



MONTREAL DECLARATION

CITIES IN THE VANGUARD TO ADDRESS LOCAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES AND IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

We, Mayors and Representatives of cities and metropolitan regions from every continent,

Meeting in Montréal from June 19 to 22, 2017 for the XIIth World Congress of Metropolis, the World Association of Major Metropolises, and also for the XXXVIIth General Assembly of the AIMF (l'Association Internationale des Maires Francophones),

Joined by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and other large international networks of cities, such as the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability),

DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS almost sixty percent of the world's population already lives in urban regions, and this proportion is constantly increasing;

WHEREAS global issues, such as economic development, climate change and migration impact on urban populations, just as local issues, such as environmental management and biodiversity, social cohesion and security also have global ramifications;

WHEREAS the objectives established by the international community to meet global challenges cannot be fulfilled without the involvement and commitment of the metropolises and all the world's cities and local governments;

WHEREAS women and their networks play a prominent role within local governments with regard to the gender dimension in public policies, to ensure the latter guarantee effective exercise of the rights of all women and men, promote "living together", take local communities into account and protect our environmental heritage;

RECALLING that the world's cities and local governments are major players in matters of local and global issues;

RECOGNIZING the responsibilities incumbent upon us at both local and global levels:

WE AFFIRM our determination to exercise leadership on the world stage and contribute to the resolution of local and global issues that affect both urban populations and the entire world;

WE REAFFIRM our role and our determination to ensure the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change as well as the Declaration of the Climate Summit for Local Elected Officials, regardless the international political context, as well as our determination to mobilize a broad coalition of stakeholders from all milieux to ensure the success of this historic agreement, vital to the future of our planet and humanity;

WE AFFIRM our commitment to implement the New Urban Agenda as well as all the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations;

WE AFFIRM in particular our commitment to achieve goal 11 in the area of sustainable development, namely to make sure that cities and human establishments are open to all, safe, resilient and sustainable;

WE AFFIRM our determination to develop cities designed by and for their inhabitants, where participatory and effective metropolitan governance enhances economic development, sustainability, social cohesion, gender equality and quality of life;

WE AFFIRM our full and entire commitment to women assuming an equal and effective role in the governance of cities and local governments and a leadership role in economic and social development, and that they shall have access to all services on an equal basis;

WE AFFIRM our solidarity in the face of violence and terrorism, as well as our determination to address urban violence through education for peace and coexistence;

WE AFFIRM the power of diversity as well as our commitment to promote living together;

AND IN ADDITION,

WE AFFIRM our commitment to work together with national and international institutions;

WE CALL UPON national and international institutions to recognize that cities must have powers and resources to match their roles and responsibilities; and

WE CALL UPON national and international institutions to recognize that cities and local governments must have a seat at the global table and to develop inclusive models of governance consistent with their roles and responsibilities.

