

Welcome Remarks

by **Janine Haddad**

Vice president of the Regional Council – Île-de-France, Paris

at the opening ceremony of the 8th World Congress of Metropolis
Berlin, 12 May 2005

Speech as delivered

It is a privilege for me to represent here the assembly of the Regional Council of °Île-de-France and to convey you warm greetings from all of its members and its president Jean-Paul Huchon, the first vice president of Metropolis who will joins us tomorrow. He has asked me to convey his excuses for not being able to attend this opening ceremony of our 8th World Congress today.

May I, on behalf of him and of the whole delegation of Île-de-France, Paris, extend our thanks to the city of Berlin and its mayor Klaus Wowereit for their hospitality and ask him to convey our thanks to all the people of Berlin.

May I also, on behalf of the members of Metropolis, thank Joan Clos for his great leadership as president of our association and for his superb job he has done with responsibility, efficiency and passion and anew assure him of our continued trust in him.

Dear friends, this 8th World Congress, that of the 20th anniversary of our association, could not dream of a greater place than Berlin for its organisation. The city of urban renewal, a real museum of contemporary architecture, a vibrant city, but also a city with festive atmosphere, Berlin is inviting us to ponder on the future development of our metropolises.

Let us hope, the future, as is our wish, will be bright for all of us and especially the young people whose representatives have joined us in our World Congress. Let us hope, the future, as is our wish, will be favourable for all of us and especially for women who, in too many countries still, seek to assert their rights.

It is our responsibility as elected delegates to chart the broad outlines of the future and to give shape to their forms to enable all of us to have access to and to harness the development.

I give expression to my sincere wish to see that our reflections will be productive and will enable us to be more efficient in delivering on our responsibilities once we shall be back home.

Thank you for your attention