



Metropolis Women International Network

Commission 6
Report

2011

metropolis ●



Commission 6

Metropolis Women International Network

Presidency: Ville de Montréal

President: Francine Senécal (from 2005 to 31 October 2009)*

Coordination: Rita Rachele Dandavino, Coordinator of the Metropolis Women International Network and Project Director at the International Institute for the Management of Major Metropolises

Antennas: Abidjan, Amman, Athens, Bamako, Bangui, Barcelona, Brussels, Dakar, State of Mexico, Mashhad, Pune, Santiago de Chile, Seoul

Metropolis member cities: Accra, Atlanta, Cairo, Caracas, Colombo, Jakarta, Kampala, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Stockholm, Teheran, Yaoundé

Other participating cities: Al-Fuhies, Alhassa, Ardabil, Cebu City, Chore, Concepción, Ekurhuleni, Helsinki, Kampala, Kyoto, Makati, Managua, Mwanza, Nairobi, Naplouse, Netanya, Sahiwal, Tabaco City, Zahedan, Waitakere, Yazd

Participating international organisations: Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), CGLU-ASPAC, CIFAL-Atlanta, Huairou Commission, Construction Resource and Development Centre (Jamaica), United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, EWAH Womans University, Women in Cities International, Global Gender Initiative, Housing and Building National Research Center (Egypt), Iraqi Women's League, Kogakuin University, Korea Women Investors Association, Municipal Association of Nepal, Nairobi Youth Education Network, National Taiwan University, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, UNIFEM, UNITAR, University of Mashhad, Radboud University, Seoul Foundation of Women and Family, Seoul National University, Seoul Design Foundation, Stockholm University, University of New South Wales, YDesign

* Mrs Francine Senécal stood down from her functions as an elected member of the Montréal City Council on 31 October 2009. Since 1 November 2009, the Ville de Montréal has been represented in the Metropolis Women International Network by the coordinator of the network, Mrs. Rita Rachele Dandavino

Foundation, Yokohama National University, Women Federation for Global Peace (*Note: These organisations in particular took part in the 2nd International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women: Visions and Challenges for A Women-Friendly City, held in Seoul in 2009*).

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Metropolis Women International Network

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INTRODUCTION¹

Metropolises bear witness to the coexistence of local and global contexts. While sharing a multitude of common socio-economic challenges as a result of the wave of globalisation, each metropolis seeks to distinguish itself from others in order to gain an advantage in global competition. Current studies reveal that the process of globalisation contributes to the homogenisation of spaces and resources of metropolises on the one hand and, on the other, demands individuality². Indeed, metropolises share common development objectives in terms of viability, prosperity and equity but each city strains with distinctive historical, cultural and competitive characteristics.

Issues relating to dynamics between genders, however, are not among the main concerns of the discourse on competition. For the most part, stakeholders in this discourse are neutral when it comes to gender issues. The reality is very different, however, with more women in non-regular employment, lower salaries for female employees, lower incomes and less public support for households led by women, as well as fewer employment opportunities for women who hold a university degree. What's more, parity among elected representatives in politics is far from being achieved.

Not all central and local governments prepare systems that adopt and implement gender-sensitive policies: gender equality, gender-based analysis, gender budgeting, etc. In addition, where they do exist, gender-based statistics clearly demonstrate that gender-sensitive policies do not always reach women of all classes in their day-to-day lives. The dynamics of gender exist everywhere, in all aspects of human life. However, a handful of projects that address discrepancies between men and women cannot keep pace with the rapid evolution in gender roles and models for urban dynamics of the 21st century.

After the general presentation of the Metropolis Women International Network, the report illustrates the main achievements of the Network according to the main lines of its Action Plan for 2008-2011 adopted in Sydney in October 2008. First of all, the contributions of the presidency, coordination office and regional antennas will be addressed, followed by other lines of development (international presence of the Network, training, partnerships and financing). This will be followed by the greatest achievement, the Second International Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women: Visions and Challenges for a Women-Friendly City*, held in Seoul in 2009, on which there will be a detailed presentation. The report will conclude with the main concerns and recommendations of the Network for the next few years.



¹ Source of introduction: Report of the International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women held in Seoul (2009).

² 'The Global City Today', Sassen, 2009

01.

PRESENTATION OF THE NETWORK

1.1. History of the creation of the Network

The issue of the role of women in municipal politics and decision-making bodies has been raised on many occasions as an integral part of local and metropolitan governance during the course of works that have involved several Metropolis member cities since 2000. We should remember that women's and gender equality issues have become crucial to international organisations since the World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. Moreover, in 2000 the United Nations (UN) identified gender equality and the empowerment of women as one of the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2000, the needs of female elected representatives, appointees and managers operating in the local environment were included in the activities of Metropolis for the first time. Later, the first International Seminar on Women and Local Governance was held in Bangui, the Central African Republic, in 2002 by the International Institute for the Management of Major Metropolises (IIMMM), which fills the role of the Metropolis International Institute. A second workshop on Women and Local Governance was held in Montréal in 2002 by the Institute, as part of the *Global Governance Forum 2002*. This experience was repeated in Barcelona in 2003 during work being done by the Commission on Local and metropolitan governance under the authority of the Ville de Montréal. This commission subsequently recommended the creation of an international women's network within Metropolis.

As a result of this recommendation, a focus group comprised of women from several Metropolis cities was established to put in place the future bases of the network under the coordination of Montréal. It was at this time, at the Metropolis Congress in Berlin in 2005, that Metropolis following on the recommendation of the Commission launched the Network, entrusting responsibility for the same to the Ville de Montréal. Montréal has since exercised the functions of presidency and coordination of the Network.

Later, in 2008, the Metropolis Board of Directors conferred a Commission status upon the Metropolis Women International Network. The attribution of a Commission status allowed the Network to receive financial support for its activities and provided it with access to the training budget organised by Metropolis. Unlike Metropolis' thematic commissions, which have a three-year mandate, the Metropolis Women International Network is a permanent component of Metropolis and, since 2008, has had an observer seat on the Metropolis Board of Directors.

1.2. Mission, objectives and action plan of the Network

The mission of the Metropolis Women International Network is to create an international forum for exchanges and cooperation between women as elected representatives and appointees, executives, managers and professionals operating at local and metropolitan levels. The Network is a component of Metropolis.

The main objectives of the Network are to improve female representation in local government and decision-making processes in local and metropolitan authorities, and to facilitate the sharing of experiences and good practice relating to good governance.

Action Plan 2008-2011

- 1. Development of the Network:** Development of regional antennas and support from the coordination in the organisation of their local activities and network, taking local specificities into account to increase membership.
- 2. Development of the website:** As international communications are based on Internet, updating of the Network directory and data base for Internet communication. Construction of the Network's webpage to be launched in 2009.
- 3. Organisation of women's international forums:** The organisation of two international forums, in 2009 and 2011, in collaboration with cities, regional antennas and international organisations.
- 4. Participation in international organisations and international events that address similar themes:** Increase recognition of the Network via the participation of representatives at international events and in international organisations (e.g. World Urban Forum IV). Attract members to Metropolis and activities associated with Metropolis.
- 5. Training:** The organisation of training sessions in collaboration with the Metropolis International Institute and other international organisations. Training on issues related to the specific needs of members of the Network and women's issues in cities. Depending on the issue, training sessions will be open to men and women or address the specific needs of women. Two sessions proposed per year. Members are encouraged to participate in the whole Metropolis training programme.
- 6. Partnership:** The development of partnerships with international organisations with a focus on similar or complementary themes (UN, UCLG) to maximise resources and have a major impact on issues relating to women in cities. A discussion is under way on cooperation with UN-Habitat gender programmes.
- 7. Finance:** The Network will continue its search for methods of financing to complement contributions from Metropolis. This search will include both national and international organisations and private foundations.

1.3. Operation of the Network

1.3.1. Presidency

The operation of the Metropolis Women International Network is structured around a presidency that has had observer status on the Metropolis Board of Directors since 2008. The president of the Network, which is present and involved in the activities of the Network within Metropolis, also represents the Network in international organisations.

Montréal has held the presidency of the Network since the Network was formally created in 2005. From 2005 to 2008, this presidency was held by two co-presidents (Montréal and Athens). Since 2008, Montréal has held the presidency. Mrs Francine Sénécal, then a member of the Executive Committee of the Ville de Montréal. Was present at all Metropolis Board of Directors between 2005 and 2008. Mrs Sénécal, an elected representative of the Ville de Montréal until 31 October 2009, continued to represent the Network in international activities in 2009 and 2010, but was unable to attend meetings of the Metropolis Board of Directors (Moscow 2009 and Barcelona 2010).

1.3.2. Coordination

Since the initiation of the idea of a Network and its implementation, Montréal has been responsible for its international coordination. Since 2008, the Network has had a Commission status within Metropolis. Coordination provides the links between the Metropolis General Secretariat, the regional antennas of the Network and other organisations in connection with the action plan of the Network.

Since 2000, the International Institute for the Management of Major Metropolises and personnel of the Ville de Montréal assigned to it have contributed to the activities of Metropolis that gave rise to the creation of the Network. Mrs Rita Rachele Dandavino, Project Director at the Institute, coordinated the activities of a focus group until the official launch of the Network in Berlin in 2005 with the support of the Director General of the Institute, Mr Amara Ouerghi.

Since 2005, Mrs Dandavino has been the official Coordinator of the Network. At first, this role accounted for part of her duties at the Institute but since the beginning of 2010, the activities of the Network have required her full attention. In addition to providing it with premises, the Institute has provided the Network with administrative support for its management, personnel and research assistant using interns. The Coordinator represented the Network at international activities and on the Metropolis Board of Directors in Barcelona in October 2010.

1.3.3. Regional antennas

The specificity of the Network lies in its regional antennas, which are essential links in the dissemination of information and the coordination of activities and initiatives. The antennas of the Network are located in Abidjan, Amman, Athens, Bamako, Bangui, Barcelona, Brussels, Dakar, the State of Mexico, Mashhad, Pune, Santiago de Chile and Seoul. Other regional antennas will be added to the Network according to interest from members. The main tasks of the antennas are to disseminate information relating to the Network and start up and coordinate activities designed to ensure a better understanding of local issues and the involvement of women in local and metropolitan government. It is important to note that the innovative method of operation of the Network (according to regional antenna) has increased the participation of women from all parts of the world in Metropolis' activities.



02.

ACHIEVEMENTS 2008-2011

The achievements of the Network are in line with its Action Plan 2008-2011, which was adopted in Sydney on 22 October 2008 at the end of the *Connecting Women in Cities* Forum, session of the Metropolis Congress. These achievements are also built on the concerted dynamism of the presidency, coordination and regional antennas.



2.1. Development of antennas

2.1.1. Coordination and new antennas

In 2008-2011, the coordination of the Network and regional antennas spread to fourteen cities thanks to the commencement of operations of three new antennas: Brussels-Capital and Seoul (2008) and Santiago de Chile (2010). Since the Sydney meeting in 2008, the representatives of regional antennas have held coordination meetings in Seoul (November 2009) and Barcelona (October 2010). The Barcelona meeting, which marked the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Network, provided an opportunity to assess the activities of the presidency and coordination for 2009-2010, as well as those of regional antennas. The antennas also discussed the Action Plan 2011-2014, the general operation of the Network and the addition of new antennas, as well as the reinforcement of regional activities. These coordination meetings were held during international activities to make the most of the resources of, and access to, antenna representatives during their travels for these activities. Moreover, certain antenna and INGO representatives participated in an informal coordination meeting held in Rio de Janeiro as part of the World Urban Forum 5 in March 2010.

Bilateral meetings were also held between 2008 and 2011: during a training session held in Mashhad, the Coordinator of the Network, Mrs Rita Rachele Dandavino, met with the Mashhad antenna. Mrs Helen Fotopulos, an elected representative of the Ville de Montréal, met with the Seoul antenna in February 2010, while representatives of Seoul, including the Assistant Mayor for Women & Family Policy Affairs of the Seoul Metropolitan Government, Mrs Mi Yeon Huh, and the President of the Seoul Foundation of Women and Family, Mrs Hyun-kyung Park, visited Montréal in November 2010. These bilateral meetings promote direct contact with local administrations and facilitate exchanges on their achievements in relation to the mission of the Network.

The new antenna in Seoul has played a very active role jointly organising the Second International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women: Visions and Challenges for A Women-Friendly City³ in 2009, which was a great success. It also organised the first *Asia Women's Network Roundtable* with the theme *Envisioning Gender Governance Strategies for Asian Cities*. The objective of this roundtable was to improve collaboration between Asian member cities of Metropolis, NGOs and various female experts in

³ A detailed summary of the forum can be found in point #3.

order to address challenges faced in Asian metropolises. The roundtable also provided participants with an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences. It is also important to note that the Seoul *Women-Friendly City Project* won the *2010 United Nation's Public Service Award*. Congratulations to the Seoul regional antenna!

2.1.2. Regional antenna achievements

Exchange activities

As well as taking part in the *Dynamic Cities Need Women* forum and other Network meetings, antennas have been active in their respective regions, taking their local specificities into account, with the exception of Bangui, due to its particular circumstances. The organisation of, and participation in, exchange activities (conferences, seminars and workshops) and participation in regional, national and international activities serve mainly to build local women's networks while at the same time addressing themes of interest to the Network.



First of all, the Amman antenna addressed gender equality, the achievements of Jordanian women, the political participation and role of women on the municipal council, the development of skills among Arab women, women's health, violence towards women and women's rights and gender budgeting. Furthermore, a new initiative entitled Friends of the Network, aims to reach women in university environments. Then, in Bamako, exchange sessions with other partners and experts addressed the representativeness of women in decision-making bodies, the role and place of women in local government and their economic empowerment. The Pune antenna has also held exchange activities that addressed the question of climate change and its impact on a part of India. Finally, a conference was held at the coordination office in Montréal on the issues faced by women in local government. This conference, which was held on 8 March 2010, was attended by Dr Ok-Kyung Pak, the main advisor on social development and gender equality at CIDA, who spoke on the theme *Women and Cities of the World: Towards a Better World*. The conclusions reached at the *Dynamic Cities Need Women* forum in Seoul were also presented.

The reinforcement of civil society

Each antenna indicated that its participation in the activities of the Network inspired the actions that were taken in their city and region to improve the environment for civil society. The Abidjan antenna, for example, underlined the impact of its participation in the Network by improving and relaunching existing social networks. It also placed an emphasis on economic development, with the creation of 200 cooperatives, the aim of which is to create employment based on workers' self-management in the area of social and community issues, and to improve the production and marketing of their products and services. A federation of cooperatives is in the process of being formed. Abidjan's next challenge is to improve the relationship between city and country and attract investment.

In Amman, the preoccupation with gender security issues was included in the transport plan for the Greater Amman Municipality. The antenna has also sought to make women aware of their rights, both in the home and in the workplace, by organising weekly legal consultation sessions. In Athens, particular emphasis has been placed on crèches and work-family balance by paying particular attention to the needs of female immigrants. Barcelona has worked on the impact of time management in metropolises. The Dakar antenna has taken an interest in the need for female entrepreneurs, since women are involved in economic activity but have little access to international markets. In the State of Mexico, promotion of legal reforms to address the realities faced by young women (age of marriage) and actions to counter violence against women.

Promotion in the regional media

The promotion in the regional media and the dissemination of information on the Network are adapted to the local characteristics of each antenna. This promotion accentuates the role of antennas as a channel for communication with women and as tools for the discussion of issues in their regions (e.g. the promotion of gender and the participation of women in the development of their community). The Network is promoted in the media in several ways, such as the publication of information leaflets and bulletins, the translation of Network documents, including declarations adopted at the *Dynamic Cities Need Women* forums in Brussels (2007) and Seoul (2009), into the local language and the creation of a website and blogs (Amman, Mashhad, Seoul). Moreover, antennas have participated in radio and television debates and interviews (Amman, Bamako and Seoul), reinforcing civil society and disseminating information on the activities of the Network and Metropolis in their neighbouring regions. Radio debates organised by the Bamako antenna, for example, focus on the promotion of gender equality and the participation of women in the development of their communities.

Local and regional presence

The Bamako antenna participated in the fifth edition of the Africities Summit in Morocco. The theme of the summit was *African Regional and Local Governments' Response to the Global Crisis*. A special parallel session entitled "Women councillors and their position in local institutions" allowed the antenna to inform participating cities of the mandates and objectives of the Network.

The Athens antenna continued to provide information to the cities of Central and South-East Europe to create interest in the activities of the Metropolis Women International Network. These efforts helped spread the mission of the Network to new regions.

The Amman antenna met with several representatives of local and national governments as part of its networking efforts. Representatives of Amman visited other municipal councils in Jordan, representatives of Iraqi civil society, councillors from Gaza, representatives of the Egyptian Ministry for Local Development and several other figures. The purpose of these activities was to encourage these women to share their experiences with each other.

With reference to the Network, the Seoul antenna participated in an international activity in its regional area of influence, the *Third International Conference on Women's Safety: Building Inclusive Cities*, held in New Delhi (India) in November 2010.

Finally, the coordination of the Network, based in Montréal, received several invitations to participate in conferences and meetings on women's issues. Mrs Rita Rachele Dandavino, for example, presented the approach of the gender budget to experts at a public conference in Montréal (Urba 2015) and organised local public activities (such as the morning conference on 8 March 2010, International Women's Day).

Local training

Antennas organising training locally. This training addresses the themes of female leadership (Amman), training for elected representatives in governance and community management, the main principles of financial law and methods for mobilising resources (Bamako). Bamako and Amman have now requested local training on lobbying, negotiation, closing arguments and electoral campaign strategies.



The Mashhad antenna has promoted the participation of several female elected representatives and managers in Metropolis training sessions in Mashhad and Seoul. Moreover, it is already planning its next local training programme, based on the Women-Friendly City concept.

Research

The Mashhad antenna has awarded a contract to a research centre to determine the needs of women in Iran and the Middle East. This research is supported by the City of Mashhad, the director for urban development and the planning office.

The Montréal coordination office then lent its support to a research project entitled “*Sources of inspiration for Côte d’Ivoire: Experiences from Montréal, Quebec and Canada*”. This research, which was conducted by network research assistant Mrs Carine Mobio, deals with ways to improve the representation of women in Côte d’Ivoire based on experiences of equal representation governance in Montréal, Quebec and Canada. In August 2010 the intern from Senghor University in Alexandria, who holds a grant from the International Organisation of La Francophonie, gave a public presentation on her conclusions based on the summary of interviews with 52 men and women in political and administrative positions in decision-making bodies in Montréal, Quebec, Ottawa and other regions of Quebec. The research method used constitutes a mixed research-networking-learning approach worthy of implementation by regional antennas, since it not only provides exchanges and training for the succession by youth, but also allows women to discover what local resources are available with which to address their issues of representation.

Promotion of the creativity of women

The promotion of the creativity of women is a very important issue; for this reason, the Amman antenna works on this issue in its area of operations. To do this, it organises cultural activities, for example, where women are invited to present their work, as well as competitions and activities of recognition to promote creativity and reward women working for the Amman Municipality.

Participation of the Network on Metropolis Commissions

The participation of antennas in the activities and training sessions of other Metropolis Commissions depends on the coordination of the Commissions. In December 2010, the Pune antenna participated in Commission 1 (Eco-Regions) on activities relating to climate change.

2.2. International presence of the network

The Metropolis Women International Network has received several invitations to actively participate in different international activities. Participating in these activities allows the Network to emphasise the importance to give to the role of women in urban management and national and international non-governmental organisations. These activities also allow its members to share their knowledge and provide a boost to their networking and influence. The Network has made an active contribution to activities related to bodies of the UN. This has raised its profile, made the experience and concerns of its members known by directly bringing thousands of participants together and developed methods of collaboration with other international organisations, such as the Huairou Commission, a world coalition of women’s networks, institutions and professionals. The purpose of this commission is to support the local contribution of grassroots women to development and to promote tools and methods for learning, research and negotiation between women and practitioners of international development⁴.

⁴ The Huairou Commission, “Who we are”. Online: <http://www.huairou.org/who-we-are> (page visited on 26 November 2010).

INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE OF THE METROPOLIS WOMEN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK 2008-2011

2008

- Sydney** Metropolis Women International Network Forum:
Connecting Women in Cities at 9th Metropolis Congress
- Nanjing** Training on Gender Mainstreaming in Local Governments at the
World Urban Forum 4
- Atlanta** CIFAL-Atlanta Forum - *Gender, Governance and Economic
Empowerment in the Americas*

2009

- Atlanta** CIFAL-Atlanta Forum - *Gender, Governance and Economic
Empowerment*
- Seoul** 2nd International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women:
Visions and challenges for a women-friendly city
Training on Gender Budgeting in Local Governments
- Marrakech** 5th Africities Summit *African Regional and Local Governments'
Response to the Global Crisis*

2010

- New York** Parallel Session to the 54th Session of the UN Commission on
the Status of Women
- Rio de Janeiro** First Session of the UN-Habitat Gender Equality Action Assembly
World Urban Forum 5 -
The Right to the City - Bridging the Urban Divide
Training on Gender Budgeting in Local Governments at the
World Urban Forum 5
- New Delhi** Third International Conference on Women's Safety:
Building Inclusive Cities

2011

- Diyarbakir** International Conference Towards Cities for Women
- Porto Alegre** Network meeting - 10th Metropolis World Congress



2.2.1. CIFAL-Atlanta Global Leadership Initiative on Gender Equality in Cities 2006-2009⁵

The Metropolis Women International Network was invited to participate in a CIFAL-Atlanta initiative from 2006 onwards. In 2005, UNITAR made CIFAL-Atlanta⁶ responsible for the development and direction of a programme for its world network of centres. This programme, which was implemented from 2006 to 2009, was intended to support the third Millennium development goal (to promote gender equality and empower women). *The Global Leadership Initiative on Gender Equality in Cities 2006-2009* was thus intended to address the issue of gender equality by placing specific emphasis on local governments in collaboration with different networks. A close collaboration has developed between CIFAL-Atlanta and the Network, which has been demonstrated, among other things, by the appointment of the latter to the steering committee of this initiative.



In November 2008, the Coordinator of the Network participated in the Forum entitled “*Gender, Governance and Economic Empowerment in the Americas*”. At the forum, it presented the conclusions of the Connecting Women in Cities forum held in Sydney in October 2008 and practices that promote the empowerment of women in Montréal. In October 2009, the President and Coordinator participated in the fifth “*Gender, Governance and Economic Empowerment*” forum. They also presented the experience of Montréal in women’s issues as part of the policy for gender equality entitled “*Montréal’s policy for equal participation in city life by men and women*” and promoted the Dynamic Cities Need Women forum in Seoul. Finally, in March 2010, the Coordinator of the Network participated in the telephone conference of the advisory committee of the 2010 World Gender Equality Leadership in Cities Initiative. At this conference, she discussed the new theme of the International Forum on Women and Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).

2.2.2. 54th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

On 1-2 March 2010, the Metropolis Women International Network attended the activities in relation to the 54th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, marking the fifteenth anniversary of the Beijing’s World Conference on Women. The mandate of this session is to review and assess the fifteen years since the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (1995), as well as the results of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000). Moreover, various parallel activities were organised by INGOs. The decision of the United Nations General Assembly to create a new strengthened gender equality entity within the United Nations was unveiled. (Note: UN-WOMEN was unveiled in July 2010). At a parallel session organised by INGOs entitled “*Women and Safer Cities*”, the representatives of Seoul presented the Women-Friendly City Project and the Seoul Declaration adopted at the Second International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women: Visions and Challenges for a Women-Friendly City. The Declaration was distributed to several participants by representatives of Seoul and the Coordinator of the Network, who attended this assembly under the accreditation of Metropolis.

⁵. Global Leadership Initiative on Gender Equality in Cities 2006-2009

⁶. International Training Center for Government Authorities and Civil Society Leaders

2.2.3. Activities of UN-Habitat: First session of the UN-Habitat Gender Equality Action Assembly and World Urban Forum 5: The Right to the City – Bridging the Urban Divide⁷

Collaboration between the Metropolis Women International Network and UN-Habitat has been reinforced by the participation of representatives of the Network in the activities of UN-Habitat in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010.

2.2.3.1. First session of the UN-Habitat Gender Equality Action Assembly

This section summarises the factual information and general conclusions of the Assembly presented in the report published by UN-Habitat⁸. The first session of the Gender Equality Action Assembly was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 19-20 March 2010. More than 360 people from 35 countries took part. The aim of this two-day meeting was to evaluate progress made in the implementation of the UN-Habitat Gender Equality Action Plan 2008-2013. The Action Plan aims to promote gender equality in cities and villages thanks to the integration of a gender-based perspective in all projects and programmes whose objective is sustainable urbanisation and adequate housing for all.

Representatives of the Metropolis Women International Network contributed to the Gender Equality Action Assembly. The Coordinator of the Network collaborated with UN-Habitat as a member of the focus group, helping identify panellists and acting as session moderator and panellist at a plenary session. Moreover, representatives of Montréal, Seoul and Fulton County (Atlanta) were members of the panel at two of the six workshops and two of the three dialogues. The section below provides a description of the contributions of Mrs Francine Senécal, President of the Network; Mrs Rita Rachele Dandavino, Coordinator of the Network; Mrs Charlotte Thibault, President of the Conseil des Montréalaises; Mrs Eun-hee Cho, Assistant Mayor for Women & Family Policy Affairs of the Seoul Metropolitan Government; Mrs Hyun-kyung Park, President of the *Seoul Foundation of Women and Family*; and Mrs Nancy Boxill, Commissioner of Fulton County (Atlanta region).

Before addressing the content of workshops and dialogues, it is interesting to note that the short film "*Bread and Roses*" was presented to participants at the Assembly at the beginning of activities. This short film of less than 5 minutes' duration, which was co-produced by UN-Habitat and the Seoul Metropolitan Government and directed by the Seoul Foundation of Women and Family, emphasises the issues experienced by women in urban environments and promotes the ideas of the Metropolis Women International Network. This video was first presented at the Second Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women* in Seoul in 2009.

At the first workshop (*Advocacy and monitoring of gender equality in cities*), Mrs Charlotte Thibault pointed out the importance of institutionalizing government bodies that promote gender equality. As President of the Conseil des Montréalaises, Mrs Thibault described how this advisory body to the municipal administration had increased the participation of women in the public and political life of Montréal, thanks, among other factors, to the permanence of the institution.

At the second workshop (*Urban planning, governance and management*), four representatives of the Metropolis Women International Network addressed the audience. First of all, Mrs Hyun-kyung Park, President of the *Seoul Foundation of Women and Family*, described their Women-Friendly City Project⁹. This project seeks to promote gender equality in all aspects of urban life and to improve the quality of life of women.

⁷ The Right to the City - Bridging the Urban Divide

⁸ Section 2.2.3 is a summary of the "Report of the First Session of the UN-Habitat Gender Equality Action Assembly".

⁹ Women Friendly City Project

In addition to promoting women's safety, women's political participation and capacity building of women, the foundation offers training on gender-specific approaches for local leaders. She also emphasised that 2,780 officials and elected representatives received attended one of the six courses offered to the Foundation since 2008. Later, Mrs Kathryn Travers, analyst and project manager at Women in Cities International, another partner organisation of the Network, described the partnerships created by its organisation to improve the participation of women in municipal life and create cities that are safer and more inclusive for women and young girls. According to Mrs Travers, the safety of women is a necessary condition for them to exercise their local political rights. Finally, Mrs Nancy Boxill, Commissioner at Fulton County (Atlanta), emphasised the importance of taking into account the different gender specific effects of municipal budgets to ensure equality. Among the challenges identified by Mrs Boxill to the implementation of gender budgeting, we note the need to sustain political will and active employee participation, as well as the need to invest time and resources to evaluate and assess the impact of policies on men and women.

Finally, the Coordinator of the Network and panel moderator, Mrs Rita Rachele Dandavino, established the emerging elements from the second workshop's presentations and ensuing discussions. First, she underlined the need for a comprehensive analysis of the gender-responsiveness of urban governance while taking the point of view of women into account, with emphasis then given to the importance of deepening multisectoral and inclusive partnerships, including a mix of gender and culture. Mrs Dandavino then confirmed the importance of publicising success in the area of gender equality thanks, among other factors, to the certification of organisations that implement good practice. Furthermore, governments must plan for the long term by incorporating the principles of equality between the sexes. Finally, Mrs Dandavino argued that it is necessary to provide local elected representatives, officials and urban planners with ongoing training on issues of gender-based analysis. It is also necessary to educate civil society as a whole on these issues.

During the first dialogue (*Land and Housing Rights*), Mrs Nancy Boxill, Commissioner at Fulton County, addressed the issue of public-private partnerships in the United States. According to Mrs Boxill, these partnerships have helped women and the less well-off acquire housing and improve disadvantaged districts. Mrs Boxill mentioned a series of initiatives highlighted to improve the housing conditions of disadvantaged groups. These include the Community Reinvestment Act, which offers banks tax incentives for investing in low-income housing projects.

Finally, at the second dialogue (*Making Cities Work for Women: Access to basic services*) the Metropolis Women International Network was represented by Mrs Eun-hee Cho, Assistant Mayor for Women & Family Policy Affairs of the Seoul Metropolitan Government, Mrs Charlotte Thibault, President of the Conseil des Montréalaises, and Mrs Francine Sénécal, President of the Network. During this dialogue, Mrs Sénécal asserted that women must become involved in political activities, since this is the best way to make elected representatives and managers aware of the issues relating to women-friendly cities and other groups at the risk of exclusion (children, the elderly, new immigrants, etc.). Mrs Cho then highlighted the importance of the gender budgeting by illustrating its use in Seoul. The South Korean Government has in fact supported a local consultation process that has brought together 40,000 women experts to develop a comprehensive gender-specific approach applicable to different programmes. Finally, Mrs Thibault insisted on the importance of training women from civil organisations so that they become involved in political decisions concerning gender analysis in their city. She illustrated her position with the issue of public transport, which is key issue for women from disadvantaged.

Key recommendations

The Gender Equality Action Assembly organised by UN-Habitat issued five main recommendations in relation to gender equality in cities. In doing so, the Assembly emphasised the importance of properly monitoring gender equality in cities; improving gender equality in the area of urban governance, management and planning; promoting property and housing rights to favour the empowerment of women; promoting sustainable urban services, offering the same advantages and opportunities for men and women; and reinforcing the system for financing human settlements in order to counter the inequalities experienced women on low incomes.

Thus, it is possible to assert that the key recommendations adopted at the Gender Equality Action Assembly are consistent with the objectives of the Seoul Declaration, which was adopted at the *Dynamic Cities Need Women* forum organised by the Metropolis Women International Network in October 2009. Indeed, as does the Assembly, the Seoul Declaration emphasises the importance of incorporating gender perspectives in city policies and administration via the systematic use of comparative analysis according to gender and the promotion of equal participation by men and women in political and administrative decision-making. The Seoul Declaration also asserts the importance of supporting the economic empowerment of women thanks, among other factors, to the support offered to businesses led by women. Finally, the Seoul Declaration supports the creation of cities that are safe for women by improving the design of public spaces and infrastructure and improving services, in particular public transport¹⁰. (For more details on the Seoul Declaration, see point #3.)

Follow-up on the first session of the Gender Equality Action Assembly

Following the Assembly, UN-Habitat plans to publish a report on global trends in urban planning. With the collaboration of different participants at the Assembly, UN-Habitat plans to produce a practical report for managers and elected municipal representatives. The Coordinator of the Network, Rita Rachele Dandavino, has been invited to comment on the report "*Gender and Urban Planning Draft Paper: Global Trends in Gender and Urban Planning*", taking into account the experience of the Network. A decision on the publication date has not yet been made.

¹⁰. See Seoul Declaration, 2009.

2.2.3.2. World Urban Forum 5: The Right to the City – Bridging the Urban Divide, 22-26 March 2010¹¹

Representatives of the Network have attended workshops and round tables on themes relating to women and cities (*Gender and Women's Roundtable: Towards Safer Cities for Women*¹²). They have also attended various other workshops on public participation, climate change and the reconstruction of housing after disasters. This incentive to make the role of women count in the identification of needs and solutions and decision-making was underlined in the interview given by the Coordinator of the Network in the World Urban Forum Daily News (22 March, p.5), a copy of which was distributed to participants at the Forum¹³. In short, the participation of the Network at World Urban Forum 5 also established contacts with women from cities that are not members of Metropolis and made Metropolis known around the world. The Network was also able to identify potential collaborators for future activities.



2.2.4. Growth of the online presence of the Network

The online presence of the Network was structured over the course of 2009 and 2010. At the time of the reconstruction of the Metropolis website, the Network had a dedicated [webpage](#) in the “Activities” section. This page has become the focal point where the Network can share its activities with the online community. Thus, thanks to the interest created by the Metropolis website, the activities of the Network receive more attention, and vice versa. The Network is also visible in the Metropolis information bulletin, which is available on its website. The bulletin contains summaries of major events organised by the Network, such as the *Dynamic Cities Need Women* forum in Seoul.

The coordination based in [Montréal](#) and regional antennas ([Amman](#), [Mashhad](#), [Seoul](#)) have also structured websites that allow the user to access specific networks. Depending on the resources available, some antennas disseminate their information via social networks and blogs instead. Finally, since November 2010 the Network has been part of the advisory board of the new collaborative portal “*Women and Human Settlements: A Global Exchange Space*” established by UN-Habitat and the Huairou Commission. The aim of this portal is to promote the sharing of knowledge on the empowerment of women, gender equality, urbanisation and community development. At present the portal is in its initial trial phase, with an expanded launch scheduled for 2011. The participation

¹¹. The Right to the City - Bridging the Urban Divide

¹². *Gender and Women's Roundtable: Towards Safer Cities for Women*

¹³. World Urban Forum Daily News. 2010. “VOX POP: The Delegates' View: Why are you attending the World Urban Forum?” (Rita Rachele Dandavino). Monday 22 March, Rio de Janeiro, p.5.

of the Network in this new portal will accentuate the web presence of the Network, links with the Metropolis website and organisations concerned with urban issues.

2.3. Partnerships, finance and training

2.3.1. Partnerships

The Network has developed different methods of collaboration with international organisations with a focus on similar or complementary themes (UN-Habitat, CIFAL-Atlanta, the Huairou Commission) to maximise resources and have an important impact on issues relating to women in cities. These partnerships have also translated into organisational and financial support to facilitate the participation of representatives of the Network in international activities and organise training according to subjects of interest to the Network. For example, the signing of the Seoul Declaration by Mrs Lucia Kiwala, Chief of UN-Habitat's Gender Mainstreaming Unit, illustrates their support for the Network. Furthermore, UN-Habitat and the Huairou Commission participated in a coordination meeting organised by the Network at the 1st Session of the Gender Equality Action Assembly in Rio de Janeiro (2010) to discuss challenges to be addressed and the next steps following the Network's second international forum, which was held in Seoul in 2009. Representatives of Fulton County (Atlanta) and Women in Cities International were also present at this meeting. Moreover, the collaboration of the Network with the Huairou Commission and UN-Habitat will also be deepened thanks to the new "*Women and Human Settlements: A Global Exchange Space*" web portal, which was announced earlier.

Finally, the Montréal coordination office has established ties with universities, governmental organisations and international organisations to receive students and graduates as part of their research. These interns help reinforce the Network, thanks to their skills and knowledge. Moreover, this openness to young people has occurred within the framework of an analysis aimed at incorporating the theme of gender in university training in urban planning. Each antenna of the Metropolis Women International Network would do well to follow this approach to strengthen their organisation and create interest among young people.

2.3.2. Finance

Excluding the finance provided by Metropolis through the Commission budget to support the activities of the Network (meetings, training sessions) as part of Metropolis, one should not forget the significant financial support provided by the Ville de Montréal which, since the launch of the project to create the Network, has supported the presidency and coordination through the personnel of the Ville de Montréal allocated to the International Institute for the Management of Major Metropolises. In addition, the Network has sought and obtained other sources of finance according to its various activities.

The Seoul Metropolitan Government has made a large contribution to the organisation of the Second International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women, which was attended by 1,800 people. UN-Habitat has provided the Network with financial support for the participation of representatives of the Network at the 1st Session of the Gender Equality Action Assembly and WUF 5 in Rio de Janeiro. UN-Habitat has also provided the Network with financial support for the organisation of two training sessions provided as part of WUF 4 (Nanjing) and WUF 5 (Rio de Janeiro). CIFAL-Atlanta paid the cost of the participation of representatives of the Network in its activities. The Government of

Québec, via the Ministère des relations internationales (MRI) and the Ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire (MAMROT), has also lent support to the Network in its international representations.

Regional antennas also have access to local and national sources of finance that they must solicit in order to support their intervention programmes, in particular international organisations and/or foundations operating on their territory. We note, for example, that the regional antenna of Bamako plans to establish a support fund to promote the representation of women. However, the expansion of the Network requires ongoing finance..

2.3.3. International training sessions

The Metropolis Women International Network has organised different training sessions on practices related to gender-based analysis. "Gender-based analysis (GBA) was adopted in 1995 in the Action Programme of the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing by more than 180 states and governments."¹⁴. GBA is "a process of analysis that promotes gender equality via the intervention of directions and actions of decision-making bodies in society on a local, regional and national level. The aim of GBA is to determine the different effects on men and women of adopting a particular project aimed at men and women. It can result in a range of different measures aimed at male and female citizens."¹⁵

A training session on Gender budgeting in local government was held in Seoul on 20-21 October 2009 at the International Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women*. Gender budgeting "consists of analysing the budget for a programme to see how money is distributed [and] who this money will benefit"¹⁶. This training, which was organised by the Metropolis International Institute, was provided courtesy of instructors from Fulton County and the Seoul Metropolitan Government. This training was provided to 18 participants and 10 observers. The Network has also lent its support to the organisation for training on Women's Safety Audit Training¹⁷, which was organised by the Huairou Commission, Women in Cities International and *Women and Habitat Latin America* on 20 October 2009.

Later, two training sessions were organised at the request of UN-Habitat between 2008 and 2011. First, the Network organised training on *Gender mainstreaming in local government* as part of the World Urban Forum 4 in Nanjing in October 2008. The session was attended by 48 participants. Later, the Network, as part of World Urban Forum 5, held a training session on Gender budgeting in local governments in Rio de Janeiro. This training session was held on Tuesday 23 March, and was provided by the Network thanks to the contribution of training staff from Fulton County. Some fifty participants took part.

Thus, between 2008 and 2011 the Network helped train close to 125 male and female elected representatives, managers and professionals from cities and civil society organisations on gender-based analysis and gender budgeting.

¹⁴. Ministère de l'Éducation, des Loisirs et ds Sports. 2008. L'analyse différenciée selon les sexes ". Online: <http://www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/sections/conditionFeminine/index.asp?page=analyse> (page visited on 18 November 2010).

¹⁵. Ibid.

¹⁶. Blais, Michèle. 2009-2010. "Suite et fins de l'entrevue réalisée avec Charlotte Thibault, Présidente du Conseil des Montréalaises. Des outils pour atteindre l'égalité des sexes." Col Blanc 43 (no. 5): 9. http://www.sfm429.qc.ca/ColBlanc/Pdf/ColBlanc_12-09.pdf

¹⁷. Women's Safety Audit Training

03.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NETWORK: 2ND INTERNATIONAL FORUM *DYNAMIC CITIES NEED WOMEN: VISIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR A WOMEN- FRIENDLY CITY FORUM*¹⁸

3.1. Concept of the international forums dynamic cities need women

To stimulate exchanges on gender issues and encourage networking by women in cities, in 2007 the Metropolis Women International Network established the formula of the international forum and gave it its own name, *Dynamic Cities Need Women*, and a distinctive logo. The two *Dynamic Cities Need Women* forums, held in Brussels (2007) and Seoul (2009), were crucial to the growth of the Network on an international scale and fostered Metropolis' exposure. This shows the openness of metropolises that are members of Metropolis to issues relating to gender and the place of women decision-makers and female citizens in cities. Metropolis has supported the concept of these forums, and disseminated the conclusions and declarations that arose from the same.

The Montréal coordination office plays a crucial role in the organisation of forums, which are held in partnership with the hosting organisation of the forum host city, preparing the programme, developing themes, identifying potential lecturers, courtesy of, among other factors, the requests of elected representatives, appointees, managers and professionals from Metropolis member cities. The coordination of the Network also disseminates information on these forums, reports and declarations through Metropolis member cities, their antennas and national and international organisations. To this end, the coordination office works closely with the Metropolis General Secretariat.

The representatives of regional antennas of the Network also play an essential role in determining the themes covered by the forums and, for the most part, act as session moderators. Moreover, they participate in the drafting of final declarations and are signatories to the same. Furthermore, the innovative specificity of the DCNW forum has allowed female elected representatives, appointees, managers, professionals, university students and representatives of INGOs and NGOs to share the same tables, develop ties and exchange ideas directly on the concerns and issues relating to cities and the role of women as decision-makers and citizens.



¹⁸. Source for this section: Report on the International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women in Seoul (2009). Online: <http://www.metropolis.org/sites/default/files/women-network/Informe%20Forum%20Seul%20English.pdf>

3.2. Context of the forum

It should be remembered that in 2007, the Metropolis Women International Network jointly organised with Brussels-Capital its first *Dynamic Cities Need Women* forum, bringing together more than 700 participants from 72 countries. The opening ceremony of the First International Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women: Actions and Policies for Gender Equality* had been marked by the address of Dr. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat. This contribution demonstrated the interest that already existed in collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Network. The [Final Declaration](#) of the Brussels forum remains relevant, not only for women and men from around the world but also for the authorities and institutions of all countries responsible for the drafting and implementation of priority plans and policies.

The Second International Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women: Visions and Challenges for a Women-Friendly City* was held in Seoul (South Korea) from 22 to 24 October 2009. It was jointly organised by the Network and the Seoul Metropolitan Government, represented by the Seoul Foundation of Women and Family. The forum was attended by 1,800 participants from 63 cities and 42 countries. Among these participants, we note the presence of political and administrative representatives, NGOs and various experts from the four corners of the globe. Numerous participants have expressed their interest in the forum and support for the Women-Friendly City initiative and activities of the Metropolis Women International Network.

UN support for the Metropolis Women International Network has been highlighted by the address of Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, at the opening ceremony of the forum. The opening of the forum in Seoul also saw the launch of the video "[Bread and Roses](#)". We should remember that this short film, which was produced by UN-Habitat and the Seoul Metropolitan Government (Seoul Foundation of Women and Family) and illustrates the main issues faced by women in urban environments, has become an essential tool for raising awareness of the need to create women-friendly cities. As a result, it has been shown on many occasions since the Seoul forum. The video can also be seen on Metropolis' [YouTube](#) page. Antennas are encouraged to show the video at their regional activities.

3.3. Themes and conclusions of the forum

The International Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women: Visions And Challenges for a Women-Friendly City* was divided into four sessions: (1) Mainstreaming Gender in City Policies and Administration, (2) Empowering of Women during Economic Crisis, (3) Building a Safe city for Women and (4) Fostering Diversity and Women's Creativity. The sections below summarise the factual information and general conclusion of the forum using extracts from the [original Forum Report](#) of 2009. This report is available in English and French on the [Metropolis website](#).

Session A. Mainstreaming Gender in City Policies and Administration

Since the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995), gender mainstreaming has been broadly adopted as a major strategy for achieving gender equality and improving lives of both women and men. Gender mainstreaming is possible only when cities rightfully incorporate women's perspectives and experiences into their policies and administration. This session will review the current issues regarding gender mainstreaming in city policies and administration, and discuss specific enabling strategies.

Workshop 1: Gender governance in city administration

This session discussions focused on how cities are doing in terms of gender mainstreaming in designing women-friendly cities and provide insight into their experiences in the adoption, implementation, and ex-post evaluation of gender-sensitive policies. Particular focus was placed on success cases of gender governance through which the gender perspective is integrated into city administration and policy making.

Conclusions: : In the process of gender mainstreaming, the diversity of women's groups should be critically concerned. Politicians should keep making efforts to improve gender equality through synergy with women's NGOs and grass-root groups.

Workshop 2: Women's political representation

This session was dedicated to identifying concrete measures to expand women's political representation and participation in the decision making process of cities. A vast array of issues is up for discussion, including political representation, affirmative action, gender quotas, femocrat activities, and advocacy and networking of women's organizations and their impacts.

Conclusions: Gender mainstreaming policies for women's political representation can be achieved through electoral gender quotas, gender balance in decision making, and combined process. Political parties and women's organizations as well as other stakeholders should develop tools for gender monitoring of nominations and elections. In order to sustain and get women into the higher position in politics, women need political and cultural supports.

Session B. Empowering Women during Economic Crisis

The global financial crisis is expected to hit women more severely than men, and could jeopardize any equality gains hitherto achieved in the workplace and home. The rising female unemployment and disintegration of families call for a wellpositioned, properly-working social safety net in large cities. The session's discussions, therefore, will center on strategy alternatives to help women to secure employment stability and to better cope with deteriorating labor conditions. The session also entertained ways to work through the cities' social safety net structures to more effectively deal with families that have become more vulnerable to breakdowns under the economic crisis.

Workshop 3: Women's economic empowerment

This workshop has dealt with strategies for women's employment stability and economic empowerment. Specific challenges include women's participation in the workforce, wage disparity between men and women, gendered division of labor, affirmative action and career development programs.

Conclusions: Women in most countries are responsible for domestic work as well as the sources of income of family, and it is difficult to keep balance between the both. Many countries have tried to solve the issue and improve working-family balance. However, we noticed that there were a large increased number of poor women under the global economic crisis, so those cities need political supports for upgrading house, maintaining infrastructure, financial support, and empowerment to solve these essential problems.

Workshop 4: Gender-responsive social safety net

The focus of discussion here was on the role and function of the social safety. Relevantly, important issues such as basic livelihood protection, unemployment benefits, universal healthcare, support for single parent families, minimum wages, and social service were also be featured in the session.

Conclusions: Many women are facing unequal working environments like incentives to women employment, less paid, and part-time jobs, so we need to have policies for women employment. The female unemployment rate is twice much higher than male's unemployment rate under the global economic crisis. Poverty rate of women, especially women householders, are increasing. We need to establish social supports to overcome their financial hindrances.

Session C. Building a safe city for women

This session discussed policies on the global issues of the 21st Century: the instability caused by violence in big cities, and inconveniences of the urban space. Focus will be on strategies to resolve such problems and make the cities safer for women. Therefore, this session addressed practical policy requirements for women's psychological, physical, and environmental safety in cities.

Workshop 5: Women's right to safe cities

The discussion gave a public boost to the Women-Friendly City Project, which is an initiative by the Seoul Metropolitan Government to provide women with a safe and convenient urban space. The session opened with a best global practice presentation for creating urban spaces that are liveable for women, followed by an introduction to Seoul's effort to build a women-friendly city and finally close with a discussion on creating cities that are sustainable from women's point of view.

Conclusions: Women friendly city will make both women and men have responsibility and authority for urban planning and operation. Further it will contribute in building a safe and sustainable city. Strategies to make women friendly city should vary depending on each countries and cities' circumstance.

Workshop 6: Measures to stop violence against women

This workshop examined strategies dealing with various forms of violence against women in the home, communities and cities. It discussed policies and programs to combat various forms of violence against women, such as domestic violence, rape, trafficking, sexual harassment, etc. In particular, it introduced internationally-established standards in combating violence against women and discuss whether and how cities are implementing these standards and what the challenges are for creating a safe urban space without violence against women.

Conclusions: The major factors to make concrete changes are political agenda and the society's willingness to make changes, democratic efforts and partnership between NGOs and local governments are crucial. It is also important to create synergy with mass communication and media. The best way to exterminate violence against women is prevention.

Session D. Fostering Diversity and Women's Creativity

Cultural diversity is at the crux of adapting to and coping with the socioeconomic environment of the 21st century, in which globalization is driving the free flow of people, goods, and information among countries and cities. Our society, increasingly being shaped by developments in IT and cultural industries, is witnessing new forms of inequalities. This warrants global cities to focus on internal social cohesion while strengthening cooperation and alliances. Intercity dialogue and cooperation based on cultural diversity are essential to offset the adverse effects of globalization on women's quality of life, and to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. The session addressed city policies and strategies to promote diversity and encourage women's creativity through communication, understanding, and mutual respect for different cultures.

Workshop 7: Migration, gender and cultural diversity

The topics for the session included: cultural diversity, international migration and coalition of women, women's human rights and social cohesion, sustainable urban development, partnership building between cities, and policies for women in cities, their future paradigm and direction. As gender is the most salient of all diversity components, the significance of gender mainstreaming strategies for promoting tolerance was highlighted.

Conclusions: Migrant women in many cities are suffering from economic and social difficulties such as underpayment and isolation in local communities. Some are struggling with forced labor and sexual exploitation. Migrant women's cultural citizenship should be considered affirmatively in a society. In most cities, migrant men have the priority order for the political benefits for migrant policy. The principle of the gender equal opportunity in the field of migrant legalization should be approached.

Workshop 8: Women's creativity and cultural industries

The session addressed women's status as cultural producers and creators, and looked into the issues of IT proliferation and accessibility of the global marketplace. Then participants examined future directions and strategies for city policies on the role of women as cultural producers and their rights as cultural consumers

Conclusions: Success stories on the International Women's Film Festival, creating wealth and improving creativity through hand-crafts production, women inventors, making films on women's lives were shared. In order to support women's creativity and cultural industry participation, cities need to share their experiences, build networks, and improve women's leadership.

3.4. Seoul Declaration ¹⁹

The two-day programme of the Forum was concluded by the adoption of the Seoul Declaration, which contains seventeen policy and social actions based on the four main themes of the forum. These themes are: Mainstreaming gender perspectives in city policies and administration; the empowerment of women in the context of economic crisis; the creation of cities that are safe for women; and the promotion of the diversity and creativity of women.

The Seoul Declaration also contains five requests made by participants at the Metropolis Women International Network Forum: Thus, the participants request that the Network: transmit the Declaration to all Metropolis member cities and encourage them to adopt and implement it; transmit the Declaration to all relevant authorities and institutions with women's and urban issues; transmit the Declaration to the United Nations Secretary-General and to all important and relevant entities of the United Nations; collaborate with the strengthened gender equality entity at the United Nations; and report on the progress in implementation of the Declaration at the next Forum.

The Declaration was signed and ratified by the two representatives acting as co-presidents of the Forum: Kyungsook Lee, Chairman of the Seoul Foundation of Women and Family Board of Directors, and Francine Senécal, President of the Metropolis Women International Network. The Declaration was also signed by seven political representatives of regional antennas: Arwa Othman Balkar (Amman), Carme Figueras (Barcelona), Fatimeh Ghayour Razmgah (Mashhad), Brigitte Grouwels (Brussels), Fatimata Traoré Camara (Bamako), Yaba Catherine Zouzoua (Abidjan) and Hyun-kyung Park (Seoul). Finally, it is important to note that the Seoul Declaration was also signed by Lucia Kiwala, Chief of UN-Habitat's Gender Mainstreaming Unit. This is a significant illustration of the excellent ongoing collaboration between the Network and UN-Habitat.



¹⁹. Source of section: The Seoul Declaration (2009). This is available in the appendix.

Dissemination of the Seoul Declaration

Since its adoption, several efforts have been made to disseminate the Declaration. First of all, the Metropolis Women International Network asked Mr Jean-Paul Huchon, the President of Metropolis, to officially send the Declaration on behalf of Metropolis to the Secretary-General of the UN, the Honourable Ban Ki-moon, and to the mayors of all Metropolis member cities. What's more, Metropolis has posted the Declaration on its [website](#), supporting the coordination efforts of the Network in the dissemination of the Declaration to all its members, INGOs and NGOs. The Network and Metropolis continue to distribute copies of the Declaration at its international events.

The regional antennas of the Network are fundamental to the dissemination of the Seoul Declaration in their specific regions. The original Declaration was available in four languages (French, English, Spanish and Korean). Later, the antennas in Mashhad and Amman translated the Declaration into Farsi and Arabic, respectively, and distributed the Declaration in several cities in their respective regions; the Seoul antenna will soon have the Declaration translated into Chinese and Japanese. The Barcelona antenna has distributed the Declaration to cities in its region. The Seoul antenna has organised a survey to confirm which cities have adopted the Declaration and have taken steps towards its implementation. This information will be used to assess the Seoul Declaration at the next *Dynamic Cities Need Women* forum. Finally, it is important to remember that Seoul's *Women-Friendly City Project*, a reference approach in the Seoul Declaration, was awarded the 2010 *United Nations Public Service Award*. Clearly, this prize significantly lifted the profile of the Declaration.

Moreover, the Declaration was also disseminated on the websites of several other international organisations. These include [UN-Habitat](#), [the International Institute for the Management of Major Metropolises](#), [the Seoul Foundation of Women and Family](#), [the Association for Women's Rights in Development](#) and [the Centre for International Peace and Security Studies](#).

04.

FUTURE CONCERNS OF THE NETWORK: HEALTH AND SAFETY IN CITIES

At the coordination meeting of Metropolis Women International Network held in Barcelona in October 2010 within the framework of the Metropolis Board of Directors, the representatives of regional antennas present identified the main issues that affected them in order to determine by consensus the theme of a possible future Metropolis commission for 2011-2014. The Metropolis Women International Network thus made the Metropolis Board of Directors aware of the need for a three-year Commission on the theme of “Health and security in metropolises” under the presidency of a member city of Metropolis. This subject was chosen by the participants, since health and security are conditions sine qua non to the existence, social vitality and economic development of metropolises. Now more than ever, these two issues intertwine to make measures implemented by metropolises to protect their citizens (women and men) and ensure their well-being a more complex task.

The study on the making metropolises secure is among the most opportune in 2010 to assess political, social and environmental changes that have taken place since the start of the millennium. The repositioning and calling into question of the best approaches to adopt to ensure the security of metropolises across the world is justified by the diversification of security issues in recent decades. These issues include cross-border crime and terrorism, food security, environmental security, the reception of refugees and illegal immigration. Furthermore, due to the ongoing concentration of the population in metropolises, one must wonder about the efficiency and effectiveness of public security measures implemented in urban areas.

These security issues also affect public health in metropolises. Whether it be in terms of physical or psychological violence, malnutrition, famine, drought, natural disasters or cross-border epidemics, one cannot deny that public security issues have complex effects on the health of both men and women of all ages and all ethnic origins who live in cities on a permanent or temporary basis. Although these issues are sometimes the responsibility of national and supranational authorities, on a day-to-day level it is local and regional authorities that experience their effects more directly and have to implement a significant proportion of interventions to ensure the well-being of their population; hence the importance of addressing health and security on a metropolis level.

In view of this perspective, the Metropolis Women International Network has proposed to the Metropolis Board of Directors this commission on the theme of “Health and security in metropolises” to persuade the representatives of the world’s great metropolises to consider how to best address issues and problems relating to health and security at the beginning of this new decade. This analysis will inform metropolises of the particular problems they face, the solutions they have provided and lessons learnt, and to share their solutions in order to improve the living environment of their resident and transient populations. This sharing of solutions will be useful for metropolises that experience similar situations, or help prepare them to face these situations. This joint analysis is necessary inasmuch as the acceleration of economic and human movements increases the interdependence of metropolises.

05.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following numerous discussions, conferences and activities organised between 2008 and 2011, the Metropolis Women International Network can issue a series of policy and organisational recommendations to improve the position of the Network, the influence of female decision-makers (elected representatives, appointees, managers and professionals) in local and metropolitan government, as well as the place of women in society as a whole.



At the coordination meeting of the Metropolis Women International Network held in Barcelona in October 2010, within the framework of the Metropolis Board of Directors, the regional antennas present learnt about the activities of the Network. They discussed the future of the Network and agreed on the directions translated into the following recommendations. These recommendations were also sent to all antennas for comment (whether present or not at the meeting).

5.1. Policy recommendations ²⁰

The policy recommendations of the Network can be found in the [Seoul Declaration](#) of 2009, which was adopted at the Second International Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women*. The Declaration encourages the adoption of gender-specific perspectives in city policies and administration. The Declaration also contains a series of policy proposals to empower women facing economic crisis, create cities that are safer for women, and promote the diversity and creativity of women. These are as follows:

Mainstreaming gender perspectives in city policies and administrations

- Through systematic use of gender analysis, gender impact assessment and gender-responsive budgeting
- Through promoting women's equal participation in political and administrative decision-making

²⁰. Source of section: The Seoul Declaration (2009). This is available in the appendix.

- Through consultative participation to engage all women in city policies and administration, including grass-root organisations
- By improving work-family balance
- By stimulating changes to counter gender role stereotypes

Autonomisation des femmes dans le contexte de la crise économique

- By creating more decent work for women
- By supporting women-led businesses
- By promoting actions to avoid poverty during economic crisis
- By taking necessary measures to avoid an increase in women's unequal burden of unpaid work, including care giving
- By promoting actions to ensure social protection and provide a decent pension

Création de villes sécuritaires pour les femmes

- By taking appropriate measures to combat all forms of violence towards women in all public spaces, work places and private home
- By creating awareness among the public of the need to combat domestic violence and by supporting the efforts of community and non-governmental organisations in this regard
- By promoting the safety of women and girls and their own perception of security, eliminating the risk of harassment and violence towards them in all public spaces
 - By carrying out gender safety audits
 - By improving the design of public spaces and infrastructure
 - By improving services especially in public transport

Promotion de la diversité et de la créativité des femmes

- By recognising the specific needs and contributions of different groups of women such as women with disabilities, migrant women, and elderly women
- By creating equal opportunities and providing the necessary support to allow women to express their creativity in various ways through art and culture
- By encouraging and supporting the media in improving the portrayal of women, in particular by highlighting women's leadership roles.
- By promoting remarkable women in a creative way in the public space (street names, statues, women artists).

5.2. Organisational recommendations

Five years after its launching in Berlin in 2005, the Metropolis Women International Network has demonstrated, through its dynamism, activities and topics of discussion, that female elected representatives, appointees, managers and professionals from Metropolis member cities take part in reflections, directions and activities of Metropolis, as well as in the activities of other INGOs.

5.2.1. Organisational recommendations for Metropolis

In view of its assessment for 2008-2011, the Metropolis Women International Network recommends that Metropolis:

- Increases its support for the coordination of the Metropolis Women International Network, due to the growth of its activities.
- Continues to encourage its member cities to adopt and implement the Seoul Declaration.
- Ensures greater participation by female elected representatives, appointees, managers and professionals in the work of Metropolis commissions.
- Takes into account concerns expressed by the Network in relation to its choice of subjects for Metropolis commissions for 2011-2014 (e.g. Health and Security Commission).
- Encourages member cities to develop indicators incorporating gender-based analysis.
- Supports member cities that wish to provide their elected representatives and managers with training on gender-based analysis and gender budgeting.
- Supports the Network in the hosting of the next *Dynamic Cities Need Women* international forum.
- Supports collaboration between the Metropolis Women International Network and UN-Habitat.
- Establishes an official link with the new body UN-WOMEN, so that concerns of women in cities as decision-makers and citizens are taken into account by this new body and the Metropolis Women International Network is called upon in relation to metropolises.

5.2.2. Organisational recommendations for the Metropolis Women International Network

In view of its assessment for 2008-2011, the Metropolis Women International Network recommends that the presidency and coordination of the Network

- Jointly organise, in collaboration with an antenna and with the consent and support of Metropolis, a third *Dynamic Cities Need Women* international forum on the theme of “Women, cities and disasters”.
- Contribute to the new portal “*Women and Human Settlements*” established by UN-Habitat and the Huairou Commission.
- Continue their collaboration with INGOs, and UN-Habitat in particular.
- Establish sustainable collaboration with UN-WOMEN.
- Continue efforts to open new antennas.
- Intensify the relationship with CGLU.

The Metropolis Women International Network recommends that the antennas:

- Strengthen their regional role by organising regional meetings (Africa, Latin America, Asia) according to their main concerns, and by choosing themes that address solutions with a view to practical implementation according to regional characteristics and the knowledge of the cities concerned.
- Actively seek out regional sources of finance by focusing on the main themes of interest to them.
- Promote their regional and local activities on the Metropolis website.
- Organise local training sessions adapted to the needs of women on lobbying, negotiation, closing arguments and electoral campaign strategies.
- Research and debate different themes, such as the value-added provided by women in cities, political institutional mechanisms and national programmes.

CONCLUSION

Metropolis has played a leading role by lending its support to the forming of the Metropolis Women International Network within its association. Five years after its official launching in Berlin in 2005, the Network extended its international exposure during 2008-2011, thanks to its position on the Metropolis Board of Directors, the status of commission conferred upon it by Metropolis and the impacts of the *International Forums Dynamic Cities Need Women* (Brussels, 2007 and Seoul, 2009). This exposure has also reflected on Metropolis, which participated in the dissemination of the conclusions and declarations of these two forums.



It is also important to remember that the innovative method of operation of the Network, through the use of regional antennas, has increased the participation of women and INGOs that address issues relating to women and cities in the activities of Metropolis. The representatives of regional antennas play an important role in the activities of the Network, and have been active in the forums and in the dissemination of declarations.

When international organisations recognise the importance of cities and metropolises in the 21st century and the main challenges urban environments must face (climate change, migration, major disasters, economic challenges), female decision-makers, managers, elected representatives and professionals contribute in a major way to the improvement of the living environment of men and women in metropolises.

This report demonstrates that the Metropolis Women International Network implemented its Action Plan 2008-2011. Through local, regional and international action, the Network was able to very effectively bring together mixed groups of female elected representatives, managers, professionals and city-dwellers from all continents.

The activities of the Network must now be reinforced to continue improving the position of women in local administrations and living in metropolises, and to help improve the living environment of metropolises. The Network wishes to continue encouraging gender mainstreaming analysis and gender budgeting so that local decision-making processes take into account the different needs of women and men. The Network session as part of the coming Metropolis Congress is the perfect occasion to determine the main avenues for intervention by the Metropolis Women International Network in the years to come, in view of the growing challenges that women and cities face.

APPENDIX 1

Seoul Declaration

SEOUL DECLARATION

Adopted at the Second International Forum of the Metropolis Women International Network

Dynamic Cities Need Women : Visions and Challenges for a Women-Friendly City

Seoul, 21-24 October 2009

WE, the participants to the 2nd International Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women: Visions and Challenges for a Women-Friendly City*, having met in Seoul at the invitation of the Seoul Metropolitan Government and the Metropolis Women International Network,

SHARING the opinion that the situation described in the Brussels Declaration adopted on the 5 December 2007 in Brussels, at the 1st International Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women: Actions and Policies for Gender Equality* remains actual and requires continuous attention,

RECOGNIZING that climate change, natural disasters and armed conflicts affect cities and their citizens in an acute way,

CONSIDERING the significant overall impact of the current international financial and economic crisis upon the more vulnerable population of women,

WELCOMING the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations to establish a strengthened gender equality entity within the United Nations,

REAFFIRM our endorsement of the goals and plans of the Brussels Declaration,

URGE city officials and administrators to embrace and adopt the concept of "Women-Friendly Cities" as a positive proactive strategy to promote their cities and recognize as an exemplary approach the "Women-Friendly Seoul Project",

ENCOURAGE the adoption of strategies and actions related to their jurisdiction:

- 1. Mainstreaming gender perspectives in city policies and administration**
 - Through systematic use of gender analysis, gender impact assessment and gender-responsive budgeting
 - Through promoting women's equal participation in political and administrative decision making
 - Through consultative participation to engage all women in city policies and administration including grass-root organizations
 - By improving work-family balance
 - By stimulating changes in gender role stereotypes
- 2. Empowering women during the economic crisis**
 - By creating more decent work for women
 - By supporting women-led businesses
 - By promoting actions to avoid poverty during economic crisis
- 3. Building safe cities for women**
 - By taking necessary measures to avoid an increase in women's unequal burden of unpaid work, including care giving
 - By promoting actions to ensure social protection and provide decent pension
- 4. Fostering diversity and women's creativity**
 - By taking appropriate measures to combat all forms of violence against women in all public spaces, work places, and private homes
 - By creating awareness among the public on the need to combat domestic violence and by supporting the efforts of community and non-governmental organizations on this regard
 - By promoting the safety of women and girls, and their own perception of security, eliminating the risk of harassment and violence in all public spaces:
 - By carrying out gender safety audits
 - By improving the design of public space and infrastructures
 - By improving services especially in public transport

WE, the participants to the 2nd International Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women: Visions and Challenges for a Women-Friendly City*, ask the Metropolis Women International Network:

1. To transmit the Declaration to all member cities of Metropolis, and encourage them to adopt and implement it
2. To transmit the Declaration to all relevant authorities and institutions with women's and urban issues
3. To transmit the Declaration to the Secretary General of the United Nations and to all the important and relevant entities in the United Nations
4. To offer the collaboration of the Metropolis Women International Network to the strengthened United Nations gender equality entity, when established.
5. To report at the next Forum on progress in implementation of the Declaration.



Metropolis Women International Network

APPENDIX 2

Metropolis Women International Network Achievements 2008-2011

Achievements of the Chairmanship and Coordination of the Network

Montreal

- Participation in the Metropolis Board of Directors Meeting (Sydney 2008, Barcelona 2010).
- Participation in the 'Global leadership Initiative on Gender Equality in Cities 2006-2009' of CIFAL-Atlanta in November 2008 (Gender, Governance and Economic Empowerment in the Americas), in October 2009 (Gender, Governance and Economic Empowerment), and in March 2010 (meeting of advisory committee of 2010 Global leadership Initiative on Gender Equality in Cities) (2008-2010).
- Participation in a coordination meeting with the Mashhad section (May 2009).
- Organisation of training on gender mainstreaming in local governance, at the request of UN-Habitat, within the framework of the World Urban Forum IV (October 2008).
- Organisation and participation in the meeting of coordination of the Network held in Seoul (October 2009).
- Co-organisation of Second Forum on Dynamic Cities Need Women and signing of the Seoul Declaration (October 2009).
- Co-organisation of training on gender budgeting within the framework of the Second International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women held in Seoul (October 2009).
- A councillor of Montréal, Helen Fotopulos, welcomed by the Seoul section (February 2010).
- Organisation in Montréal of a conference entitled 'Women and cities of the world - towards a better world' (March 2010).
- Attendance in New York to the 54th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (March 2010).
- Participation in Rio de Janeiro in the First Session of UN Habitat's Gender Equality Action Assembly, within the framework of the World Urban Forum V, and organisation of a coordination meeting with the representatives of the Network, UN-Habitat and the Huarion Commission (March 2010).
- Organisation in Rio de Janeiro of training regarding gender budgeting in local governments, at the request of UN-Habitat, within the framework of the World Urban Forum V (March 2010).
- Presentation in Montréal regarding the gender budgeting approach in local governments and the Network activities at URBA 2015 (June 2010).
- Hosting and supervision of an intern from the Ivory Coast and organisation in Montreal of a presentation entitled 'Sources of inspiration for the Ivory Coast: Montréal, Québec and Canadian experiences (August 2010).
- Organisation and participation in the coordination meeting of the Network held in Barcelona (October 2010).
- Organisation in Montreal of a coordination meeting with the Seoul section (November 2010).

Activities by Regional Sections

Abidjan

- Improvement and promotion of existing social networks (2008-2010).
- Creation of 200 cooperatives seeking to create employment and to improve production and commercialisation of products and services (2008-2010).
- Participation in Second International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women and signing of the Seoul Declaration (October 2009).
- Participation in the coordination meeting of the Network held in Seoul (October 2009).
- Participation in the coordination meeting of the Network held in Barcelona (October 2010).

Amman

- Organisation of conferences on the equality between sexes, achievements of Jordanian women, political participation and the role of women in the municipal council, skills development of Arabic women, as well as on gendered budgeting (2008-2010).
- Organisation of training on female leadership.
- Organisation of cultural activities, competitions and activities of recognition to promote creativity and reward women working in the municipality of Amman.
- Participation in radio and TV debates and interviews.
- Networking of representatives of the Amman section with representatives from other Jordan municipalities, representatives of Iraq civil society, councillors of the Gaza region as well as directors of the ministry of local development of Egypt.
- Implementation of the initiative 'Friends of the Network' to encourage women from universities to join.
- Promotion of gender-based safety in Greater Amman's transport project.
- Organisation of weekly legal consultation sessions to raise awareness among women of their personal and professional rights.
- Participation in Second International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women and signing of the Seoul Declaration (October 2009).
- Participation in the coordination meeting of the Network held in Seoul (October 2009).
- Participation in the coordination meeting of the Network held in Barcelona (October 2010).

Athens

- Promotion of crèches and reconciliation of professional and personal life, considering the needs of immigrant women.
- Transmission of information regarding the Network's activities in the cities of Central and South-East.
- Participation in the coordination meeting of the Network held in Barcelona (October 2010).

Bamako

- Organisation of conferences on the representativeness of women in decision-making bodies, the role and place of women in local governments, and their financial autonomy (2008-2010)
- Participation in radio and television debates and interviews regarding the promotion of gender and the participation of women in the development of their community.
- Organisation of training on governance and community management, the major principles of financial legislation and the methods for mobilising resources.
- Participation in Second International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women and signing of the Seoul Declaration (October 2009).
- Participation in the coordination meeting of the Network held in Seoul (October 2009).
- Participation in Morocco in the fifth Africités Summit and in the special session entitled 'Elected women and their place in local institutions' (December 2009).
- Participation in the coordination meeting of the Network held in Barcelona (October 2010).

Bangui Currently no information available.

Barcelona

- Work on the impact of time management in metropolises.
- Participation in Second International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women and signing of the Seoul Declaration (October 2009).
- Participation in the Network coordination meeting held in Seoul (October 2009).
- Reception of sections in Barcelona and participation in the Network's coordination meeting held in Barcelona (October 2010).

Brussels-Capital Region

- Participation in Second International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women and signing of the Seoul Declaration (October 2009).
- Participation in the coordination meeting of the Network held in Seoul (October 2009).

Dakar

- Participation in the coordination meeting of the Network held in Barcelona (October 2010).
- Promotion of needs of entrepreneurial women with difficulties to access international markets.

Mashhad

- Creation of a website for the section.
- Supervision and support of participation of several women holding elected and managerial posts in Metropolis training sessions held in Mashhad (2009-2010) and in Seoul (2009).
- Award of a research contract to determine the needs of Iranian and Middle-Eastern women.
- Organisation of a meeting in Mashhad coordinated by Montréal (May 2009).
- Participation in Second International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women and signing of the Seoul Declaration (October 2009).
- Participation in the coordination meeting of the Network held in Seoul (October 2009).

State of Mexico

- Promotion of legal reforms to fight against violence towards women

Pune

- Organisation of conferences on climate change and its impact on the region of Pune (2008-2010)
- Participation in Paris in the Metropolis Commission 1 (Eco-region), regarding actions carried out to fight climate change (December 2010).

Santiago de Chile

- Participation in Second International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women (October 2009).
- Participation in the Network's coordination meeting held in Barcelona (October 2010).

Seoul

- Participation in TV interviews.
- Information on the section's website.
- Reception in Seoul of an elected councillor of Montréal and exchange of experiences regarding women-men equality in cities (February 2010).
- Participation in the coordination meeting of the Network held in Seoul (October 2009).
- Co-organisation of the second international Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women and signing of the Seoul Declaration. (October 2009)
- Co-organisation of training on gender budgeting within the framework of the Second International Forum Dynamic Cities Need Women (October 2009)
- Organisation of first round table of the Asia Women's Network under the title 'Envisioning Gender Governance Strategies for Asian Metropolises' (October 2009).
- Attendance to 54th Session of the UN's Commission on the Status of Women and presentation of Women Friendly City Project and Seoul Declaration in a parallel session entitled 'Women and Safer Cities' (March 2010).
- Participation in Rio de Janeiro in the first session of UN-Habitat's Gender Equality Action Assembly, within the framework of World Urban Forum V, as well as in the coordination meeting of the Network (March 2010).
- Participation in a meeting in Montreal with the office of coordination and exchanges with the Ville de Montréal (November 2010).
- Participation in the 'Third International Conference on Women's Safety: Building Inclusive Cities' in New Delhi (November 2010).

APPENDIX 3

Metropolis Women International Network Chair, coordination and representatives of regional sections

Cities

Political representatives

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Montréal | <p>Francine SENÉCAL Elected to the City Council of Ville de Montréal until 31 October 2009. <i>Note: Since November 1, 2009, the Ville de Montréal has been represented at the Metropolis Women International Network by the Network Coordinator Ms. Rita Rachele Dandavino.</i></p> <p>Rita Rachele DANDAVINO Network Coordinator. Project Director for the International Institute for the Management of Major Metropolises, Ville de Montréal</p> |
|-----------------|--|

Regional Sections

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Abidjan | <p>Biedjui Eleonore DANHO First Vice-Governor of the District of Abidjan</p> <p>Viviane BOUABRE YAO</p> |
| Amman | <p>Samia SUKKAR Councillor, Greater Amman Municipality</p> <p>Arwa Othman BALKER Director, Metropolis Women International Network Regional Office, Greater Amman Municipality</p> |
| Athens | <p>Hera (Eirini) VALSAMAKI-RALLI Deputy Mayor of Athens, Chairman of the Athens Municipal Creche and Childcare Centre</p> <p>Sofia J. PAPASTERGIOU Senior Administrator, Department of International Cooperation</p> |
| Bamako | <p>Samaké Hawa DIAKITÉ National Councillor, High Council of Local Governments of Mali</p> <p>Camara Fatimata Z. TRAORÉ District Councillor, President of the Infrastructure Commission</p> |
| Bangui | <p>Madeleine ZAMA Deputy Mayor, Bangui</p> <p>Minda Faustine Madeleine MOSSABA IV Head of Payroll Department, Bangui</p> |
| Barcelona | <p>Carme FIGUERAS SIÑOL Member of Parliament of Catalonia until 2010. Councillor of the Catalan Audiovisual Council</p> <p>Montserrat Pallarès Parelada Executive Officer, Communication & Institutional Relations, Metropolis General Secretariat</p> |
| Brussels-Capital region | <p>Brigitte GROUWELS Minister of Public Works, Transport and the Port of Brussels Brussels-Capital Region Government</p> <p>Katrien LEFEVER Coordinator of Equal Opportunities and Diversity Cell, Director of Human Resources and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Brussels-Capital Region</p> |
| Dakar | <p>Soham WARDINI Deputy Mayor, City Council of Dakar</p> <p>Ndeye Mah SY Director of Foreign Relations, City Council of Dakar</p> |
| Mashhad | <p>Fatemeh GHAYOUR RAZMGAH Elected Member of the Council. Islamic City Council of Mashhad</p> <p>Fatemeh HATEFI Director of Statistics and Analysis. Mashhad Municipality</p> |
| State of Mexico | <p>María Elena BARRERA TAPIA Mayor of Toluca (Presidenta Municipal)</p> <p>Marcela Velasco GONZÁLEZ Secretary of Urban Development, Gobierno del Estado de Mexico</p> |
| Pune | <p>Vandana Hemant CHAVAN Former Mayor of the City of Pune and Member of the Legislative Council of the Government of the State of Maharashtra</p> <p>Dr. Sneha PALNITKAR Director/Professor, All India Institute of Local Self Government</p> |

Cities

Political representatives

Regional Sections

Santiago de Chile

Gloria REQUENA

Regional Councillor, Metropolitan regional Government of Santiago

Karin LUCK

Regional Councillor, Metropolitan regional Government of Santiago

Claudia Faúndez FUENTES

President of Rural Commission

Regional Councillor, Metropolitan regional Government of Santiago

Alejandra NOVOA SANDOVALI

Regional Councillor, Metropolitan regional Government of Santiago

Seoul

Hyun-kyung PARK

President, Seoul Foundation of Women and Family

Kihyun MOON

Seoul Foundation of Women and Family

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