

ACTIVITY REPORT

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015

metropolis ●

World Association of the Major Metropolises
Asociación Mundial de las Grandes Metrópolis
Association mondiale des grandes métropoles

1. METROPOLIS MEMBERS

Metropolis Members

Metropolis currently has 141 members.

2015 fees situation

At 31 of December 2015, 69 members had paid their fees, for a total amount of € 535.600

We remind all our member cities that they must be up **to date with the payment of their annual fees to the Association.**

Thanks to these annual fees, Metropolis can maintain its activities and enhance services delivered to member cities.

A reminder letter was sent late December to all members who, by that date, had not paid their annual fees

2. METROPOLIS TRAINING

2.1. Workshop for thought leaders: Learning from Urban Innovation. 2-6 November 2015. Guangzhou

The **“Guangzhou Workshop for Thought Leaders: Learning from Urban Innovation”** was conceived and designed to help *policy and decision makers* learn from outstanding innovations in urban resilience, prosperity and sustainability. This workshop was organized in partnership with the Sun Yat-sen University and provided a unique opportunity for city leaders to engage with leading experts, practitioners and urban leaders in learning from best practices in solving urban challenges and in making cities work for their citizens.

Prestigious international experts were invited to share the cutting-edge ideas and practices on outstanding leadership. Various groups, including enterprises, NGO, officials, scholars, etc. discussed new forms of public-private-community partnerships.

Outstanding initiatives selected from the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation have been presented and analyzed for lessons learning.

In addition, each participant had the opportunity to discuss and prepare a back-to-office action plan with the support of experts on improving urban management and governance.

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Among the different case studies presented during the workshop different case Study on the Guangzhou Award Initiatives in Urban Innovation were presented by active networkers from Metropolis cities and Guangzhou Award Winners during this workshop:

- ✓ "Experience of Hyderabad in City Innovation"& "Social Issues Brought by City Development", **Hyderabad**
- ✓ "Sydney 2020 Vision Plan", **Sydney**
- ✓ "Information Technologies and City Innovation", Merida
- ✓ "City Leadership and City Social Equity", **Amman**
- ✓ "City Development and Environment Protection", **Colombo**
- ✓ "Innovation in City Cooperation and Partnership", Lublin
- ✓ "City Innovations in Bristol", Bristol
- ✓ "City Leadership and Public Transportation Improvement", Cape Town

Moreover study tours were included to the site Visit of Sun Yat-sen University, Canton Fair, the National Supercomputer Center, the Office of Wechat, the Urban Transformation of Haizhu District and the Canton Tower. Finally it should be noted that the participants had the opportunity to meet with Honorable Mayor Chen Jianhua, Cai Chaolin, Vice Mayor of Guangzhou, Liu Baochun, DG of Guangzhou FAO and Metropolis Regional Secretary for Asia Pacific, Felip Roca Blasco, Secretary General of Metropolis, and High Level representatives from Sun Yat-sen University.

2.2. Training Seminar. Water Management. 22-29 November 2015. Seoul

Metropolis International Training Institute (MITI) headquarters in Seoul had successfully operated Water Management Program from 22 November to 29 November 2015. A total of 14 city officials from 8 cities of 5 countries (Turkey, Thailand, Japan, Ecuador and China) actively participated in our one-week program.

Participants had the opportunity to visit the Seoul Waterworks Authority, the Arisu Information Center, Seoul City Hall, the Cheonggyecheon Museum, the Arisu Purification Center and other water management related institutes and sites.

The purpose of this seminar was:

- To construct sustainable cooperative relations in the field of Waterworks by sharing information, knowledge and technologies in water supply and sewage treatment
- To provide an opportunity of benchmarking Seoul's successful waterworks model by operating professional and systematic training programs including theoretical lectures consisted with experts in waterworks and field trips to relevant institutes and places

2.3. Report on the International Seminar on Urban Renewal. 26-27 November 2015. Mexico City

As part of the activities of the Metropolis Regional Training Centre for the Americas through Mexico City's School of Public Administration (EAP), it was held on 26 and 27 November 2015, the International Seminar on Urban Renewal was held in cooperation with Mexico City's Secretariat of Urban Development and Housing (SEDUVI).

The seminar was developed with the overall aim to assist in building the capacities of the authorities responsible for designing and implementing public urban renewal policies in Metropolis member cities. The seminar searched to strike up a dialogue and exchange experiences between local authorities, experts and academics about urban renewal processes and strategies that have had a multi-sectoral inclusive, participatory and sustainable focus. The purpose of the analysis was to identify lessons and best practices that will help to reinvent the model of future interventions and the design of public policies suitable for each context.

The opening event was attended by over 150 public officials, academics and specialists on the matter (including representatives of 17 member cities of Metropolis), as well as local representatives like Fernando Zárate Salgado, President of the Metropolitan Development Commission of Mexico City's Legislative Assembly, and federal representatives like Senator Luz María Beristain Navarrete and Alfredo Miguel Herrera Deras, Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies' Housing Commission.

The seminar's keynote address was given by architect Felipe de Jesús Gutiérrez Gutiérrez, Mexico City's Secretary of Urban Development and Housing, on the subject "Agenda towards Habitability: Urban Renewal in Mexico City", which opened the event.

The working groups followed the development of an urban renewal process from the planning stage to the implementation and evaluation stages with the aim of

promoting a harmonious understanding and detailed analysis of what renewal encompasses.

On the other hand technical visits were made to the Doctores neighbourhood in the Cuauhtémoc Borough and the Granadas neighbourhood in the Miguel Hidalgo Borough, where the challenges and lines of intervention in these areas were presented by SEDUVI. A feedback and discussion workshop about these visits was also conducted by architects Rodolfo Covarrubias and Carina Arvizu, both from SEDUVI.

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2.4. Workshop on Urban Management. 14-15 December 2015. Tehran

During 14-15 December 2015, Tehran organized an international workshop on Urban Management where city leaders, city managers, urban practitioners and academics discussed current challenges of Cities including governance and urban economy, environmental sustainability, Society, culture and urban relations, and Infrastructure services. There was a special session focused on Islamic – Iranian cities and role of regional cities in promoting innovation and culture among young people. All Metropolis member cities from the region attended the workshop. The workshop ceremony was inaugurated by the Hon Mayor of Tehran, Mr Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf which also was attended by Sunil Dubey Metropolis advisor. The technical workshops and Tehran International Award were organized by the City of Tehran in conjunction with Tehran Urban Planning & Research Centre (TUPRC). The event was attended by over 1200 delegates including over 400 senior research students from four local universities and urban institutions.

The technical workshop primarily focused on rapid urban growth and unprecedented population increase in City, especially in Asia and Middle East regions. The urban population growth is the single largest phenomenon in human history, where the delicate balance between human and environment is out of sync. When addressing rapid urbanization, the regions of Asia, Middle East and Africa poses the biggest global challenges, where collective global would be required. Urban Innovation is one of the key areas where these immediate challenges could be addressed with the local communities in the shortest possible timeframe and within the available resources of the cities. Metropolis partnered with the City of Tehran and TUPRC in hosting and supporting this international workshop.

3. METROPOLIS WOMEN NETWORK

ICPS – Barcelona City Council and Barcelona Provincial Council. “Gender and functional diversity: an invisible violence”. 13 November 2015

As part of the seminars held during the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Institute of Political and Social Sciences (ICPS) organised a seminar with the collaboration of Barcelona City Council and Barcelona Provincial Council devoted to women with functional diversity. Around 80% of women with functional diversity are victims of gender violence.

The seminar brought together professionals and experts with different backgrounds and points of view who made an analysis of the reasoning from a gender perspective, meaning observing the world based on the impact that it has on men and women and trying to address all areas (social, professional, health, etc.).

During the seminar the publication *Género y diversidad funcional. Una violencia invisible* (Gender and functional diversity: an invisible violence) was presented and its contents by means of a presentation-summary of each study by its authors.

4. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

4.1. The Mayor of Madrid receives the new Secretary-General of Metropolis

Manuela Carmena, Mayor of Madrid, played host to the visit of Felip Roca, the newly appointed Secretary-General of Metropolis, in the city hall the 13 of October 2015. Both of them shared a mutual interest in making one another's acquaintance, following recent changes in leadership in both institutions.

During the meeting, a broad range of different issues was addressed and means for closer cooperation were explored. Noteworthy issues include promoting networks for comprehensive cooperation, neighbourhood development as a driving force for the economy and employment, energy efficiency, metropolis development of the city, participatory democracy, fostering environmentally sustainable mobility and managing the city's vacant spaces, among others.

After the meeting, a number of specific commitments were undertaken to exchanging and providing information on some Metropolis activities and services as well as initiatives in the city of Barcelona.

4.2. Montréal headquarters of one of the preparatory meetings for Habitat III.

The Montréal Thematic Meeting on Metropolitan Areas, held on 5- 6 October in Montreal, was selected as one of the theme-based and regional meetings to prepare [Habitat III](#), the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, to be held in Quito in October 2016.

Under the theme of metropolitan areas and organized at the initiative of the Montréal Metropolitan Community ([CMM](#)), it marked the only Habitat III preparatory meeting in Canada and the United States.

There were a debate and deliberation between the 450 participants hailing from 100 cities, 200 organizations and 50 countries over the two days of the conference. It should be noted that the conference participants included 50 UN Member State representatives, 150 local government representatives, including 46 local elected officials, and 200 civil society representatives.

Metropolis, UCLG as well as RAMA, the Network of Metropolitan Areas of the Americas presided by Montréal, actively participated in discussions which culminated in the declaration. The [Montréal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas](#) aims to acknowledge the significant contribution made by metropolitan areas to achieving sustainable development goals and, in particular, to coordinating initiatives in the areas of transport, land use planning and the environment.

“Metropolitan areas must be at the heart of the new urban agenda and together we will decide what message we wish to deliver in Quito next year.”

The main challenge facing the Montréal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas is including metropolises in the global urban development agenda.

The conference opened by the Mayor Mr. Coderre also attended by Felip Roca, Secretary General of Metropolis, Rovena Negreiros, Regional Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean, Felipe Jesús Gutiérrez, Secretary for Urban Development and Housing for Mexico City who participated to this event on behalf of the Mayor of Mexico City and Vice president of Metropolis, and Edgardo Bilsky, UCLG World Secretariat representative.

4.3. The 2nd Golden Adobe, Tehran Glocal Award for Urban Management

Golden Adobe, Tehran Award for Urban Management is based on an agreement reached between the communication and international Affairs center of Tehran municipality and representative of the UN-HABITAT in Iran. Its second Ceremony was

held on the expo complex of Goftegoo Park on 31 October (World Cities Day) 2015 in the presence of a number of urban officials, heads of international organizations and members of the diplomatic corps in Tehran, university professor, and scholars.

Golden Adobe, Tehran Glocal Award for Urban Management is committed to:

- ✓ Promoting evaluation and researches of the GOLDEN ADOBE
- ✓ Exploring and constructing a complete theoretical framework for international Urban Management
- ✓ Driving forward the innovative development and common progress .for cities around the world
- ✓ Offering intellectual support for global Urban Management

Golden Adobe, Tehran Award for Urban Management is a comprehensive, academic and non-profit initiative that specializes in international Urban Management research and exchange .

Before the awards were made two specialized sessions (Glocalization and urban management and Sister cities and urban management).

The event took the audience's attention through outstanding projects, nine from Tehran, four from other Iranian cities, and 11 from abroad.

For further information about the GOLDEN ADOBE 2015 WORLD AWARD, please visit the official website: www.tehrangoldenadobe.com

Tehran Mayor, Mohamad Baqer Qalibaf In his remarks on closing sessions, focused on how such an event can promote unity throughout the world and pave the way to hail human dignity and to reduce human suffering.

The event was held with several urban experts in attendance such as Secretariat General of Metropolis Felip Roca Blasco, Former Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat Daniel Biau, Representative of JICA Hiroyuki Takeuchi, and Managing Director of URBASOFIA (Town and Regional Planning Company) Pietro Elisei and Secretary of Asian Mayors Forum Mr Khodadadi.

4.4 Meeting between the Mayor of Tehran and Secretary General of Metropolis

Honorable Mayor of Tehran (Dr. Mohammad Bagher Galibaf) and Secretary General of Metropolis (Felip Roca Blasco) have called for greater ties. The two held a meeting the 31 October 2015.

Roca, for his part, stressed that using Tehran's experiences and communications with Iranian capital are of great value to Metropolis.

Dr. Shahram Gilabadi stressed on establishing a committee named "communication and diplomacy committee" with the help of Metropolis.

4.5. Meeting between Secretary General of Asian Mayors Forum and Secretary General of Metropolis

The goals and activities of AMF was explained by Mr. Khodadadi, The secretary General of AMF. Secretary general of AMF also referred to close contact between AMF and Metropolis in previous years and suggested a MOU to be sign between the two organizations which was welcome by Mr. Roca.

Mr. Roca also appreciated the role of AMF in connecting the Asian cities for a better qualified cities.

4.6. Smart City Expo World Congress 2015

Last 19 to 21 November 2015, the Smart City Expo World Congress (SCEWC) held its fifth edition in Barcelona. And like every year, Metropolis was present with a stand. Metropolis member cities like Moscow, Puebla, Caracas and Rio de Janeiro also participated in the session programme.

This year, SCEWC brought together around 500 cities from the five continents, 465 exhibitors and about 400 speakers. Approximately 14,000 people signed up for the event, held jointly with railway industry tradeshow BcnRail.

4.7. Participation of the major member cities of Metropolis to the COP21 in Paris and UCLG World Council and Climate Summit for Local Leaders. (París, 2-6 december 2015)

On 4 December 2015, a huge number of Metropolis member cities and local and regional leaders from around the world gathered at Paris City Council at the invitation

of Mayor of Paris and UCLG Vice President, Anne Hidalgo. With the climate negotiations between UN Member States underway, Paris City Hall became a showcase for the political leadership of mayors and local leaders on ensuring a sustainable future, and for the action that cities and territories are already taking to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Over 500 local leaders discussed some of the key global issues on the political agenda of local governments.

4.8. The UCLG World Council (Paris, 4 December 2015)

At the start of the UCLG World Council, the mayor of Istanbul and president of UCLG, Kadir Topbaş, expressed the solidarity of UCLG with the mayor of Paris, the people of France and all those who suffer violence, wherever they are.

Next, he delivered the presidency report highlighting the important progress made in international advocacy efforts.

A series of motions and proposals were also presented:

- Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris, presented a political motion highlighting the need to make the promotion of local governance and democracy a central theme in the New Urban Agenda.
- Khalifa Sall, the mayor of Dakar, presented a political motion on implementation of Agenda 2030 at the local level.
- Ada Colau, the mayor of Barcelona, presented a political motion on solidarity and instrumental preparation for the humanitarian crisis by local and regional authorities. In addition to developing an UCLG working group to manage the humanitarian crisis, and especially the subject of the refugees.
- Manuela Carmena, the mayor of Madrid, called for the organization of a peace conference under the auspices of UCLG.
- Gustavo Petro, the mayor of Bogotá, urged local authorities to adopt a position on climate change, requesting approval of the Tobin tax to address the conflict of market-based interests.

A range of local leaders contributed to the debate in the World Council meeting, including Annemarie Jorritsma, President of CEMR, Illiza Sa'aduddin Djamaal, Mayor of Banda Aceh; Mayor of Bogotá; Alain Juppé, Mayor of Bordeaux; Hugues Ngouelondélé, Mayor of Brazzaville, Michael Müller, Governing Mayor of Berlin; Khalifa Sall, Mayor of Dakar; Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul; Ilсур Metshin, Mayor of Kazan; Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener; Daniel Martínez, Mayor of Montevideo; Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montréal; Alexey Shaposhnikov, Chairman of

the Moscow City Duma; David Lucas, Mayor of Mostoles; Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, Mohamed Sadiki, Mayor of Rabat; Mónica Fein, Mayor of Rosario; Roland Ries, Mayor de Strasbourg; Jan van Zanen, Mayor of Utrecht and Aisen Nikolaev, Mayor of Yakutsk.

Source: UCLG.org

4.9. VII Session Africities

“Shaping the future of Africa with the people: Africa’s local Government contribution to the Africa 2063 Vision” was the theme of the 7th session of Africities held in the city of Johannesburg from 29th November to 3rd December.

The summit was the perfect occasion to gather all the cities from the African continent and discuss the ongoing process of the urban agenda of African Cities.

Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Mpho Parks Tau opened the Summit said that “African local Governments are able to collaborate, engage and actively seek ‘African Solutions to African problems”.

As part of the South African sessions, Metropolis, UCLG and UCLGA organized a session on the 30th November whose main theme was: “Re-invigorating the African metropolitan cities network: towards the Habitat III Agenda”.

The session chaired by Mpho Parks Tau, Executive Mayor of Johannesburg and co-president of Metropolis was moderated by Rahmatouca Sow, Regional Secretary Africa for Metropolis brought to the panel opinions and testimonies of Mayors from Harare, Rabat, Victoria, Libreville, the councilor member of the finance committee of the City of Johannesburg, Geoffrey Makhubo; the session was wrapped up by the Project office Director of UN Habitat, Alioune Badiane and the Secretary General of UCLG, Josep Roig.

The key objectives of the session was to debate on the challenges and propositions for African metropolitan areas in order to identify key messages for Habitat III and for the African Agenda 2063, but also to strengthen the African metropolitan cities network and their cooperation within Africa as well as on the international level.

Africities gathered over 5000 participants and organized more than 90 sessions to deepen the theme of shaping the future of Africa with the peoples and the contribution of the African local authorities to the African Union 2063 Agenda.

Find [here](#) the complete program of the 7th session of the Africities Summit

4.10. Innovative Cities – Tokyo – 15 - 16th October 2015

Metropolis was invited to participate during the Innovative Cities Forum in Tokyo during 14 - 16 October 2015. The forum provided platform for urban leaders, managers and practitioners to discuss and debate on the future design of our cities and interventions of science and technology.

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Metropolis was represented by Senior Advisor Mr Sunil Dubey who participated and presented Metropolis case studies during the Tokyo forum within WEF roundtable “Innovative Cities: Future of Cities and Ageing Societies” and also at the roundtable discussions hosted by World Economic Forum. Mr Dubey is Metropolis representative and member of World Economic Forum’s Future of Urban Development & Services Advisory Board.

Program details at <http://icf.academyhills.com/en/>

5. METROPOLIS INITIATIVES

5.1. What are the main challenges facing sustainable airport areas?

On 26 and 27 October, the Parisian airports of Charles-de-Gaulle and Orly hosted the first workshop of the “How to create a sustainable airport area” initiative, dealing with the main challenges these facilities are facing. Eight airports participated in the workshop: CDG-Paris, Orly-Paris, Barcelona, Atlanta, Shanghai, Incheon, Beijing and Guarulhos. In total, more than thirty people participated in the workshop, representing not only airports but also academia, research and consulting. During the workshop the main challenges were visualized, many of them shared, currently facing sustainable airport areas:

Social inclusion, Town and country planning, Environmental action, Governance, Mobility, The airport area within the region, Marketing.

The workshop included technical visits to Orly and CDG, where participants got a first-hand look at how these airport areas are set up, as well as some of the main initiatives underway in order to remain a benchmark in sustainability (this initiative deals with the concept of sustainability in a broad sense, encompassing economic, environmental and social issues). In this regard, participants visited the [Recyclerie Les Portes de l’Essone](#), a place to collect, repair and re-sell objects that employs and

trains residents from towns near the Orly airport. In the CDG area, participants attended a presentation on the Villepinte geothermal district heating network, which will serve several thousands of households.

5.2. First workshop of the Climate Metropole+ initiative

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On 23-24 November 2015, Berlin hosted the first workshop of the Climate Metropole+ initiative, led by Barcelona Metropolitan Area (BMA) and Metropolis, in cooperation with its partners Berlin, Liverpool City Region and Grand Lyon. The first of a total of four workshops had 14 participants representing 7 different regions in the world (Germany, Spain, France, UK, Australia, Argentina and Egypt).

The workshop included presentations on climate change adaptation from the host city and a field trip to learn how Berlin currently plans and implements adaptation measures across its urban area, and how resilient infrastructures are being developed in situ. The workshop also provided a broad framing of climate change adaptation using the No Regrets Charter principles to guide practice.

During the field visits, local experts showed the participants the European Reference Campus (EUREF) intended to be an exemplar of carbon neutral and decentralised energy supply district in the middle of Berlin where Climate-KIC is located; the future Urban Tech Republic at the area of Berlin Tegel airport and the rainwater treatment, roof greening, waste management and innovative energy generation at Postdamer Platz.

Notably present they were the partners in the Climate Metropole+ initiative: Barcelona Metropolitan Area, Grand Lyon and Liverpool City Region. Moreover there was an invited guest from Buenos Aires and another from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), who gave a presentation on the conditions and approaches of the city of Cairo regarding climate change adaptation. The workshop allowed an open debate on the strengths and weaknesses of the adaptation measures in these cities helped to select issues to be discussed in future workshops: urban heat island effect, communication and awareness raising, green infrastructure, heavy rain / water scarcity and cooperative ways for energy self-consumption.

5.3. Workshop of the Water and Cities Alliance Initiative

The Environmental Management Department of the District Secretariat of the Environment of Bogotá, the body promoting the Water and Cities Alliance Initiative,

organised its first workshop from 23 to 26 November 2015 in Rio de Janeiro. The event was attended by the environmental secretariats that form the Alliance (Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City and Bogotá), as well as the organisation Conservation International.

The main objective of the workshop was to define a joint work plan for 2016 in order to strengthen the actions of the Alliance as part of the agreement signed at COP20 in Lima in 2014.

During the three-day event, the participants discussed the situation of the three cities regarding water spaces and ecosystems supplying drinking water and defined a draft action plan for 2016.

The workshop ended with a technical visit to the supply system of Rio de Janeiro guided by the city's local authorities.

5.4. São Paulo holds its first capacity-building workshop for metropolitan projects

On 30 November and 1 December, the São Paulo state government's metropolitan planning company, Emplasa, under the Metropolis Initiative called "Capacity Development for Metropolitan Projects" which objective was offer a capacity-building programme for technical teams from institutions responsible for formulating and managing metropolitan projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, organised the first meeting with representatives of the metropolitan areas of San Salvador, Guadalajara and Bucaramanga to unveil its Initiative and exchange ideas for planning capacity-building activities regarding instruments for funding metropolitan and regional projects.

The workshop and training were supported by leading multilateral and academic institutions on the subject: the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the USP-Cidades research centre at the University of São Paulo, the Social, Urban and Regional Economics Unit of the University of Campinas and the Getulio Vargas Foundation.

For further details about the opening workshop, you may read the programme [here](#).
[To see all the photos of the workshop, see our photo album on Flickr.](#)

5.5. Playful City: Explorations for a Megalopolis, Mexico City

On 3 and 4 December, Laboratorio para la Ciudad (Laboratory for the City), an experimental division of the government of Mexico City, held the sixth edition of its Explorations for a Megalopolis conference series. At the event, titled “Playful City”, local and international speakers explained how they link their professional work with play and why they consider it a valuable tool for strengthening communities, appropriating public spaces and civic education. The day after the conference, Laboratorio para la Ciudad led three roundtable discussions.

During the series of presentations, 12 local and international speakers presented their projects to 143 attendees. The speakers are leaders and representatives of organisations and projects that use play as their main tool. Six of them work in Mexico City, three in the United Kingdom, one in the United States, one in India and one in Chile.

The second part of the event consisted of three roundtable discussions held on the Azotea of Laboratorio para la Ciudad and dealt with the following topics:

1. Play as a layer of the city.
2. Play as a tool of urban development.
3. Play as a learning tool.

International speakers, members of Laboratorio para la Ciudad and local experts participated in the roundtable discussions. Questions were used to trigger discussion and exchange ideas.

6. URBAN INNOVATION COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTE GUANGZHOU

6.1. First roundtable on SDGs & Urban Innovation: Telling city success stories (9 december 2015 – Paris)

This roundtable aimed at discussing and sparking new train of thoughts on how to strengthen the role of urban innovation among the city leaders, institutions and urban stakeholders, including private sector organizations. It further explored the strategic pathways for [Urban Innovation Community \(UIC\)](#) to provide new tools, expertise and knowledge on implementing and achieving the SDGs at the local level. Metropolis and UIC informed on its proposed work plan for 2016 as well as updated

on the preparation of the [3rd Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation](#) to be held in 2016.

The workshop welcomed urban stakeholders and city leaders that engaged with this dialogue in Paris and contributed towards successful planning and achievements of the 2030 Agenda. The session was conducted by Mr. Nicholas You, Adviser of Guangzhou Award and animated by Romeo Zhou Jian, representative of the Secretariat of the Urban Innovation Community from the City of Guangzhou, representatives of the Metropolis Network as the Presidency of Metropolis from Montreal, Mr Henri-Paul Normandin and Secretary General of Metropolis, Mr. Felip Roca; city networks like UCLG with Deputy Secretary General Ms. Emilia Saiz and its sections UCLG Aspac, UCLG Mewa, UCLG Euroasia, as well ICLEI represented by Ms. Monika Zimmermann. Several city representatives such as the Mayor of Bristol, Mr. George Ferguson, Medellín represented also by its Mayor, Jorge Pérez, among many others.

6.2. Guangzhou high level delegation visits the Metropolis Secretariat General. 13 October 2015.

The delegation of a high level delegation from the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government was composed by Mr. CHEN Guo, Member of the Standing Committee of CPC Guangzhou Committee and Secretary General of CPC Guangzhou Committee; Mr. CAO Zhicong, Director General, Commission of Commerce of Guangzhou Municipality; Mr. CHEN Chunsheng, Deputy Director General, Bureau of Culture, Radio, TV, News and Publishing of Guangzhou Municipality; Mr. LIANG Weicheng, Director, General Office of Panyu District of Guangzhou; Mr. SONG Linqun, Director, General Office of CPC Guangzhou Committee, Mr. XIE Shuibin, Interpreter, Foreign Affairs Office of the Guangzhou Municipal People's Government.

The meeting was fruitful to recognize the leadership role that the city of Guangzhou plays in Metropolis. A Metropolis member since 1993. It currently holds a Copresidency within the association legal bodies, as well as the Regional Secretariat for Asia and the Pacific. Besides of its political leadership, Guangzhou is also very keen on sharing its best practices on urban management and learning from other Metropolis' members. Good examples of this fruitful cooperation are the [Guangzhou Award](#), its [Urban Innovation Community](#) and its [Institute for Urban Innovation](#), which kicked off on 2012 with the support of Metropolis and UCLG.

The meeting also encouraged Guangzhou to share its practices with gender mainstreaming and youth empowerment within the administration of the city.

7. PRESIDENCY OF METROPOLIS

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Due to the completion of his term as president of the Regional Council of Île-de-France, on 19 December 2015 Jean-Paul Huchon passed the presidency of Metropolis to Denis Coderre, the mayor of Montreal, who has been appointed by the Metropolis co-presidents under the [statutes of the association](#).