



WORLD METROPOLITAN DAY

October, 7th, 2020

WEBINAR

METROPOLITAN REGIONS ON THE FRAMEWORK OF RECOVERY



URBAN OCTOBER OF UN-HABITAT

UN-Habitat's world urban campaign [Urban October](#) is an opportunity for everyone to be part of the conversation about the challenges and opportunities created by the fast rate of change in our cities and towns. Each October, everyone interested in sustainable urbanization is encouraged to hold or participate in activities, events, and discussions.

Within the framework of the Urban October, UN-Habitat together with Metropolis and metropolitan regions and cities around the world, celebrate the [World Metropolitan Day](#) on October 7.

ABOUT WORLD METROPOLITAN DAY 2020

To mark the anniversary of the Montréal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas (2015), on October 7th, we commemorate World Metropolitan Day. Every year, on that date, we celebrate metropolitan spaces worldwide and promote cooperation to achieve more sustainable and integrated territorial development.

In a global context characterized by the COVID-19 pandemic, the **#WorldMetropolitanDay2020** will provide the occasion to discuss the challenges and opportunities that metropolitan governments have in addressing current scenarios.

THE METROPOLITAN CONDITION IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY

The historical development of the Basque Country characterized by balanced urban growth within its territory, has been conditioning a highly interdependent functionality between the three provincial capitals - very close to each other - with other intermediary cities and towns, and with the rural landscape. For this reason, the Basque Country is often referred to as a "Metropolitan region". The Euskadi Urban Agenda "Bultzatu 2050" as well as the recently approved Territorial Planning Guidelines recognize and reinforce this metropolitan condition in the Basque territory, understanding the potential derived it.

The configuration of the territory of Euskadi becomes a polycentric urban region, where the three metropolitan areas coexist with a network of intermediate cities with a strong link with the rural and natural environment, which maintains its morphology and identity and whose interrelation marks one of the hallmarks of the Basque Country. To understand the urban Euskadi is to understand its link with the rural space, with the natural capital that surrounds and intersects with the urban fabric, its network of Natural Spaces and a provision of infrastructures that acts as a connector of this diverse reality. (Urban Agenda of the Basque Country - Bultzatu 2050)

THE ROLE OF METROPOLIS AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The unprecedented situation generated from the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to rethink in many aspects the role of cities and the relationship between urban and rural spaces. For example, in a context of confinement and limitations, various structural elements of the



metropolitan condition may be limited, such as mobility, hyper-connectivity, activities and urban forms focused on agglomeration, among others. Even some of the theoretical proposals that have been reinforced since the pandemic - such as the idea of the 15 minutes city - although they cannot be understood directly contrary to the metropolis, they do question several of its principles. However, on the other hand, the situation of economic crisis and the great difficulties faced by some social groups, may make it necessary to rescue some principles of the metropolitan condition: cooperation between diverse territories, the strengthening of urban-rural links, the use of economies of scale, among others.

EVENT

Within the framework of Urban October and World Metropolitan Day, UN-Habitat, the Government of the Basque Country and METREX have jointly organized a virtual event open to the public, which will have the participation of experts from global institutions and governments. The webinar will address the initiatives carried out at the metropolitan level to accelerate the positive transformation of urban and territorial realities, especially taking into account the situation generated by COVID-19 throughout the world.

PROGRAMME

10.00 | WELCOME AND PRESENTATION

- **Carmen Sanchez-Miranda**, Head of UN-Habitat Country Office for Spain Office.
- **Arantza Leturiondo Aranzamendi**, Deputy Counsellor of Territorial Planning of the Basque Country.

10.20 | ROUND TABLE

- **Henk Bouwman**, Secretary General of METREX
- **Octavi de La Varga**, Secretary General of Metropolis
- **Ignacio de La Puerta**, Director of Territorial Planning, Urban Planning and Urban Regeneration of the Basque Country.
- **Claudia Murray**, Research Fellow at University of Reading
- **Rafael Forero**, Metropolitan Expert, Policy, Legislation and Governance Section at UN-Habitat
- Invited Metropolitan Area (Amsterdam/Paris - TBC)

11:40 | OPEN DIALOGUE

GLOBAL BROADCAST

The event will be published on the UN-Habitat international platform for Urban October. In addition, the history of the event will be included in the Urban October 2020 Report; see here the Urban October Report 2019.



Photos, videos, or other information collected during the event may also be shared to communication@metropolis.org.

Finally, all the dissemination of the event on social networks will help promote the metropolitan debate at a global level through the hashtags [#OctubreUrbano](#) [#UrbanOctober](#) [#WorldMetropolitanDay2020](#) and the tags [@UNHABITAT](#) [@UNHabitatSpain](#) [@metropolis_org](#).

