

## **SEOUL DECLARATION**

**Adopted at the Second International Forum  
of the Metropolis Women International Network**

***Dynamic Cities Need Women***  
***Visions and Challenges for a Women-Friendly City***  
**Seoul, 21-24 October 2009**

WE, the participants to the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women: Visions and Challenges for a Women-Friendly City*, having met in Seoul at the invitation of the Seoul Metropolitan Government and the Metropolis Women International Network,

SHARING the opinion that the situation described in the Brussels Declaration adopted on the 5 December 2007 in Brussels, at the 1<sup>st</sup> International Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women: Actions and Policies for Gender Equality* remains actual and requires continuous attention,

RECOGNIZING that climate change, natural disasters and armed conflicts affect cities and their citizens in an acute way,

CONSIDERING the significant overall impact of the current international financial and economic crisis upon the more vulnerable population of women,

WELCOMING the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations to establish a strengthened gender equality entity within the United Nations,

REAFFIRM our endorsement of the goals and plans of the Brussels Declaration,

URGE city officials and administrators to embrace and adopt the concept of “Women-Friendly Cities” as a positive proactive strategy to promote their cities and recognize as an exemplary approach the “Women-Friendly Seoul Project”,

ENCOURAGE the adoption of strategies and actions related to their jurisdiction:

**1. Mainstreaming gender perspectives in city policies and administration**

- Through systematic use of gender analysis, gender impact assessment and gender-responsive budgeting
- Through promoting women’s equal participation in political and administrative decision making
- Through consultative participation to engage all women in city policies and administration including grass-root organizations
- By improving work-family balance
- By stimulating changes in gender role stereotypes

**2. Empowering women during the economic crisis**

- By creating more decent work for women
- By supporting women-led businesses
- By promoting actions to avoid poverty during economic crisis
- By taking necessary measures to avoid an increase in women’s unequal burden of unpaid work, including care giving
- By promoting actions to ensure social protection and provide decent pension

**3. Building safe cities for women**

- By taking appropriate measures to combat all forms of violence against women in all public spaces, work places, and private homes
- By creating awareness among the public on the need to combat domestic violence and by supporting the efforts of community and non-governmental organizations on this regard

- By promoting the safety of women and girls, and their own perception of security, eliminating the risk of harassment and violence in all public spaces:
  - By carrying out gender safety audits
  - By improving the design of public space and infrastructures
  - By improving services especially in public transport

#### 4. **Fostering diversity and women's creativity**

- By recognizing the specific needs and contributions of different groups of women such as women with disabilities, migrant women, and elderly women.
- By creating equal opportunities and providing the necessary support to allow women to express their creativity in various ways through art and culture
- By encouraging and supporting the media in improving the portrayal of women, in particular in highlighting women's leadership roles
- By promoting remarkable women in a creative way in the public space (street names, statues, women artists).

WE, the participants to the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Forum *Dynamic Cities Need Women: Visions and Challenges for a Women-Friendly City*, ask the Metropolis Women International Network:

1. To transmit the Declaration to all member cities of Metropolis, and encourage them to adopt and implement it
2. To transmit the Declaration to all relevant authorities and institutions with women's and urban issues
3. To transmit the Declaration to the Secretary General of the United Nations and to all the important and relevant entities in the United Nations
4. To offer the collaboration of the Metropolis Women International Network to the strengthened United Nations gender equality entity, when established.
5. To report at the next Forum on progress in implementation of the Declaration.

Signed in Seoul, on 23 October 2009

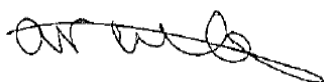
Kyung Sook LEE  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Metropolis Women International  
Network Forum Co-president



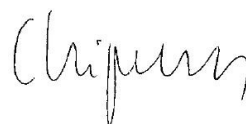
Francine SENÉCAL  
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Network and Forum Co-President



Arwa Othman BALKER  
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Metropolis Women International Network  
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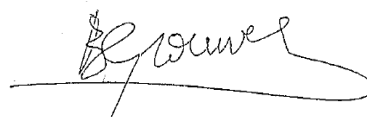
Carme FIGUERAS  
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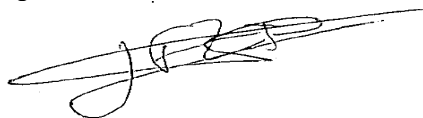
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Regional Antenna



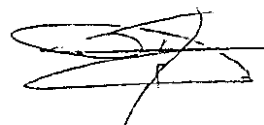
Brigitte GROUWELS  
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Regional Antenna



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