Metropolises and Voluntary Local Reviews

Launch of the VLR of the Metropolitan City of Florence

July15, 11am -12.30pm CEST

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Background

Definition of metropolitan spaces vary depending on legal, administrative, political, economic or cultural criteria in the respective countries and regions. In March 2020, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed a global definition of cities to facilitate international comparison, looking at metropolitan spaces as a city and its commuting zone, which consists of suburban, periurban and rural areas economically and socially linked to the city.

In 2020 there are 1934 metropolises with more than 300,000 inhabitants representing approximately 60% of the world's urban population. At least 2.59 billion people live in metropolises in 2020 which is equivalent to one third of the global population. 34 metropolises have surpassed 10 million inhabitants, and 1355 of 300,000 to 1 million.

Despite Italy counts for 32 cities with more than 300,000 inhabitants, from an administrative perspective, Italian metropolitan cities (*città metropolitane*) have been formally established by law in 2014. The law defines 14 metropolitan spaces, including the Metropolitan City of Florence.

Metropolis around the world at the very center of global development, from an economic, demographic, environmental and cultural point of view. Hence, as the world continues to urbanize, sustainable development depends increasingly on the successful management of urban growth, and specifically of metropolis.

Globally, metropolitan governments have key responsibilities strictly linked to the promotion of territorial development and the implementation of the SDGs. In Italy, for example, metropolitan governments are responsible for the design of the development plan of the metropolitan spaces, for the coordination of public services, the promotion of social and economic development and the coordination of digital and information services. Moreover, metropolitan

governments are becoming more and more key interlocutors with regional and national governments, hence completing the multilevel governance chain.

With this in mind, the Metropolitan City of Florence, with the scientific support of the University of Florence, ARCO (Action Research for CO-development) and Avventura Urbana, and with the technical assistance of UN-Habitat, has developed its very first Voluntary Local Review. The VLR was based on an extensive data analysis and participatory process that involved stakeholders from the different spaces and municipalities composing the Florence Metropolitan City. In addition, the VLR is set to define the context and the priorities that will inspire the Metropolitan Agenda 2030 (*Agenda Metropolitana 2030*), the strategic development plan of Florence Metropolitan City towards the implementation of the SDGs.

The session falls into the joint work that UN-Habitat, UCLG and Metropolis are conducting on the role of metropolises in implementing the Global Goals, with a particular look to Voluntary Local Reviews.

Objective of the event

Based on the example of the VLR of Florence Metropolitan Area, the session will be the occasion to discuss the role of metropolis in achieving the SDGs and on the specificities of their reporting and monitoring process through the VLR tool.

Draft Agenda

Master of Ceremony: **Shipra Narang Suri**, Chief Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat	
Time CET	Session
11.00 – 11.20am	**Opening Session** • **Letizia Perini,** Councilor for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2030 of the Metropolitan City of Florence • **Serena Spinelli**, Councilor for Social Policies, Public Housing and International Cooperation, Region of Tuscany • **Anna Calvete**, Research Officer, UCLG
11.20 – 12.20am	**Moderator:** **Oscar Chamat**, Policy and Research Officer, Research Unit, Metropolis

	Presentation of the VLR of Metropolitan City of Florence (20 min) • **Mario Biggeri**, University of Florence • **Andrea Ferrannini**, Coordinator Local Development Unit, ARCO (Action Research for CO-development) **International Guests (40 min)** • **Eri Cahyadi**, Mayor of Surabaya • **Aissata Camara**, Deputy Commissioner for Operations and Strategic Partnerships, New York City • **Mariana Cammisa**, Strategic Coordination and Monitoring Manager, Buenos Aires, Argentina • **Miquel Rodriguez Planas**, Commissioner for Agenda 2030, Barcelona **Q&A**
12.20 – 12.30pm	**Closing** • **Loredana Magni**, Senior Development Cooperation Adviser at the Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs