NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

In today’s fast-moving, globally networked world, the pandemic is only the latest problem to expose the complex challenges facing our metropolitan spaces. The mission of Metropolis for the next three years is to help our members not only respond to these challenges as they exist today, but to plan ahead for them as they will exist tomorrow.

During these months, while starting the implementation of our Strategic Action Plan 2021-2023, we have strengthened our global leadership and our alliances by participating in diverse international meetings and conferences. We have also launched the contest Metropolis Through Children’s eyes, addressed to children from 5 years old to 15 years old, through which we aim to get the vision of the children living in our metropolises and look at their perspectives for the future. The winners will be revealed during our XIII Metropolis World Congress in November.

We have set up several initiatives in order to build adaptive capacities for metropolitan governance like the Strategic Planning and Metropolitan Governance online program, the City Managers Community 2021, the Respond, Rebuild, Reinvent (RRR) project and the Mobility in African cities pilot project. At the same time, we keep creating content in two ongoing projects strongly related with the second action line of our Action Plan: Learning from Cities and MetroTalks.

Moreover, to promote within Metropolis a strategy of gender mainstreaming, we have launched the manual on Gender-Sensitive Language in Spanish and French and the report: Gender impact assessment 2020.

Even though we still have a long way to overcome the challenges we have set ourselves for this three-year period, I hope this progress report will show how dedicated, committed and conscientious the Metropolis membership are with the new Strategic Action Plan. Also, on behalf of the Secretariat General, I would like to thank our members for their continued efforts to improve the performance of our metropolises.

OCTAVI DE LA VARGA
Metropolis Secretary General
ACTIVITIES

**ACTION LINE 1**
L1 Metropolitan diplomacy and advocacy

**ACTION LINE 2**
L2 Capacities for metropolitan governance

**ACTION LINE 3**
L3 Internal governance culture

**METROPOLIS IN THE MEDIA**
“Care at the heart of local service delivery for inclusive recovery” was the theme chosen to guide the discussions of the 2021 UCLG Executive Bureau meetings held in May from the 18th until the 20th. As a result of these discussions, solidarity, care, peace and equality were highlighted as the UCLG community’s core commitments.

The Executive Bureau is in charge of UCLG’s administrative and financial management and it gathers twice a year. Metropolis, as the Metropolitan section of UCLG, counts with its own representation consisting of 8 common members: Bamako, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Mexico City and Montréal.

**Members**
Bamako, Bangkok, Barcelona (metropolitan area), Barcelona (city), Berlin, Brusseles, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Gauteng, Guangzhou, Johannesburg, Libreville, Montevideo, Montréal, Tehran, Xi’an

**Outcomes**
L1A3D1

**Metropolitan challenges**
1.1 Combating inequalities and segregation
1.4 Basic infrastructure and services
2.1 Social resilience
2.2 Economic resilience
2.3 Climate resilience
3.3 Engaged citizenship
4.1 Promoting digital rights

**Alliances**
UCLG, UCLG Africa, UCLG ASPAC, UCLG Community of Practice on Transparency and Open Government, UCLG’s Capacity and Institutional Building Working Group (CIB), UITP

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As part of its involvement in the ESPON METRO research, analysing the role and perspectives of EU Cohesion Policy in the planning of Metropolitan Areas and Cities, Metropolis participated to the METRO policy seminar organised during the ESPON week which focused on Green and Just Recovery for all European Territories (14th-18th June 2021).

Lia Brum, Research Officer at the Secretariat general, moderated the session, which approached the opportunities, challenges and objectives of the EU cohesion policy in metropolitan areas.
**ACTIVITIES METROPOLITAN DIPLOMACY AND ADVOCACY**

**16 July**

**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM JOIN STATEMENT**

Metropolis brought different scenarios and events organized in the framework of the High-Level Political Forum. Our objective was to highlight the importance of metropolitan governance and gender-sensitive policies as strategies to reduce inequalities and build healthier and more inclusive urban spaces.

From all deliberations, it was created a joint statement. Some of the conclusions were:

1. The recovery needs to be equitable and work for all communities.
2. The only recovery is a recovery which is safe, green and just.

**30 July**

**LAUNCH OF THE INITIATIVE: METROPOLIS THROUGH CHILDREN’S EYES**

The initiative Metropolis Through Children’s Eyes seeks to promote children’s creative expression through drawings and, at the same time, to identify trends in what they envision for the future of their metropolises in response to the changes caused by the pandemic. This contest is organized by Metropolis and is aimed at children between the ages of 5 and 14, who live in some of the cities belonging to the Metropolis network. The contest was launched on 30th July 2021 and will be open until 31th October, 2021.

The contest prizes will be distributed across the different contestant age groups and will consist of the following:

- A set of educational materials worth €300 for each winner in each category.
- The chance to take part in an online meeting and have a brief chat with the mayor’s office of their city.

**Outcomes**

L1A1D1

**Metropolitan challenges**

3.3 Engaged citizenship

**Alliances**

UCLG

**Outcomes**

L1A2D2, L1A3D2

**Metropolitan challenges**

1.1 Combating inequalities and segregation

**Alliances**

UCLG, Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments
To showcase the challenges of “building a city within a park and not parks within a city”, Metropolis Learning Hub Chengdu with the support of the Chengdu Institute of Planning and Design organised the first edition of the webinar “Mapping a Green Future: Urban Planning under the Park City Initiative” which was held on 20th and 21st May.

The webinar was divided in two sessions, in which participants were able to learn from experiences from Glasgow, Chengdu, Seoul, Johannesburg, Duijiangyan and ICLEI East Asia. The first session held on 20th May focused on thinking and designing sustainable urban development in a holistic and integrated way; the second one emphasised on ambitious projects to advocate green life.

The second webinar series will be held on 2nd December and will focus on water management and green spaces around grey areas.

In 2020, the OECD launched the Global Action “Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems (SSE)”, funded by the European Union’s Foreign Partnership Instrument, that would cover more than 30 countries (EU countries, Brazil, Canada, India, Korea, Mexico and the United States) over a period of three years.

Within this frame, the project Respond, Rebuild, Reinvent (RRR) offered 8 cities the opportunity to learn, share and collaborate across countries and world regions with the aim of promoting peer learning on SSE Ecosystems. By SSE Ecosystem we mean the totality of people, organisations, institutions and infrastructures in a territory that enable social and solidarity economy organisations to generate impact.

The RRR project, led by UpSocial in a consortium of 16 partners including Ashoka, Metropolis and Eurocities, was one of the 6 projects selected by the OECD to support the development and internationalisation of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE), raise awareness and capacity to build conductive national and local ecosystems for SSE development, and promote knowledge sharing and peer exchanges at the international level.

Through this call for applications, RRR selected 8 cities to learn, share and collaborate across countries and world regions.

**Members**
- Belo Horizonte, Guadalajara, Montréal

**Outcomes**
- L2A2D3

**Metropolitan challenges**
- 2.2 Economic resilience

**Alliances**
- OECD
The second internal workshop of the pilot project ‘Participatory Democracy’ took place virtually. This workshop focused on the different methods undertaken by the Bureau for Public Consultation of Montréal, which propose rules to ensure the implementation of credible, transparent and effective consultation mechanisms in projects implemented by the City Council or the Executive Committee of the City of Montréal.

**Members**
Barcelona (city), Córdoba, Madrid, Montréal

**Outcomes**
L2A2D3, L2A2D4

**Metropolitan challenges**
3.3 Engaged citizenship

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Metropolis and CIDEU, IberoAmerican Centre for Strategic Urban Development, have teamed up to launch the course ‘Strategic Planning and Metropolitan Governance’.

The workshop aims to generate competencies to lead the institutionalisation of Ibero-American metropolitan areas based on knowledge of existing metropolitan governance models and the instrument of strategic planning on a metropolitan scale.

The course started on 26th April and lasted 7 weeks, with the participation of 25 people who were selected to take the course, 12 of whom came from the following Metropolis members local governments.

**Members**
Barcelona (city), Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Córdoba, La Paz, Montevideo, San Salvador, São Paulo

**Outcomes**
L2A2D3

**Metropolitan challenges**
1.4 Basic infrastructure and services
3.1 Gender mainstreaming
3.2 Transparency and accountability

**Alliances**
Cities Alliance
The global crisis produced by the current pandemic has brought to the urban and metropolitan scenario the inequalities already pre-existing and, most of the times, making them even deeper. This critical situation pushed local and regional governments to create tailored solutions to tackle the social and economic challenges and design strategies to start the recovery stage as soon as the situation is stabilized. In the process of creating responses to those situations, a common understanding has emerged across all the scales: the need to foster innovation in the policy-design process.

To discuss this, in the framework of the Learning from Cities series, Metropolis and UNDP in collaboration with UCLG invited Medellín (Colombia) and Montevideo (Uruguay) to share their experiences on this.

On 29th June, the RRR consortium met with representatives from the 9 cities selected through the RRR Call for Peer Cities organised in April. The main objective of this first meeting between Peer Cities was to exchange ideas and select two Covid-19 challenges to be the focus of the next steps of the project.

The Respond, Rebuilt, Reinvent project, part of the OECD program and funded by the European Union, seeks to explore how to improve cross-sectoral collaboration within SSE ecosystems in the selected areas, while trying to find specific solutions and social innovations provided by SSE ecosystems and social enterprises in relation to the two selected challenges.
For this new chapter of the MetroTalks series, we invited two complementary and diverse perspectives: Thiago Herick de Sa, Healthy Urban Environments, Technical Officer from the World Health Organization, and Elisabeth Belpaire, Urban & Regional Planner, Executive Board Member, ISOCARP.

From this conversation we could highlight three main takeaways:

1. The importance of bridging the gap between health and urban planning.
2. It is crucial to empower people and communities to spark change.
3. Metropolitan governance promotes healthy spaces by bringing together different actors, and mainstreaming health throughout the planning process.
This year, the Global Observatory on Local Democracies (GOLD) is focused on how can we reduce the inequalities present in our urban spaces. Metropolis was invited to contribute to the collective document with two main topics: How can we build metropolitan spaces with better and more inclusive democratic structures, and the role of metropolitan governance to reduce the rural-urban inequalities present in our metropolises.

Both questions are absolutely linked with the Call to Rethink our Metropolitan Spaces and the Emergency Governance Initiative projects that are addressed to propose an actionable framework to reduce the inequalities and have healthier and more inclusive metropolitan spaces.

**Outcomes**
- L2A1D3, L2A2D5

**Metropolitan challenges**
- 2.1 Social resilience
- 3.1 Gender mainstreaming
- 3.3 Engaged citizenship

**Alliances**
- UCLG
Dakar, Gauteng, the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, along with Maputo, launched the pilot project “Mobility in African city regions: Towards better indicators and improved metropolitan governance”.

This project, which will run until 2024, will be an opportunity to share their experience and practices around mobility and its governance, with the aim to help develop, implement and monitor more successful, sustainable and inclusive public transport policies in African cities. During this first meeting, participants got an opportunity to hear more about the project intentions and how it fits within their priorities.

**Members**
Barcelona (metropolitan area), Dakar, Gauteng

**Outcomes**
L2A2D3, L2A2D4

**Metropolitan challenges**
1.3. Advancing mobility
Over several years, Metropolis has driven the debate on gender-sensitive policies by promoting the incorporation of gender perspective at the center of urban and metropolitan policies and advocating for the inclusion of gender equality in global agendas.

Last May, a new report, on the mainstreaming of gender strategy in Metropolis, was published. Despite of the COVID-19 pandemic, the gender mainstreaming perspective was implemented in 52 activities, with the latter achieving 85% of outcomes. Concerning internal governance, the gender coordination strategy is being consolidated, Metropolis is also striving to achieve gender equality by electing the first female President, the Mayor of Bogotá, Ms. Claudia López.

However, much work remains to be done; some of the challenges for the coming year are the reinforcement of strategic partnerships, the development of tools and the strengthening of a coordination structure to promote the mainstreaming of gender strategy in all projects and activities.

You can read the report here.

**Outcomes**
- L3A1D3, L3A3D2

**Gender mainstreaming challenges**: 1.1 Combating inequalities and segregation, 3.1 Gender mainstreaming, 3.2 Transparency and accountability

In the framework of “Humanizing Metropolis”, 4 profiles of key people that participated or are participating in pilot projects were created, alongside a one pager for designated to potential external contributors.

**Members**
- Barcelona (metropolitan area), Grand Lyon, Medellín, Montevideo, Montréal, New Taipei, São Paulo

**Outcomes**
- L3A1D3

**Metropolitan challenges**: 3.2 Transparency and accountability
THE MANUAL ON GENDER-SENSITIVE LANGUAGE

“The Manual on Gender-Sensitive Language”, in its Spanish and French versions, responds to Metropolis’ commitment to metropolitan governance with gender justice. In this sense, and following the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, it is necessary to incorporate and make visible the different realities of women and men in the contents of the association.

This document is the association’s instrument to avoid the androcentric use of language, as well as to raise awareness of the need to incorporate a more diverse and inclusive perspective in the representation of the different urban realities.

MID-YEAR INTERNAL MEETING

This internal meeting with the team of the Secretariat General was held to assess the first semester of the year and prepare the last six months, when the Metropolis World Congress, the World Metropolitan Day and other key milestones were to be held. The gathering also served to inform the team about the new measures and working conditions to be implemented from September 2021 onwards.

Outcomes
L3A3D2, L3A3D4

Outcomes
L2A2D7, L3A1D3

Metropolitan challenges:
1.1 Combating inequalities and segregation
3.1 Gender mainstreaming
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**ACTIVITIES**

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- **Bogota.gov.co**
- **DeLoG**
- **Cities Alliance**
- **Cities Without State**
- **Decentralisation & Local Governance**
- **PennIUR**
- **Isocarp**
- **UCLG**
- **United Cities and Local Governments**
ACTIVE LISTENING

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

COLLABORATION WITH ALLIANCES
MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Bamako
Bangkok
Barcelona (metropolitan area)
Barcelona (city)
Belo Horizonte
Berlin
Brusseles
Buenos Aires
Mexico City
Chengdu
Córdoba
Libreville
Lisbon
Madrid
Medellín
Montevideo
Montréal
New Taipei
Ramallah
São Paulo
Seoul
Tehran
Bogotá
La Paz
San Salvador
Guangzhou
Johannesburg
Gauteng
Torino
Dakar
Xi’an
Members: Antananarivo, Berlin, Bogotá, Buenos Aires, Chongqing, Gauteng, Gaziantep, Goyang, Guadalajara, Guangzhou, Quito, Rosario, Tehran

Outcomes: L1A2D4, L3A2D2

Alliances: Guangzhou Award, ICLEI, UCLG

Metropolitan challenges:
2.1 Social resilience
2.2 Economic resilience
2.3 Climate resilience

COLLABORATION WITH ALLIANCES
PROGRESS

MAIN RESULTS

METROPOLITAN CHALLENGES

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN
MAIN RESULTS

From 1st January to 31st August:

1,971+ people engaged in events led or co-led by Metropolis

241 experts with whom we have collaborated

50% women

50% men

METROPOLITAN CHALLENGES

From 1st January to 31st August:

1.1 Combating inequalities and segregation
1.3 Advancing mobility
1.4 Basic infrastructure and services

2.1 Social resilience
2.2 Economic resilience
2.3 Climate resilience

3.1 Gender mainstreaming
3.2 Transparency and accountability
3.3 Engaged citizenship

4.1 Promoting digital rights
4.2 Closing the gender digital gap
4.3 Adapting to the shared economy
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

To check the Metropolis Strategic Action Plan 2021-2023, please visit our website

**L1** Strengthen global leadership on metropolitan diplomacy and advocacy

- **L1A1** Common political metropolitan narrative
- **L1A2** Metropolitan perspective in global agendas
- **L1A3** Global alliances strategy vis-à-vis other networks and actors

**L1A1D1** Policy recommendations on issues critical to the metropolitan future

**L1A2D2** Bring the metropolitan governance perspective to debates around global and regional agendas

**L1A3D1** Contribute to UCLG activities and debates as the metropolitan section

**L1A3D2** Active participation in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

**L1A3D3** Collaboration with multilateral actors, local government networks, think tanks, international agencies, and other stakeholders

**L2** Build adaptive capacities for metropolitan governance

- **L2A1** Shared vision of the metropolises of the future
- **L2A2** Support for the development and implementation of metropolitan governance structures, policies, services, and planning
- **L2A3** Foster within Metropolis an accountable and sustainable internal governance culture

**L2A1D1** Prospective analysis on how to build the metropolises of the future

**L2A2D2** Online platforms for knowledge exchange

**L2A2D3** Learning and capacity-building activities for senior managers and practitioners

**L2A2D4** Innovative projects and working groups on specific metropolitan issues

**L2A2D5** Reference frameworks for urban planning in metropolitan areas

**L2A2D7** Tools to mainstream gender in metropolitan policies

**L2A3** Transparency and accountability

- **L2A3D2** Continued emphasis on robust accountability system
- **L2A3D4** Traceability of activities and expenses

**L3** Foster within Metropolis an accountable and sustainable internal governance culture

- **L3A1** Caring organization
- **L3A2** Gender-sensitive association
- **L3A3** Transparency and accountability

**L3A1D3** Gender-sensitive association

**L3A3D2** Continued emphasis on robust accountability system

**L3A3D4** Traceability of activities and expenses
WHO WE ARE

AFRICA

ASIA-PACIFIC

EUROPE

NORTH AMERICA

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

SECRETARIAT GENERAL
**EUROPE**

**Members of the Board of Directors**

**CO-PRESIDENCY**

- **Ada Colau**
  Mayor of Barcelona & President of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona
- **Michael Müller**
  Governing Mayor of Berlin

**TREASURY**

- **Jean-Luc Vanraes**
  Councilor of Uccle Brussels-Capital Region and former Minister of Finance

**MEMBER**

- **Laura Pérez Castaño**
  Deputy Mayor of Social Rights, Global Justice, Feminisms and LGTBI, Barcelona City Council, and President of Metropolis Women
- **Patrick Ollier**
  President of Greater Paris
- **José Luis Martínez-Almeida**
  Mayor of Madrid

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  Berlin

**SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

- **Silvia Llorente**
  Regional Officer

**REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENCIES**

- **Pascal Smet**
  Secretary of State of the Brussels-Capital Region
NORTH AMERICA

Guadalajara
Mexico City
Monterrey
Montréal
Puebla
Tijuana
Toronto

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MEMBER
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Federica Biondi
Director of Shared Services

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