

# 2016: a tipping point for women mayors and gender equality in cities

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The New Urban Agenda must  
**feminize our cities and  
empower women** in all areas  
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# The New Urban Agenda must **feminize our cities and empower women in all areas of urban life**

Women still make up fewer than 20% of councillors and just 5% of mayors worldwide, but the signs are that a new generation of women leaders is emerging at local level, just as the global urban population is set to explode. In this new urban world, local and regional governments call for cities created by and for women and girls at Habitat III [[Tweet this](#) ].

*"We can't exclude half of humanity from political decision-making."* Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris [[Tweet this](#) ]

There has never been a more exciting time in terms of women's leadership at local level across the world. In Europe, cities such as Paris, Rome, Barcelona and Bucharest now have women mayors in office for the first time. In Africa, the network of elected local women, REFELA, is celebrating its fifth anniversary and going from strength to strength. In India, women have taken the helm in the state governments of Jharkhand, Goa and Puducherry. In Japan, Tokyo has recently elected its first woman governor, Yuriko Koike. In the USA, its capital city, Washington D.C., is currently led by its second African American woman mayor, Muriel Bowser, and in Latin America, women mayors are consolidating their leadership and implementing agendas to transform the lives of their citizens.

*"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."* Jane Jacobs

But it isn't enough to have women in elected office. **All women and girls in our cities and territories must be empowered to participate in economic, cultural and political life** [[Tweet this](#) ]. Female empowerment is both a goal and a means of sustainable urban development. Integrating a gender perspective into all local policymaking is essential to the achievement of SDG 5 and the New Urban Agenda.

## "Women, Leadership and Development: from SDG5 to Habitat III"

If you agree that **the New Urban Agenda must feminize our cities and empower women in all areas of urban life** [[Tweet this](#) ], join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtags #SDG5, #UCLGCongress and #Habitat3.

## Women Mayors from across the world gather in Bogotá

On 14 October 2016, some of **the world's foremost locally elected women leaders will gather at the UCLG World Congress in Bogota** to share the unique challenges and experiences of female leadership in our cities. At the session, organized by the UCLG Standing Committee for Gender Equality, the mayors will discuss their policy priorities for the coming 3 years and the partnerships necessary to implement the New Urban Agenda with a strong gender perspective. Confirmed speakers include Mayor of Madrid, Manuela Carmena, Mayor of Bangangté and President of REFELA Celestine Ketcha Courtès, Mayor of Tevragh Zeina, Fatimetou Abdel Malick, and Raisa Banfield, Deputy Mayor of Panamá.

### Resources:

- [Community Forum Local elected women](#)
- [Video: Learning about SDG5 video](#)
- [The role of local governments in promoting gender equality for sustainability](#)

## Follow the conversation on Twitter and Facebook

We call for cities created by and for women and girls at [#Habitat3](#) <https://t.co/rVCEkTfPI4> [#SDG5](#) [#UCLGCongress](#) [pic.twitter.com/eBijQZ9rNK](http://pic.twitter.com/eBijQZ9rNK)

— UCLG Women (@uclg\_women) [26 de agosto de 2016](#)

Follow [#UCLGCongress](#) [#Habitat3](#) [#SDG16](#) for great discussion about women & girls making public policy for cities at local govt level

— Susan Aitken (@SusaninLangside) [26 de agosto de 2016](#)

Tweet using the HT [#SDG5](#) and [#Habitat3](#) if you agree that we need more locally elected women and gender equality policies in our cities!

— UCLG Women (@uclg\_women) [26 de agosto de 2016](#)

We need women to have real decision making positions not windowdressing. #Habitat3 #UCLCongress #SDG5

— Her Zimbabwe (@herzimbabwe) 26 de agosto de 2016

Let's localize global goals at #UCLCongress & #Habitat3 #SDG5

<https://t.co/hSHG9ZNwkF> @uclg\_org @UCLGBogota2016 @uclg\_women @Habitat3UN

— Metropolis (@metropolis\_org) 26 de agosto de 2016

Join 2day @uclg\_women conversation for more locally elected women n policies to achieve gender equality, use #SDG5 #Habitat3 n #UCLCongress

— PanAfricanParliament (@AfrikParliament) 26 de agosto de 2016

Check out how local governments can help achieve gender equality in our cities

<https://t.co/Crj9CjIDhx> #WomensEqualityDay #SDG5 #Habitat3

— UCLG Women (@uclg\_women) 26 de agosto de 2016

#Tokyo elected its first #female governor. We need more #cities to follow this move 4 #SDG5 #Habitat3 <https://t.co/DoDmBFP7tK> #UCLCongress

— Cecile Pilot (@cecile\_pilot) 26 de agosto de 2016

Looking forward to next round of negotiations for #habitat3 in 2 weeks #genderequality & role of #localgovs to be central. #UCLCongress

— Emilia Saiz (@UCLG\_Saiz) 26 de agosto de 2016

No city ll reach its full potential w/o a platform4equal opp&participation 4women. #SDG5 #Habitat3 #genderequality v @itsmesums @uclg\_org RT

— Nili Majumder (@NiliMajumder) 26 de agosto de 2016

@UCLGAfrica @uclg\_women @Anne\_Hidalgo La voix des Femmes dtfaire ÉCHO ds ces instances#SDG5 #Habitat3 #UCLGCongress pic.twitter.com/E5KIm5pr0r

— Fatimetou A.Malick (@ABDELMALICKf) 26 de agosto de 2016

Local budgets must be fair to both #genders . #Habitat3 must promote #genderbudgeting ! #UCLGCongress #SDG5 #localgov pic.twitter.com/vXVzjTv8PF

— PLATFORMA (@Platforma4Dev) 26 de agosto de 2016

@SafetipinApp @uclg\_women Agreed. I was trying to think of what ideas are there that make a city more gender inclusive.

— Vaibhav Gadodia (@whoisvaibhav) 26 de agosto de 2016

Women must be empowered to participate in cultural life of #sustcities #SDG5 #Habitat3 #UCLGCongress #GenderEquality https://t.co/wM4oy4uVXW

— agenda21culture (@agenda21culture) 26 de agosto de 2016

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## Enlaces

[1] <http://ctt.ec/N3910>

[2] <http://ctt.ec/UMAug>

[3] <http://ctt.ec/Y5IK7>

[4] <http://ctt.ec/vmfig>

[5] <https://www.bogota2016.uclg.org/en/sessions/community-forum-local-elected-women>

[6] <https://youtu.be/J5ic-oOE4fw>

[7]

<https://www.uclg.org/en/media/news/uclg-highlights-role-local-governments-promoting-gender-equality-sustainability>

[8] <https://twitter.com/hashtag/Habitat3?src=hash>

[9] <https://t.co/rVCEkTfPI4>

[10] <https://twitter.com/hashtag/SDG5?src=hash>

[11] <https://twitter.com/hashtag/UCLGCongress?src=hash>

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[13] [https://twitter.com/uclg\\_women/status/769095644657180672](https://twitter.com/uclg_women/status/769095644657180672)

[14] <https://twitter.com/hashtag/SDG16?src=hash>

[15] <https://twitter.com/SusaninLangside/status/769139435514523648>

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