

2nd Quarter Metropolis Activities Report April – June 2012

1) METROPOLIS INITIATIVES

1.1. New Submissions for the Metropolis Initiatives

For the second year, Metropolis is accepting submissions for the Metropolis Initiatives. With the Initiatives, Metropolis aims to consolidate a more networked way of managing its activities, one that is more targeted at projects and outcomes, more open to partnerships and external funding, and that offers greater possibilities of incorporating new members.

Eight Metropolis Initiatives are currently being successfully carried out as part of the global movement [I'm a City Changer](#) promoted by UN-Habitat. The Initiatives, which form the basis of the Metropolis Action Plan, have been endorsed by the campaign to roll out actions and projects designed to improve life in urban areas and the habitability of cities.

Metropolis members are encouraged to join the existing Initiatives in the areas of urban innovation, urban governance, urban and social planning, and climate change and to submit new proposals, especially in the areas of transport and sustainable urban mobility, job creation and economic development, promotion of rights, and local democracy.

The Guide to Metropolis Initiatives, as well as more detailed information about the Initiatives themselves, can be found on the [Metropolis website](#).

The Initiatives jury will meet on November 14, 2012, in Guangzhou to select the Initiatives to be submitted to the board of directors for final approval on November 17, 2012.

1.2. Metropolis Initiatives Satisfaction Survey

In order to evaluate the Metropolis Initiatives, a satisfaction survey is given to the participants in the different workshops to gather feedback.

The November 15 Metropolis meeting in Guangzhou will offer an opportunity to exchange ideas, suggestions for improvement, and observations regarding the Metropolis Initiatives within the framework of an internal Initiative coordinator meeting.

1.3 Agreements

In the second quarter of 2012, agreements were signed for the following Metropolis Initiatives:

- April 12: “Integrated Strategic Planning and Public-Private Partnerships,” by the city of Melbourne in collaboration with the United Nations Global Compact Cities Program.
- May 2: “Integrated Urban Governance: Successful Policy Transfer,” by the city of Berlin in collaboration with the Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance (HVSoG).
- June 6: “Agile Cities for a New Age of Accessibility, Efficiency and Growth,” by the international organizations Living Labs, Citymart.com and the Climate Group.
- June 12: “Mentoring on Upgrading Informal Settlements,” by the cities of Durban and São Paulo and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

1.4. Metropolis Initiative “Comparative Study of Metropolitan Governance” Workshop, São Paulo

The first meeting of the Metropolis Initiative on metropolitan governance, led by the Secretariat for Metropolitan Development of the State of São Paulo, took place in the city of São Paulo on June 13 and 14. The meeting compared the different strategies followed by cities in relation to governance models and analyzed how public-private partnerships can determine the execution and financing of public and social policies in metropolitan areas. [Learn more.](#)

1.5. Metropolis Initiative on Climate Change Meeting at the ICLEI World Congress in Belo Horizonte

The first Metropolis Initiative workshop on climate change, organized within the framework of the ICLEI World Congress in Belo Horizonte, offered members a chance to share the plans they had implemented to tackle climate change in their cities. On June 14, 2012, seven cities gave presentations on their sustainable actions: Buenos Aires, Île-de-France, Johannesburg, Mexico City, New Delhi, Porto Alegre and Quito. [Learn more.](#)

2) STATUTORY MEETINGS

2.1. Board of Directors Meeting in Guangzhou, 14-17 November 2012

The website for the Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting in Guangzhou is already live. Online registration is now open so that participants can register and begin to arrange their accommodations.

The agenda will include a joint session, with the overarching theme of governance and innovation, on the Initiatives promoted by the State of São Paulo, Berlin, Melbourne, and Île-de-France.

Meetings will also be held by the “Metropolis Women International Network and Asian Cities” sections, the jury tasked with approving new Metropolis Initiatives, and the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) jury.

Moreover, Agile Cities will carry out a 2 hour demonstration of Citymart.com, the online marketplace for innovations in cities. This demo will include best practices on using the platform, its social networking and social media tools.

2.2. Board of Directors Meeting in Johannesburg, July 2013

From July 16 to 19, 2012, a Metropolis delegation will undertake a preparatory visit to Johannesburg in order to start organizing the Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for July 2013.

At Rio+20, conversations were held between Johannesburg and Metropolis, and it was decided that the theme of the meeting would be food security.

2.3. Metropolis World Congress in Hyderabad, April 2014

In April 2012, a Metropolis delegation organized a preparatory visit to Hyderabad for the 2014 Metropolis World Congress. A series of discussions with Hyderabad's elected officials and city managers were held, as well as meetings with various political and administrative representatives.

The Metropolis delegation also met with the elected members of the Standing Committee of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) and with the Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) Department. The delegation inspected the proposed congress venue – Hyderabad International Convention Center – and the Hyderabad Convention Visitors Bureau. A meeting was likewise held with the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation and Hyderabad International Trade Expositions Ltd (HITEX). (See Annex 2: Preparatory Visit Report)

2.4. Amendment

The “Minutes of the Extraordinary and Ordinary General Assembly Meetings, November 26, 2011, Porto Alegre” stated that the position of “Executive Vice President for Europe” as a confirmed member of the “new Board of Directors” would be held by Klaus Wowereit.

By request of the City of Berlin in June 2012, the position was amended, and Mr. Wowereit was replaced by Senator for Urban Development and the Environment Michael Müller.

2.5. Mandates

Little has changed since the first quarter report with regard to the mandates given to the president at the last Board of Directors Meeting held in Porto Alegre in 2011. The issue of regional secretaries and global offices remains under consideration.

In the second quarter of 2012, the secretary general was able to meet with the regional secretaries for North America, Africa and Latin America, as well as with the representative of the regional secretary for Asia Pacific.

As for training, which was the subject of a mandate given to Amara Ouerghi, the secretary general will propose that a strategic planning session be held on the issue in the third quarter of 2012.

3) MEMBERS

3.1. New Confirmed Members

The Metropolis Congress, held in Porto Alegre on November 26, 2011, approved the admission of the following members: Durban, Haikou, the State of Minas Gerais, Rosario, Hyderabad, Tirupati, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh, India).

3.2. Metropolis Membership Applications

Since then, the following cities have submitted membership applications, which must be approved at the Guangzhou board meeting in November 2012: Buenos Aires (Argentina), Kaohsiung (China), Shenzhen (China), Lahore (Pakistán) y Gujranwala (Pakistán).

3.3. Fees

As of June 21, 2012, membership fees have been paid amounting to a total of €270,826.00. In July, a reminder for the payment of the membership fees for 2012 will be sent to all the members of Metropolis.

4) GUANGZHOU INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR URBAN INNOVATION

Following the call to the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, as of 31 May, the [Guangzhou Award](#) Secretariat had received a great number of applications from cities and local governments around the world, to wit: 135 projects from 80 cities in 38 countries.

Considering that some applications include more than one initiative, and as the summer holiday is approaching, the Guangzhou Award Organizing Committee has decided to extend the submission deadline to 30 September 2012, in order to give applicants more time to prepare their submissions.

To date, the Metropolis Secretariat General has distributed information on the 1st Guangzhou Innovation Award at the following forums and meetings:

- First meeting of the Metropolis Initiative “Comparative Study on Metropolitan Governance,” São Paulo, May 2012
- Indian city communication and promotion campaign (Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, among others), May 2012
- Living Labs Global Awards 2012 Summit for Service Innovation in Cities, Rio de Janeiro, May 2012
- National Federation of Tunisian Cities (FNVT) international conference “Decentralization: A Tool for Democracy and Development,” Tunisia, May 2012
- Ibero-American Union of Municipalists seminar, Granada, June 2012

On July 18, 2012, a delegation from TV China visited UCLG and Metropolis. The purpose of the visit was to meet with the people responsible for the Guangzhou Award in both secretariats general in order to discuss the campaign to publicize it through both associations.

5) ACTIVITIES OF THE METROPOLIS WOMEN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

The Metropolis Women International Network, which has been coordinated since the Porto Alegre Congress by the Metropolis Secretariat General, is expanding its Barcelona section to include representatives from a variety of sectors: academia, healthcare, young people, seniors, businesswomen, women elected officials, etc.

In the second quarter of 2012, Metropolis attended different forums and meetings held in Barcelona with both elected women and women professionals and entrepreneurs.

The Metropolis Women International Network’s agenda for the next few months, which is currently being prepared by the Barcelona section, is as follows:

- Co-organization of the “Capacity-Building Workshop for Local Elected Women in Africa,” Abidjan, July 24-28, 2012
- Participation in the “World Urban Forum” in collaboration with UCLG, Naples, September 1-7, 2012
- Organization of the conference “Urban Planning and Gender” in collaboration and coordination with the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Barcelona, October 23, 2012 (date subject to confirmation)
- “Metropolis Women International Network and Asian Cities” section meeting, Guangzhou, November 14, 2012, within the framework of the Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting
- African section meeting within the framework of “Africities,” Dakar, December 1-6, 2012
- Organization, in collaboration with the City Council of Paris and UCLG, of the third edition of the international forum “Dynamic Cities Need Women,” Paris, January 31 and February 1, 2013
- Participation in the 57th edition of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), organized by UN Women, the theme of which will be the elimination and prevention of violence against women, New York, March 2013

6) PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

APRIL

• High-Level Meeting of Local and Sub-national Authorities, New York

On April 23, 2012, Metropolis participated in a high-level meeting of local and regional government leaders and networks in New York at which key messages for Rio+20 were presented to both United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN-Habitat Executive Director Joan Clos. Metropolis was represented by Gerald Tremblay, mayor of Montreal. The Metropolis secretary general and regional secretaries for North America and Africa also participated in the event.

At the meeting, local and regional authorities engaged in a dialogue with the Group of Friends of Sustainable Cities on how to ensure that the views of local and sub-national governments are included. The document “Joint Messages of Local and Sub-national Governments,” signed by UCLG, ICLEI, Metropolis, C40 Cities, NRG4SD, and FOGAR, with the support of the Ford Foundation and UN-Habitat, put forward eight recommendations for achieving sustainable urbanization, metropolization, and regionalization. The agreement emphasizes urbanization as a driver of global economic growth and development.

MAY

• **Metropolis Initiative “Agile Cities” in the Rio Summit on Service Innovation in Cities and the Living Labs Global Awards Ceremony, Rio de Janeiro**

Metropolis was an event partner at the Rio Summit on Service Innovation in Cities as part of the Initiative “Agile Cities for a New Age of Accessibility, Efficiency and Growth,” a joint effort to meet global challenges through technology and innovation and to help cities determine how to effectively use new technologies to meet climate, urban service, social and economic objectives. Living Labs Global, together with the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Barcelona, Oracle and the Climate Group, co-sponsored the summit, which was held on May 2 and 3, 2012, in Rio de Janeiro.

The event enabled the backing of new forms of cooperation between businesses, public sector leaders, and experts to expand the market of innovative services in cities.

• **New Cities Foundation Summit “Thinking Ahead, Building Together,” Paris**

Metropolis attended the inaugural New Cities Summit, organized by the New Cities Foundation, which took place in Paris on May 14 to 16, 2012. The summit gathered together recognized global urban thought leaders and decision-makers – mayors, CEOs and business leaders, academics, architects, media leaders, and entrepreneurs – and offered innovative demos and interactive workshops. Workshop topics included mobility, the creative and connected city, water, greener buildings, infrastructure finance, and regional sessions. China, India and Latin America were the main focus of the discussions.

- **“Workshop on Slum-Free Urban India – Policy and Practice: Lessons from International Experiences,” Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India**

Metropolis supported the Workshop on Slum-Free Urban India led by the Government of the State of Andhra Pradesh in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh, India) on May 14 and 15. Leading policymakers and practitioners from Brazil, South Africa and the Philippines discussed their national and local experiences at the workshop, which aimed to offer a platform for sharing international experiences in achieving a slum-free urban habitat.

- **Training seminar at the Metropolis Training Center, Middle East branch, Mashhad**

From May 14 to 17, 2012, the Metropolis Training Center (Middle East branch) organized three parallel training sessions with the support of the Metropolis International Institute: “Public Education on Natural Disaster Preparedness,” “Urban Projects and Their Cultural Effects,” and “Mass Transit and BRT Planning.”

- **Conference on “Decentralization: A Tool for Democracy and Local Development,” Tunisia**

From May 18 to 30, 2012, Metropolis attended the conference “Decentralization: A Tool for Democracy and Local Development” sponsored by the Fédération Nationale des Villes Tunisiennes (National Federation of Tunisian Cities, FNVT), UCLG, the provincial government of Barcelona, the International Association of Francophone Mayors, and the Arab Towns Organization, with the support of the French development cooperation agency, FIIAP-Goberna (Spain), the UCLG Mediterranean Commission, and the Cities Alliance. Metropolis, together with the other international partners in attendance, undertook to support the transition process in Tunisia and to strengthen the role of local governments by promoting decentralization through its knowledge-exchange network, training seminars, and technical assistance programs.

- **The Metropolis workshop “Integrated Strategic Planning and Public-Private Partnerships,” originally scheduled for May 27 in Delhi, has been postponed to July 26-27, 2012.**

JUNE

• **FMDV: New Regional Office in Mexico City**

The Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) has opened a regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Mexico City. The office, which has a three-person staff, will be directed by Eugene Zapata, a familiar name to Metropolis members. In June, the Metropolis secretary general met with Mara Robles, director of the Mexico City School of Public Administration (EAPDF), with the aim of developing joint projects in the field of training. A meeting was likewise held with Marcelo Abrard to discuss the loss of knowledge and know-how that comes with the departure of a mayor or regional president at the end of his or her term. Unfortunately, Metropolis has not yet been able to capitalize on this experience. This point merits further discussion by members in the future.

• **Rio+20, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro**

Mayors and local government officials sent a strong message to leaders gathered at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Summit), held in June 2012, evoking the role of local and sub-national authorities in effective global governance and of cities as the testing grounds for innovative ideas for achieving sustainable development. Although the outcome document does not contain stronger commitments, countries around the world formally recognized the important role that local and sub-national authorities play in sustainable development.

As the leading association defending the interests of metropolises, Metropolis actively participated in the Rio+20 process:

- **Advocacy and outreach:** Metropolis supported the advocacy work undertaken by UCLG, ICLEI, and nrg4SD as the Local Authorities Major Group Organizing Partners.

Metropolis and UCLG launched a joint communication campaign aimed at drawing attention to issues related to sustainable urban development by seeding the hashtag #citieswewant. The campaign gained the support of many organizations and individuals. [Learn more.](#)

Metropolis also participated in the online “Rio Dialogues” and put forward by one of the local authorities’ partners’ recommendations.

- **Urban Summit:** UCLG and UN-Habitat, with the support of Metropolis and under the auspices of the City of Rio, brought together over 300 local government representatives to discuss their contributions to a sustainable future. Metropolis participated in the round table “Multilevel Governance: The Fair Place of Local and Regional Authorities,” which highlighted the importance of metropolitan governance in attaining a sustainable future for cities. [Learn more](#).

- **Metropolis Initiatives exhibition:** At the Rio+20 Urban Summit (Espacio Humanidade 2012–Forte do Copacabana), Metropolis put together an exhibition to showcase the Initiatives as the main service provided by Metropolis to cities and their partners. The traveling exhibition can be seen in Naples (as part of the [World Urban Forum](#), September 1-7, 2012) and at the [Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting](#) to be held in Guangzhou in November 2012. [Learn more](#).

- **Participation in side events:** Metropolis political representatives and senior staff members participated in a variety of events organized by international partners, including the ICLEI Global Town Hall and the C40 Mayors Summit.

• **The working meeting with the regional secretaries, to have been held in São Paulo on June 15, 2012, was cancelled.**

7) ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR THE JULY-SEPTEMBER 2012 QUARTER

• **City Protocol Meeting, Barcelona, July 16-17, 2012**

Barcelona is becoming a “Smart City.” As part of this strategic goal, the city aims to create a global association through which members can join forces to ensure

sustainable urban development through the use of information and communication technology. This association, to be called the City Protocol Society, will be launched in November, during the Smart City Expo & Congress 2012 in Barcelona.

The City Protocol Society's first preparatory meeting will be held in Barcelona on July 16 and 17, 2012. At the meeting, cities, international organizations, universities and companies will be invited to discuss proposals and content to be included in the initial draft City Protocol to be presented in November 2012 in Barcelona.

• **Metropolis Workshop “Integrated Strategic Planning and Public-Private Partnerships,” New Delhi, July 26-27, 2012**

The inaugural meeting of the Metropolis Initiative “Integrated Strategic Planning and Public-Private Partnerships” will take place on July 26 and 27, 2012, in New Delhi. The workshop will be conducted over the course of both days and is primarily aimed at Indian government and municipal staff engaged in planning the provision and maintenance of basic infrastructure. While the Initiative will focus on Indian cities, other interested Metropolis members are welcome. [Learn more.](#)

• **World Urban Forum (WUF), Naples, September 1-7, 2012**

UN-Habitat, working jointly with the Italian hosts, will hold the 6th Session of the [World Urban Forum](#) from September 1 to 7 in Naples. This year's theme, “The Urban Future,” will be addressed through four focused dialogues:

1. Urban Planning: Institutions and Regulations, Including the Improvement of Quality of Life
2. Equity and Prosperity: Distribution of Wealth and Opportunities
3. Productive Cities: Competitive and Innovative Cities
4. Urban Mobility, Energy and Environment

Metropolis will participate in the following meetings: the annual meeting of the United Nations Advisory Committee for Local Authorities (UNACLA), the “Mayors” round table, the special session on the World Urban Campaign, the special session on South-South cooperation, the networking side event “Peer Exchange of City Leaders,” the special session “Basic Services and Decentralization,” the “Gender and Women” round table, and the special session “Delivering the Urban Advantage.”

Within the framework of the WUF, Metropolis will organize the Initiative workshop “Metropolises at Work: Governance, Finance and the Execution of Public Policies” on September 4, 2012.

8) AGREEMENTS WITH INSTITUTIONS

• **New Agreement between NIUA and Metropolis for 2012-2014**

Metropolis and the Indian National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have renewed their ongoing collaboration for the period 2012-2014. The new agreement was signed during the recent visit by a Metropolis delegation to New Delhi regarding the upcoming Metropolis World Congress to be held in Hyderabad in 2014.

• **Memorandum of Understanding with INTA**

The Metropolis secretary general met with the International Urban Development Association (INTA) secretary general in order to exchange information about the organizations. While Metropolis carries out its Initiatives, INTA has turned its commissions into four “Communities of Competences”: Metropolization, Tomorrow’s Habitat, Innovation for Services, and Workspace Urbanism.

Metropolis has invited INTA to participate in the Metropolis strategic reflection on training. The current memorandum of understanding should be amended to make the cooperation between Metropolis and INTA more dynamic.

9) VISITS TO THE METROPOLIS SECRETARIAT GENERAL IN BARCELONA

Regional Secretary for Africa Emile Danho visited the Metropolis secretariat general in Barcelona and engaged in a week of intensive work with the Metropolis team in order to discuss the activities to be carried out in the African continent during 2012.

A delegation from the City of Taipei headed by its mayor, Lung Bin-Hau, Ph.D., visited the Metropolis and UCLG headquarters, as well as Barcelona City Hall, in order to strengthen the city’s ties with these institutions.