

Quarterly Activities Report

1) ACTION PLAN

Mandate Given to the President

The Secretariat-General and the regional secretariats have embarked on a reflection about the function and positioning of the secretariats with respect to the proposal to create Metropolis “offices”, particularly in China and India, but not only there. This work will make it possible to deliver on the mandate which the Board of Directors gave the Metropolis President after the Action Plan was adopted at the Porto Alegre Congress of 26 November 2011.

The reflection was structured on the basis of the following questions:

- What is a regional secretariat (RS) in the Metropolis organization? What responsibilities does it have? What are its missions and tasks? What human and financial resources are required to perform these missions? Where do the resources come from?
- What is a Metropolis Office (MO)? What responsibilities does it have? What are its mission and tasks? What human and financial resources are required to perform these missions? Where do the resources come from?
- What is the best form of collaboration that can be achieved between the RSs and the MOs? Is there a hierarchical link between the two structures? If not, how are their relations organized?
- What modifications should be made to the articles of association and Metropolis’s internal regulations, considering the abovementioned approaches?

A working meeting is scheduled in São Paulo on 15 June to prepare a common response from the secretariats.

Metropolis Initiatives

Following a considerable publishing effort, the eight initiatives can now be consulted on the Metropolis website. Contracts have been drawn up to formalize the relations between Metropolis and the heads of the Initiatives, and the contracts are ready to be signed.

The preliminary Initiative results are scheduled to be presented during the next Board of Directors meeting in Guangzhou, in accordance with how far along each one is. New Initiatives will also be able to be chosen at the Board of Directors meeting.

The Metropolis Secretary-General has proposed a new project, called “**Urban Development Also Involves Cooking**”, aimed at fostering cordiality among members and shoring up the capacity to exchange specialized knowledge on their local economies in a fun fashion (see Attachment 1).

2) STATUTORY MEETINGS

Organization of the upcoming Board of Directors meeting and Metropolis Congress

Recent experiences at the Porto Alegre Congress show there is still room for improvement in the way of organizing the statutory events.

The improvements should address the relationship between the Secretariat-General and the city hosting the event to more precisely define the responsibilities of each with regard to organization and financing.

In this regard, the Secretariat-General has drawn up a number of specific contracts concerning the role and participation of each stakeholder.

In terms of the actual organization of the statutory meetings, the Secretariat-General will propose a simplified format.

Furthermore, the Secretariat-General is working to improve communication with all members. The present report is one example, as it is designed to keep the

Association's members informed throughout the whole of the year and to facilitate enhanced interaction between members and the Secretariat-General.

Board of Directors Meeting in Guangzhou

A technical visit by the Secretariat-General in Guangzhou in February 2012 made it possible to prepare the organization of the next Board of Directors meeting, confirm the dates of 14 to 17 November and validate a draft program (see Attachment 2).

In particular, the organization of a forum of mayors, governors and presidents of metropolitan regions is scheduled for Friday 16 November to address the issue of urban innovation. This meeting will take the form of a television set with high-ranking elected officials, the mayor of Guangzhou, the president of Metropolis, the president of UCLG and the mayors of Barcelona, Montreal, and Johannesburg.

During the forum the elected officials will be able to exchange opinions on innovation trends with regard to urban development. A preliminary experience will be addressed to implement a forum to be held various times during the year and which will make it possible to boost the visibility of the elected officials who are Metropolis members (see Attachment 3).

Congress

A preliminary visit in preparation for Hyderabad took place in early April to organize the 2014 Congress. During the visit, the relations between Metropolis and the local authorities of Hyderabad, the state of Andhra Pradesh, and the Delhi region were formalized.

3) GUANGZHOU INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR URBAN INNOVATION WITH THE SUPPORT OF METROPOLIS AND UCLG

The urban innovation award proposed by the mayor of Guangzhou will be organized every year starting from 2012. The award ceremony for the first Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation will take place on the night of 16 November.

The mayor of Guangzhou has sought support from Metropolis and UCLG to promote the Guangzhou International Award at the world level. As the Metropolis and Guangzhou awards were both due to be held in 2014, it has been decided to change the date of the latter in order to not interfere with the Metropolis Award.

A press conference was held in Guangzhou on 28 March to present and launch the award, with the participation of Metropolis and UCLG.

Please note that mayor Wan Qingliang was recently appointed to be the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party in Guangzhou and Chen Jianhua has now taken over as mayor.

4) METROPOLIS AWARD

The Secretariat-General team is reflecting on the developments of the Metropolis Award which could be proposed at the 2014 Congress.

5) MEMBERS

New Members

The following cities have joined the Association since the Metropolis Congress held in Porto Alegre in November 2011:

Buenos Aires, Durban, Haikou, Hyderabad, Kaohsiung, Minas Gerais, New Delhi, Rosario, Shenzhen, Tirupati, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam.

Applications to Join Metropolis

The cities of Cordoba, Salvador de Bahia, and Santiago have indicated they would like to join Metropolis.

Fees

At 13 March 2012 there were 10 members who had paid the annual fee, amounting to a total of €58,950.

6) PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

GOLD III in Barcelona

The Secretariat-General participated in the meeting organized by UCLG to implement GOLD III on the issue of access to basic services (water, sewerage, public transport, energy, and waste). A number of Metropolis member cities were selected within the framework of the study. The FMDC will provide Metropolis with technical support to prepare the metropolitan section report.

20th CIDEU Congress in Barcelona

The Secretariat-General attended the congress held from 13 to 16 March 2012. The projects presented by the cities in the CIDEU network on the topic “Neo-Tertiary Urban Spaces” were classified into four categories: Smart Cities and Citizens; Spaces with Global Reach; Spaces for Knowledge Generation and Management; and Spaces for the Promotion of Values.

FLACMA Congress in Santiago de Chile

The Metropolis president and secretary-general attended the FLACMA conference entitled “ExperienciAmérica” in Santiago de Chile. President Jean-Paul Huchon met with UCLG president Kadir Topbas. The Metropolis secretary-general participated in a workshop on local economic development and met with the representatives of Bogota, Cordoba, and Santiago (city and region).

World Water Forum in Marseille

The Secretariat-General participated in the World Water Forum which took place in Marseille from 12 to 17 March 2012, where UCLG, together with the World Water Council, organized the 3rd International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities.

In a parallel session, Metropolis took part in the seventh meeting of the World Urban Campaign Steering Committee organized by UN-Habitat, during which the initiative “I’m a City Changer” was launched. Metropolis also attended the UCLG working group meeting on regional authorities and the role they play in the world organization.

Seminar Organized by the World Bank in Washington

The Metropolis Secretariat-General participated in the seminar entitled “Smart Cities for All”, organized by the World Bank and held in Washington on 5 and 6 March 2012. Thirty-six speakers presented papers before over a hundred elected officials and representatives of international organizations, city networks, technology firms, consultancies, and universities. The discussions addressed the fundamental role that “smart cities” play in responding to the challenge of the inevitable urbanization of the world population.

56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, organized by UN Women in New York

As part of the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, elected officials and representatives of the United Nations, civil society, associations, the private sector, and the media met in New York from 27 February to 9 March.

The main theme of this session was the empowerment of rural women and the role they play in poverty and hunger eradication, as well as development and current challenges. The Metropolis Women’s Network representative took the chance to meet with Bibiana Aído, special advisor to UN Women executive director Michelle Bachelet to shore up the bonds between the UN and the Association.

The 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held next year, will focus on violence against women and girls.

7) ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR THE APRIL-JUNE 2012 QUARTER**Training seminar at the Metropolis Training Center, Middle East branch, in Mashhad, 14 to 17 May 2012**

The Metropolis Training Center (Middle East branch) is organizing three parallel training sessions with the help of the Metropolis International Institute: “Public Education on Natural Disaster Preparedness”, “Urban Projects and their Cultural Effects” and “Mass Transit and BRT Planning”. The seminars will be held in Mashhad from 14 to 17 May 2012.

Metropolis Initiative / Melbourne Workshop: “Integrated Strategic Planning and Public/Private Partnerships”, New Delhi, 28 May 2012

Management of the workshop will be the responsibility of Melbourne City Council in collaboration with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) in Delhi and the UN’s Global Compact Cities Program (UNGCCP).

More information at: <http://www.metropolis.org/>

Metropolis Initiative /State of São Paulo Workshop: “Comparative Study on Metropolitan Governance”, São Paulo, 13 and 14 June 2012

More information at: <http://www.metropolis.org/>

Metropolis Initiative / Île-de-France and Porto Alegre Workshop, Belo Horizonte, 14 June 2012

The workshop will be held as part of the ICLEI congress in Belo Horizonte.

More information at: <http://www.metropolis.org/>

Working meeting with the regional secretaries, São Paulo, 15 June 2012

8) VISITS TO THE METROPOLIS SECRETARIAT GENERAL IN BARCELONA

The heads of the cities of Rosario, Salvador de Bahía, Buenos Aires, and Caracas, as well as UN-Habitat, visited the Secretariat-General offices in Barcelona for a meeting on the World Urban Forum and the World Urban Campaign.