

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE 3rd WORLD FORUM “DYNAMIC CITIES NEED WOMEN”

ABIDJAN, 24-27 SEPTEMBER 2013

THEME: WOMEN AND ARMED CONFLICT: CURRENT STATE OF PLAY AND OUTLOOK

We, the participants in the 3rd World Forum “Dynamic Cities Need Women”, convened in Abidjan from 24 to 27 September 2013 by the District of Abidjan and the Metropolis Women International Network:

- **CONSIDER THAT** the world is shaken by armed conflict, with negative, disastrous consequences;
- **RECOGNISE THAT** armed conflicts are becoming more and more numerous, violent and fatal, with negative, disastrous consequences;
- **ASSERT THAT** women pay a high price during armed conflict, with the loss of their most basic rights;
- **CONCLUDE THAT** while substantial efforts are being made by the international community to prevent and regulate conflict, it is crucial to:
- **CALL UPON** the competent authorities and institutions of every country in the world to join hands and take concerted action to:
 - significantly reduce armed conflict in the world;
 - remove obstacles in the way of implementing effective legal instruments for the protection of women;
 - publicise widely all of the conventions and resolutions ratified and adopted in favour of women;
 - ensure that all the national and international legal instruments for the protection of women in periods of armed conflict are unconditionally applied;
 - apply all the sanctions anticipated by the various existing legislations;
 - guarantee the fundamental rights of women in times of war as well as in times of peace;

- set up mechanisms to physically, psychologically and financially care for women who are victims of serious abuse in periods of armed conflict.
- **CALL UPON** women all over the world to:
 - become makers of peace and true reconciliation;
 - take their destiny into their own hands for humankind's survival;
 - forge greater solidarity among women.
- **CALL UPON** men of every country in the world to:
 - respect women, their nurturing mothers, everywhere and at all times;
 - resort to dialogue as the ultimate means of settling all differences;
 - work alongside women in order to guarantee peace and security in the world.
- **ASK** Metropolis to:
 - encourage the competent authorities to ensure the effective application of national and international legal instruments and mechanisms for the rights of women.
- **ASK** the Metropolis Women International Network to:
 - set up a platform to monitor the resolutions of the 3rd World Forum of the Metropolis Women International Network;
 - submit this declaration to the competent authorities.

Abidjan, 26 September 2013

3rd World Forum of the Metropolis Women International Network