



METROPOLISES AND CITIES IN TRANSFORMATION

Rethinking our future together

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NOVEL SOLUTIONS THAT CAN TRANSFORM METROPOLITAN SPACES IN THE LONG TERM

Tuesday 9th October, 14:00 – 15:30 (Central European Time)

Context

The Metropolis Policy Debate series offers **a space for exchange on challenges and solutions related to metropolitan change**. It provides the political representatives of our membership an opportunity to explore basic issues. The theme for dialogue in 2021 is *“Novel Solutions that can transform metropolitan spaces in the long term”*. This theme connects to the [“Call to rethink our metropolitan spaces”](#) to foster a global debate on how to co-create opportunities and improve responses to the profound/historical transformation that the urban spaces are living today as a consequence of, among others, the climate emergency and the crisis generated by the COVID-19.

This Policy Debate intends to **caucus a wide variety of political perspectives and propose insights and solutions** to enable us to rethink our metropolitan spaces with an actionable and long-term vision.

Background and Debate

Two years after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, **pre-existing challenges and inequalities are still intensifying**; particularly around poor access to adequate housing, public and green spaces, services and infrastructure. The members of Metropolis already seize the occasion and **adapt their governing structures, services, policies and infrastructure** to the needs and demands of their citizens in this evolving environment.

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Yet, the pandemic make us aware that we can and **we need to re-imagine our metropolitan spaces** and give them a new life by:

- Redesigning public space, to make it more convivial, accessible and functional
- Developing new and climate-friendly mobility patterns
- Facilitating the transition to more inclusive and sustainable economic models
- Promote the use of technologies to allow more decentralized patterns of work and leisure
- Fostering nature-based solutions and care for biodiversity
- Reducing our carbon footprint
- Enhancing healthcare services
- Mainstreaming the gender sensitive perspective and better protect citizens' rights

Questions

The following questions are provided as starting points for debate and dialogue:

1. What do you think is a stake in your territory regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery in order to ensure the future of our metropolises?
2. What are the main transformations (regarding decision-making process, policies and/or new public services) that have been brought by the COVID-19 pandemic in your city and/or metropolitan area?

Metropolis invites its political leaders to respond to those questions and create new ones, by bringing up concrete examples from their metropolises and local governments.

Format

- Input by representative of the Presidency, Guangzhou **[10 min]**
- Interactive panel discussions, moderation by Octavi de la Varga, Secretary General of Metropolis **[90 min]**
- Closing remarks by Octavi de la Varga, Secretary General of Metropolis **[10 min]**

Contacts

For more information, or any questions you may have regarding the political dialogue please contact Ms Teresa Oliver (toliver@metropolis.org) or Mr Oscar Chamat (ochamat@metropolis.org) from the Metropolis Secretariat General.

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