

Madrid, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear friend,

I am writing these few lines to inform you about the celebration of the First World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace which will take place in **Madrid from 19 to 21 of April 2017**, back to back with the UCLG Executive Bureau (18-19). We look forward to welcoming you to both events and look forward to counting with the experience of your city at the Conference.

Cities are the human settlements of the present and the future; places that are not exempt from conflicts and expressions of violence, but they are also a place of opportunities. In this Global Forum we want to focus on what local leaders can do to make cities a place of peace and coexistence. Our desire is that Mayors from all over the world take this opportunity to meet with civil society benchmarks, international organisations and peace leaders by opening a process of debate and reflection that is committed to education as a tool of coexistence in order to ensure the future welfare of our cities.

The recently approved New Urban Agenda and the Agenda 2030 for Development recognize that cities are at the center focus of the important challenges we are facing. Through this event we respond to the commitment made at the World Council of United Cities and Local Governments held on 4 December 2015 in Paris, within the framework of COP21.

We want to make a very dynamic meeting to share those experiences which address conflicts through graphic and audiovisual materials in order to help us understand how to face urban violence and the alternatives of coexistence. Thus, these experiences will inspire us so that cities may become mediation and prevention channels for the resolution of conflicts.

I hope to count on your presence in Madrid during this meeting and deliver a message together to the world: cities can and must be peace scenarios.

With all my affection,



Manuela Carmena Castrillo  
Alcaldesa de Madrid