

METROPOLIS WOMEN´S CONGRESS
BERLIN, MAY 12TH, 2005

The mission of the **METROPOLIS International Network Women and Local Governance** is to foster international exchanges, cooperation and solidarity on urban issues between elected women, women executives, managers and professionals involved at local and regional levels. The Network is made up of women from cities of all continents.

The Network held its Assembly in Berlin (Germany) on Thursday, May 12, 2005 within the framework of the Metropolis 2005 Congress with the participation of nearly 150 elected or administrative women coming from nearly 40 cities. All the continents were represented.

NORTH AMERICA: State of Mexico (Mexico), Mexico City (Mexico), Montreal (Canada), Toronto (Canada).

AFRICA: Abidjan (Ivory Coast), Antananarivo (Madagascar), Bamako (Mali), Brazzaville (Congo), Cape Town (South Africa), Cotonou (Benin), Dakar (Senegal), Nairobi (Kenya), Pointe-Noire (Congo), Yaoundé (Cameroon).

EUROPE: Athens (Greece), Badalona (Spain), Barcelona (Spain), Berlin (Germany), Bristol (England), Brussels (Belgium), Frankfurt (Germany), Lisbon (Portugal), Marseille (France), Paris – Île-de-France (France), Stockholm (Sweden), Turin (Italy).

MIDDLE-EAST – ASIA: Amman (Jordan), Guangzhou (China), Mashhad (Iran), Melbourne (Australia), Pune (India), Suwon-Gyeonggi-do (Republic of Korea), Tehran (Iran).

LATIN AMERICA: Brasilia (Brazil), Havana (Cuba), Porto Alegre (Brazil), Santiago de Chile (Chile), Sao Paulo (Brazil).

The 2005 Berlin Women´ s Congress was held in three stages: an opening ceremony followed by guests speakers, a political round table discussing the role of cities in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and finally, the Network General Assembly.

Opening Ceremony

Cities' key challenges and the place of women in their governance were discussed during the opening ceremony. Presentations were made by Mr. Joan Clos i Matheu, Mayor of Barcelona and President of Metropolis (Spain), Mrs. Christel Riemann-Hanewinkel, Parliamentary Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, (Federal Republic of Germany), Mrs. Catherina Tarras-Wahlberg, Deputy Mayor of Stockholm (Sweden), Mrs. Maria Krautzberger, Permanent Secretary, Senate Department for Urban Development, Berlin (Germany) and Mrs. Francine Sénécal, Vice President of the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal (Canada).

All participating women showed great appreciation for the guest speaker of honour, Dr. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director, United Nations – HABITAT. Dr. Tibaijuka drew special attention to the fact that poverty is a feminising city phenomenon and that it is particularly true on the African continent. She has also pointed out the need to reinforce partnerships between stakeholders to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Afterwards, Mrs. Janine Haddad, Vice President of the Regional Council of Île-de-France (France), reported on the *Beijing +10* meeting held in New York in March 2005. There is now a greater recognition of the unique role local governments play to promote equal opportunities allowing women to exercise power at the local level. Furthermore, the link between women´ s participation in governance and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals has also been recognised.

Political Round Table of Elected Women:

Women and Millennium Development Goals: The Contribution of Cities

Mrs. Cornelia Poczka, Head of International Relations, Senate Department for Urban Development, Berlin (Germany), was the round table facilitator. Seven women presented and discussed about the contribution of their cities in achieving the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations: Mrs. Kalliopi A. Bourdara, Deputy Mayor of Athens (Greece), Mrs. Gawa Samuels, Deputy Mayor of Cape Town (South Africa), Mrs. Ximena Rincón, President, Regional Metropolitan Council of Santiago de Chile (Chile), Mrs. Vera Gäde-Butzlaff, , member of the Board BSR, Berlin (Germany), Mrs. Shelley Carroll, Municipal Councillor, City of Toronto (Canada), Mrs. Hiam Kalimat Tuguz, Municipal Councillor, Greater Amman (Jordan) and Mrs. Maite Arqué Ferrer, Mayor of Badalona (Spain).

Network Assembly

Network Presentation : Steps, Objectives and Activities

Network Organisation and 2005-2008 Action Plan

The Network co-ordinator, Mrs. Rita Rachele Dandavino from Montreal (Canada) presented an historical background from year 2000 of the action taken since the Network creation process supported by the Metropolis Board of Directors at the 2002 congress in Seoul (South Korea), to the work done by a task force made of women from various Metropolis cities and the Ixtapan de la Sal meeting in 2004 until the Berlin Congress in 2005.

The 2005-2008 Action Plan proposal was presented for comments and adoption. Taking into account the Action Plan, the task force has recommended that the Network holds a commission status within Metropolis for 2005-2008.

In order to develop the Women´ s Network within Metropolis, member cities are invited to be active within the Network. Although the number of participating women is not limited to two women, cities are invited to formally identify two women´ s contacts: a political representative (an elected or nominated woman) and an administrative contact (a woman manager or professional) to enable the broadening of Network actions.

The Network is based on a **general coordination** located in Montreal (Canada) and supported in a **decentralized mode of cooperation by regional offices** (by continent, sub-continent or region). A regional office serves to communicate the Network´s goals and activities at a regional level. It also works in gathering the opinions of women in the political and administrative positions of local and regional entities in regard to their needs. A branch requires administrative and local political availability and communication tools adapted to a specific area (computer, the Internet, phone, fax, etc.) Several cities have already shown interest in becoming a regional office.

Moreover, the Network decided to focus on encouraging Metropolis member cities to foster active women´ s participation within the six 2005-2008 Metropolis commissions (C1 Eco-Regions, C2 Financing of Services and Urban Infrastructures, C3 Social and Urban Revitalisation of Neighbourhoods, C4 Urban Mobility, C5 Metropolis Performance Measurements, C6 Water Management).

Lastly, training development is an integral part of the 2005-2008 Action Plan. Thus, members of the Metropolis International Network Women and Local Governance will be invited to participate in specific training activities and expertise exchanges.

NETWORK 2005-2008 OUTLINE

2005-2008 CO-PRESIDENTS

The Network Assembly ratified the nomination of two co-presidents:

Mrs. Kalliopi A. BOURDARA

Deputy Mayor of Athens
 City of Athens (Greece)

Mrs. Francine SENÉCAL

Vice President of the Executive Committee
 City of Montreal (Canada)

NETWORK COORDINATION

Mrs. Rita Rachele DANDAVINO

ritarachele.dandavino@cum.gc.ca

Phone : 1-514-280-3553 Fax : 1-514-282-0241

MONTREAL (Canada)

Web site : <http://www.metropolis.org>

REGIONAL OFFICES

Several metropolises showed an interest in becoming a Network Regional Office.
 The list of regional offices will be updated on the Metropolis Web site (www.metropolis.org).

ABIDJAN (Ivory Coast)

DAKAR (Senegal)

AMMAN (Jordan)

STATE OF MEXICO (Mexico)

BAMAKO (Mali)

MASHHAD (Iran)

BANGUI (Central African Republic)

PUNE (India)

BARCELONA (Spain)

2005-2008 ACTION PLAN

✓ **Network Development**

*Directory and data base, Web Site,
 Membership development and
 establishment of Regional Offices*

✓ **Networking**

*Participation in international organisations
 and organisational events sharing similar
 concerns, increasing Network visibility and
 influence.*

✓ **Commission Status in Metropolis**

*Special activities and participation in other
 Metropolis commissions*

✓ **Partnership**

*Development of partnership with
 international organisations dedicated to
 similar or complementary concerns*

✓ **Training**

*Special activities and participation in other
 Metropolis commissions*

✓ **Financing**

Research for financing methods

✓ **Statutes**

Drafting

NEXT NETWORK MEETING

Location: Bamako (Mali)

Date: End of 2005 (To be confirmed).