

metropolis ●

# Annual Report 2023



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# NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

After three years of reduced mobility due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the final year of the implementation of our 2021-2023 Strategic Action Plan, we were able to host our first in-person Metropolis World Congress in six years. That reminded us that there is truly no substitute for seeing our membership gather in person for first-hand networking and exchanging ideas. Our 14th Metropolis World Congress was held in the framework of the Brussels Urban Summit, in collaboration with the Brussels Capital Region, Eurocities and OECD Champion Mayors. This gave our members further opportunities to broaden their network and engage with other international actors, and showed a way forward for Metropolis, in closer cooperation with other networks and organizations to maximize the benefits for our members to attend in-person meetings.

Aside from our Congress, we hosted and participated in a full schedule of international events where our members were able to connect with one another—including World Metropolitan Day, the Megacities Summit, the Guangzhou Award and the Global Mayors' Forum.

Nature-Based Solutions, successful strategies for Internationalisation of metropolises, metropolitan policies to support caregivers, and climate action in large cities have all been topics for exchange and discussion during the year. These conversations have shaped our planning as we move into 2024, where we will shift more focus to foresight and the future of smart cities.

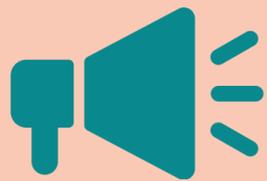
In this report, you will find how our activities from this year have supported the delivery of our action plan commitments. These efforts have been made possible through the hard work of our Secretariat General, but also crucially by our members. Metropolis exists because of the commitment, openness and participation of our member cities. I believe we now stand in a strong position to tackle the challenges we will face in 2024—and across the next strategic period.



**Jordi Vaquer**

**Metropolis Secretary General**

# MAIN RESULTS



## Action Line 1

Metropolitan  
diplomacy and  
advocacy



## Action Line 2

Capacities for  
metropolitan  
governance



## Action Line 3

Internal  
governance  
and culture

# MEMBERSHIP

**154 member cities in total**

**10 new members**



**Antalya**



**Santiago de Cali**



**Canton of Geneva**



**Chisinau**



**City of Geneva**



**GRANPAL, Porto Alegre**



**Konya**



**Qingdao**



**Santa Cruz de la Sierra**



**Tangier**

# IN NUMBERS

**+750k \$  
USD**

fundraised for  
members'  
projects

**+ 3302  
followers**

on LinkedIn and  
X, bringing the  
total to 35.3k

**+ 9.3%  
increase**

in LinkedIn and X  
followers from  
2022 to 2023

# BRUSSELS URBAN SUMMIT

Belgium | 12—15 June 2023

The 14th Metropolis World Congress was held in the framework of the Brussels Urban Summit, together with the Eurocities General Assembly and the OECD Champion Mayors meeting. The gathering was a success with **over 1400 attendees from 322 cities from 82 countries.**

The main objective of the Brussels Urban Summit as a whole was to **strengthen cooperation between cities globally, to boost the voice of cities in national and international policy-making and to discuss urban answers on global challenges.**

**Over 90 speakers** presented groundbreaking knowledge on trending topics for local governments, including climate, inequality, digital cities, migration & diversity and mobility.

**250 representatives from 61 Metropolis members** attended the event, enjoying the plenary sessions, side events, urban exchanges, power lunches, urban visits, city adventures and the Metropolis statutory meetings. Metropolis was proud to be a part of this event, bringing the metropolitan perspective and its members from all over the world.



Main results



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# BRUSSELS URBAN SUMMIT

## Highlights



### Metropolis General Assembly

The Metropolis General Assembly approved the 2024-2026 Strategic Action Plan and elected the Board of Directors, **formed by 35 members from all regions of Metropolis.** The newly elected Board of Directors elected a new Presidency, the Dakar Municipality, as the **first African Presidency of Metropolis.**

São Paulo was selected to host the 2024 in-person Board of Directors and the Seoul Metropolitan Government to host the 2025 Metropolis Anniversary Congress.



### Investment Forum

Metropolis hosted our **first-ever** Investment Forum – a session to exchange and share inspiring funding and financing practices developed by public and private actors. The projects selected through the Investment Forum call were presented to financial institutions and investors for feedback.

Over 30 projects applied with 20 cities and 6 international organizations participating. **Two of our members proceeded to advanced talks for funding their projects.**

# ACTION LINE 1

## Metropolitan diplomacy and advocacy

### 1 World Metropolitan Day

World Metropolitan Day 2023 was **hosted by Marmara Municipalities Union**, in the framework of the Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF). On 7 October, over 240 participants gathered to hear from mayors and representatives from metropolises from across the world—about how we can create healthier and more resilient metropolitan spaces.

### 2 Officialization of World Metropolitan Day

Metropolis is leading a **campaign to designate World Metropolitan Day as an International Day, adopted by the UN General Assembly**. [Download our report](#) on the officialization of World Metropolitan Day to find out more about metropolitan governance, why it matters and how national governments can engage in the campaign.

### 3 First ever Megacities Summit

**On 8 October, Istanbul and Metropolis hosted the first Megacities Summit**. It was a unique opportunity to discuss amongst peers and the start of a collaboration that Metropolis will continue to support.



### 4 Metropolis Care Campaign

**Metropolis launched the Metropolis Care Campaign to transform cities through care**. A series of events were organized by Metropolis to raise awareness of this important topic, including an event at Metropolis World Congress in Brussels, a session at the Smart City Expo in Barcelona and an online session on the care economy.

### 5 Involvement in U20 process

Metropolis collaborated in the U20 process by participating in the working group about Reinventing Frameworks for Urban Governance and Planning. [Download the final paper](#).

# ACTION LINE 1

## Metropolitan diplomacy and advocacy

### 6 Cities Summit of the Americas

Metropolis co-ed a plenary session titled **The Role of Cities in Global Leadership and the Multilateral System** at the Cities Summit of the Americas in Denver, Colorado—in collaboration with The Brookings Institution. It featured three Metropolis member mayors (of Kyiv, Tijuana and Bogotá) as well as US Ambassador to the United Nations; US Special Ambassador for City Diplomacy; ICLEI president and Mayor of Des Moines, Iowa; and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Secretary General.

### 7 City Diplomacy and International Cooperation seminar

The Secretary General participated in a **City Diplomacy and International Cooperation seminar at the FONARI (National Forum of Municipal Managers of International Relations)**, hosted by São Paulo City Government. The event showcased the work of the network and highlighted the importance of connecting internationally with their peers.

### 8 European Metropolitan Report

The European Metropolitan Report marked the **culmination of our global metropolitan report series**. This comprehensive collection was made possible with the support of the AMB. The European Metropolitan Report was showcased at the European Metropolitan Authorities Forum in Helsinki, the Congreso de las Ciudades in Bilbao and internally within the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona.



# ACTION LINE 2

## Capacities for metropolitan governance

### 1 Guangzhou Award and Global Mayors' Forum

The 6th edition of the Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation and the 3rd Global Mayors' Forum were held in December. There were 2 Metropolis members among the 5 winners and **over 30 mayors** were in attendance. Guangzhou committed to renew the three-year sponsorship agreement with Metropolis.



### 2 Internationalisation for local authorities training course

Metropolis hosted its first executive training on Internationalisation for local authorities, supported by Barcelona City Council and in collaboration with the University of Melbourne. The course brought together participants from cities across the world to learn how to foster international action in their territory.

### 4 Workshop for Indonesian metropolises

Metropolis collaborated with UCLG ASPAC and the FMDV (Global Fund for Cities Development) to hold a one-day workshop in Jakarta on **Opportunities for Internationalisation of Indonesian Metropolises**. The event was an exclusive platform for 40 participants from Indonesian cities to speak directly to seasoned practitioners.

### 3 Online learning

Throughout 2023, Metropolis hosted **6 online learning activities with a total of over 300 participants**. This included webinars from the Clearing House Project presenting expert guidelines to assist cities globally to implement Urban Forests and Nature-Based Solutions.

### 5 AVANTIA project

The Avantia Project, which promotes sustainable urban mobility with a gender vision, **diagnosed over 600 km of cycling infrastructure in Bogotá** following national and international standards—**up 61% from its original objective**.

# ACTION LINE 2

## Capacities for metropolitan governance



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### International Seminar on Multilateral City Diplomacy

In a visit to Guangzhou, the Metropolis team collaborated with UCLG/UCLG ASPAC to host an International Seminar on Multilateral City Diplomacy. **There were participants from 17 Chinese member cities, as well as 4 non-members.**

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### Workshop for Bolivian metropolises

The Autonomous Government of Santa Cruz worked with Metropolis to convene metropolitan authorities for a one-day workshop **Bolivian Metropolises in a Global Context**. The workshop supported cities to improve their international projection through technical visits and interactions with international organizations.

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### Technical assistance

Metropolis helped to secure specific technical assistance on nature-based solutions implementation from the **European Forest Institute, for two member cities.**

# ACTION LINE 3

## Internal governance and culture

To improve Metropolis' processes and accountability, we have decided to implement a new management tool. So far in 2023, we have implemented a **new contact relationship management system and a new project management system**—which will improve our ability to track and react to the needs of our membership.

In the future, the tool will be expanded to cover all the needs of Metropolis, including evaluation, HR management, knowledge management and expenses. This will free up resources in the Secretariat General and allow us to **dedicate more time to our members and our other activities**.

We are continuing to build a financially sustainable organisation through **diverse funding sources and robust accountability**.



# GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In the 2021-2023 Strategic Action Plan, we outlined the importance of developing and strengthening our actions, and policies on gender equality—to create metropolises that include **diverse voices and experiences**.

Our Gender Mainstreaming strategy promotes the **incorporation of gender equality at the center of urban and metropolitan policies** and advocates for the inclusion of gender equality in global agendas.

This allows us to generate a common base of gender knowledge which helps to place gender issues on the agenda of our membership, and contributes to **implementing global and regional agendas for the rights of women and vulnerable groups**.

## What is included in our Gender Mainstreaming strategy?



Boost women's leadership in our statutory bodies



Lead gender awareness initiatives



Identify and share policies, strategies and instruments that promote gender equality



# GENDER IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## 2023 highlights



### Metropolitan diplomacy and advocacy

At the Brussels Urban Summit, Metropolis hosted a workshop on The Power of Care. The session formally **launched the Metropolis Care Campaign**—highlighting the invisible, undervalued and unpaid or underpaid care work, which is disproportionately carried out by women. Metropolis President Claudia López spoke often at Metropolis events in 2023 about Bogotá's care blocks.



### Capacities for metropolitan governance

Tackling gender disparities is at the heart of the Avantia Project. **In Bogotá, women represent less than 2% of the staff of Trasmilenio**, the main operator of the urban bus fleet. To address this, all activities are supported by the **District Women's Secretariat** to guarantee the inclusion of the gender approach.



### Internal governance and culture

**Women make up 63% of the Metropolis Secretariat General Team**, but we still have work to do. In the next strategic period we aim to **improve the presence of women in our decision-making bodies**.



### Looking forward...

Metropolis has received **funding from the Open Society Foundation for the next 3 years** to promote feminist leadership in government and pilot initiatives to promote care systems in cities around the world.



# ANNEXES

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**CLAUDIA LÓPEZ HERNÁNDEZ**  
President  
Mayor, Bogotá



**SUN ZHIYANG**  
Co-president  
Acting Mayor,  
Guangzhou



**KAI WEGNER**  
Co-president  
Governing Mayor of  
Berlin



**JAUME COLLBONI**  
Co-president  
President, AMB



**VALÉRIE PLANTE**  
Co-president  
Mayor, Montreal



**PANYAZA LESUFI**  
Co-president  
Premier, Gauteng



**CAROLINA COSSE**  
Co-president  
Mayor,  
Montevideo



**ALIREZA ZAKANI**  
Co-president  
Mayor, Tehran



**JEAN-LUC VANRAES**  
Treasurer  
Brussels



**ANS PERSOONS**  
Regional Vice-president  
Brussels



**ROBERT BEUGRÉ MAMBE**  
Regional Vice-president  
Abidjan



**MOHAMMAD REZA GHALANDAR SHARIF**  
Regional Vice-president  
Mayor, Mashhad



**OH SE-HOON**  
Regional Vice-president  
Mayor, Seoul



**PABLO JAVKIN**  
Regional Vice-president  
Mayor, Rosario



**EKREM İMAMOĞLU**  
Mayor, Istanbul



**BARTHÉLÉMY DIAS**  
Mayor, Dakar



**MARTÍ BATRES**  
Mexico City



**JOSÉ LUIS MARTÍNEZ-ALMEIDA**  
Mayor, Madrid



**YAO GAOYUAN**  
Mayor, Hangzhou



**MARIO DURAN**  
Mayor, San Salvador



**WANG FENGCHAO**  
Mayor, Chengdu



**PATRICK OLLIER**  
Président, Grand Paris



**HORACIO RODRÍGUEZ LARRETA**  
Buenos Aires



**ASMAA RHLALOU**  
Chairman, Rabat



**RICARDO NUNES**  
Mayor,  
São Paulo



**DANIEL QUINTERO CALLE**  
Mayor,  
Medellín



**CHENG YONGWEN**  
Mayor, Wuhan



**WU XIANDE**  
Mayor, Fuzhou



**MOHAMMAD HASAN ASADI**  
Mayor, Shiraz



**ZHANG QIXIANG**  
Mayor, Harbin



**KABELO GWAMANDA**  
Executive Mayor,  
Johannesburg

# SECRETARIAT GENERAL



**JORDI VAQUER**  
Secretary General



**NURBEK ALISHEROV**  
Policy Intern



**KEI ARNAU**  
Admin Officer for Programmes



**FEDERICA BIONDI**  
Director of Shared Services



**ISRAEL BARROSO**  
Administrative Officer for Programmes



**GUILLAUME BERRET**  
Head of Programmes



**AGNÈS BICKART**  
Head of Institutional Relations



**OSCAR CHAMAT-NUÑEZ**  
Policy Officer



**MARC CINANNI**  
Head of Communications



**KAITLIN COCKERHAM**  
Communications Officer



**GRETTY CHIRINOS**  
Communications Officer



**BELÉN CORDAL**  
Admin Officer for Shared Services



**KOEN DOBBELAAR**  
Policy Intern



**MARA FERNÁNDEZ**  
Shared Services Assistant



**MÒNICA FORTES**  
Shared Services Assistant



**HÉLÈNE JOURDAN**  
Learning Officer



**CAITLIN LAW**  
Communications Officer



**ZHOU LI**  
Institutional Relations Seconded



**SILVIA LLORENTE**  
Policy Officer



**BIANCA MOZER SCHONBORN**  
Statutory Affairs Officer



**TERESA OLIVER**  
Membership Relations Officer



**MÓNICA OLIVERA**  
Communications Intern



**JÚLIA PALMAROLA**  
Administrative Officer for Learning and Shared Services



**DANIEL PELUFO**  
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**KIRSTINE TONNING**  
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