

Saint Denis, 24 November 2015

Dear members,

« Plaine Commune », the urban agglomeration of the cities of Saint-Denis and Stade de France, has been terribly wounded by the terrorist attacks that have hit our metropolis. We received many messages of support and sympathy and we would like to thank you for these. It confirms our will to be strong and not succumb to fear, injustice and rejection of others. We know that forces and strengths of life, justice, and solidarity are much stronger than terror.

We would like to congratulate the World Organisation UCLG, for having maintained, in agreement with the Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo, its World Council from 4 to 6 December during COP21. As far as we are concerned, we would like to confirm the special and open workshop “From COP21 to Habitat III: local governments and citizens at the heart of the challenges” taking place on 5th December from 08:30 to 12:30 at the Stade de France (Gate E) in Saint-Denis (access in public transport through line B of RER « La Plaine Saint-Denis / Stade de France »).

Of course, this meeting will take place with reinforced security measures. Members of the World Council will be able to participate to this session carrying their badge together with an ID card.

As we have indicated previously, we do hope to have a participatory workshop that establishes dialogue with civil society on the challenges of the urbanization and the on the ecological transition around two debates:

- How to think our cities and our metropolitan areas in order to fight against climate change?
- What shall we bring to Habitat III in terms of ecological, responsible and fair urbanization?

The first debate will be moderated by Mireille Ferri, Director General of the International Workshop of the Grand Paris, and Daniel Guiraud, Mayor of Les Lilas, First Vice-President of Paris Métropole, and leader of the working group on « Ecological Transition ».

The second debate will be under the responsibility of Augusto Barrera, former Mayor of Quito, research fellow at the University of FLASCO, and Emilia Saiz, Deputy Secretary General of UCLG.

Following the two debates, the floor will be given to Cyria Emelianoff, professor at the University of Maine and Jordi Borja, President of the Observatory of Economic, Social and Culture Rights. They will provide their inputs and feedback to the debate.

Representatives of the Global Platform of the Right to the City, of UCLG and the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights will also bring their views towards Habitat III.

We have already received the confirmation of the presence of representatives from Bogota, Canos, Sao Paulo, Rosario, Barcelona, Madrid, Montreal, Toronto, Mexico, El Bosque and of the association advocating for a citizen transition, Habitat International Coalition.

We hope to count on your presence. More than ever, the debate between local officials and civil society is necessary in these difficult times.

Sincerely
Patrick Braouezec