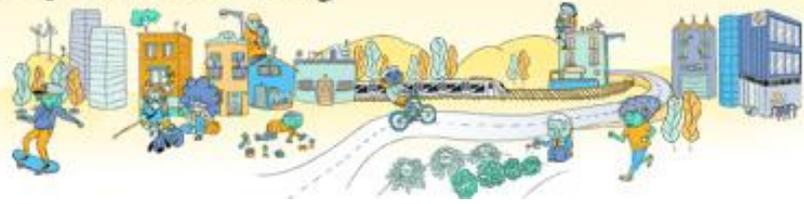


World Metropolitan Day

7 October
2021



metropolis ●



UCLG AFRICA
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique
CGLU AFRIQUE



Webinars series on

The metropolitan governance in Africa

from October 2021 to January 2022

Link to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsdeCpji8iEtFF4SibIINS800A0DACWvgM>

OVERVIEW

According to the latest Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD IV), 1.6 billion people (41% of the total urban population) currently live in metropolitan areas and over 600 million new inhabitants are predicted by 2030. The Asia-Pacific region dominates the global urban system, since it is home to 47% of the world's urban population and 45% of the metropolises in the world. Following behind are Latin America and the Caribbean, which have 13% of the urban population and 14% of the metropolitan areas, and Africa, with 12% and 11%, respectively¹.

Increasing urbanization not only makes it more difficult to understand where the administrative boundaries of a city begin and end, but also how the rapid expansion of the territory makes it more and more difficult for the different actors within a territory to reach decisions about how to address the challenges arising from economic, social and environmental issues.

Metropolitan governance, "a process of coordination of actors, social groups and institutions with the intention of achieving debated objectives that have been collectively discussed and defined in fragmented environments" (Borraz and Le Galés, 2001: 350) can be the key to responding to the challenges of urban agglomerations and providing real equality of opportunities, incorporating gender mainstreaming into the concept of governance itself.

In Africa, the diversity of governance actors and agendas has made addressing urban problems complicated, but it can also be seen as an opportunity to harness additional skills and resources through collaborative urban governance processes that bring together different actors and stakeholders to develop and implement more holistic and inclusive strategies. In addition, the adoption by several levels of governments of Global agendas like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the New Urban Agenda require sustainable urbanisation and for our purposes sustainable metropolisation².

¹ M. Tomás(2016) Issue Paper 1, *Metropolitan trends in the world*(Metropolis Observatory).

² Metropolis, African Metropolitan report (2019).

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This challenging context is aligned with the new vision of UCLG-Africa for 2020-2030 based on 3 pillars of action, namely, advocacy and mobilization; Capacity building and Knowledge management, access to funding and technical assistance, and 7 priorities among which local economy and finances, gender and youth, climate, biodiversity and food systems, basic services and SDGs, migration, culture, peace and security.

As the focal point of worldwide experience and expertise on metropolitan governance, Metropolis has decided to align its work for the next three-year on four critical challenges we hear from our members that local leaders are facing: Urban growth, Resilience, Public legitimacy and Digital disruption. They are metropolitan-scale issues that we are uniquely positioned to tackle on a global level. And they are challenges that are in many ways still emerging and rapidly evolving, so there is an opportunity to help metropolises adopt a more forward-looking prospective approach.

In the framework of their sound partnership and collaboration, both Metropolis and UCLG-Africa decide to design the launch of a learning program on “Metropolitan Governance in Africa”.

OBJECTIVES

Based on a pedagogical content designed by Metropolis and its alliances, this learning program aims to introduce the metropolitan reality and how metropolitan governance with a gender perspective can be the key to face the challenges and threats that surround our metropolises. In addition, the course seeks to present governance models, including through peer learning segment, according to their level of institutionalisation, as well as to emphasize on the importance of reconsidering the Right to the city in a metropolitan context in order to consider metropolises as spaces that guarantee rights such as the protection of people from accelerating urbanisation processes and to broaden the focus of improving people's quality of life.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course will be organised around 4 main axes:

1/. Metropolitan Governance Models

In this first webinar, we will analyze the different metropolitan governments models (metropolitan governments, sectoral metropolitan agencies, vertical coordination, voluntary cooperation).

We will explore the elements that characterize metropolitan governance models: financing, competences, democratic representation, multilevel relations and the main challenges and strategies to promote a form of metropolitan governance with a gender perspective.

2/. Right to the Metropolitan City in the Framework of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda

The second webinar will address the importance of reconsidering the Right to the City in a metropolitan context that reflects the current reality of urban dynamics.

