The 2016 World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders began on Wednesday morning in Bogotá, Colombia, with an official opening ceremony featuring welcoming speeches and entertainment from the Bogotá Philharmonic Orchestra. Attendees then took part in sessions covering a wide variety of urban issues, including public transport, drug policies, the right to the city, inclusive and transparent city development and culture as a trigger for sustainable development. In the afternoon, an opening plenary addressed the theme of ‘The Era of Strong Local Government: Recalling the Spirit of Habitat II,’ followed by parallel sessions on topics ranging from urban design, transport and population health to local governments as decision makers in world affairs. A permanent working platform on co-creating the city convened throughout the day.