

Support for women's political participation at local level

Motion presented by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities with the support of the United Cities and Local Governments Standing Committee on Gender Equality to the G7 Summit in Charlevoix, June 8-9, 2018.

Women's full and effective political participation, both as citizens and in public office, is both a goal and a tool of sustainable development. Local institutions are particularly important in this regard, both as the level of governance closest to citizens, and as the first step to public office at regional and national level.

The 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda both specifically acknowledge the importance of women's political participation in local government. Target 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals is to "*ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life*", and the New Urban Agenda includes the commitment to "*take measures to promote women's full and effective participation and equal rights in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision-making, including in local governments*".

UCLG has driven the 'Be Counted' campaign, calling on national governments and the UN to improve data on the proportion of seats held by women in local governments in order to support monitoring and reporting on progress in women's political participation at local level.

Building on this initiative, and with the support of the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality, FCM proposes putting this issue on the agenda of the G7 Summit to take place in Canada in June 2018.

The motion calls on G7 leaders to:

- **Reaffirm** their commitment to promoting women's participation in policy making at local level.
- **Make efforts** to improve data on the proportion of seats held by women in local governments at country level.
- **Support** existing initiatives by and for locally elected women, including mentoring programmes, elected women's caucuses, and national and international elected women's networks.
- **Endorse** the "Be Counted" campaign by the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality and UN Women for better data on women's representation in local government at global level to monitor indicator 5.5.1 and drive the achievement of SDG 5.