

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

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 politic, economic and social 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 society 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 plays a critical role 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 and conscious of the vital role of women's talent in society;
6. **Committed** to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the MDGs and the Roadmap of UN Women;
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 and coresponsability 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 equal representation and to achieve a successful development agenda Post-2015

We call for:

1. Include women in local decision-making as a clear target of the MDGs;
2. Political parties to include women in all their decision-making bodies and respect gender equality and parity in all their processes of appointment or election;
3. Women who are decision-makers in their political parties to mobilize, set up a framework and support other women to integrate the political stage, face difficulties and promote female leadership;
4. Governments to establish mechanisms that will help to achieve equal representation;
5. Local government associations to create and strengthen Standing Equality Committees;
6. Local government associations to closely collaborate with women NGOs and the private sector in order to tackle inequality issues.

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 improve the condition of women and their empowerment

We call for:

1. A change in the laws that affect the condition of women and for the efficient implementation of laws;
2. 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 and budgeting;
3. Public services to avoid perpetuating stereotypes of women and men;
4. Local governments to make additional efforts to provide employment to women and provide adequate training;
5. Local governments to play an important role in providing local, professional and safe care services for children, older people and people with specific needs contributing to alleviate the heavy workload of women preventing them to play a full role in society;
6. Innovative financial mechanisms to be developed to stimulate the independence of women and their active participation in the economic life;
7. Mainstreaming a gender approach in the design and implementation of local and regional policies.

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

We call for:

1. Parliaments to legislate on violence and harassment towards women;
2. Central, regional and local governments to develop programmes that protect women from violence and allocate resources;
3. Local public policies to ensure safe mobility and access to the territories;
4. Public campaigns to be developed educating girls and boys on the importance of avoiding all forms of physical, psychological and sexual violence and abuse;
5. Central, 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;
6. The acknowledgment of the situation of women in countries in times of conflict and post-conflict;
7. The media to be responsibly involved in the struggle against violence and harassment towards women.

WE, THE MEMBERS OF UCLG, REPRESENTING LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS WORLDWIDE, COMMIT OURSELVES TO IMPLEMENT AND FOLLOW 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 2015;
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 programmes to promote a public commitment for equality at local and regional level based on the *Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government*, the *European Charter of Equality of Women and Men in Local Life*, the MDGs and the Roadmap of UN Women;
4. Foster global solidarity strengthening international cooperation between central, local and regional governments, supported by national, regional and international associations of local governments, as well as civil society, in order to help eliminating barriers to women's participation in local decision-making, with a special focus on developing countries, vulnerable countries and countries in situations of conflict;
5. Develop and increase knowledge in the field of gender by ensuring that statistics 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 civil society, in particular 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 specificities and needs of the members in the different parts of the world;
9. Encourage other regions of UCLG to develop charters for gender equality based on the European Charter on Equality of Women and Men in Local Life.