



May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018



Your Excellencies,



Leaders of the G7



As you gather in Charlevoix on the occasion of your Annual Summit, the mayors and leaders of local and regional governments representing thousands of cities globally salute you and offer our support as you address the range of critical issues facing your nations and, indeed, facing nations around the world.



In an increasingly urbanized world, the hundreds of millions of citizens that make up our cities and jurisdictions are directly impacted by the decisions and actions taken through the leadership of the G7. We take this opportunity to present our perspective on the issues before you at Charlevoix and offer you the partnership of local government in tackling these challenges together.



Internationally, there is growing recognition of the importance of the urban dimension of development as demonstrated through the ambitious goals set and adopted under the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Habitat III New Urban Agenda. Further, cities and local governments increasingly play a key role in driving local solutions to global challenges, and we are organizing internationally in order to share lessons learned and the tools and innovation that will help tackle the challenges that the G7 has set out on its agenda.



As leaders on the front lines of the world's cities and territories, we see increasing inequalities around the world culminating in human tragedy and undermining the very foundations for sustainable growth and peaceful development that all of us as leaders aspire to. We are pleased that your agenda includes discussions on investing in growth that works for everyone and preparing for jobs of the future. For without an inclusive approach to

development and a reduction of inequalities, we head towards a deepening crisis of disparity and conflict. Cities are engines of our national economies. As mayors and local leaders, we undertake initiatives to promote more inclusive growth and living together, so that all our citizens, including youth, indigenous people as well as migrants, can meaningfully contribute to, and benefit from, the democratic, economic, social and cultural life of our urban centres. We will continue to pursue such initiatives. And we invite you to engage with us in the planning and implementation of bold national strategies and programs that will allow us to meet this growing challenge together and leave no one behind.

Similarly, we commend you for making gender equality a key theme of your Summit. Despite progress, there is no doubt that globally, women and girls continue to experience systemic discrimination and exclusion. Women continue to make up most of the world's poor and do not benefit equally from international and national development efforts and are disproportionately affected by extreme weather events and other negative phenomena our nations increasingly face. The need for a gender sensitive approach to policy-making and implementation is essential. Bold and creative steps need to be undertaken in order to address the roots of gender inequality. We are committed to increasing the participation of women in politics and in local decision-making, and to break the glass ceiling.

A critical challenge we must also tackle together is climate change. With the rapid growth of the world's population and the scale and intensity of human and economic activity, we cannot take for granted that our planet will sustain current patterns of development and support the future of subsequent generations. We have witnessed some inspiring leadership at the global level to embark on a new path to address climate issues. Yet, much remains to be done to achieve the objectives collectively set forth in the Paris Agreement and to put emissions on a trajectory compatible with the 2 °C goal, let alone 1,5 °C. We invite you to join us in being more ambitious to ensure effective action at the national level. As mayors and local leaders, we have committed to implementing the Paris Agreement and will continue to take clear steps to reduce our carbon footprint, including through the development of public transit networks. Working together, across all orders of government, we can shore up the battle against climate change, which, for the sake of our citizens, we must win. Now is the time for bold action.

Finally, we also agree on the need to build a more peaceful and secure world. Cities are often where conflict plays out. As mayors and local leaders we are well positioned to promote safer cities for all – and we have implemented a number of safe-city initiatives. We will continue with our endeavours to foster a culture of peace and living harmoniously together. But there are deep issues and root problems which will require strong leadership and action by national authorities. Around the world, urban areas are too often the theatre of human tragedies and destruction caused by war, conflict and terror attacks. Further, nuclear threats hang over all of us. We encourage you to pursue collaborative efforts to ensure international peace, security and disarmament.

Excellencies, the issues on your agenda are also issues facing urban populations. They are complex and require our collaboration and combined leadership and action. Count on local governments as your partners in this work. Only by bringing cities and communities to the national and global tables, endowed with the relevant authority and resources, will governments be able to overcome these challenges and deliver the solutions for the people we serve.

Please accept, Excellencies, the expression of our highest consideration.

*Valérie Plante*  
Mayor of Montréal  
Co-president Metropolis

*Alexandre Cusson*  
Mayor of Drummondville  
President UMQ

*Jenny Gerbasi*  
Councillor of Winnipeg  
President FCM

*Anne Hidalgo*  
Mayor of Paris  
President AIMF  
President C40

*Mpho Parks Tau*  
President SALGA  
President UCLG

*Kazumi Matsui*  
Mayor of Hiroshima  
President Mayors For Peace

*Michael Müller*  
Mayor of Berlin  
President Metropolis

*José Ramón Amieva*  
Head of the Government,  
Mexico City  
General Coordinator AL-LAs

*Ashok Sridharan*  
Mayor of Bonn  
First Vice-President ICLEI

*Mark Stodola*  
Mayor of Little Rock  
President NLC

*Ramón Javier Mestre*  
Mayor of Cordoba  
President Mercociudades