



**metropolis** ●

**GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF LOCAL ELECTED WOMEN**  
“Gender Equality, a Priority for Global Development”

30 JANUARY-1 FEBRUARY 2013, PARIS

**Participants' Profiles**

**Opening Session**



Born in Tunisia, **Bertrand Delanoë** was a member of the French Socialist Party during the 1970s. In March 1977 he was elected for the first time to the Council of Paris for the 18th district where was re-elected each year. Member of Parliament from 1981 to 1986, he became Senator in 1995, standing down from his mandate following his election to the Town Hall of Paris in March 2001. In March 2008 he was elected as Mayor of Paris. On the international scene, Bertrand Delanoë has chaired the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF) since 2001 and occupied, from 2004 to 2010, the Presidency of the world organisation United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG): organisation he helped create and of which he is now an Honorary Founding President.



**Michelle Bachelet** is Executive Director of UN Women since 2010 and UN Under-Secretary-General. She is a Social Democrat politician who was President of Chile from 2006 to 2010. She was the first female president of her country. A long-time champion of women's rights, she has advocated for gender equality and women's empowerment throughout her career. One of her major successes as President was her decision to save billions of dollars in revenues to spend on issues such as pension reform, social protection programmes for women and children, and research and development, despite the financial crisis. Other initiatives included tripling the number of free early child-care centers for low-income families and the completion of some 3,500 child-care centers around the country. As Defense Minister, Ms. Bachelet introduced gender policies intended to improve the conditions of women in the military and police forces. As Minister of Health, she implemented health care reform, improving attention to primary care facilities with the aim of ensuring better and faster health care response for families.



**Joan Clos** is the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and UN Under-Secretary-General. He is a medical doctor with a distinguished career in public service and diplomacy. He was twice elected Mayor of Barcelona serving two terms during the years 1997-2006. He was appointed Minister of Industry, Tourism and Trade of Spain (2006-2008). Prior to joining the United Nations, he served as Spanish ambassador to Turkey and Azerbaijan. At the international level, in 1998 he was elected President of Metropolis, the international network of cities. Two years later, he was elected President of the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities, (WACLAC). Between 2000 and 2007, he served as Chairman of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, (UNACLA). And between 1997 and 2003, he was member of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

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**Anne Hidalgo** is the First Deputy Mayor of Paris, in charge of Gender Equality (2001-2008) and of Urbanism and Architecture (since 2008). She also is a regional Councillor for the Ile-de-France Region. With twenty-years experience as an expert in Social Law and Employment, among which ten as a Health & Safety Inspector, she became in 1997 Councillor in the Cabinet of Martine Aubry, the Minister of Employment and Solidarity followed by, from April 1998, the Cabinet of Nicole Péry, the State Secretary for Women's Rights and Training. She took part in the elaboration of laws for Youth Employment, the Fight against Exclusion and Gender Equality. Highly committed to Equality, Anne Hidalgo chairs the Permanent Committee on Gender Equality and is a member of the Executive Bureau of the Organization *United Cities and Local Governments*.

### **Opening Round Table: Participation of women in local decision-making**



Since 2008, **Begoña Lasagabaster Olazabal** has worked as a specialist and advisor on women's leadership and political participation at the United Nations, first with UNIFEM and currently with UN Women as the Chief of Leadership and Governance. She is special Envoy for Ms. Michelle Bachalet. Having studied European High Law at the University of Salamanca, Olazabal is a Spanish lawyer specializing in Community, Civil and Private International Law. She was in charge of International Relations of her National Executive and was elected Deputy for the House of Deputies of Spain for Guipúz in 1996, 2000 and 2004 during which time she held the position of spokesperson for a large variety of Commissions, most notably the Mixed Commission (Congress-Senate) for the European Union and Development Cooperation and Aid. She was also Vice-President of the Basque Council of the European Movement.

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Chief Engineer of the *Mines* School of Engineering, with specialized diploma in physical science, **Anne Lauvergeon** has been President of the ALP since November 2011 and President of *Conseil de Surveillance de Libérations* since October 2011. From July 2001 to June 2011 she was President of the AREVA NC Board. From 1997 to 1999 she was Executive Vice-president and member of the Executive Committee of ALCATEL, responsible for industrial participation; from 1995 to 1997, Managing-Associate of Lazard Frères & Cie. In 1990, she was nominated Head of Mission for the International Economy and External Commerce for the Presidency of France, and later, in 1991, Deputy Secretary General to the Presidency of France and *sherpa* to the French President for the organization of international summits (G7). Anne LAUVERGEON begun her career in 1983 in the steel industry before studying the problems of chimney security in Europe at the CEA.



**Esther Mwaura-Muiru** is a Founder and Coordinator of GROOTS Kenya (Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood) – a network of more than 2000 self-help groups from poor communities in urban slums and rural areas across Kenya. She is also Representative of Huairou Commission. Esther’s leadership has enabled women in the GROOTS Kenya network to build a solid network of grassroots women’s organizations and take leadership roles in their own communities and within local, national, regional and international decision-making forums. She continues to write articles, serves as an environmental specialist and has documented several award-winning Kenyan community development practices and sits on advisory boards for national and

international organizations.

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**Annemarie Jorritsma** has been the Mayor of the City of Almere, Netherlands, since August 2003. She is also the President of VNG (Associations of Netherland’s Municipalities) and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR).

At the beginning of her career she worked closely with the Tourist board before embarking on her political vocation. Formerly elected representative of the Bolsward city council for ten year, she became Member of the House of Representatives during which time she notably lead a Parliamentary study on the problem of alcohol within society. Following the 1994 elections she was nominated Minster of Transport in the Netherlands and later, in 1998, she became Minister of Economic Affairs.

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**Reta Jo Lewis** was appointed the Secretary’s Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs in January 2010. Her office is responsible for serving the global needs of U.S. intergovernmental officials and the entities they represent. She also promotes effective local governance and local capacity building efforts and serves as a point of entry for the global needs of U.S. state and local officials. She reports directly to the Secretary of State. Ms. Lewis is involved in numerous community and civic activities, including the Executive Women in Government, for which she currently serves as President. Ms. Lewis holds a B.A. from the University of Georgia, a M.S.A.J. from American University, and a J.D. from Emory University

School of Law. Ms. Lewis is a member in good standing of the District of Columbia and Georgia bars.

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**Carolina Montserrat Tohá Morales** is the current Mayor of the Chilean capital, Santiago. She has a law degree from the University of Chile and a Ph.D in Political Science from the University of Milan.

Tohá made her debut in politics in 1984 as a leader of the University of Chile Student federation (Fech). In 2001 she was elected to the Chamber of Deputies representing the Santiago district, and was re-elected in 2005. On 12 March 2009 she took up the post of Ministry Secretariat General Secretariat of Government, becoming the first woman to hold that post in the country’s history. On 28 October 2012 she was elected mayor of Santiago by an absolute majority.

## Round Table 1: Participation of women in local decision-making



**Djemila Benhabib** was born in Ukraine in 1972 of a Greek-Cypriot mother and an Algerian father. She grew up in Oran in a family of scientists, involved in political and social rights. She became aware very early of the inferior condition of women in her country. As her family was sentenced to death by the Islamists, they flew to France in 1994. In 1997, Djemila Benhabib settled alone in Quebec, where she studied Physics, Political Science and International Law. She became publicly recognized through the Canadian government.

*Ma vie à contre-Coran. Une femme témoigne sur les islamistes* is her first book, for which she was awarded the *Prix des Écrivains francophones d'Amérique*. She was also shortlisted among the finalists for the literary Award of the *Gouverneur général* in the category "research and essays". She

has just published in France *Les soldats d'Allah à l'assaut de l'Occident* (H&O, 2012).

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Since 2010, **Ewa Samuelsson** is Deputy Mayor for Social Affairs with special focus on equal opportunities for the disabled and accessibility in the City of Stockholm and Chair of CEMR's Standing Committee on equality of women and men in local life. Ewa Samuelsson is leader of the Christian Democratic Party in the city of Stockholm since 2002. Among her previous public functions are Deputy Mayor for Elderly Services, Chair of the board of Micasa (StockholmCity Assisted living Housing Company) and Chair of the Executive Committee for Personal and Equal opportunities in the

city of Stockholm. Ewa Samuelsson has worked as a teacher and headmaster and as leading civil officer of the Stockholm Executive Administration.

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**Ayla Serpil Bagriacik** is current acting as Councilor of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and is Chairperson of EU & Foreign Relations Commission. She is additionally a Policy Committee Member for the Council of European Municipalities and Regions and a member of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. A former student of Bristol University, UK, she read Business Management while also studying French Language and Literature in parallel at the University of Istanbul. Before pursuing her political path, she had a career in international sales in her native Turkey. As a result of the local elections of 2009-2014 she was nominated member of the Istanbul Municipal Council and was later chosen as Chairperson of the EU and Foreign Relations Commission.

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**Serly Figueroa Mormontoy** is the Councillor of the Provincial Municipality of Cusco, Peru. Ms. Figueroa is the Organization Secretary of RENAMA, the National Network of Local and Regional Elected Women of Peru, a network at national level which gathers 22 regional networks and associations and 3 provincial networks of elected women. Lawyer by profession, Ms. Figueroa is also active at regional level through RedLamugol, the Latin American Network of Local Governments Women Elected Associations



After completing her Master's Degree in social work, **Karen Leibovici** began a career as a social worker in Montreal. She then worked for the City of Edmonton as a Labour Relations Officer and the City's Equal Opportunity Officer. Elected MLA for Edmonton-Meadowlark in 1993, Karen held her seat for two terms. Karen was elected to City Council in 2001 and re-elected in 2004, 2007 and 2010. She has served as Chair or Vice-Chair of numerous committees such as Transportation and Public Works Committee, Executive Committee, and the Community Services Committee and was re-appointed to the Edmonton Police Commission in October, 2010. Karen is President of Federation of Canadian Municipalities and also Chair of the Edmonton Stop Marijuana Grow Operation Coalition (ESMGOC), an organization that received Honourable Mention for the 2008 Minister's Awards for Municipal Excellence. She is also Vice President of the Former MLA Association.

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**Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malick** is Mayor of Tevrah-Zeina in the sprawling capital, Nouakchott, Mauritania and President of Network of Local Elected Women of Africa (NLEWA). She is the first woman to take office as a Mayor in her country. Her election as President of the Women's Network of Mayors in Africa has confirmed her stature of a champion and a leader. Since she was elected, she has prioritized access to basic services, improved education, created public spaces such as playgrounds and municipal parks where free Wi-Fi is provided thus

attracting many young people to gather there.

**Round Table 2: The role of women in innovative financing and access to basic services**



**Fatna El Khiel** is the President of Commune Aarbawa and is a Maroc Parliamentarian. She is a member of REFELA – North Africa.

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**Ghazi Hidouci** was born in 1939 in Ain-Beda, a city of Western Algeria. After studying Economics, he led a career at a High-level post in the public administration and was Economic Councillor to the Presidency of the Republic from 1984 to 1989, before being Minister of the Economy until June 1991. He was the main instigator of the political and economic reforms of the country which were brutally interrupted after Mouloud Hamrouche's government left. He had to flee from his country in 1991 after receiving direct threats from

Algerian military and security forces in power.



**Célestine Ketcha Epse. Courtes** is the Mayor of the Bangangté Municipality, Cameroon, and the Vice-President of the Network of African Local Elected Women (REFELA) for UCLG-Central Africa. Ms. Ketcha was also nominated President of the Committee on Humanitarian Aid and Risk Management of the International Association of French-Speaking Mayors (AIMF).

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**Pierre Schapira** is Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of international relations, European Affairs and the French-speaking world. He is also Former Vice-President of the French Economic and Social Council. He was member of the European Parliament between 2004-2009 and is author of the Report "Local authorities in development", which resulted in the programme "Non state actors and local authorities in development". Pierre Schapira is also spokesman for PLATFORMA, the European platform of local and regional authorities engaged in development cooperation.



Currently, and has been since 2004, **Francina Vila** is a member of the Convergència Democràtica de Catalunya (CDC) Barcelona Federation Executive Committee and she heads the Secretary's Office for Citizen Relations, as well as being a national councillor and a councillor for Barcelona responsible for Women and Civil Rights. She is also a member of the CDC Immigration Secretariat, where she chairs the Barcelona Directorate, and member of the Cooperation Sector Department. She studied Law, then worked for the Secretary's Office at Les Franqueses del Vallès Local Council and subsequently for various companies in the private sector, in areas such as technical advice on urban planning and housing, professional conference organisation and cultural management. She has been a member of Barcelona City Council since 2007 and leads the CiU Municipal Group for youth, entrepreneurship, universities and research, new technology, innovation and international cooperation.

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**Yaba Catherine Zouzoua** is a Councillor at the Abidjan District, as well as the Coordinator of the International Network of Women for Africa of METROPOLIS. She is very much involved in all actions implemented for women's integration in the decision-making processes. She also works in harmonizing draft bills, l'opérationnalisation des cellules genres et des points focaux or in planning budgets for programmes and projects focused on the gender question, as strategies for integrating women in the decision-making processes.

### Round Table 3 : Safer cities for women



Journalist and writer, **Souhayr Belhassen**, an active member of the Tunisian Association of Democrat Women (ATFD) since its creation, has always valued women's rights as the core reason for her fight in favour of human rights. Her book, *Femmes du Maghreb* (Women in Maghreb –co-written with Sophie Bessis), discusses the stakes for women in the countries of the region, including hers.

During the dictatorship of Ben Ali, Souhayr Belhassen, as many human rights activists in Tunisia, has been endlessly submitted to harassment because of her militant activities. Despite everything, this unwearied activist for the defence of her country's fundamental rights is also involved in numerous other debates on the international stage. Elected Vice-President of the Tunisian League of Human Rights (LTDH) in 2000, she was nominated President of the LTDH in April 2007 during the Lisbon Congress and re-elected in 2010 during the Erevan Congress.

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**Anastasia Posadskaya-Vanderbeck** is Safe Cities Global Initiatives Manager of UN Women. In 1997-2006 **she** served as the Director of **Open Society Institute's** (Soros Foundation) Network Women's Program (NWP), with the mandate to integrate women's rights programs in the international work of the foundation. In 2003-2005, she was on **Task Force of the UN Millennium Project**, which focused on the issues of Gender Equality and Education in the context of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2006 she was elected to the board of directors of **Mama Cash**, a women's foundation based in the Netherlands that promotes women's rights worldwide and in 2007 to the board of directors of **AWID**.



**Ibone Bengoetxea** is Deputy Mayor of Bilbao and member of Bilbao City Council for Culture and Education. She is also Policy Committee member Council of European Municipalities and Regions and President of Association of Basque Municipalities (EUEDEL). Since its foundation more than twenty years ago, EUEDEL has become a reference of the Basque confederation of municipalities. The Association of Basque Municipalities has set itself up as a valuable and efficient interlocutor towards the rest of institutions regarding the coordination and consensus of public policies.

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**Vandana Chavan** is Coordinator of the Metropolis Women International Network in Pune, India. She is a lawyer. Between 1992 – 2007 she was a Councillor in Pune Municipal Corporation, in 1997 she became Mayor. She has spearheaded several initiatives in the city of Pune targeting mainly citizens participation, empowerment of women and sustainable development. She is a visiting faculty at the All India Institute of Local Self Government, Mumbai and YASHADA, both premier training institutes for members of the Administration and Elected Representatives at all levels of government. She worked as part of several important Committees in the Corporation (Women and Child Welfare, Slum Improvement and Rehabilitation, Public Health, Law Committee and so on.) She is presently the Pune City President of the Nationalists Congress Party – also the first woman to hold this post.



**Fatima Zahra Mansouri** is the current and first female Mayor of town of Marrakech in Morocco since 2009. She is the second woman as mayor in the history of Morocco.

She studied law in France and started her career as a lawyer, founding a law firm that specializes in commercial and real estate transactions. She served as a municipal counselor for the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM).

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**Hope Tumukunde** is the Vice Mayor for Social Affairs in the City of Kigali, a post she obtained through election. Prior to that, she served as one of the seven Commissioners at the National Commission for Human Rights for four years. She was previously the provincial governor for Kigali Rural province and later the Southern province. Hope has held several posts primarily in the local government sector. She has been instrumental in the local government reform processes and in women's organizations and human rights associations in Rwanda. Hope graduated from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and geography.

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**Daysi Torres** is the current Mayor of Managua, Nicaragua. Ms. Torres is the first woman to be elected directly as Mayor of Managua, the capital city of the country. Ms. Torres has a longstanding experience as journalist, in charge of covering the news related to the Nicaraguan President.

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**Evelyn Uy** is Mayor of Dipolog and also a member of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP). She studied Chemistry at Ateneo de Manila University. She was recognized among Best Local Council of Women. Her implemented projects are: Livelihood Skills Development & Enhancement Center, Children Center with Special needs, Children Drop in Center, Sports Complex and Demo Farm & Irrigation Canal Rehab. She is a member of Member – Metro Dplg. Fil-Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

## Closing Session and Final Declaration



**Kadir Topbaş** is the Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and President of UCLG. He is the Chair of United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA). He is also the President of Union of Municipalities of Turkey. In 2012 Mr. Topbas was appointed as a member of United Nations High Level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda by UN Secretary General. Topbas worked as an architect for many years. Between 1994 and 1998, he worked as an adviser for Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, when Erdogan was the Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. Topbas also served as the deputy director of Istanbul 1st Cultural Heritage Protection and Monuments Committee of the Ministry of Culture. Kadir Topbas was elected as the Mayor of Beyoglu (a district of Istanbul) in 1999. During

this period, he launched and successfully implemented an urban regeneration project called the "Güzel Beyoglu" ("Beautiful Beyoglu"). In March 2004 he run for Mayor of Istanbul and was elected with a vast majority of votes. He was re-elected in 2009 with a larger majority. He served as President of UCLG-MEWA and Vice-President of UCLG between 2004 and 2007, and was Co-President of UCLG from 2007 to 2010.

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**Hauwa Ibrahim** is a Human Rights Lawyer. Ibrahim has been a Visiting Professor at Saint Louis University School of Law and Stonehill College, a World Fellow at Yale University, a Radcliffe fellow, and a fellow at both the Human Rights Program and the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard University. The European Parliament presented Ibrahim with its 2005 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, which honors individuals or organizations for their efforts on behalf of human rights and freedoms. Ibrahim has earned an LLB and a master's in international law and diplomacy from the University of Jos in Nigeria; a BL for legal practice from Nigeria Law School; and a master of laws degree in international

studies at American University's Washington College of Law. In addition, she has been awarded three honorary doctorates, as well as the Cavaliere Award, the Highest Human Rights Award from the Italian Government.

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Scientist, poet and writer, **Federico Mayor Zaragoza** was Minister of Education and Science in Spain, deputy to the European Parliament and Director General of UNESCO. He made of peace-promotion his priority and that of the *Fundación Cultura de Paz*, which he created in 2000. He is Honorary President of *France Libertés* and President of the International Committee against Death Penalty.



**Elizabeth Guigou** is the President of Committee on Foreign Affairs of National Assembly of France and a Former Minister. She first got a taste of front-line politics when she was appointed Minister of European Affairs (1990–1993). In 1997, she was elected to the National Assembly in the Vaucluse *département* and entered incoming Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's cabinet, as Minister of Justice (1997–2000) and then as Minister of Employment (2000–2002). She is a founding chairwoman and co-president with Jean-Noël Jeanneney of *Europartenaires*, a group linking business interests with the European Union. She has also created a lobby group called *Femmes d'Europe* (Women of Europe) and sits on the board

of directors of Jacques Delors's foundation *Notre Europe* (Our Europe).

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**Suhair Atassi** is the leading female secular activist in the Syrian opposition, and since November 2012 co-vice-president of the opposition government. She had previously run the media wing of the banned Jamal Atassi Forum, which was named after her father, a founding member of the Ba'ath Party who later left and founded the Democratic Arab Socialist Union.

She studied French Literature and Education at the University of Damascus, and was active in the Damascus Spring, helping to form the and run the Jamal al-Atassi Forum. She revived the forum online in 2009 in order to help promote democracy and human rights in Syria. On 16 March 2011 she was arrested for her activities.

### Respondents



Ambassador **Ramzia Aleryani** is the General Secretary of the General Arab Women Union and Chairwoman of the Yemeni Women Union, one of the oldest and largest non-governmental organization in Yemen. In 2010, the International Alliance for Women awarded her World of Difference Award which recognized her as one of 100 women in the world for her efforts in advancing the economic empowerment of women. She was a member of The World Bank Advisory Council on Gender and Development 2011.

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**Haviva Avi-Gai** is First Deputy Mayor of Tel Aviv City. She is also a member of Executive Board – Senior Citizens Association. She is the Head of Public Health Services.

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**Teresa Boccia** is an architect; she is professor of “Urban Planning”, the Faculty of Architecture of the Federico II University of Naples. She is the founder and the scientific director of the interdisciplinary studies centre URBANIMA that deals with “Times Policies, Sustainable Development, Urban Security and Quality in the gender perspective”. She participate to the GDUS (Gender, Diversity and Urban Sustainability), which is an informal network of scholars and practitioners in urban planning. Teresa is the president of the international Association AFEM (Association Femmes Europe Méridionale) that groups associations and networks of association of the countries of the South of European Union, with the aim to contribute to the building of a social Europe, which is founded on the respect of the human person, and

above all, of the equality among women and men.



**Jocelyne Bougeard** is a French politician. Deputy Mayor of Rennes since 2001, she also was a Councillor of the Rennes Metropole. Amongst her different activities in favour of women's rights, Ms. Bougeard, who was trained as a teacher, was Vice-President of the Committee on Women's Rights of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and Member of the High-level Council of Equality (linked to the Prime Minister). She was the Vice-President of the Association Tempo, the national network of stakeholders involved in thematic policies.

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**Angela Rosemarie Brown-Burke** is the Mayor of Kingston since 2012. She started her political career as a Corporate Area Councilor of the Kingston and Saint Andrew Corporation. She was elected a vice-president of the People's National Party in 2006 along with Fenton Ferguson, Derrick Kellier, and Peter Phillips, beating out Sharon Hay-Webster, Louis Moyston, and Kern Spencer. She moved from local to national politics in January 2012 with her appointment as Deputy President of the Senate of Jamaica after Portia Simpson Miller came to power in the December 2011 general election.

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**Maria Sol Corral** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Mayor of the Metropolitan Municipality of Quito, Ecuador. Furthermore she is President of the Commission on Finance and Budget of Quito. She met with UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon on April 2012 for the High-level Meeting “The Future Local and Regional Governments Want” on the Rio+20 process.

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**Yordanka Fandakova** is a Bulgarian politician and Mayor of Sofia. She is the first woman to hold this position. She has a major in Russian Studies. In 2007 she became Deputy Mayor for culture, education, sports and prevention of abuse of Sofia Municipality. Fandakova was elected Member of Parliament for the Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria in the National Assembly in the Bulgarian parliamentary election, 2009 and was made Minister of Education, Youth and Science.

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**Marina Geli** was the health minister of the Generalitat de Catalunya from 2003 to 2010. She is considered as one of the most prominent members of the Catalanist wing of the Socialists' Party of Catalonia. Geli obtained her medical degree from the University of Barcelona. She became a specialist in the treatment of infectious diseases and AIDS. She was also involved in several associations related to the fight against AIDS. She also was town councillor for Sant Gregori (1982–1990) and county councillor for Girona, during the same period. She is president of the Committee for Social Policy in the period 1996-1999 in the Catalan Parliament and Spokesperson for Social Policy in the sixth legislature. She became policy manager and First Secretary of the PSC for the region of Girona in 2000.



**Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye** is a Senegalese politician. Currently Minister in the Senegalese government, she is also the Mayor of Louga (a city located in the North-West of Senegal).

She was the Minister of Women, Children and Family, as well as of Social Development and National Solidarity under the Presidency of Abdou Diouf and under the governments Thiam II and III. Aminata Tall followed her at this function. Today, she is the President of the Socialist Party Women's Movement. In 2012, she was appointed Minister of Farming within the Mbaye government.

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member of FEMP.

**Juárez Meléndez** is the current Mayor of Algete. She was the Secretary General of the Federation of Women for Democracy between 1991 and 2003. She worked as a Consultant in United Nations in the Woman Secretariat between 1993 and 2003. She was a member of the National Committee of HABITAT of the Ministry of Development between 1993 and 2003. She was the Vice President of the Youth Commission of FEMP (2007-2011) and Vice President of the Commission of Equality in 2011. She is a Representative in the Observation Committee of FEMP for Opportunity and Equality for Men and Women and Violence Against Women. She is a Federal Council

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**Pilar Varela Díaz** is the Mayor of Avilés. She was the President of the Juventud Obrera Cristiana de España between 1984 and 1987. Between 1987 and 1992 she worked in the European Commission in different tasks related to initiatives and programmes of employment for young people. Between 1992 and 1999 she was the Director of Education in Industrial Valle del Nalón de Asturias. In the period of 1999-2003 she was Councilor responsible for Treasury and Political Activities of Employment, in the period of 2003-2007 she was Councilor for Treasury and Economic Promotion. She is a member of the CEMR Policy Committee.

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**Dr. Najat Zarrouk** is a founder of the Women's Democracy Network (WDN) Morocco Country Chapter. She received her Ph.D. in Political Sciences. She has more than 30 years of management experience in the Public Service as a public servant at the Ministry of the Interior of the Kingdom of Morocco since 1983. In January 2009, she was appointed for 4 years term, by the General Secretary and the Economic and Social Council of United Nations Organization (UN) as a member of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration/ECOSOC (CEPA).

## Facilitators



**Elisabeth Gateau** is the Former Secretary General of UCLG. Building on her past experience as a local elected official in France, she previously held the position of Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR). She then went on to oversee local government issues at the Secretariat of the European Convention, which prepared the draft Constitution of the European Union. In 2004, her longstanding contribution to regional and local politics received special recognition through the Emperor Maximilian Prize award that acknowledges the outstanding efforts made to implement of the principle of subsidiary and the Council of Europe's Charter for Local Self-Government.

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**Françoise Gaspard** is the Former Mayor of Dreux and an International Expert on Gender. She has led a political career as an elected representative (as a mayor, a European minister, a MP at the French National Assembly, and as a regional and local councilor). A lecturer at the EHESS in Paris, her work has led her to teach and hold conferences in numerous universities in Europe and America. She has served as a technical advisor in Europe and Africa on the introduction of gender into legislation and political matters. In January 1998, she was French representative to the Commission on the Condition of Women at the UN, then expert advisor to the CEDAW (Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women) from 2001 to 2008 and vice-president of the committee in 2007 and 2008. Her academic work focuses particularly on the history of migration, urban sociology, social movements and the history and sociology of women and gender, and women's rights.

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**Philippe Dessaint** is a French television journalist. He is the weekly presenter of KIOSQUE on the TV5MONDE channel. He presented the *Soir 3* programme from 1988 to 1990. Before that, he co-presented the *19/20 Week-end* news programme with Catherine Matausch. He was Director of Information in TV5MONDE until 2007. He is now the Director of Special and International Affairs. In 2007, he received the European Initiatives Award and in 2011, the International Press Award.