

GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF LOCAL ELECTED WOMEN
**Paris Local and Regional Governments' Global Agenda
for Equality of Women and Men**

We, local elected women and men gathered in Paris on 31 January/1 February 2013, together with women and men from all spheres of society, at the initiative of the City of Paris and the UCLG Standing Committee on gender Equality, with the contribution of the UCLG Regional sections and the patronage of UN Women,

1. **Recalling** that in all aspects of public and economic life, women continue to be under-represented in the decision-making bodies around the world;
2. **Convinced** that the participation of women in local decision-making, strongly strengthens the democratic base(s) of our societies and contributes to successful development;
3. **Considering** that the problems and challenges that humanity is facing are global but have to be dealt with at the local level;
4. **Underlining** that democratic local self-government has a critical role to play in securing social, economic and political justice for all citizens of every community in the world and that all members of society, women and men, must be included in the governance process;
5. **Conscious** of the great potential of the local level in the promotion of innovative and transformative solutions;
6. **Committed** to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
7. **Building** on the knowledge gathered by our worldwide international movement and inspired by the **Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government** and the values and principles contained in the **European Charter on Equality of Women and Men in local Life**;
8. **Committed to contributing to improve the status of women and promoting gender equality around the world;**

We launch a local and regional GLOBAL AGENDA for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life as a strategic tool to increase the respect for equality of women and men in all spheres of decision-making with focus on the following issues:

I. Increased participation of women in local decision making, in order to guarantee equitable representation and to achieve a successful development agenda Post-2015.

We call for:

1. Political parties to form women caucuses that will support female politicians to face difficulties;
2. Local government associations to create and strengthen Standing Equality Committees;
3. Local government associations to closely collaborate with women NGO's and the private sector in order to tackle inequality issues;
4. Governments to establish mechanisms that will help to achieve equal representation;
5. Include women in local decision making as a clear target of the MDGs.

II. Equality between women and men to be on the top of the agenda of local public policy making and for adequate service provision that will contribute to women's empowerment

We call for:

1. Women to be involved in the development, management and monitoring of public services. Their needs must be made visible and taken into account at all times in planning;
2. Public services to avoid perpetuating stereotypes of women and men;
3. Local governments to make additional efforts to provide employment to women and provide adequate training;
4. Local governments have an important role to play in providing affordable, professional and safe care services for children, older people and people with disabilities contributing to alleviate the heavy workload of women preventing them to play a full role in society;
5. Innovative financial mechanism to be developed to stimulate the independence of women and their active participation in the economic life.

III. A safe world in particular for women, who are traditionally the most vulnerable to all types of violence

We call for:

1. Local governments to develop programmes that protect women from violence;
2. Local public policies to ensure safe mobility and access to the territories;
3. Public campaigns to be developed educating girls and boys on the importance of avoiding all forms of physical, psychological and sexual violence and abuse;
4. Local and regional governments to provide special training to relevant staff, especially for police forces, concerning gender violence and contributing to eliminate stereotypical attitudes and behaviour.

WE, THE MEMBERS OF UCLG, REPRESENTING LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS WORLDWIDE, COMMIT OURSELVES TO FOLLOW AND MONITOR THE PARIS AGENDA AND:

1. Call upon UCLG and its regional sections to support our commitments and give the example of a more balanced participation of women and men in their decision-making bodies with the aim for UCLG to reach an equal representation of women and men in its governing bodies in 2020;
2. Promote the public adoption and debate of measures favouring balanced representation of women and men in decision-making, clearly stating the local and regional governments public commitment to equality;
3. Develop initiatives and programs to promote a public commitment for equality at local and regional level based on the *Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government and the European Charter of Equality of Women and Men in Local Life*;

4. Foster global solidarity strengthening international cooperation between local and regional governments, supported by national, regional and international associations of local governments, in order to help eliminating barriers to women's participation in local decision-making;
5. Develop and increase knowledge in the field of gender by ensuring that statistics collected on individuals are gender disaggregated and analysed from a gender perspective;
6. Mobilise resources for academic research with a gender perspective, that can be of use for the development of gender equality in local government;
7. Develop specific collaborations with grassroots women groups, parliamentarians, UN Agencies and private sector to promote capacity building of local and regional authorities in relation to equality between women and men;
8. Promote the implementation of this agenda and its further development adapted to the realities and needs of the members in the different parts of the world.