

Metropolis International Women Network Meeting

Safer Cities for Women

Date: 16 July 2013

Time: 14:00 – 17:00

Venue: Ballroom 3

SUMMARY

Safer Cities for Women

The planet knows currently the most numerous population with the highest rates of younger people in Africa and Asia. More than half of this world's population — approximately 3.4 billion people — live in cities today. This number is projected to increase to 69 percent by 2050, at the same moment that we will be counting with the highest percentage of people above 65 years old.

The number of megacities keeps raising and so are inequalities and risks which are universally shared in different degrees in big and small cities.

Global crime rates jumped by about 30 percent between 1980 and 2000, and between 2002 and 2007, approximately 60 percent of urban residents in developing countries reported that they had been the victims of crime. Many of these are women and young girls, facing sexual assault or harassment on streets, public transport or in their own neighborhoods.

Citizens the world round describe poverty not only as lack of food and assets, BUT also as the powerlessness that stems from dependency on others, and the helplessness to protect themselves. Tranquility and safety is rated very high in any pool the world round. Women, children and the elderly are usually the main victims of violence.

Local authorities have a key role to play in developing policies that will prevent violence and protect victims. These roundtables aim at identifying successful practices. Share lessons from recent policy making and providing a global assessment on progress in this area.

The Round table will be organized in an interview format. Speakers will have 5 to 7 minutes for introductory remarks. Afterwards, speakers will address questions from the audience.

Framing questions:

What is the situation in your city? How high are crime rates?

What does it take for women to feel safe in a city? Is this sense different to men's perception of safety?

Do you have any specific program or policy you are applying?

Describe public services that have improved safety in your town?

How important is awareness raising and education? Who should be targeted?

PROGRAM

Round Table on Safer Cities for Women

Facilitators:

- **Amanda Gouws**, Professor of Political Science at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. Commissioner for the South African Commission for Gender Equality
- **Lisa Vetten**, Independent researcher specialising in violence against women

14:00-15:15 Part I

Video "One Billion Rising" 3 minutes

- **Marta Lucía Mícher Camarena**, President of the Equality and Gender Commission in Mexico Congress
- **Gal·la Cortadellas**, Chief of Staff of Francina Vila, Councillor on Women and Civil Rights of the city of Barcelona
- **Anne Claes**, International Relations Director. Ministry of Région Bruxelles capitale
- **Elaine Salo**, Director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies. Johannesburg

15:15-15:45 Coffe break

15:45-17:00 Part II

- **Manal Alabdallat**, Director of the Metropolis Women International Network Forum in Amman
- **Alejandra Novoa**, Regional councilor - Santiago de Chile Metropolitan Region
- **Cathérine Zouzoua**, Regional councilor – District of Abidjan
- **Anna Hatzziannaki**, City Councilor – International Affairs Advisor. City of Athens
- **Aisa Kirabo Kacyira**, Vice-director of UN Habitat. Representant of UN Habitat-Global Safer Cities Network