



Mayors' Roundtable: the responsibility of local governments in ensuring open governments

Paris City Hall, Friday 9th December, 14.30 – 15.30



Speakers

- **Nina Khatiskatsi**, Deputy Mayor of Tbilisi (Georgia)
- **Florah Maboja Boltman**, Mayor of Govan Mbeki Municipality (South Africa) representing the South Africa Local Government Association www.salga.org.za
- **Allan Rellon**, Mayor of Tagum City and executive Vice President of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) representing UCLG- Asia Pacific www.uclg-aspac.org
- **David Lucas**, Mayor of Mostoles and President of the International Committee of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces www.femp.es
- Representative of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) www.ccre.org
- Message of the United Nations Secretary General, Mr Ban-ki-Moon, in occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day.

Moderator: **Elisabeth Ungar Bleier**, Executive Director, Transparency International Colombia

The Roundtable is organized by UN-Habitat, the United Nations Programme for Human Settlements, together with the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), the

Global Fund for the Development of Cities (FMDV) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

Local government is the sphere of public administration closer to the citizen, opportunities to control and monitor local management are also higher at the local level. Local governments are the first respondents to the needs of the people, the quality of life of their citizens, but they are also increasingly responsible to respond to the people's demands for transparency and accountability in city management. With increasing education and access to information, governing without the citizen has become nearly impossible in the world of today.

Local governments are excellent laboratories for the design and implementation of these new models of governance, facilitated by the new collaborative environment offered by information and communication technologies. Worldwide, many mayors and governors are battling to establish a new culture of openness and efficiency in the management of their cities. This Roundtable wants to bring the attention to some innovative experience of open government at local level, at the same time as identifying risks, challenges and what can be done better.

In 2003, the United Nations General Assembly designated 9th December as International Anti-Corruption Day. With the occasion, the roundtable will celebrate the Day by broadcasting the Video Message of the UN Secretary General and issuing a support statement on behalf of the participant local governments and networks.

Objectives:

- to bring the political perspective of local government networks to the Open Government Summit;
- to present already on-going initiatives in cities around the world regarding the application of the principles of open government to municipal management;
- to demonstrate how transparency and accountability in municipalities is the necessary link between increased financial resources and access to public services;
- to present the initiative "Urban-GLASS" – Governing with the citizen

Following the Roundtable, participants are welcomed to join the presentation of the Urban GLASS initiative to take place in the Paris City Hall at 4pm. To register and for further information:

Diana Lopez Caramazana, Head, Local government Unit, UN-Habitat, United Nations Programme of Human Settlements. diana.lopez@unhabitat.org Tel. +254.20.762.50.99

Questions for the speakers

- What are the top 3 things your City does right in promoting transparency and open government?
- According to you, what are the principal repercussions of the lack of citizen trust for your municipality/ or--how does lack of citizen trust impact your government?
- What are the main challenges for transparency in your city? and do you have any challenges or best practices with using technology to increase transparency?
- What is your local government doing to increase the trust of the citizens in the management of the city?
- What is your local government doing to improve communication with the citizens?