



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva



FORUM OF
MAYORS
2023



URBAN RESILIENCE WEEK
2-6 OCTOBER | GENEVA



Woman and Mayor:

A Gender Perspective on Challenges and
Visions for Cities in the UNECE Region

2 October 2023

13.15 - 14.45

Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Language: English

Background:

Cities are dynamic and complex entities that serve as economic, cultural, and social hubs, offering opportunities for growth, development, and innovation, but they also confront a host of pressing challenges in a rapidly urbanizing world. As urban populations swell, cities continue to grapple with issues like congestion, pollution, housing shortages, and equitable access to resources. Mayors, as leaders at the local level, play a pivotal role in shaping urban landscapes, implementing sustainable policies, and fostering community engagement.

Historically, mayoral positions have been predominantly occupied by men, reflecting broader gender disparities in leadership roles. While women constitute over half of the global population, their representation in leadership positions of the world's cities is merely 5%. [1]

The event "Woman and Mayor: A Gender Perspective on Challenges and Visions for Cities" aims to shed light on the underrepresented perspectives of women in city leadership roles and their unique contributions to urban governance. The event seeks to explore the ways in which gender-balanced leadership enhances decision-making, promotes inclusivity, and contributes to more effective urban management, leading to safer, as well as more accessible and sustainable cities. Through a roundtable discussion, women leaders will bring their perspectives and experiences on how gender-sensitive leadership can lead to innovative solutions for urban challenges such as gender-based violence, access to education and healthcare, and sustainable urban planning.

[1] UCLG approximates that approximately 20% of council members and a mere 5% of mayors worldwide are women. Nonetheless, there is presently a scarcity of consistent global data concerning the female presence in local councils.

TARGET 5-5

**5 GENDER
EQUALITY**



**ENSURE FULL PARTICIPATION IN
LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING**

TARGET 11-3



INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

1. What do you believe are the **primary factors contributing to the underrepresentation of women in leadership positions** within cities, and what are the consequences of this gender imbalance on urban governance? What **challenges do you confront in your role as a female mayor**, how do you overcome them?

2. Could you share both **the most significant gender inequality challenges** your city confronts and the **steps you're taking to address them**? Additionally, drawing from your personal experiences and leadership journey, could you offer insights into the **impact of gender-sensitive leadership on addressing urban issues**, with a focus on **gender-inclusive urban planning and design**?

TARGET 11-7



PROVIDE ACCESS TO SAFE AND INCLUSIVE GREEN AND PUBLIC SPACES

TARGET 11-B



IMPLEMENT POLICIES FOR INCLUSION, RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

3. What measures can be taken to foster a **more inclusive political culture**, ensuring the **representation of women and gender minorities of all ages and abilities**?

Programme

<p>13:15 - 13:25</p>	<p>Opening</p> <p>H.E. Ambassador Mr. Vincenzo Grassi, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations Office at Geneva</p>
<p>13:25 - 14:35</p>	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Ms. Nuray Akpinar-Istiquam, Deputy Mayor of Dijon, France Ms. Alison Gilliland, Councillor & Former Lord Mayor, Dublin, Republic of Ireland Ms. Susan Aitken, City Leader of Glasgow, United Kingdom Ms. Anni Sinnemäki, Deputy Mayor of Helsinki, Finland Ms. Olivera Injac, Mayor of Podgorica, Montenegro Ms. Danela Arsovska, Mayor of Skopje, North Macedonia Ms. Pia Imbs, President, Strasbourg Eurometropolis, France Ms. Barbara Hegedűs, Deputy Mayor of Veszprém, Hungary</p>
<p>14:35 - 14:45</p>	<p>Closing</p> <p>Moderator Ms. Laura Calligaro, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office in Geneva</p>