

INCLUSIVE

SAFE



CITY  
NETWORKS

2020

RESILIENT

SUSTAINABLE

IN FOCUS: SDG 11 DAY  
'SUPPORTING CITY ACTIONS  
FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE'

# INTERNATIONAL CITY NETWORKS DIRECTORY

5 OCTOBER 2020  
CONFERENCE ROOM XII  
PALAIS DES NATIONS  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

# Preface

Each year since 2018, the UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit organizes 'In Focus: SDG 11', a one-day event on sustainable cities and communities. This year, for the first time, UNECE – in cooperation with UN-Habitat and the Geneva Cities Hub (GCH) – encouraged international city networks to participate in the event, to foster dialogue and cooperation with Geneva-based UN agencies, NGOs, academia and civil society.

The directory lists contains information on the organizations participating in the event *In Focus: SDG 11*, on 5 October 2020 in the Palais des Nations, Geneva under the theme 'Supporting city actions for a resilient future'.

Information contained in each profile was provided by the organizations and was not modified either by the United Nations or the GCH. This directory is not by any means an exhaustive list. It is meant as an evolving tool to facilitate access to international organizations that represent cities and local authorities and urban partnerships and initiatives, and to enhance their visibility in International Geneva's ecosystem.

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\* This organization is a global partnership.

\*\* This NGO has a gender focus.



# ORGANIZERS

# United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was set up in 1947 as one of five regional commissions of the United Nations with the overall aim of promoting pan-European policy integration. UNECE includes 56 member States – all the countries of Europe, as well as countries in North America, Central Asia and Western Asia.

UNECE is a multilateral platform that facilitates greater economic integration and cooperation among its member States and promotes their sustainable development and economic prosperity through policy dialogue and knowledge sharing, as well as the exchange of experiences, best practices and technical expertise. UNECE also aids in the negotiation of international legal instruments, the development of regulations and norms, and technical cooperation for countries with economies in transition. UNECE enhances the effectiveness of the UN by regionally implementing the outcomes of global UN conferences, summits and agreements. Such multilateral cooperation plays a key role in accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (CUDHLM) is an intergovernmental body comprising 56 member States. It addresses major challenges in housing, urban development, and land administration and management in the UNECE region. The Committee has developed and approved guidelines and recommendations on a wide variety of topics, ranging from sustainable housing and housing affordability, building energy efficiency, to developing and promoting integrated approaches to urban planning and standards for smart sustainable cities.

In 2015 Together with ITU, UNECE developed the Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities (the KPIs for SSC), which provide cities with a consistent and standardized method to collect data, to measure performance and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to become smarter and more sustainable. For instance, between 2020 and 2023, UNECE will carry out the evaluation of the cities of Almaty and Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Grodno, Belarus; Podgorica, Montenegro; Tbilisi, Georgia; and 17 cities in Norway. Outcomes of the evaluation, the Sustainable Smart Cities Profiles, will highlight the achievements of the cities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and will provide directions for further development of the cities.

To improve the resilience of cities UNECE carries out a range of other activities, including the project *Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19* in partnership with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which focus on strengthening the capacities of local governments in 16 cities globally to design, implement and monitor sustainable, resilient and inclusive COVID-19 economic and financial responses, recovery and rebuilding plans.

Our world is growing increasingly urban – with some 75% of the population already living in cities in the UNECE region – and UNECE recognizes that local authorities play increasingly important roles in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They provide infrastructure and services critical for improving the quality of life and to foster innovation.

The critical role of cities in ‘*building back better*’ after the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the need to make urban infrastructure and systems was at the heart of discussions at the first Forum of Mayors, held in Geneva on 6 October 2020. Under the title ‘*Improving city actions for a resilient future*’ the forum gathered mayors from Europe, North America and Central Asia to share concrete actions and solutions to problems that are facing cities, and to showcase their activities.

Accelerating progress towards SDGs requires building effective and lasting partnerships. To this end, UNECE collaborates with international institutions, academia and the research community, NGOs and the private sector. It organized *In Focus: SDG 11 Day* – an event that in 2020 is dedicated to improving the resilience of cities where UNECE engaged with a range of partners in a dialogue on how cities address the challenges posed by climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters (such as earthquakes and floods) and on how to better support cities in addressing these challenges.

This year, in addition to representatives of UN agencies and academia, UNECE gathered the representatives of 12 associations of cities – the new players in global governance for sustainable development, who ‘make it possible to accelerate the sharing of knowledge and encourage the development of innovative solutions to tackle complex urban challenges’,<sup>1</sup> to discuss actions for improving the resilience of cities.

To learn more about UNECE see: <https://www.unece.org/info/ece-homepage.html>

To learn more about the work of the UNECE Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management please see: <https://www.unece.org/leginstr/hlm.html>



[www.unece.org](https://www.unece.org)

<sup>1</sup> United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development, New York 2019, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3825445?ln=en>

# UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat's vision of 'a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world' is bold and ambitious. It works with partners to build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities, and promotes urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities, reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty. We work in over 90 countries to advance transformative change in cities and human settlements through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance and collaborative action.

Our *Strategic Plan 2020-2023* adopts a more integrated approach to solving the challenges and opportunities of twenty-first century cities and other human settlements. Built around UN-Habitat's vision of 'a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world', the Plan has four domains of change:

- Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum.
- Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions.
- Strengthened climate action and an improved urban environment.
- Effective urban crisis prevention and response.

The agency now has a robust and clear strategic focus to guide its work in positively transforming lives in cities and communities around the world. We are also well-positioned to take a leading role in this mission because we have a significant presence in all regions. By 2050 70% of the world's population is predicted to live in urban settlements.

Well-planned and well-governed cities are therefore the future, because they will help address issues related to poverty, social exclusion and spatial inequality, shared prosperity, climate and the environment, and various forms of crisis. This was reinforced in Quito in 2016 at Habitat III, where Member States adopted the New Urban Agenda, a framework that contributes to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sustainable urban development can have a positive catalytic impact on development and deliver improved living conditions for those furthest behind. Well-planned urbanization resulting in efficient cities and towns can help drive the sustainable development agenda across social and cultural change, environmental protection, and economic growth. In addition, sustainable urban transformation presents an opportunity to work with all types of actor and community, particularly those who are traditionally excluded from such processes. But we must act now.

The implementation of the Strategic Plan must continue to reflect our new vision and renewed focus on impact. UN-Habitat is becoming more outcome- and impact-

oriented and no longer focuses only on processes and outputs. Implementing the Plan through global flagship programmes will also bring benefits. We will reduce fragmentation in our work by improving the connections between normative and operational elements; increase the predictability of funding; and implement priorities agreed in the Strategic Plan more flexibly.

UN-Habitat's normative work, including ground-breaking research and capacity-building, sets standards, proposes norms and principles, shares good practice, monitors global progress, and supports policy formulation for sustainable cities and human settlements. Operationally, UN-Habitat delivers various forms of technical assistance, drawing on its unique expertise in sustainable urbanization and crisis response. We implement projects that add value and provide tailored support to countries. Through advocacy, communication and outreach, we also mobilize public, political and financial support and collaborative action designed to inspire qualitative change in national development plans, policy frameworks, development practice, and investment choices. Our aim in all areas is to promote sustainable urban development at local, national and global level.

We cannot undertake this task alone, and our partnerships with numerous actors are critical to success. In this respect, the present initiative to collate key urban networks in a Directory is needed and timely. Especially since the appearance of COVID-19, these networks have played an important role in helping to collect vital city-level information and share best practices. Through their 'nimbleness', city governments are making a huge contribution to national government policies and processes.

UN-Habitat looks forward with eager anticipation to the outcome of the next Forum of Mayors, which will focus on 'Supporting city actions for a resilient future', and is happy to work closely with UNECE, GCH and other partners to ensure the declaration is implemented. Never have city networks been needed more to address the global challenges of urbanization and build resilient cities and towns, thereby reducing risks and improving the quality of life for future generations.



<https://unhabitat.org>

# Geneva Cities Hub

The Geneva Cities Hub (GCH) is an association under Swiss law, created in 2020 by the City of Geneva and the Canton of Geneva with the support of the Swiss Confederation. It is one of several thematic platforms for dialogue and cooperation, supported by Switzerland, that aim to strengthen exchanges and synergies between organizations in International Geneva's ecosystem.

## VISION

The GCH acts as a platform for dialogue and as a springboard for cooperation on global urban issues within International Geneva's ecosystem, and with urban actors and experts from around the world. It promotes debate, enables knowledge sharing, and encourages collaboration and community building on city-related issues among International Geneva stakeholders, including the UN, other international organizations, permanent missions, civil society, NGOs, academia, and foundations.

The GCH also aims to connect Geneva's international ecosystem to cities and city networks, and to the urban organizations present in the local Geneva community. It raises awareness within International Geneva about global urban issues and about the role of local authorities as they tackle the world's challenges in their territories and communities, work to implement global agendas at local level, and seek inclusion in multilateral policymaking.

“

“Cities do not draft laws and are not officially included in multilateral policy making. Yet they are at the forefront of the concrete problems of populations, such as climate change, security, housing, disasters, and pandemics. States play a crucial role but cannot solve these global problems alone. Local governments and their networks are key partners. Daily, they face global problems in their territories and have to develop concrete and innovative solutions for local communities.

Hosting 177 states represented by permanent missions, 38 international organizations and 420 NGOs, Geneva

represents a unique venue for dialogue, exchange and global policymaking on human rights, health, security, humanitarian issues, employment, technology, trade and the environment among others. The work carried out by Geneva-based international actors has a direct impact on everyone's lives. By building bridges and facilitating regular dialogue between International Geneva actors, cities and city networks, we can contribute together to more inclusive and effective multilateralism to everyone's benefit.”

**MAYOR SAMI KANAAN, GCH PRESIDENT**

## KEY PROJECTS

- Create a community of urban experts and practitioners in international Geneva.
- Encourage constructive dialogue and cooperation with city and local government organizations, leading wherever possible to concrete outcomes.
- Enhance the visibility and accessibility of urban and city-related work carried out by Geneva-based organizations, by means of digital tools, publications and public events.
- Organize thematic meetings of urban experts, practitioners, cities and city network leaders with representatives of international organizations based in Geneva.
- Support implementation of the New Urban Agenda and localization of the SDGs by helping International Geneva's ecosystem to include an urban dimension in its work, in cooperation with competent UN agencies, cities and city networks, and other relevant urban actors.



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Director: Daria Cibrario

The GCH is not a city network. It neither represents cities, nor speaks on their behalf. Cities and their networks drive their collective efforts to influence global policy agendas. The GCH aims to support these efforts in dialogue and partnership with leading international city networks.





# THE DIRECTORY

# Cities Alliance

Cities Alliance is a global partnership that fights urban poverty and promotes the role of cities. It is managed through a multi-donor fund, hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) which acts as trustee.

Membership is highly diverse and includes national governments, associations of local authorities, multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and foundations.

## VISION

“The Cities Alliance seeks to improve the lives of 60 million urban poor across 200 cities in 20 countries by 2030. To be a leading agent for urban change by supporting and implementing comprehensive programmes in countries and cities where it matters most. We leverage the collective expertise of our partnerships to catalyse urban transformation at a global level. Successful cities engage meaningfully with their citizens, and they recognize and promote the role of women.”

## PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

To enhance the well-being of urban populations by delivering innovative, multi-sectoral solutions to urban poverty, through

- Technical assistance and infrastructure delivered through grants to members and partners.
- Direct execution, catalysing State and non-State investments, supported by a coordinating presence on the ground.

“Together we need to build sustainable cities by strengthening urban ecosystems, promoting investment in local resilience efforts and advocating people-centred approaches.”

## KEY PROJECTS

- **New Climate Realities in Cities.** To strengthen partnerships and promote local innovations, we provide small grants in cities of the Greater Horn of Africa and the Bay of Bengal via a competitive process.
- **Femmedina.** An inclusive city programme in the Medina of Tunis, this project promotes women-led participatory planning, strategic interventions in public spaces, and city-to-city dialogues on gender-sensitive city development.
- **Work with informal communities.** To enhance the resilience of slum communities and their ability to overcome crisis, this project supports the work of civil society organizations in informal settlements, in cooperation with Slum Dwellers International (SDI), and reinforces the capacity of informal communities to respond to the current pandemic and prepare for future crises.



[www.citiesalliance.org](http://www.citiesalliance.org)



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# Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy – Europe Office

The Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy-Europe is an initiative funded by the European Commission that brings together over 10,000 local governments in cities and towns in 60 countries, covering 322 million inhabitants. Globally, the Covenant of Mayors brings together cities across 6 continents and 138 countries, representing over 864 million people.

## VISION

Covenant signatories voluntarily commit to building a better future for their citizens by taking action on energy and climate. They share a vision for 2050: low-carbon, resilient territories that have the capacity to adapt to climate change impacts and allow their citizens to access secure, sustainable and affordable energy.

## PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

Signatories to the Covenant of Mayors take action to achieve three main objectives:

- Reduce their GHG emissions by at least 40% by 2030.
- Increase resilience by adapting to climate change.
- Alleviate energy poverty.

To translate their political commitments into practical measures and projects, signatories develop, implement, and monitor a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan. The Covenant of Mayors' Office supports cities in this process via technical assistance, capacity building, networking, updates on financing possibilities, and communications. The Office also offers knowledge-sharing opportunities via peer-learning, notably through its own twinning programme.

“

“As elected officials we owe it to our citizens, not only to acknowledge the dangers of global warming but ensure they never actually come to pass. That’s why Stockholm joined the Covenant of Mayors.”

**BOARD MEMBER KATARINA LUHR,  
DEPUTY MAYOR OF STOCKHOLM**

“

“We need to enact a rapid and deep transformation of our society to ensure that it is more sustainable and just for all. Recovery plans after COVID-19 should serve as an opportunity to enforce and speed up climate neutrality, which can help us tackle another crisis unfolding all over our planet – climate breakdown.”

**BOARD MEMBER MARTIN HORN,  
LORD MAYOR OF FREIBURG**

## KEY PROJECTS

2020 stands out as a peculiar year for Europe. It is a key moment because the EU should evaluate whether we are on track to achieve the target of a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that it set over a decade ago. To keep moving ahead, the European Commission recently adopted the European Green Deal, an ambitious roadmap that aims to raise our climate goals for 2030 and paves the way to a 'climate-neutral Europe' by 2050.

Today, the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting us all. Cities and regions are at the frontline of the fight against the virus, and need to rethink their economies, infrastructures and response systems while accelerating the transition to clean energy and climate neutrality.

In this challenging, changing context, the Covenant of Mayors-Europe is carrying out a wide consultation among its signatories to shape the future of the initiative and assess how to empower local and regional authorities that are leading the way while planning their recovery.

“Through the Covenant of Mayors movement, cities and towns are taking energy and climate action to secure a better future for their citizens. The initiative is open to all local authorities that are democratically constituted with/by elected representatives, whatever their size and whatever the stage of implementation of their energy and climate policies. Join the movement!”



[www.eumayors.eu](http://www.eumayors.eu)



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# Eurocities

Eurocities is an association that provides a political platform for major European cities. We network the local governments of 145 of Europe's largest cities and more than 45 partner cities that between them govern some 130 million citizens in 39 countries.

## VISION

Through joint work, knowledge-sharing and coordinated Europe-wide activity, we work to ensure that cities and their people are heard in Europe. We strive for a Europe in which cities are genuine partners with the EU to create a better future.

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“In recent decades, cities' ability and desire to cooperate with their neighbours, and internationally, have sparked an ability to act as changemakers. It's clear that city leadership can deliver results that matter to people.”

**ANNA LISA BONI,**  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF EUROCITIES

## PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

- People participate in an inclusive society.
- People progress in a prosperous local economy.
- People move and live in a healthy environment.
- People create vibrant and open public spaces.
- City governments address global challenges.
- City governments are fit for the future.

## KEY PROJECTS

Eurocities is actively involved in a variety of projects across the social, economic, environmental and governance dimensions of sustainable urban development. A full list of projects can be accessed at: <https://eurocities.eu/projects>.

“As European cities, we are working together to ensure a good quality of life for all.”



[www.eurocities.eu](http://www.eurocities.eu)

# Global City Network

The Global City Network (GCN) is part of WHO's Global Strategic Preparedness Network (GSPN) and helps countries to prepare for national health emergencies such as COVID-19. Through the Strategic Partnership Portal (SPH, set up in 2015), member States, donors and partners share information on efforts to invest in health security. GCN is managed by the Multisectoral Engagement for IHR and Health Security (MHS), a unit of WHO's World Preparedness Emergency programme.

## VISION

The Global City Network is a coalition of committed mayors and local governments that allies with partners and donors to accelerate ambitious, measurable health emergency preparedness initiatives that strengthen the capacity of local and country authorities to prevent, detect and respond to future health emergencies. Working across many sectors, including pandemic-specific activities, GCN convenes city authorities that participate in preparedness networks and provides a range of normative guidance and services to support their efforts to prepare for health emergencies. GCN also addresses the mitigation, adaptation and sustainability concerns of GCN cities. It assists cities to engage with relevant technical experts and supports collective actions. The network promotes and demonstrates the synergies that cities obtain when they act together to prepare for health emergencies.

“

“The Global City Network (GCN) is part of the WHO Strategic Partnership for International Health Regulations (2005)<sup>2</sup> and Health Security (SPH) and a key stakeholder in the Global Strategic Preparedness Network (GSPN). Established in 2015, the SPH includes multisectoral partners, donors and other partners, and works closely with interior ministries which in many countries oversee city authorities. The GCN takes an inclusive and multisectoral approach to health emergency preparedness. Given that the principle of inclusivity is fundamental to GCN, other existing urban networks such as the Healthy Cities Network and the C40 network are welcome to join forces to improve cities' capacity to prevent, detect and respond to future pandemics and sustain overall city health emergency preparedness. It is important for GCN to coordinate well with other partnerships that involve city authorities, such as partnerships of mayors, in close collaboration with national authorities.”

<sup>2</sup> At: [www.who.int/health-topics/international-health-regulations#tab=tab\\_1](http://www.who.int/health-topics/international-health-regulations#tab=tab_1).

## KEY PROJECTS

As a result of urbanization, cities are particularly vulnerable to infectious disease outbreaks, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. They hold more than half the world's population and around 600 cities are said to generate two thirds of global GDP. As a result, public health crises in these spaces can have a significant economic impact on countries and the world.

In addition, cities are densely populated and hubs of transnational commerce and mobility. They host many critical services on which societies depend – local and global supply chains, points of entry and departure, and supports for vital businesses and services. COVID-19 has shown that, across the world, the preparedness and response of cities depends on many factors, including their level of development, forms of governance, and underlying socio-economic determinants. In general, transparent and collaborative cities that quickly adopt evidence-based and comprehensive responses have shown they are better equipped to manage the pandemic than cities that lack these characteristics.

In light of the risks that urban environments confront, WHO has drafted interim guidance to assist local authorities, leaders and policy-makers to identify approaches that enhance their ability to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 and similar events effectively.

“It is widely recognized that if major cities work together, cities around the world will be better equipped to prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies. Key member States, partners and donors began discussing in late 2019 the need for a network to enhance the role of mayors and cities’ preparedness for health emergencies. During the COVID-19 pandemic, mayors asked national governments to help them strengthen critical public health capacities, develop networks to disseminate trusted information, support health and other essential services, mobilize employees to support the response, and design policies to protect businesses. Cities and local governments across the globe have already started to prepare for future pandemics. WHO has called on global networks to join forces and collaborate with the Global City Network for Health Emergency Preparedness. A responsible city is a well-prepared city.”



<https://extranet.who.int/sph>



Ludy Suryantoro at [suryantorol@who.int](mailto:suryantorol@who.int)

# ICLEI European Secretariat

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (founded in 1990 as the International Council for Local Initiatives) is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments. ICLEI Europe’s members sit at the heart of the organization. Representing local governments and governmental associations of all shapes and sizes, their network stretches across Europe and beyond.

Members support ICLEI’s work through their membership fees and by applying their experience and creativity to develop and implement projects tackling the world’s and our biggest problems.

Between ourselves, we are a peer group whose members are dedicated to sustainable development and innovation. By exchanging and profiting from each other’s knowledge, we can drive the sustainable development agenda in Europe

## VISION

As a global network committed to sustainable urban development, ICLEI works to assist all parts of society to transform to sustainability through local action and multi-level cooperation. Our idea of sustainability is based on the concept of planetary boundaries, meaning that our economic and social development must respect the limited resources of our planet. To achieve this, ICLEI has outlined five development pathways to low-emission, nature-based, circular, resilient, equitable, and health-centred development.

Based on our 30 years of experience we believe the key to successful transformation lies in a substantial reform of our economic, financial and social systems, and a change in the paradigms that rule those systems. We need to look beyond resource efficiency to sufficiency. Instead of creating more for everyone, causing a massive global resource overshoot, we need to create enough for everyone in a manner that respects planetary boundaries. This means that we need to distribute available resources and opportunities fairly.



“In 2016, ICLEI Europe initiated the Basque Declaration, which offers local and regional governments pathways to socio-cultural, socio-economic and technological transformation and contributes to implementation of the SDGs at local level. However, for successful transformation in line with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement, local and regional governments should be more than implementation partners. They need to be actively involved in the design and development of regulatory and fiscal frameworks at all levels, applying a bottom-up perspective to secure the support required for transformation on the ground.”

## PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

Active in more than a hundred countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our members work together with experts through peer exchange, partnership and capacity-building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

ICLEI Europe provides its members in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and West Asia with a voice on the European and international stage, a platform to connect with peers, and tools to drive positive environmental, economic and social change. ICLEI Europe works closely with an extended network of local and regional governments and partners on a broad range of topics.

## KEY PROJECTS

**European Green Deal.** Supporting local transformation at European level, in the context of the Mannheim2020 conference ICLEI initiated with the Mannheim Message a response by mayors and decision-makers of Europe's cities and regions to the European Green Deal.

To achieve our goal of systemic change for urban sustainability and to drive the transformation of our societies, ICLEI Europe works closely with an extended network of local and regional governments and partners on a broad range of projects in various fields. Current projects include:

**CityLoops.** Promotes the transition to a circular economy in cities.

**SUMP-Plus.** Develops integrated sustainable urban mobility plans.

**AI4Cities.** Applies artificial intelligence to promote cities' transition to carbon neutrality.

**UrbanA.** Advances a just transition to sustainability.

**NetworkNature.** Connects nature and clever cities; develops nature-based solutions.



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# International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF)

Founded in 1979, the AIMF is an association (under the law of 1901) which has evolved to reflect changes in the political leadership and activities of local authorities. It is a welcoming space of exchange and solidarity for Mayors of francophone cities that has developed alongside city environments and international solidarity between cities. In 2020 the AIMF had 295 members in 54 countries.

- 1979 The AIMF is created in Quebec.
- 1990 The Cooperation Fund is created in Tunis. An instrument of international solidarity between cities, resourced by AIMF's members, it enables cities to realize urban projects.
- 1995 The AIMF becomes an operational unit of La Francophonie (Resolution 19 of the Summit of Heads of State and Governments of La Francophonie).
- 2015 The AIMF signs a seven year Strategic Partnership with the European Commission.
- 2017. The AIMF signs a four year partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to improve key urban social services.

## VISION

Between 2014 and 2020, the AIMF added a dimension to its range by strengthening its political capacity. It is no longer just an acknowledged and reliable project partner and forum for sharing good practice, but articulates a way of seeing cities, of doing international cooperation led by values. The AIMF has firmly stepped away from being only a 'technical' agency and has a political presence, reflecting permanently on cities and their needs. Its great contribution to city networks is its power to put shared values into action via prominent and emblematic projects.

## PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

In a globalizing world, mayors play an increasingly important role in linking different levels of decision-making and creating bridges between local, national, and international action.

AIMF's aims are: to combine energies; promote ambitious and responsible urban policies that are more respectful of human beings, the environment and the living world; and take forward collectively projects that create new visions of living together, gender equality, and diversity.

For cities, the AIMF is a space of voluntary cooperation. Rather than thinking in terms of North and South, ethnicity or religion, rather than focusing on what divides us, it gathers people together around a certain way of seeing the world.

“

“The AIMF is a shared project. It offers each of our territories the opportunity to develop itself, in a world facing major challenges.”

**ANNE HIDALGO, PRESIDENT OF THE AIMF,  
MAYOR OF PARIS**



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## KEY PROJECTS

The AIMF enriches its social and economic activity by promoting openness among its members, encouraging cities to adapt to climate change, and helping them to manage risk by strengthening social cohesion.

By remaining faithful to a grassroots projects approach, the AIMF is able to reflect more deeply on what it means to work together – as elected local officials, parliamentarians, government officials, scholars, journalists, experts – and analyse and improve the environment in which local authorities operate.

This reflection integrates mayors in institutional development. The AIMF enables municipal authorities to exercise their powers, evolve legal and regulatory frameworks, and articulate their views through the review Raisonance.

To improve our ability to live together in harmony, AIMF will establish a programme to fight racism and ethnic conflict that affirms the role of women

# Mayors Migration Council

The MMC is a mayor-led organization managed as a sponsored project by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides governance and MMC's operational infrastructure. The MMC is financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Open Society Foundations. The Leadership Board is composed of the mayors of Amman, Bristol, Freetown, Kampala, Los Angeles, Milan, Montréal, São Paulo, and Zürich, and the former mayor of Athens.

“

“From a position at the periphery just a few years ago, mayors are now widely recognized to deliver practical solutions, drive progress, and show political will where others have stepped back. Since our launch in December 2018, we at the MMC have helped mayors become more involved in international policymaking, more comfortable in navigating the international halls of power, and more ambitious when voicing their views on migration policy at the global level.”

VITTORIA ZANUSO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
MAYORS MIGRATION COUNCIL

## VISION

As a non-membership organization, the MMC engages with all cities that can benefit from our services and support. We take a flexible approach that allows all cities to participate in our coalition and offer programme activities that match their needs and capacity. As a principle, we strive to ensure that our work amplifies the voices and experiences of the Global South and secondary cities.

For the MMC, success is ultimately a transformed national, regional, and international governance system that reflects and addresses local realities and improves conditions for migrants and refugees.

## PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

The MMC has four long-term objectives:

- Cities are formally represented and consulted in national and multilateral policy deliberations and implementation arrangements concerning migrants and refugees.
- Cities inform and influence national and international responses to migrant and refugee issues through effective diplomacy, advocacy, and communications.
- Cities regularly access financial and technical resources from national governments, development agencies, international humanitarian organizations, and the private sector, as well as their peer cities, to implement local solutions for pressing migration and refugee challenges.
- Cities meet and exceed global commitments on migration and refugees by implementing local solutions efficiently and at scale.

## KEY PROJECTS

**Climate-induced migration, inclusive climate action and cities.** Climate change is increasingly a key driver of human mobility. Since the majority of people who move as a result of climate change settle in urban areas, cities are first responders. In partnership with the C40 group of cities, the MMC coordinates and streamlines cities’ diplomatic activities to promote and enable national and international policy frameworks, highlight specific recommendations and best practices for integrating inclusive climate action and inclusion policies in cities, and explore joint and targeted approaches to climate and migration-related funding instruments.

**Inclusive emergency response and recovery.** The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a stark spotlight on the critical role that cities must play to ensure that all residents have access to information, healthcare, and support systems during national or global emergencies, especially when the State’s response is inadequate. In partnership with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and others, the MMC advocates inclusive international, national, and local forms of governance that ensure no one is left behind in the course of health crises, natural disasters, or any other type of emergency, because of their immigration or refugee status.



[www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org](http://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org)



[@MayorsMigration](https://twitter.com/MayorsMigration)



[contact@mayorsmigrationcouncil.org](mailto:contact@mayorsmigrationcouncil.org)



Mayors Migration Council  
at the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors,  
6 West 48th Street, 10th Floor  
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“

“The MMC recently launched a Global Mayors Solidarity Campaign to draw international attention to the unique needs and vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees living in cities during the COVID-19 crisis. Supported by a joint statement, a video and a virtual hub,<sup>3</sup> it highlights practices shared during the Leadership Board meeting and calls on national and international decision-makers to do more to enable local action, ensure equitable access to healthcare services and economic relief regardless of migration status, combat misinformation and stereotypes, and regularize essential immigrant workers.”

<sup>3</sup> Statement at [www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/news/mmc-response-joint-statement](http://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/news/mmc-response-joint-statement).  
Video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hm-CxHC6Yil](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hm-CxHC6Yil). Virtual hub at [mmc-response.org](http://mmc-response.org).

# Metropolis

## World Association of the Major Metropolises

Currently, Metropolis has 141 members worldwide. Any public authority with territorial jurisdiction or any institution or body that represents a metropolis may become a member of the association, whatever its local government system.

Recognizing the sheer variety of institutional and demographic situations, a ‘metropolis’ is understood in our statutes to be a geographic entity that consists of contiguous urban areas and plays a predominant role in the State in which it is located. Our rules of procedure specify that eligible urban areas must have a population of at least 1 million inhabitants..

### VISION

Metropolises for and by their citizens, where participatory and effective metropolitan governance fosters economic development, sustainability, social cohesion, gender equality and quality of life.

### PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

To advance metropolitan interests and improve the performance of metropolises in accordance with the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.



### KEY PROJECTS

- Cities for Global Health.
- Emergency Governance Initiative.
- Metropolis City Managers.
- Metropolis Learning and Training.
- Metropolis Observatory.
- Metropolis Pilot Projects.
- Urban Sustainability Exchange (USE) Platform.

“In recent decades we have witnessed the continuous expansion of urban agglomerations. The impact of cities is felt beyond their own boundaries, and the resilience of metropolitan spaces and their inhabitants is often tested by natural or man-made threats and hazards. Today, the COVID-19 pandemic confronts us more than ever with challenges and contradictions that exacerbate existing tensions and inequalities. Yet, the pandemic also offers us an unmissable opportunity to rethink our cities and metropolitan spaces. Let us join forces to build metropolitan communities that are green, inclusive, prosperous, resilient, and safe.”

**FROM A CALL TO RETHINK OUR METROPOLITAN SPACES  
BY THE METROPOLIS PRESIDENCY AND CO-PRESIDENCIES<sup>4</sup>**



[www.metropolis.org](http://www.metropolis.org)



+34 93 342 94 60



Secretary General: Octavi de la Varga

<sup>4</sup> At: [www.metropolis.org/sites/default/files/resources/EN\\_Metropolis-call.pdf](http://www.metropolis.org/sites/default/files/resources/EN_Metropolis-call.pdf).

# Open and Agile Smart Cities

Open and Agile Smart Cities (OASC) is a non-profit organization whose members are cities and communities around the world. Its ambition is to leverage technology to improve the quality of life of citizens. Currently, 155 cities are members, in 31 countries from Argentina to Finland and Japan.

## VISION

“Openness, interoperability and transparency are key to the successful digital transformation of the public sector. OASC and its member and partner organizations are one step away from a global market where urban digital solutions can scale up for the benefit of the economy, cities and their citizens.”

MEERSMAN, CEO, OPEN & AGILE SMART CITIES

## PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

OASC is a global network set up to shape and create a market for smart city data and services. It promotes use of open and minimal mechanisms to achieve digital interoperability at scale and replicates digital solutions for the benefit of cities and local innovation ecosystems. OASC and its member cities are uniquely driven by experimentation and implementation.

## KEY PROJECTS

**OASC Academy.** Provides online courses to increase the skills of public administrations and help them prepare for digital transformation.

**CSCC Catalogue.** The Connected Smart Cities and Communities Catalogue is being developed as a marketplace of city solutions, by cities, for cities. Showcasing only deployed solutions and products and services that underpin them, the Catalogue highlights best practices from cities around the world.

**OASC Festival.** A digital festival will take place on 13-14 January 2021 to share knowledge and best practices and come together digitally.

“OASC is creating a market for city data and services based on open standards and interfaces. This market is developed by and for cities, with the support of our partners from international institutions, research and industry. Get in touch with us at [partnerships@oascities.org](mailto:partnerships@oascities.org) to join OASC as a new member city or find out about our partnership models. We look forward to hearing from you!”



[oascities.org](https://oascities.org)



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# Platforma

PLATFORMA is a pan-European association of towns and regions. Its 34 partners represent towns and regions and their national associations as well as European and global networks that are active in city-to-city and region-to-region development cooperation. All members cooperate internationally to promote sustainable development. The secretariat of PLATFORMA is hosted by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

In 2015, PLATFORMA-CEMR signed a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the European Commission which affirmed the political priorities of EU development policies. In tackling global poverty and inequalities and promoting local democracy and sustainable development, the signatories committed to act on the basis of their shared values and objectives. More information on our partners can be found here: <https://platforma-dev.eu/partners/>.

## VISION

“Throughout the world, towns and regions share a desire to learn and to exchange. At PLATFORMA, we transform that desire into a cooperative, global force for sustainable development. We believe in a world where no one and no place is left behind, where citizens have ownership, confidence and trust in the policies implemented in their town and region.

We strive to be the hub of expertise on European local and regional governments’ international action, and aim to boost local and regional governments’ contributions to EU development cooperation policies and international frameworks.”

MARLÈNE SIMÉON, DIRECTOR OF PLATFORMA

## PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

Together with our partners, we defend the role of towns and regions and their representative associations in EU development policies and international fora. We promote international cooperation between cities and regions across the world to boost capacity-building between peers. We facilitate knowledge exchange, peer-learning and experimental innovative approaches between towns and regions and their associations.

Every two years, we organize PLATFORMAwards to reward best practices in cities and regions’ international action. Each autumn, we coordinate European Days of Local Solidarity (EDLS) to raise citizens’ awareness of what their municipalities and regions do at global level. We also regularly publish studies and research papers, including a yearly study on localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

“Cooperation between cities and regions at global level focuses on supporting local democracy, improving the lives of local communities, and achieving the 2030 Agenda. In each project, local and regional government partners join forces and work hand in hand with civil society and all other stakeholders to identify common problems and find the best solutions.

Because they are close to citizens and their needs, and know local strengths and weaknesses, the local and regional levels are the best places from which to address today’s and tomorrow’s global challenges, ensuring they receive appropriate recognition and support.”

## KEY PROJECTS

PLATFORMA and its partners support policy dialogues with European Union (EU) institutions and Member States on EU development policy, as well as between EU delegations and local and regional governments and national associations in partner countries.

Different publications, workshops and webinars will take place throughout the second half of 2020. This includes the EU – African Union local and regional governments’ forum; the EU – Eastern Partnership local and regional leaders’ forum; an event with the German Presidency on decentralised cooperation and the SDGs; the follow-up of our work to assist our peers in Africa to develop their own African Charter for equality between women and men in local life; exchanges between young elected representatives from both continents, etc. To support local and regional governments’ international actions, PLATFORMA and the United Cities Local Governments (UCLG) will publish a training module on SDGs and decentralised cooperation.

Finally, the European Days of Local Solidarity, our annual pan-European campaign mobilizes municipalities across Europe to exchange with their citizens on the SDGs and international cooperation. This year it will take place from 14 to 29 November. Join us!



[www.platforma-dev.eu](http://www.platforma-dev.eu)



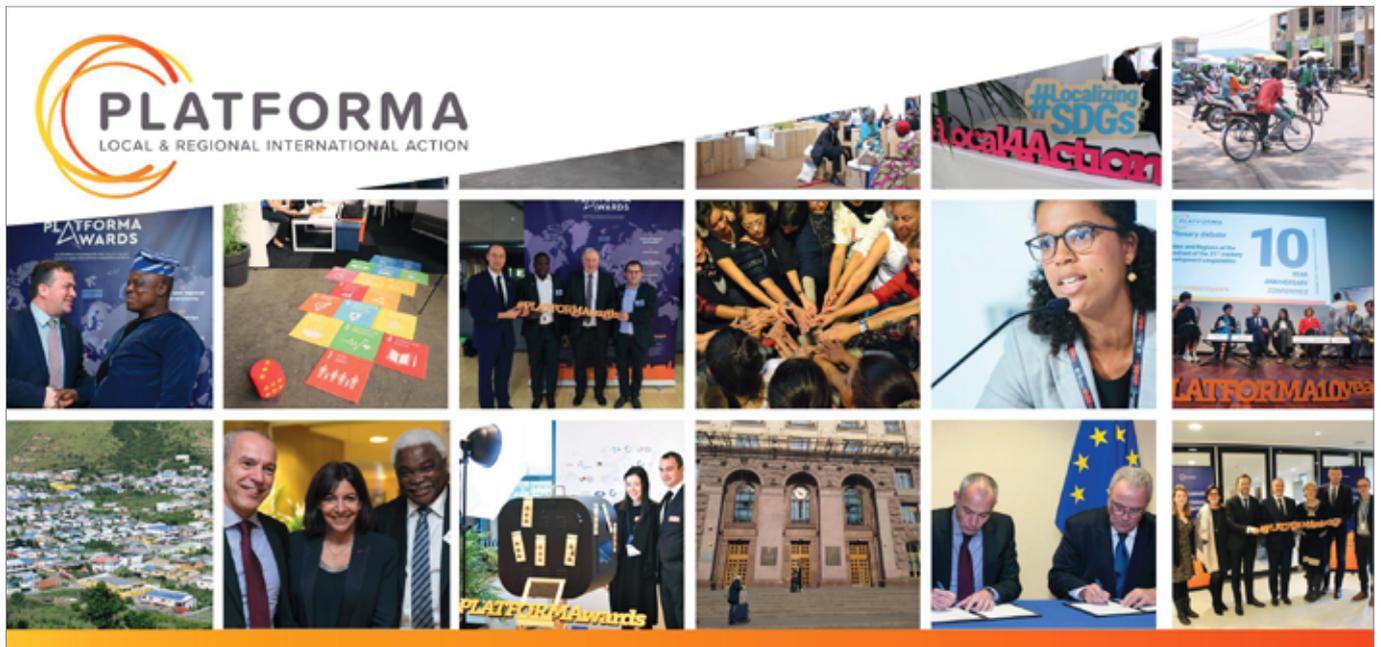
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# Rainbow Cities Network

Municipal and regional authorities have an important and specific responsibility to combat discrimination against LGBTI people, because discrimination often occurs in their immediate environment. Most local administrations do not address this issue explicitly, however. Rainbow Cities is the exception.

Members of this network consider they have a responsibility to protect and support their LGBTQI citizens. They exchange information on good practices, interventions, and initiatives in order to increase the impact of local approaches, spend budgets effectively, and achieve greater social inclusion. The Rainbow Cities Network is an NGO.

## VISION

Despite the progress of LGBTI rights in Europe, these fundamental rights are still fragile and in peril. In the last couple of years, we have seen setbacks in our region. That is why our organization aims to become the reference organization for other municipalities and cities: we want to help them develop truly inclusive policies and contribute to the goal of creating sustainable and liveable cities for all.

RCN members are represented by staff members, not by politicians or NGOs, but work closely with both groups. Through this organizational structure, the Network seeks to ensure that both its policies and their implementation are sustainable and committed. RCN members are diverse: some have lots of experience, some are still learning from their more experienced peers, some older and bigger members are learning from the innovative capacities of their smaller peers. The Rainbow Cities Network has a proven track record of innovation in the creation of LGBTQI policies.

## PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

- To exchange experiences of local policies and lessons learned on LGBTI issues. To collaborate on specific issues, through projects and other means.
- To exchange local good practices and initiatives relevant to sexual orientation and gender identity. To keep up to date with international developments in LGBTI policy.
- To link up and collaborate with international networks and organizations as they evolve.

## KEY PROJECTS

**Publication of One-Pagers 2020.** Members contribute to the Network's annual meetings by preparing a 'one-pager' on best practices. One-pagers summarize the progress of local LGBTI policies and initiatives and provide a basis for reflection and exchange on specific themes.

**Annual meeting.** At the annual meeting, members meet together to discuss, debate, and improve the LGBTI policies of their cities.

**IDAHOBIT annual photo exhibition.** As a joint project, each year on 17 May the Network organizes an exhibition on the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). Every member is asked to contribute a photograph from their city on a chosen theme. Members can print the photographs or display the exhibition online.



[www.rainbowcities.com](http://www.rainbowcities.com)



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Coordinator: Manuel Rosas Vázquez



# United Cities and Local Governments

UCLG is the product of a century-old collaborative movement of local and regional governments. It is the voice of democratic local self-government and, with 250,000 members in over 140 States, it represents 70% of the world's population through local and regional governments in seven world regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Europe, Middle East & West Asia, Latin America, and North America. It also has a regional section and a section for metropolises and metropolitan areas. UCLG has ECOSOC consultative status.

## VISION

“We stand on the shoulders of countless women and men who have worked tirelessly to empower each other for over a century, to lift up their communities and collaborate with one another to achieve change.

UCLG, as a global network of cities and local, regional, and metropolitan governments and their associations, is committed to representing, defending, and amplifying the voices of local and regional governments to leave no-one and no place behind. Together we are the sentinels of the hopes, dreams, and aspirations held by individuals in communities around the world -- searching for a life in which the ideals of the SDGs are a lived reality.

Through collaboration, dialogue, cooperation, and knowledge-sharing, we as a world organization walk the walk, working to advance global response and action through ground-breaking commitments and agreements that become common threads that transcend borders and tie communities together, to uplift and empower the local level.”



## PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

The major global development agendas can only be achieved if they are integrated in all planning, policy-making, and action. Global solutions need to build on local experiences to ensure a future for our communities. This is localization: the achievement of global agendas from the bottom-up. It is the cornerstone of our strategy.

We strive to strengthen and secure a seat at the global table for local and regional governments, to ensure not just that local perspectives and points of view play a part in how universal development agendas are implemented, but that local perspectives are considered from the start.

We are committed to the realization and renewal of local democracy, empowering local and regional governments to play their role in the future of humanity. Only if we equip local governments with the powers and resources they need will we be able to guarantee that the basic services they provide are delivered..

“The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated some of the shortcomings that the current international system already had. Local and regional governments have managed to carry out basic service provision while maintaining a sense of community among citizens, by carrying out proximity governance, and working to make sure that physical distancing does not alienate us from each other.

With this in mind, our UCLG Decalogue for the post COVID-19 era is our political charter in these times of crisis. It underpins solidarity as a beacon of security, and highlights ten transformative actions that lay the groundwork for the next generation of multilateralism.”

## KEY PROJECTS

UCLG will continue to amplify the voice of local and regional governments at the global table by facilitating the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), a landmark mechanism that inputs into all policy processes and convenes local and regional leaders from around the world in the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

**Live Learning Experiences.** During the pandemic, UCLG, UN-Habitat and Metropolis held a series of Live Learning Experiences: these have guided our advocacy and inspired our Decalogue for the post-COVID era.

**CitiesAreListening Experience.** The response to the Live Learning Experiences spurred the creation of the #CitiesAreListening Experience, a space for dialogue and interaction between different international civil society constituencies and the political leadership of our constituency.

**Local4Action Hubs.** In recent years UCLG has promoted the notion of Local4Action Hubs in UCLG to highlight the contribution that local practices and approaches have made to advancing the 2030 Agenda. The HUBs will provide visibility and a UCLG label to local and regional government initiatives, approaches, and policies on sustainable development.



[www.uclg.org](http://www.uclg.org)



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Secretary-General: Emilia Saiz Carracedo

President: Dr. Mohamed Boudra

# Women Transforming Cities International Society

Women Transforming Cities is an NGO. Our membership is open to everyone (\$10.00 fee). We have a monthly newsletter and all members are entitled to attend our yearly AGM.

## VISION

The mission of Women Transforming Cities is to transform our cities into spaces that work for all people by empowering self-identified women and girls in all their diversity. We promote community engagement, inclusion and equitable representation by applying a gendered intersectional lens to policies, programmes, budgets, funding, staffing and governance of city governments, and call for the use of disaggregated data.

## PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES

Our objectives are to work from the local to the international to make cities work for self-identified women and girls. We do this by building international, national and local networks that apply a gendered intersectional lens to urban issues. We engage, educate, advocate and organize, focusing on a wide range of local government issues, including governance, electoral reform, climate change, housing, transit, child care, violence (domestic and racial), indigenous, LGBTQI2S,<sup>5</sup> immigrant and refugee issues, and income. We encourage all women, especially diverse BIMPOC,<sup>6</sup> to run for office.

<sup>5</sup> Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), intersex, and two-spirit.

<sup>6</sup> Black, indigenous, mixed, and people of colour.

## KEY PROJECTS

- Webinars on running for office, civic engagement, electoral reform, feminist green economic recovery strategies.
- Hot Pink Paper Municipal Campaign.
- Women Friendly Cities Challenge – an online library of wise practices tied to the SDGs, CEDAW and the New Urban Agenda as well as other international statements.
- We follow local government agendas and speak out at Councils.

“We encourage all cities to work on social and climate sustainability using a gendered intersectional lens supported with disaggregated data.”



[www.womentransformingcities.org](http://www.womentransformingcities.org)  
[www.womenfriendlycitieschallenge.org](http://www.womenfriendlycitieschallenge.org)



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