling out the [online questionnaire](#) which is at the Home page of the Site.

12. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

12.1. Participation in Smart City Expo in Montreal. 25-27 March 2015

The Smart City Expo took place in Montreal from 25 to 27 March 2015. Bringing together experts, businesspeople, city representatives and other stakeholders, the event addressed the future of so-called “smart cities” from different perspectives such as mobility, sustainable energy, open data and resilient communities, among others.

The smart cities agenda is particularly relevant for major cities and metropolitan areas against the global context of burgeoning urban development. METROPOLIS therefore took part in this event, held for the first time in Montreal, represented by Mexico City, an active member of our organisation and the seat of METROPOLIS’ Regional Secretariat for North America.

In the first dialogue entitled “The Crucial Role of Cities in Climate Change and Green Energy Policies”, Roberto Ascencio, Mobility Projects Coordinator at Laboratorio para la Ciudad (Laboratory for the City, an experimental innovation think tank within the Government of Mexico City) discussed the challenges faced by major cities in implementing technologies. Moreover, he pointed out that local governments can fulfil different roles in this process, whether as catalysts, partners, facilitators or funders of smart strategies.

Over the three-day event, various ideas on how to think and design smart cities were laid on the table. The following ideas were noteworthy:

- There must be political willingness, an appropriate legal framework, as well as mechanisms for cooperation between governments, society and businesses.
- Smart cities must place citizens centre stage.
- The use of technologies is a means whereby more inclusive and sustainable cities can be brought to fruition.
- Local governments perform different roles in the process of building smart cities, i.e. catalysts, partners or facilitators.
- To create smart cities/societies, local governments need recognition, commitment and empowerment from national governments.
- Cities should give precedence to the use of non-motorised transport and guarantee safe and functional pedestrian walkways and bike lanes.

Further details regarding the Smart City Expo in Montreal [here](#)

12.2. Habitat III – Report on PrepCom II in Nairobi, Kenya

The second preparatory meeting (PrepCom II) took place last March. The Mayor of Berlin, Michael Müller, took part as the METROPOLIS representative and Co-President responsible for Habitat III-related issues.

The mandate to represent METROPOLIS on all Habitat III-related issues was a complex task from the start. On the one hand, UN members know that 50% of the world's population live in cities and that most of the Millennium Development Goals can only be achieved through collaboration with local authorities. On the other hand, under UN internal rules, cities are only able to have an observer status. In fact, Mayors are described as NGO representatives. However, it is clearly not possible to talk about the future of cities without dialogue with their representatives and without drawing on their experience.

The Mayor of Berlin attended two Habitat III preparatory meetings: one in New York in September 2014 and another in Nairobi in April 2015. In New York, he had the opportunity to represent the association before an audience of NGO representatives and, in Nairobi, he likewise represented the association, but on this occasion before the General Assembly as the only non-State member. After doing so, he talked to Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

He was therefore able to defend the association's position and demands within the Habitat III decision-making process. There is still a long way to go though. An example of that was the inability to secure consensus on the rules that should govern the accreditation of potential partners.

Consequently, the outcome of this meeting was not as expected, and an extraordinary preparatory meeting has been convened in New York next September. During the Board of Directors meetings which was held in Buenos Aires on May 20, Michael Müller proposed that agreement should be reached on the next steps to be taken to develop the Habitat III process:

"First, we must join forces and draw on the experiences and knowledge of all representatives of metropolises. I invite all those in attendance to take part in the PrepCity meeting to be held right after the Board meeting. Moreover, at PrepCity, the experience and creativity of all METROPOLIS members will be able to gather and be mobilised for the Habitat III project. In the future, the more cities get involved in this meeting, the better we will be able to decide on the next steps to be taken towards

Habitat III. Second, the Habitat III document has been developed since February 2015 by a group led by the city of Berlin. This document was adopted at the Regional Secretaries' meeting, and it should now become an official document of the METROPOLIS network".

It is considered crucial to have a common approach agreed with UCLG regarding the Global Task Force. METROPOLIS and UCLG should come up with a joint declaration, which would help us gain influence in order to decide on the design of the new global urban agenda.

12.3 METROPOLIS joins Future of Urban Development Advisory Board of World Economic Forum

As the largest international representative organization of cities over 1 million inhabitants, METROPOLIS engaged in strategic discussions with the World Economic Forum (WEF) on vital issues of Governance, Development and Capacity Building among global cities. The common objectives for METROPOLIS and WEF include greater cohesion for city leaders and governments to engage with private sector at early stages of urban development and active participation by private sector in encouraging and nurturing local investments and finances for local developments. This long term strategic engagement between two international representative organizations is totally devoted to making global cities better governed and engaging all stakeholders for social, economic and environmental sustainability.

During March 2015, METROPOLIS has formally joined the WEF's Advisory Board on Future of Urban Development. Secretary General, Mr. Le Saux has appointed Mr. Sunil Dubey to represent METROPOLIS organization on the WEF Advisory Board. The board works on a strategic plan focuses on urban developments, urban services and urban innovations to assist with climate plans.

More information [here](#)

12.4. World Economic Forum's Urban Development Roundtable. Delhi. 16 June 2015

World Economic Forum (WEF) led a strategic dialogue among governments, city leaders, private sector organisations and institutions to address the innovation and future of urban development. The future of urban development and services roundtable was coordinated by WEF in Delhi on 16 June 2015 and the roundtable was attended by over 150 international and national delegates. The session was chaired by the Minister of Urban Development of India, Mr M Venkaiah Naidu, where he emphasised on International cooperation among global cities for sustainability and climate change issues. He further asked international institutions and private sector organisations to assist with planning and development towards 100 Smart Cities

project in India by 2020. METROPOLIS emphasised on the values of city to city collaborations, international capacity building programs and developing urban policies where innovation is nurtured by 'bottom up' approach, where social factors are at the forefront of Smart Cities and Climate programs.

The WEF roundtable was attended by METROPOLIS and its partner, National Institute of Urban Affairs of India. METROPOLIS was represented by Mr Sunil Dubey and NIUA was represented by Prof Jagan Shah. METROPOLIS and NIUA met at bilateral meeting on 15 June 2015 to discuss the frameworks of 'Innovation Clusters', where custom training and capacity building programs would be delivered to city administrators and ULB officials. The programs would be based on applied research and proven technologies for efficiencies and would involve private sector organisations. A detailed report on the WEF Delhi roundtable would be issued during July 2015.

For further information on this please contact Ms Agnes Bickart (abickart@metropolis.org)

12.5 The Executive Bureau of UCLG meets in Porto Alegre. 10-12 June

Around 200 representatives of local and regional governments from over 35 countries and all continents among which 19 members of METROPOLIS, the metropolitan section of UCLG, participated in the UCLG Executive Bureau meetings that took place between 10 and 12 June 2015 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The Mayors and representatives of **Porto Alegre, Barcelona, Buenos Aires, Belo Horizonte, Bogota, Dalian, Diyarbakir, Guangzhou, Gyeonggi, Haikou, Istanbul**(President of UCLG), **Johannesburg, Montevideo, Montreal, Quito, Rabat, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC)**, to mention a few, actively participated in the event, which took place over three days and aimed to discuss UCLG's strategies to contribute to the international agendas that are currently being negotiated:

- the new international framework for the fight against climate change (COP 21),
- and the New Urban Agenda of Habitat III.
- the Post-2015 Development Agenda,

As spokesman of METROPOLIS, the **Mayor of Porto Alegre, José Fortunati** welcomed the new secretary general of METROPOLIS Mr. Felip Roca in UCLG and reported on the most recent decisions taken during the last Annual meeting of METROPOLIS, which was held in Buenos Aires last May and which relates to the three global development agendas.

On the **Agenda on Climate**, he stressed the mandate given by the organization to the Mayor of **Montreal** Denis Coderre to represent METROPOLIS and advocate for this specific agenda. [The Paris Climat Conference 2015 \(COP 21\)](#) to be held in Paris

(November 30- December 11) will be the opportunity for METROPOLIS and Montreal to convey the message of the metropolises to the rest of the world. The international agenda on climate must as well unite the great challenges and potential contributions of cities around the world. Cities and metropolitan region are invited by Co-President Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, to commit to develop public policies that contribute to the mitigation of climate change and, at the same time, build resilient cities. This contribution to the development of the commitments to be defined within the framework of COP 21, will be starting with active participation in the [Lyon Summit on Climate and Territories](#) on July 2nd, the [Bogotá Climate Summit September 20-23](#), and the **1000 Mayors Summit in Paris**, 2-5 December.

Montreal also invited METROPOLIS members and stakeholders to meet during the forthcoming “**Metropolitan Policies and Collaboration Tools for Sustainable Development Conference**”, to be held in Montreal in October 5-10. As confirmed during our last Board of Directors, in May 2017, Montreal will as well be the host city of the **12th METROPOLIS World Congress**.

UCLG together with its sections and members will strengthen **the Role of Local Governments in the International Development Agenda**.

As inheritor of the First World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities that took place during Habitat II, in 1996, UCLG has offered to facilitate the [Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments towards Habitat III](#), through the [Global Taskforce \(GTF\)](#) and in close collaboration with other networks and UCLG sections.

The content of the [5th UCLG Congress and the Summit of Local Leaders “Local voices for a more human future” that will take place in Bogotá](#) in October 12-15, 2016 was an important item on the agenda of the Executive Bureau. It will be the culmination of the process to develop the Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21st Century, as well as the starting point for the implementation **of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the New Urban Agenda**. In the framework of the Post 2015 Development Agenda, METROPOLIS mandated Mayor Parks Tau to be the voice of the Mayors of METROPOLIS and to support the access to basic services and social inclusion.

As transversal section representative of the metropolises and metropolitan regions, METROPOLIS informed on the decision approved during its last Board of Directors to implement **gender mainstream** in all the programs and activities operated by METROPOLIS.

Next UCLG appointment

- The **World Council in 2015** will be held in **Paris**, France, December 3-5, in the framework of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP 21)

- **Next 2016 UCLG Executive Bureau** will be held in **Kazan** in June 2016.
- **5th UCLG World Congress**, October 12-15, 2016

12.6 Conference: Female agency, mobility and socio-cultural change, 11-12 June 2015

On 11 and 12 June, the co-ordinator of the METROPOLIS Women International Network participated in the conference organised by the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM), based in the complex of the Hospital de Sant Pau in Barcelona.

The conference was opened by Manuel Manonelles, Director-General of Multilateral and European Affairs of the Government of Catalonia, and by Joaquim Llimona, Commissioner for International Relations of Barcelona City Council.

The packed two-day-long event considered various aspects of the feminisation of migration, an emerging phenomenon of the 21st century. All too often, migrant women occupy vulnerable positions in host cities and have no employment options other than domestic jobs, sex work and other irregular work.

The conference brought together United Nations experts, representatives from associations and the direct testimony of women who have found themselves forced to leave their countries. The METROPOLIS Women International Network co-ordinator, delegated by the president, Francina Vila, took part in the round table on “Multi-lateral Policy Engagement on Gender and Mobility” and presented the conclusions of the symposium on “Safety and protection of victims of sexual exploitation. New forms of slavery and its local impact”, organised by the Women Network in Barcelona on 13 June 2014.

12.7 Living Together Summit: 10 mayors of METROPOLIS adopt the Montreal Declaration. 10-11 June 2015

The mayors of participating cities and metropolises attending the Living Together Summit, which took place in Montréal on June 10 and 11, 2015, signed the Montreal Declaration: Montréal, Bamako, Beyrouth, Casablanca, Dakar, Douala, Île-de-France, Johannesburg, Monterrey and Victoria. This document sets out the general principles and commitments of “living together” in cities. By adopting this founding text, the signatory mayors reaffirmed their commitment to promote “living together” in their respective communities, assume their responsibilities and share experiences and knowledge.

Creation of a Mayors' International Observatory on Living Together

The mayors have agreed to establish a Mayors' International Observatory on Living Together, to which cities will be invited to join on a voluntary basis. This observatory, a

first for local governments, will work closely with universities and research centres in member cities on various issues of interest. It will also help members to document new challenges and innovative practices as well as actions from around the world involving the issue of living together. The Observatory's central secretariat will be located in Montréal for the next five years.

Mayors' International Observatory on Living Together

The mayors have also agreed to continue discussions undertaken in Montreal as well as share strategic ideas and information by decreeing the Mayors' International Living Together Summit. This summit will be held every two years in member or associate cities. The mayors agreed that the next summit will be held in 2017 in the city of Casablanca.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO READ THE MONTREAL DECLARATION ON LIVING TOGETHER

12.8 METROPOLIS meets a delegation from the Department of Trade and Industry from the City of TIANJIN, China

A delegation of the TIANJIN Commission of Commerce of the Foreign Investment Department, met at Casa Asia (Barcelona). METROPOLIS, as partner of Casa Asia, seized this opportunity to interact with the municipality of TIANJIN. Two representatives of the permanent secretariat of METROPOLIS in Barcelona presented the organization and the international strategy of METROPOLIS to make the voice of large cities and their leaders heard, giving them more visibility on the international arena. METROPOLIS sought the assistance of the trade and industry department of the municipality of TIANJIN to advocate before Mayor Huang Xingguo, Mayor of TIANJIN, and have him contribute to the Voice of the Mayors collection, which was launched by METROPOLIS in 2014 and already counts with the contribution of 25 Mayors of which 2 are prominent mayors from Guangzhou and Chengdu.

METROPOLIS member since 2004, TIANJIN is one of the 6 biggest cities in China, the largest northern port of China, and has 14 million permanent residents. It is a world class free trade zone with modern service industries and an active technological and financial hub for innovation.

13. NEW ON THE CO-PRESIDENCY OF METROPOLIS

Co-President of METROPOLIS Xavier Trias was not re elected as Mayor of Barcelona. METROPOLIS members welcome the new mayor of Barcelona Ana Colau who was elected on May 24, 2015. They welcome as well the new Mayor of Madrid Manuela Carmena.

More information [here](#)

14. INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR 2015-2016

Updated International Calendar [here](#)

JULY 2015

1-2			Lyon, France	World Summit Climate and Territories
13-16			Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Third International Conference on Financing for Development
31-1			Kazan, Russia	Local Solutions for Global Development. Moving towards Eurasian integration

AUGUST 2015

18-26	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMMES	Seoul, Republic of Korea	TRAINING. e-Government
20-22			San Juan, Puerto Rico	Summit of Mayors and Local Governments. FLACMA
29-01			Teheran and Qazvin	Asian Mayors Forum Executive Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2015

16-24	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMMES	Seoul, Republic of Korea	TRAINING. Urban transportation
15-28			New York, United States	70th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 70)
20-23			Bogotá, Colombia	Bogotá Climate Change Summit 2015. ICLEI
24				Local Governments Day
25-27			New York, United States	UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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)

OCTOBER 2015

5-10			Montreal, Canada	Metropolitan Policies and Collaboration Mechanisms for Sustainable Development
13-16			Turin, Italy	Third World Forum on Economic and Local Development
21-23			Richmond, CA, United States	Meeting of the Minds 2015
27-28	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMMES	Paris, France	WORKSHOP. Sustainable Airport Areas Initiative
Date to be confirmed	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMMES	Cairo, Egypt	TRAINING. Challenges of Relocation of Informal Areas and Sustainable Projects

NOVEMBER 2015

22-29	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMMES	Seoul, Republic of Korea	TRAINING. Water Management
2-6 Only by invitation	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMMES	Guangzhou, China	TRAINING. Thought Leaders: Learning from Urban Innovation
8-11	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMMES	Delhi and Agra, India	WORKSHOP. Bridging the Disconnected: Smart Sustainable & Inclusive Slum Development Initiative
17-19			Barcelona, Spain	Smart City Expo World Congress
29-3			Johannesburg, South Africa	Africités Summit 2015
Date to be confirmed	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMMES	Santiago de Chile	Fourth World Forum: Dynamic Cities Need Women
Date to be confirmed	●	METROPOLIS PROGRAMMES	Mexico City	Urban Redevelopment Projects

DECEMBER 2015

30-11			Le Bourget, France	2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP 21)
5-7			Paris, France	UCLG World Council 1000 Mayor's Summit on Climate Change

2016

APRIL 2016

26

20-22	To be confirmed	CCRE/CEMR Congress
--------------	-----------------	------------------------------------

MAY 2016

11-12	Istanbul, Turkey	World Humanitarian Summit
--------------	------------------	---------------------------

JUNE 2016

Date to be confirmed	Kazan, Russia	UCLG Executive Bureau
-----------------------------	---------------	---------------------------------------

JULY 2016

25-27	Jakarta, Indonesia	PrepCom III Habitat III
--------------	--------------------	---

SEPTEMBER 2016

7-10	Jeollabuk-do, Republic of Korea	6th UCLG ASPAC Congress
-------------	---------------------------------	---

OCTOBER 2016

12-15	Bogotá, Colombia	5th UCLG World Congress 2nd World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments
17-20	Quito, Ecuador	Habitat III