

Side event to the United Nations Fourth Forum of Mayors' meeting



WOMAN AND MAYOR

Empowering Urban Leadership for Sustainable Futures

Organized by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)



FORUM OF
MAYORS
2024

PROGRAMME

Hybrid event (English only)

Monday, 30 September 2024

13:15 - 14:45 CET

Room H 200, Building H, Palais Des Nations

Join us online via [Teams Meeting](#).



As the world continues to urbanize at an unprecedented rate, cities have become central to economic growth, cultural exchange, and social development. This rapid urbanization, however, also brings significant challenges, such as congestion, pollution, housing shortages, and unequal access to resources. Addressing these issues requires innovative and inclusive approaches to urban governance. Leadership at the city level, particularly by mayors, is crucial for shaping sustainable and resilient urban environments. Historically, leadership roles in cities have been predominantly occupied by men, reflecting broader gender disparities in political and executive positions globally.

According to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 [1], parity in women's participation in public life remains elusive. At the current rate, achieving parity in management positions will take another 176 years. While women constitute over half of the global population, their representation in leadership positions within the world's cities is a mere 5% [2]. Addressing these disparities requires strong and sustained commitments to transforming biased social norms and repealing discriminatory laws. Prioritizing the enhancement of women's roles in leadership and decision-making, alongside significantly increasing investments in gender equality at national, regional, local and global scales, is essential.

The event "Woman and Mayor: Empowering Urban Leadership for Sustainable Futures" aims to shed light on the underrepresented perspectives of women in city leadership roles and their unique contributions to urban governance. The event seeks to explore how gender-balanced leadership enhances decision-making, promotes inclusivity, and contributes to more effective urban management, resulting in safer, more accessible, and sustainable cities. Through a roundtable discussion, women leaders will share their perspectives and experiences on how gender-sensitive leadership can lead to innovative solutions for urban challenges such as gender-based violence, access to education and healthcare, and sustainable urban planning. Looking to the future, the event will also discuss measures to foster a more inclusive political culture, ensuring the representation of women and gender minorities of all ages and abilities.

[1] Please see the following link: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/>.

[2] UCLG approximates that approximately 20% of council members and a mere 5% of mayors worldwide are women. Nonetheless, there is presently a scarcity of consistent global data concerning the female presence in local councils.



TARGET 11-3



INCLUSIVE AND
SUSTAINABLE
URBANIZATION

1. What do you believe are the main factors contributing to the underrepresentation of women in leadership positions within cities, and what are the consequences of this gender imbalance on urban governance? As a female mayor, what challenges do you face, and how do you overcome them?

2. Could you share the most significant gender inequality challenges your city faces and the steps you are taking to address them? Additionally, based on your personal experiences and leadership journey, could you offer insights into the impact of gender-sensitive leadership on addressing urban issues, especially in terms of gender-inclusive urban planning and design?

TARGET 11-7



PROVIDE ACCESS TO
SAFE AND INCLUSIVE
GREEN AND PUBLIC
SPACES

TARGET 11-B



IMPLEMENT POLICIES
FOR INCLUSION,
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY
AND DISASTER RISK
REDUCTION

3. Looking to the future, what measures can be implemented to foster a more inclusive political culture, ensuring the representation of women and gender minorities of all ages and abilities?

Opening

13:15 - 13:25 H.E. Ambassador Mr. **Vincenzo Grassi**, *Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations Office at Geneva*
H.E. Ms. **Tatiana Molcean**, *Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

Panel Discussion

Moderator:

H.E. Ms. **Tatiana Molcean**, *Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

Speakers:

13:25-14:35 Ms. **Christina Kitsos**, *Mayor, Geneva, Switzerland*
Ms. **Danela Arsovska**, *Chair, 2024 Forum of Mayors Bureau, Mayor of Skopje, North Macedonia,*
Ms. **Susan Aitken**, *Vice-Chair of the 2024 Forum of Mayors' Bureau, Leader of Glasgow City Council, United Kingdom,*
Ms. **Vittoria Ferdinandi**, *Mayor, Perugia, Italy*
Ms. **Hanna Zdanowska**, *Mayor, the City of Łódź, Poland; member of the SEDEC Commission in the European Committee of Regions*
Ms. **LaToya Cantrell**, *Mayor, New Orleans, United States of America*
Ms. **Paola Pabón**, *Mayor, Pichincha, Ecuador*
Ms. **Chilando Chitangala**, *Mayor, Lusaka, Zambia*
Ms. **Datin Paduka TPr. Noraini Binti Roslan**, *Mayor, Klang, Malaysia*
Ms. **Fatiha El Moudni**, *Mayor of Rabat, Morocco (TBC)*

Closing

14:35-14:45 Ms. **Laura Calligaro**, *Deputy Head of Mission – Embassy of Italy in Prague, Czech Republic*