

**World
Metropolitan
Day
2019
—
REPORT**

metropolis ●

CIPPEC[®]

Córdoba
San Salvador

Turin
Bucaramanga

Buenos Aires

Paris

Gaziantep

Baghdad

Monterrey

Barcelona

Mendoza

Ribeirão Preto

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What is World Metropolitan Day?

Since 2018, **World Metropolitan Day** has been celebrated every **October 7th**, marking the anniversary of the [Montréal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas](#) (2015).

It is a unique opportunity for communities to make visible the metropolitan reality across the world: the growth of urbanized areas beyond the jurisdictional boundaries of municipalities, generating complex urban systems where the greatest transformations of humanity take place.

Led by **CIPPEC and Metropolis** in 2009, the World Metropolitan Day campaign called local and regional authorities across the world to host a local event to bring together the representatives of the different levels of government that operate in the same metropolitan area, and promote open discussions about the pressing issues that they face together, as part of a **metropolitan community**.

About this report

This report pays tribute to the institutions that participated in the 2019 edition of the World Metropolitan Day campaign by organizing an event in their metropolitan areas. It gives a brief overview of the different events that were organized, and also presents the steps of the communication actions undertaken by the Metropolis and CIPPEC teams for the campaign.

Why?

Why World Metropolitan Day?

Throughout the world, cities and urban areas have expanded **beyond their original jurisdictional boundaries**, resulting in **sprawling and fragmented metropolitan urban systems**. The challenges of these contemporary cities, such as **growing inequality, climate change and continual technological transformation**, must be addressed through comprehensive public policies that take into account the appropriate metropolitan scale.

The accelerated expansion of metropolitan regions is an increasingly visible phenomenon in the 21st century. According to United Nations (UN) data, more than 1.8 billion people live in cities with more than one million inhabitants (43% of the urban population and 24% of the total world population), while 556 million (13% of the urban population) live in 33 megacities with more than 10 million inhabitants. By 2030, the world is projected to have 43 megacities, most of them in developing regions (UCLG, 2019).

In terms of management, planning, and regulatory frameworks, many metropolitan areas around the world have relied on coordination techniques, policies, and/or instruments. **Research on 58 metropolitan spaces** across the world carried out **by the London School of Economics for Metropolis** shows that the vast majority of metropolises present some mechanism of coordination, with varying degrees of institutionalization, competencies, and representation. Moreover, 43% of these metropolises have metropolitan or supra municipal government structures, while others rely on sectoral or multi purpose mechanisms to coordinate across all or some of the jurisdictions within their metropolitan area.

Several international organizations have also fostered agreements in order to settle a common global agenda. The **Habitat III Conference**, held in Quito in 2016, brought together more than 150 countries from around the world to discuss (and generate consensus for) the **New Urban Agenda** (NUA), which includes the objectives established in the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs). Habitat III seeks to “strengthen the capacity that subnational and local governments have to apply effective local and metropolitan governance at different levels, within several administrative boundaries.”

The Montréal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas, adopted at the Habitat III Thematic Meeting on Metropolitan Areas in 2015, promotes **metropolitan cooperation for sustainable and inclusive urban development** through the implementation of innovative planning and multisectoral cooperation.

Advancing government agendas necessary for meeting these objectives requires local and national knowledge about metropolitan challenges as well as the development of instruments essential for policy implementation. This process should include the **participation of local leaders and citizens** alike.

Who?

Who promoted World Metropolitan Day in 2019?

As the first edition in 2018, **Metropolis and CIPPEC** (Center for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth) organized the 2019 edition, with the support of **UN-Habitat's MetroHUB team**. This year, the campaign counted on additional collaboration from the **Cities Alliance, the Marron Institute of Urban Management at the New York University, and the School of Economics, Business Administration and Accounting of the University of São Paulo in Ribeirão Preto** (FEARP-USP).

Where did World Metropolitan Day happen in 2019?

Between 3 and 11 October 2019, 12 World Metropolitan Day events were organized from different parts of the world, representing **an increase of 71%** in relation to the 2018 edition. The events were focused in the following metropolitan spaces:

1. Baghdad (Iraq)
2. Barcelona (Spain)
3. Bucaramanga (Colombia)
4. Buenos Aires (Argentina)
5. Córdoba (Argentina)
6. Gaziantep (Turkey)
7. Greater Paris (France)
8. Mendoza (Argentina)
9. Monterrey (Mexico)
10. Ribeirão Preto (Brazil)
11. San Salvador (El Salvador)
12. Turin (Italy)



The organizers were asked to focus the debates and exchanges on the **implementation of one or several specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the metropolitan scale** within their territory.

In total, 31 top local political leaders around the world participated in the 2019 World Metropolitan Day events, which brought together a total of **85 local, metropolitan or regional governments** and a consolidated audience of **over one thousand attendees**.

Metropolis and CIPPEC proposed a dynamic and flexible agenda so that hosts could complement the agenda with other events. The recommended agenda included the following:

- Opening of the event
- Screening of the World Metropolitan Day institutional video
- Presentation of the initiative agenda, participating local leaders,
- Discussion on the implementation of the selected SDG(s).
- Collaborative diagnosis on the measures presented jointly contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the metropolitan scale
- Conclusion

How was World Metropolitan Day celebrated in 2019?

How?

October 3

Greater Paris (France)



photo: Métropole du Grand Paris

Patrick Ollier, President of **Métropole du Grand Paris**, administration responsible for the coordination of the **City of Paris and 130 surrounding municipalities**, welcomed the World Metropolitan Day celebrations on the occasion of "**Grand Paris Circulaire**", an annual event about circular economy, tackling **SDGs 8** (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) and **11** (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable).

The event aimed at reaffirming the role of the metropolis of Greater Paris as a leader in the **circular economy**; show its actions on the matter and how the circular economy nurtish the various metropolitan policies; gather the actors of the circular economy (elected officials, public stakeholders, companies, associations and experts from the greater Paris region) around fundamental reflections; draw inspiration from the initiatives of other French metropolises.

The circular economy is a priority axis for the **economic development of the metropolitan territory** of Greater Paris, in order to anticipate demographic growth, significantly and sustainably reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as the waste of resources and waste production to build a resilient metropolis.

October 7

Baghdad (Iraq)

Dr. Tikhra Alwash, in her quality of Mayor of **Baghdad**, highest representative of the Mayoralty of Baghdad, contributed to the international debate of World Metropolitan Day 2019 with the organization of an event which focused in the progress regarding the implementation of **SDG 4** in the capital of Iraq: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Gaziantep (Turkey)



photo: Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality

Gaziantep's first World Metropolitan Day celebrations were considered a success. Hosted by the **Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality**, the event counted on the active participation of **35 representatives of local, provincial, regional and national governments**, in addition to distinguished speakers representing prestigious institutions from the private, governmental and academic fields. The event counted on media coverage from local and national level news agencies.

Focused on **SDGs 11 and 7** (ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all), the event took place at a building which has self sufficiency on energy production and heating, and rests as an eco-friendly structure. The General Secretary of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, **Mr Sezer Cihan**, was responsible for introducing the debate, which featured the sustainability initiatives of the metropolis, especially on matters of **transportation, housing, biogas facility and energy and ecology**.

The event was also perceived to be ongoing as it has paved the way for collaborations between institutions: one of the speakers, **Prof. Dr. Ümit Özlale** of **Özyeği University** is in the course of implementing a protocol with the Metropolitan Municipality regarding the implementation of SDGs on the local level after briefly discussing it with **Madame Mayor Fatma ŞAHİN** pursuant to the event.

Monterrey (Mexico)

With the support of **Cities Alliance**, an online event was promoted from **Monterrey** to discuss the successes and challenges of **different patterns of metropolitan governance** in several territorial contexts in Mexico. The global objective of the session was to tackle how to improve metropolitan governance and make metropolitan challenges and opportunities a priority on the world stage.

Mr. José Manuel Vital Couturier, in his capacity as Secretary of Sustainable Development of the **State of Nuevo León** which encompasses the metropolitan area of Monterrey, composed of 12 municipalities, led the debate. The final objective of the debate was also to discuss the program **“Metropolitan Monterrey 2040”** (Programa Monterrey Metropolitano 2040) with a vast array of metropolitan stakeholders.

Focused on **SDG 11**, participants debated on questions such as “How to encourage the coordination, planning and agreement between different state and non-state actors to move towards participatory and inclusive modes of metropolitan governance?”, “How to increase the capabilities of actors (eg municipalities) with lower resources and capabilities?” or “How to strengthen existing coordination initiatives in territories (many times in terms of public services or mobility) to move towards processes of metropolitan planning and arrangement?”

Turin (Italy)



Photo: Città metropolitana di Torino

The **Città metropolitana di Torino** (Turin Metropolitan City), which brings together **312 municipalities**, dedicated its event to **SDGs 12** (responsible consumption and production patterns) and **15** (life on land) and brought together 60 high-level political representatives. Various stakeholders from the Turin metropolis (managers of parks and protected areas, officials of local authorities, academics and professionals) have debated on how to manage and **defend the natural heritage** present in the Alpine valleys and hilly areas to extend it into more urbanized lowland areas.

Bucaramanga (Colombia)

Mr. Rodolfo Torres Puyana, General Director of the **Metropolitan Area of Bucaramanga**, administration responsible for the coordinated management of **public services** of four municipalities which are home to more than a million inhabitants, welcomed a World Metropolitan Day event in the city of Bucaramanga on October 7. The event was dedicated to sharing the recent progress on the implementation of the following SDGs:

- **11** - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- **12** - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- **13** - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- **15** - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Mendoza (Argentina)



Photo: Municipalidad de Godoy Cruz

Greater Mendoza had its World Metropolitan Day hosted by one of the seven municipalities that constitute its metropolitan area: the **Municipality of Godoy Cruz**. The event successfully brought together the mayor of the Godoy Cruz, **Tadeo García Zalazar**, and political representatives from other four metropolitan municipalities, namely the capital, Mendoza, as well as Guaymallen, Las Heras, and Luján. It also counted on the participants from the provincial and national governments.

Attended by an **audience of 150 people**, the discussions revolved around the importance of joint and coordinated work to respond effectively, orderly and sustainably to the expected **growth of urban populations** in the coming decades.

Taking as a starting point the focus on **SDGs 7, 13 and 16** (promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels), participants discussed topics such as the **progress of public works** in the communes, the relevance of talking about the **municipal autonomies to strengthen territorial policies**, the Law for the **Integral Management of Solid Urban Waste** and the actions to be carried out jointly to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Ribeirão Preto (Brazil)

In **Ribeirão Preto**, the World Metropolitan Day event was an initiative from the academic sector. Led by the **School of Economics, Business Administration and Accounting of the University of São Paulo** in Ribeirão Preto (FEARP-USP), Brazil, which hosts a Municipal and Metropolitan Studies Group, the meeting brought together students, researchers, citizens and authorities to debate about the challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals, focusing especially on the recent developments in relation to **SDG 11** - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Among the **44 participants**, experts from the School of Economics, Business Administration and Accounting of the University of São Paulo (FEARP-USP) joined discussions on the alignment potential between **SDGs 3** (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), **4 and 11**, taking as a reference the analysis of decisions and initiatives taken under the Ribeirão Preto Metropolitan Region Development Council.

The Metropolitan Region of Ribeirão Preto (RMRP), in southeastern Brazil, was established in 2016 and brings together the city of **Ribeirão Preto and other 33 municipalities**, which are home to about 1.7 million inhabitants.



photo: FEARP-USP

October 8

Buenos Aires (Argentina)

The second event convened by an academic institution was led by the **University of Buenos Aires**, which hosted a lecture to raise awareness on how metropolitan planning plays a fundamental role in **building safe, inclusive, sustainable and resilient cities**. In this sense, scholars from the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urban Planning came to the conclusion that the establishment of urban land intervention tools can generate extremely positive externalities by promoting **orderly urbanization**, especially in low-income contexts. Also, they agreed that coordination mechanisms and spaces for interjurisdictional dialogue are key to manage common metropolitan services.



photo: CIPPEC

October 9

Barcelona (Spain)

“The Future of Metropolitan Governance: Policies, Partnerships and Co-Production” was the title of the session organised by the **Barcelona Metropolitan Strategic Plan (PEMB)** and the **Menéndez Pelayo International University (UIMP)** with the support of the **Metropolitan Area of Barcelona**.

Sixty people attended the two days of training, the first one dedicated to the SDGs, **governance and metropolitan policies** and the second one dedicated to the policies of the future and new trends when designing them.

One of the objectives of this event was not only to address the challenges that arise from **SDG 11 and SDG 17** (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development), but also to show that metropolitan areas are pioneering the implementation of the SDGs and that metropolitan governance is key because it defines how far this implementation can go.

One of the key reflections of these two days of debate is that if we want to improve the current model of governance we need **alliances and dialogue with all the administrations**, and involve other actors and stakeholders in the territory to design the public policies that will help us face the **challenges of tomorrow**.



photo: Metropolis Secretariat General

San Salvador (El Salvador)

The **Council of Mayors of the San Salvador Metropolitan Area** dedicated part of its regular working session to honor the celebration of World Metropolitan Day, for the second consecutive year. In addition to the **14 mayors** of the municipalities that make up the metropolitan area, the meeting featured the participation of **Rafael Pleitez**, representative of the **United Nations Development Program**, and **Rafael Forero**, expert in Urban and Metropolitan Policy of **UN-Habitat**, as special guests. They had the opportunity to learn firsthand from **Ms. Yolanda Bichara**, Executive Director of the Planning Office of the San Salvador Metropolitan Area, about the progress made in the implementation of **SDG 11**.



Photo: COAMSS/OPAMSS

October 11

Córdoba (Argentina)



photo: Municipalidad de Córdoba

The **Municipality of Córdoba** was in charge of the organization of a collaborative workshop focused on **SDGs 16 and 17**, particularly on the targets related to **citizen participation and the formation of alliances**, in order to rethink urban planning in a participatory manner.

To this end, the workshop brought together five **high-level political representatives** (3 women and 2 men) and **35 attendees** (20 women and 15 men), representing the civil society, public sector and academia. They joined four round tables, with the themes "**Córdoba to the World**", "**Life in your Neighbourhood**", "**Beyond School**" and "**Thinking Green**". Based on the initial diagnosis and subsequent open debate among participants, a set of proposals for solutions to the problems identified were presented. The proposals for each round table are summarized below:

“Córdoba to the World”

- Build a space of **public co-working** that favours the exchange between the different actors of society
- Strengthen the **intergovernmental work** by reinforcing the municipality-province link in matters of **internationalization**
- Expand the participation of the metropolis in **international networks of local governments**
- Promote **multi-stakeholder dialogue** so that the different sectors can transmit their demands to the public sector

“Life in your Neighborhood”

- Continue with the regularization of neighborhood centers and favor their **democratization**
- Generate more **dynamic communication** channels between neighborhood centers and public sector officials
- Implement mechanisms that favor the participation of **young people** and their involvement in the life of the neighborhoods

“Beyond School”

- Adapt the formal educational model to **informal and non-formal educational practices**, linked to the new information and communication technologies
- Promote healthy habits, **sustainable practices** and leisure management
- Research and develop **comprehensive educational content** based on experiences and success stories from other cities in the metropolitan area

“Thinking Green”

- Develop a comprehensive and metropolitan **public environmental policy**
- Promote high impact awareness communication campaigns to demonstrate the negative effects of pollution and **climate change** on the environment, and the positive effects of small actions
- Work on **environmental education** from the earliest ages
- **Exchange experiences** between neighbouring cities in the metropolitan area

What comes next?

The growth in scope and hosts of World Metropolitan Day in 2019, obtained with minimal resources, motivates us to keep celebrating the date, although in a totally different context following the Covid-19 pandemic. As the recognition of the campaign grows, we hope to spur more metropolitan debates all over the world, reinforcing the **importance of metropolitan governance in the global agenda**.

To learn more about the 2020 edition of World Metropolitan Day, please visit metropolis.org/campaigns/world-metropolitan-day

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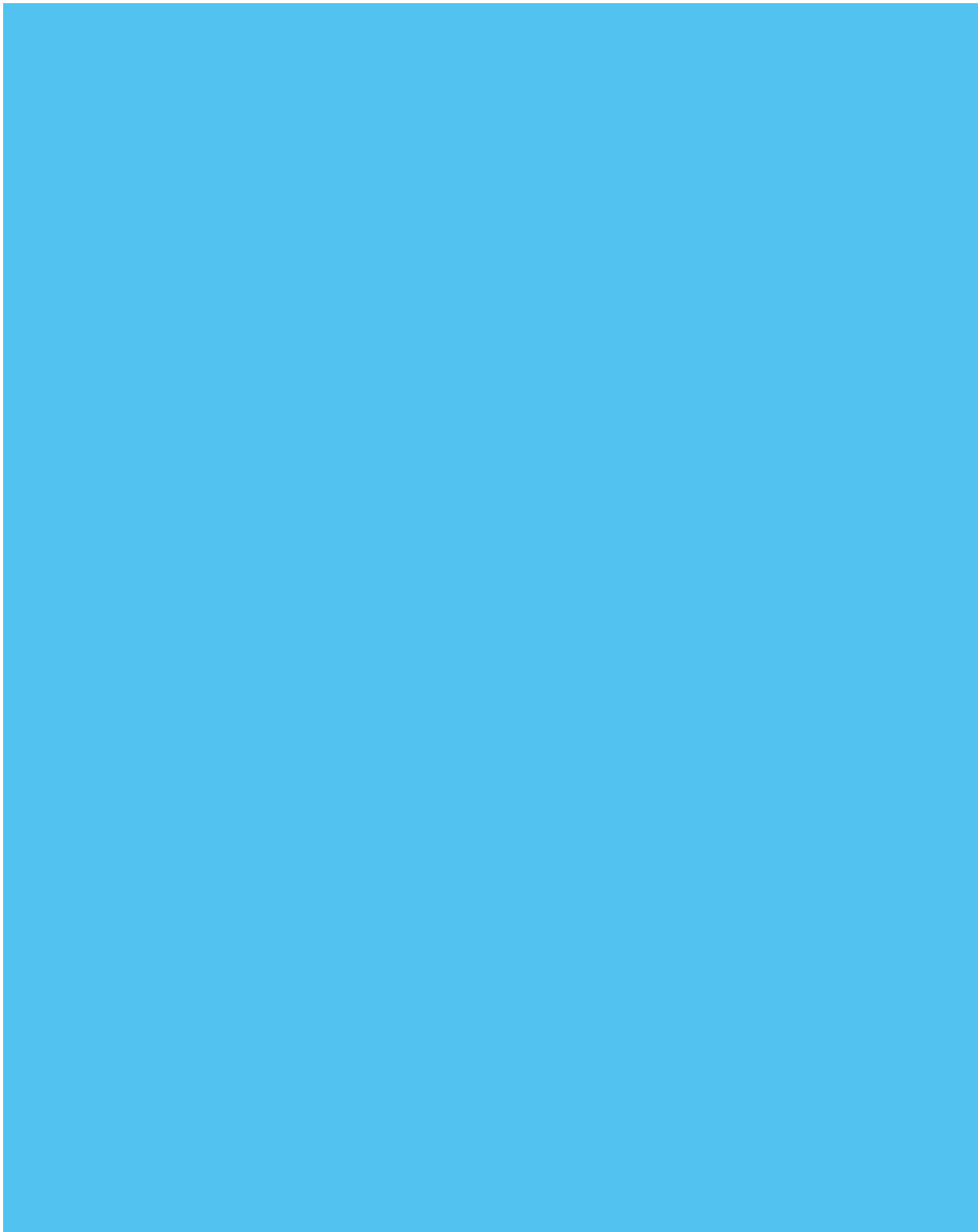
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