

MINUTES

WORK MEETING OF METROPOLIS WOMEN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Buenos Aires, 18 May 2015

Place: Legislatura Porteña

Time: 9:00 – 10:30 am

Antennas: (see representatives at the end of the document)

- Abidjan
- Barcelona
- Brussels
- Buenos Aires
- Dakar
- Mashhad
- Mexico City
- Santiago de Chile
- Coordination

Also: Sao Paulo (city)

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Introduction by vice-president of Africa and representative for Abidjan, Cathérine Zouzoua, which Francina Vila delegated to preside over the internal meeting. She read the President's message, which covered actions carried out by the network and the main challenges it is facing.

2. WOMEN NETWORK ACTION PLAN 2015-2017

The group reviewed the summary of actions carried out in recent months and actions the network proposes for the coming semester (see annexes).

3. IV "Dynamic Cities Need Women" FORUM

Santiago de Chile explained that it cannot host the IV Global Forum and Buenos Aires stepped in to say that it has begun conversations with Bogotá on this subject. If the

capital of Colombia can't host the event, it may fall to Buenos Aires. Buenos Aires and coordination are working to confirm a city in Latin America that can host the Global Forum.

4. PRESENTATION OF INTERNAL RULES

The internal rules of the Women Network is a document with the network's latest agreements. It was announced that this document will soon be posted on the METROPOLIS website.

5. METROPOLIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN BUENOS AIRES

Vice-president of Latin America and the Caribbean and representative for Buenos Aires, Marina Klemensiewicz, mentioned the participation and role of the Women Network on the METROPOLIS Board of Directors. This can be summed up as follows:

- Defending the work of gender mainstreaming in the METROPOLIS Action Plan 2015-2017.
- Highlighting the work the Women Network has done to contribute to the association's document/declaration for Habitat III. This reaffirms the importance of the Women Network participating in co-drafting strategic METROPOLIS documents and position papers in order to ensure that gender is taken into account.

Other spaces at the Annual Meeting 2015 with noteworthy presence of the Women Network were also discussed:

- A. Workshop "Connecting the dots" (18 May, 1:30 to 5:00 pm) -> main aim: connecting the Women Network with other METROPOLIS action spheres, especially: Training, Initiatives and Youth.
- B. Workshop "Gender mainstreaming in public policies" (18 May, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm) -> main aims: raising awareness of the Women Network and the work being done by some of the antennas on the issue of gender mainstreaming in local public policies. Also to share ideas through a practical workshop.
- C. Plus: Some antennas spoke in the thematic sessions:
 - a. Abidjan (Community Leadership session)
 - b. Barcelona (Community Leadership session)
 - c. Brussels (Voice of the Mayors)

The group agreed to decide which city will host the IV Global Forum in the coming weeks, preferably from South America. Buenos Aires committed to working on this topic.

It was noted that the Network members are increasingly committed to positioning it in other Metropolis spaces.

6. NEW METROPOLIS WEBSITE (Women Network)

Presentation of the new METROPOLIS website. For the Women Network, this should be seen as a highly useful communication and work tool. The antennas were asked to review the site and share their contributions and suggestions for improvements.

7. OTHER. Sharing experiences among antennas

The antennas were asked to review the document listing the activities they carry out to promote the rights of women and empower them. This helps us know each other better and allows us to find projects that may have the potential to be replicated in other cities.

Proposals/Comments from antennas:

- Abidjan Proposal: The Women Network should choose one topic each year and submit a program to METROPOLIS on the topic selected. A shared theme would allow antennas to work together better and avoid trying to cover too many areas at once.
- Buenos Aires Proposal: BA mentioned its efforts to bring in new antennas from Latin America and reflected on the need to interact and attract new antennas that are not necessarily working in women's areas in their city, as the interaction among different areas will bring opportunities to innovate in the urban agenda. The Buenos Aires antenna also mentioned ways to boost the network's visibility like, for example, applying for international cooperation funds or showcasing local work with women at global events.
- Mashhad Comment: Mashhad reflected on the role of women in the process of change, commenting on the increased participation of women in politics, sports and other areas in Mashhad.

Before bringing the internal meeting to a close, the **commitments** were reviewed:

Commitments

1. Review Women and Cities Doc. by 30/5
2. Decide which city will host the Dynamic Cities Need Women Forum: Chile confirms that it is not able to do so for political reasons. Buenos Aires will propose it to Bogotá and if Bogotá doesn't accept, it could be hosted by BA.
3. Close regional agendas by 18/6
4. Continue work on Habitat III Doc.

Representatives in attendance:

- Abidjan
 - o Cathérine Zouzoua
- Barcelona
 - o Estel Crusellas
- Bruxelles
 - o Bianca Debaets
 - o Sophie Willaumez
 - o Helena Polfliet
- Buenos Aires
 - o Marina Klemensiewicz
 - o Raquel Munt
 - o Pilar Kusel
- Dakar
 - o Soham El Wardini
- Mashhad
 - o Ensieh Ghafouri Sharbaf
- México D.F.
 - o Mariana Flores
- Santiago de Chile
 - o Paula Gárate
 - o Claudia Faúndez
- Coordinación
 - o Montserrat Pallarès
 - o Mireia Zapata

OBJECTIVES (Action Plan 2015-17)	WHAT HAVE WE ALREADY DONE?	NEXT ACTIONS (for the next 6 months)
<i>a) Consolidate, strengthen and expand the network</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New structure: one vice-presidency per region - New potential antennas with which talks have been initiated: Montreal, Nouakchott, Libreville, Bogotá, La Habana... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to contact more potential antennas. Specially in LAC, North America and Europe.
<i>b) Exchange experience and projects about gender mainstreaming</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization of the workshop on 18 May 2015 (11h - 12h30) - Organization of the Side-event “Urban Digital Women” on 11 March 2015 in NYC: Brussels, Barcelona and Seoul - Africa: collaborative work to define a regional agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To finish the African regional agenda - To identify 1 or 2 key projects in Africa to exchange experiences - To define the European, Asian, North-American and Latin-American Regional Agendas
<i>c) Strengthen a fluid internal communication</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - METROPOLIS Women Activity report 2012-2014 - Regular emails sent by the coordination and the presidency to the antennae - Regular phone calls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular emails between regional antennae and their corresponding regional vice-presidency

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<p>d) <i>Strengthen external communication to create awareness about the network and its activities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work of mainstreaming gender in METROPOLIS action plan 2015-2017 - Work of mainstreaming gender in METROPOLIS Declaration for Habitat III - Document “Ciudades y Mujeres” - Participation in CSW59 in NYC (9 – 21 March 2015) - Participation at the high-level event by UN Women “Women and Power” (Santiago de Chile, February 2015) - Contributions of Barcelona and Brussels to “Voice of the Mayors” (F. Vila and B. Debaets) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IV Forum “Dynamic Cities Need Women” - More implication and support of the antennae to mainstreaming gender in METROPOLIS Position Papers
<p>e) <i>Reinforce and consolidate presence and collaboration with the main international organizations dealing with gender equity</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchanges with Women in Cities - Exchanges with International Center for the Prevention of Crime - Have other antennas had contact with international organizations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue working and exchanging experiences with international organizations