

Communication to the Paris Council - May 2015

The international action of the City of Paris

Celebrated all over the world and visited by millions of people every year, Paris is today a world-class metropolis. Throughout its history, our capital has been shaped by contributions from cultures, languages and nationalities from the five continents, which have allowed it to thrive and to develop an unparalleled diversity, richness and strength.

However, in the current context of global demographic growth and urbanization,^① cities are being confronted with new but common challenges: promoting growth while respecting the environment and health, fostering social inclusion through solidarity, ensuring the security of every citizen, and attracting global entrepreneurs and investors, as well as researchers, students, artists and all those whose talents contribute to the harmonious development of the city.

For Paris, the host city for the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21) this year, these challenges can only be addressed from an international perspective and within the framework of the Greater Paris metropolis, whose dimensions are comparable to those of our partner cities. **Paris must strengthen its role as the world capital taking the most international action, both in terms of cooperation and in terms of the mobilization of international networks of cities.**

At a time when global metropolises are asserting themselves, Paris can draw upon its history, take inspiration from its revolutions, remain faithful to its ideas and promote its values. Paris is the city where the Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were adopted in 1789 and 1948 respectively. Whether illustrious figures or ordinary people, the men and women who built our capital have rebelled, resisted occupation and experienced great brutality, but have always returned stronger and more united. This remarkable past gives the City of Paris and the elected representatives of its 20 districts a special responsibility and forms the cornerstone of our international action today.

In the wake of the January terror attacks, Paris was also the scene of a historic rally that brought together Parisians and well-wishers from across the globe. We received thousands of messages of sympathy and support after these events. This “spirit of January 11th” now guides all our international activities: supporting fellow cities that have also been struck by extremists, such as Copenhagen and Tunis; fostering the peaceful coexistence of communities based on concrete initiatives led by the citizens of the world cities themselves; creating counter-radicalization projects in its partner cities as well as in Paris. Education and intercultural dialogue are the guiding principles of Paris’ diplomacy.

I. Paris implements city diplomacy

Our international action is underpinned by increasingly close links between the world's cities and the networks that bring them together (UCLG⁽²⁾, AIMF⁽³⁾, C40, and so on). Beyond the careful monitoring of the political situations in our partner cities, this action takes the form of international missions, exchanges of best practices, and the hosting of a large number of foreign delegations who wish to discover the strengths and the expertise of our capital.

It is deployed in three major geographic areas: large metropolises, French-speaking communities and Europe.

1. Strengthening our relationship with metropolises in the northern and the southern hemispheres

For some years now, the relationships we have forged with partner cities in the North and the South have been steadily strengthening. In just a few months, links have been consolidated with London through the "Paris-London" cultural tandem, with New York through school exchanges and the promotion of a local citizenship, with Rio thanks to the C40 network, and with Mexico and Seoul through new cooperation agreements. We are also supporting the city of Johannesburg in implementing its own climate plan. Other promising partnerships are also underway with Shanghai, Abidjan and Bogotá. These exchanges are both ambitious and concrete, and they pave the way for a new form of world governance that is more democratic and humanistic. These exchanges with global cities, in which Paris plays the role of a catalyst, directly contribute to the implementation of our public policies from which all Parisians benefit.

This is what we call *city diplomacy*. It is based on the existence of networks of cities specializing in specific issues such as climate, energy, urban development, or on more general interest networks such as UCLG, which is already influential at the United Nations, and which could herald the emergence of a World Congress of Cities.

2. Taking action in the wider French-speaking world

Paris is developing its action in French-speaking countries. This is done in particular through the Mayor of Paris' chairmanship of the AIMF, which brings together more than 250 cities and groups of cities from the five continents. The AIMF provides a space for constructive dialogue and forges links of friendship and solidarity between all its members. It encourages the sharing of good practices between individuals of very different cultures, backgrounds and experiences, who are nevertheless united by the same ideal of progress. It carries out concrete and useful projects for our fellow citizens by means of its cooperation fund, with which we guarantee commitment and full efficiency at an

expenditure of €1 million per year. Within this framework, the AIMF has just been granted new co-financing by the European Commission to support our projects.

Paris facilitates the renewal of partnerships with the International Organization of French-speaking Countries, with international media such as TV5 Monde, as well as with companies in a French-speaking economic space of more than 200 million inhabitants. The activities of the AIMF also involve educational projects, teaching foreign languages in Paris and the French language elsewhere in the world, through an approach based on increased accessibility and mutual enrichment to languages. In the future, Paris plans to focus even more on young people, as well as on innovation, digital technologies and entrepreneurship, so that the entire French-speaking world can thrive.

3. Reshaping Europe with our partner cities on the way to sustainable development

Central to Parisian diplomacy, Europe is our natural environment and our political ambition. We want to build a democratic Union supporting peace, freedom and social justice. This fundamental project for Paris encompasses all issues relating to citizenship, education, research, culture, social action and the economy.

Our responsibility today is to promote a broader understanding and a more positive perception of Europe by strengthening its bonds with the Parisians and by creating more exchanges and bridges with European cities. We will build on our special relationships with Rome, Berlin, Amsterdam, Vienna or Lisbon, as well as on an enhanced dialogue with the European Commission in Brussels. The City has valuable tools at its disposal to reach this objective, including networks like the *Leonardo* exchange program for municipal civil servants, the House of Europe, and the associations of European cities in which Paris participates. All of these have a multiplicative effect on the actions we are taking.

Our ambition is to raise awareness of European issues among young people - the citizens of tomorrow - through school exchanges and dedicated actions during major Parisian events. These events include the Europe Day celebrations on the City Hall plaza; the "Chantiers d'Europe" Festival at the Théâtre de la Ville, including for the first time an ambitious program for young people, and the promotion of the "Paris Europe" label targeting associations, schools and universities.

We must demonstrate to Parisians that Europe has concrete solutions to offer. European co-funding programs for urban planning, transport, housing, health, sports, heritage and culture will be expanded, in addition to the existing support from the European Social Fund for employment and inclusion. A monitoring and guidance platform dedicated to European co-funding opportunities has just been created for this reason in the City services.

Sustainable development is one of the central components of our European ambition. The Paris Climate Plan, energy efficiency, the fight against pollution, soft modes of transport, urban redevelopment, the rise of circular economy, the greening of our city, promotion of biodiversity, Fairtrade food and goods: in Paris all these policies are progressing in connection with our European partners and with the support of European institutions.

This was the purpose of the Summit of European Mayors that was held on March 26th, 2015 at the City Hall. We reaffirmed our ecological commitments and initiated coordinated public investments to boost “green” sectors of the economy. This dynamic will gain momentum ahead of the COP21 taking place at the end of this year, during which all the states, cities and territories committed to the fight against climate change will convene.

II. Paris takes concrete steps in favor of international solidarity

Solidarity toward the most disadvantaged populations is one of the priorities of the international action of the City of Paris. With €6.7 million committed to foreign assistance per year, our capital ranks among the leading local authorities contributing to public development aid.⁽⁴⁾ This solidarity is reflected in particular in the domain of health and the fight against major pandemics.

1. Preserving the health of the most vulnerable populations: fighting HIV/AIDS and ensuring maternal and child health

Over the last decade, Paris has been strongly supporting associations fighting HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. This choice is crucial: our city possesses globally acknowledged expertise in this domain and is home to a large number of associations taking action at the international level. In total, our action constitutes €2 million per year in subsidies, making the City of Paris a key fund provider for NGOs.⁽⁵⁾

On December 1st, 2014, we launched a “Call of Paris” with mayors from the North and the South in cooperation with UNAIDS and major international associations, in order to diagnose, treat and support 90% of HIV/AIDS patients in our cities. In parallel, we are studying the possibility of taking actions, on a case-by-case basis, which would affect other pandemics and/or other geographic areas. In any event, the fight against HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa will remain the principal beneficiary of our policy in favor of public health.

For a few months now, Paris has been paying special attention to maternal and child health. With the Melinda Gates foundation, we have launched an initiative aimed at developing projects in our partner cities in Africa.

International action in the field of health is also based on cooperation projects carried out by the Paris hospital administration (AP-HP) whose actions (exchange of expertise, training, transfer of equipment) are mainly targeted at French-speaking cities.

2. Translating progress into acts using decentralized cooperation

➤ Water and sanitation, waste, emergency aid

Alongside health, there are a number of other sectors drawing a substantial portion of the City's international solidarity budget. This is the case for water and sanitation. As provided for by the Oudin law (whose 10th anniversary will be celebrated in 2015) we allocate a total amount of €1 million per year to projects of access to drinking water initiated by associations or developed directly with our partner cities, as well as emergency actions.

Paris was the first French metropolis to commit to the "1% waste" approach in 2015. The principle is similar to that of the Oudin law: to return part of the proceeds from waste collection to support a policy of sanitation and recycling of waste in partner cities in the southern hemisphere.^⑥ This initiative will be tested from this year in Brazzaville.

The solidarity of the Parisians also takes the form of emergency aid that our City provides to support Parisian associations facing critical situations in the field. These one-off aids vary from €20,000 to €100,000 and are intended for the victims of epidemics (Ebola), natural disasters (Haiti, Madagascar, Vanuatu), or for refugees and displaced populations during conflicts (Syria, Iraq, Lebanon).

➤ Technical and urban cooperation, the daily challenge of "doing together"

Technical cooperation between Paris and other cities is an exciting but arduous challenge. Often overlooked by the general public, it is based on the intervention of various experts from the services and agencies of the City of Paris and its partners. The Paris planning agency (APUR) is a major partner in this respect.

Our cooperation also mobilizes specialists in roadways and transport, housing, heritage, architecture, green spaces, sanitation, health, and education. It requires sophisticated legal arrangements with a variety of co-funding sources, such as the partner city, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, as well as other fund providers such as the European Commission or the French Development Agency (AFD). In this respect, a new multiannual agreement signed in the spring with the AFD allows us to increase the support provided by the agency to our cooperation projects, and to develop new ones.

For several years, Paris has been supporting large-scale projects in Jericho and Bethlehem, in Amman in the field of transport, in Phnom Penh for sanitation, in the historic neighborhoods of Rabat, in

Bamako and Ouagadougou for health systems, in Cotonou and Abidjan for the development of unsanitary zones, in Beirut for the creation of the Museum of Memory, and in Montréal for biodiversity. Other projects are also being prepared, concentrating on the creation of a sanitation school in Tunis, urban renovation in Bucharest, economic attractiveness in Mexico and Tel Aviv, green spaces in Rio de Janeiro and waste recycling in Brazzaville. Our cooperation projects will diversify, varying in duration and complexity, and will depend to a greater extent on external funding. All the while reinforcing our traditional fields of action, our decentralized and technical cooperation will from now on be deployed on new issues such as digital technologies, innovation, design, sustainable development, terrorism, and refuge cities, all of which are area of expertise for the City. Indeed, Paris must become a testing ground and a place of international reference for innovation relating to land development, sustainable development, the digital economy and services, and energy transition.

➤ Towards a shared social inclusion

To complete this approach, we hope to open a new cross-sector field of cooperation: social inclusion. All cities today are confronted with strong tensions and social disparities. They must all fight poverty and exclusion, which are two of the “grand causes” of this mayoral term in Paris. To meet this challenge we must increase our exchange of expertise with other large metropolises. Successful examples already exist, and innovative experiments in this domain are being carried out across the world, from Bombay and New York, to Beijing, São Paulo and Nairobi.

Similarly, cities must adapt to all their citizens at a time when many people with disabilities - as well as an increasing number of dependent elderly people and their families - are confronted with material, legal, economic and cultural difficulties. We must break down the walls of exclusion. Our metropolises must be more disability friendly. To achieve this goal, we should draw upon the models of cities like Goteborg, Stockholm or Malaga.

This is why we are planning the creation of a global platform, a “network of inclusive cities” to better fight the scourge of exclusion and to disseminate the best international practices for the benefit of the public.

III. Paris broadens its influence in the global arena

1. Becoming a world center of innovation

Already the number one city in the world for its intellectual and innovation capital, first in Europe and sixth in the world for the dynamism of its innovation market,^⑦ Paris aims to further strengthen its role as a world capital of innovation, and has many assets at its disposal to do this.^⑧

➤ Tourist attractiveness and large international meetings

This dynamic, together with the implementation of a new global communication, a new international signature, and an in-depth reflection aimed at controlling and highlighting our prestigious “Paris brand” will help us to strengthen our position as a host city for major international events, including international trade fairs and shows, the bid for the World’s Fair, sports competitions such as the Euro 2016 or the 2018 Gay Games and, of course, Paris’ bid for the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics. The expected benefits for Parisians and for businesses are considerable. The international action will be completely mobilized through our cooperation projects and our networks to rally as much support and common projects as possible. The Paris bid for the Olympic Games must be completely international and collective.

Paris is already the undisputed world capital of tourism, but we want our city to rank first in the world not only for the number of visitors it hosts but also for the quality of its welcome. We will enhance and encourage high-quality sustainable tourism that generates employment and contributes to the international influence of Paris. The Welcome City Lab, the first Parisian incubator dedicated to tourism and leisure, reflects our ambition to make Paris a place of innovation in the field of tourism.

The COP21 and the “1,000 Mayors Summit” in December 2015 will be an extraordinary international opportunity for Paris. Our capital will have to speak up for the cities of the world that are committed to fighting climate change. Paris will be a showcase of solutions – public, private, industrial, social, solidary, or initiated by associations – that exist today to reduce CO2 emissions and ensure the transformation from a consumerist economy to a sustainable and virtuous society.

➤ Incubators on an international scale

To stimulate the creativeness of innovators, Paris benefits from an exceptional concentration of world-class schools and universities and has deployed a deliberate policy of support to innovation, leading to the creation of more than 100,000 m² of incubators. Another 100,000 m² of innovation spaces are expected to be delivered by 2020. Since January 1st, 2015, Paris has set up a new agency in charge of attractiveness and economic development, *Paris&Co*, responsible for promoting the metropolis at the international level, welcoming international investors, and fostering the influence of the Ile-de-France innovation ecosystem.

The objective now is to “internationalize” our incubators by hosting a greater number of foreign startups in Paris and by obtaining more European and international funds to invest in young Paris-based businesses. This is one of the major challenges for the coming years. To address it, we will take advantage of the interest generated by the “*Reinventing Paris*” project, which has attracted many foreign partners. We will forge relationships with other large metropolises to exchange investments, startups, and young post-doctorate researchers. This is what we want to do with New York from autumn 2015, and later, with Tel Aviv, Mexico, London, Seoul, Dakar, and Rome.

➤ Paris, “a smart city”

The theme of innovation is also present in international discussions on “smart cities”. Today, Paris offers many opportunities to see new and digital technologies provide more and more services to connected citizens with the objective of reducing our energy consumption. This is for instance the case with the new “smart” bus shelters, the participatory budget that allows the Parisians to vote online for the best projects for their city, and all the digital applications through which they can book an Autolib’, report a problem on the street, take their waste to a recycling facility or find a collaborative workspace.

In this domain, international comparisons and meetings between cities will continue to fuel our collective reflection.

➤ Paris, a global campus city

An essential element to the attractiveness and influence of Paris as a world capital lies in its ability to facilitate and amplify scientific and academic international exchanges, a movement which our capital must be the spearhead. This is the reason why we take steps to welcome professors and researchers, through the “*Research in Paris*” program financing research stays in Parisian laboratories in particular, as well as through the support provided to the Advanced Studies Institute. Every year, renowned researchers who have gained international recognition in the field of human and social sciences are welcomed to this institute, headquartered at the Hotel de Lauzun.

As for students, every year we offer the *Paris Erasmus* program to facilitate the mobility of Parisian students within the framework of the Erasmus program. In cooperation with the State, the City also organizes the Foreign Students Welcome Service, located at the *Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris* and which simplifies administrative procedures for foreign students who settle in Paris. The policy carried out in the field of housing for students and researchers is also one of the pillars of the attractiveness of our city. And of course Paris affirms its solidarity with students from all over the world, such as the Kenyan students of Garissa University who were recently the victims of a horrendous terrorist attack.

Working to make Paris the first campus city worldwide is one of the essential elements of the international strategy of our capital.

2. Supporting a unique cultural ambition

Paris is a capital of culture boasting a creative, ambitious, demanding and innovative cultural offer that is unique in the world. The influence and the quality of its institutions, the richness of its artistic offering and the diversity of players involved all generate strong international appeal.

Our museums, our theaters, our cinemas, our multidisciplinary facilities, our libraries and our festivals are all bridges inviting the world to get together, to discover itself, and to become richer from this mutual exchange. Artistic creation, music, literature, and cinema thrive on and reflect this cultural mix. The constant attention paid to the world contributes to and encourages renewal and the search for new ideas and styles. Our international cultural action is based on a dialogue between cultures, with the intention of opening it up to all audiences and with new high artistic standards contributing to cultural diversity.

➤ The partnership with the Institut Français

A significant portion of our international cultural resources fall under an agreement with the Institut Français, adopted for three years by the Paris Council this past February. The City and the Institut Français jointly fund performances and works produced by Parisian artists or troupes abroad. This is the case of the international tours of the Théâtre de la Ville, but also for many other troupes, associations and private and public structures like the Institute of Islamic Cultures, the European Center of Photography or the Centquatre cultural center. The projects selected ensure a rotation of recipients and disciplines, with a constant concern for quality and accessibility to all audiences.

Four years ago, the City of Paris alongside the Institut Français created “Tandem”: a number of cross-cultural programs between capitals with the aim of strengthening our links with partner cities. After Berlin, Dakar, Rome, London this year, and New York in 2016, we will present even more programs for the years to come to the Parisians, in order to consolidate the relationship between the cultural players of all these large metropolises. Paris also provides substantial support to the cultural “seasons” organized by State institutions, such as the season that will be dedicated to South Korea in 2015-2016, or the France-Columbia season in 2017.

➤ Support to Paris cultural players

As well as the Tandems and the cultural seasons, the City finances other Parisian cultural projects abroad and supports a certain number of foreign cultural centers in Paris that promote the cultural diversity of our capital.

Museums, theaters, orchestras, movie theaters, concert halls, libraries, as well as our partner structures and associations, all play a major role in this policy of artistic influence through their openness to the world and the dissemination of their productions and co-productions. The potential of our Paris cultural network is huge. Thanks to partners such as the Alliance française and Paris Bibliothèques, one of the challenges of our international action is to stimulate their energy, to keep track of their countless offers, to multiply the opportunities for meetings with foreign stakeholders, and to enhance their action among the Paris public. Our training and art schools, the art professions,

design and digital technologies are valuable vectors of influence that we must continue to support at the international level.

➤ Paris, a host city and a refuge for artists

Another aspect of our international influence is the welcoming of artists in residence to Paris. Here too, there is a considerable potential. The Cité Internationale des Arts and the Récollets International Reception and Exchange Centre host about 10 foreign artists every year. These artists, often with promising futures ahead of them, are young and very talented. Throughout their lives, they will become the ambassadors of the excellence of our capital. We must therefore encourage the links that they forge with the general public in Paris.

Since 2011, Paris has been a member of the ICORN international network of refuge cities for exiled artists. Within this framework, our capital pledges to host one writer or artist threatened with death in his/her country of origin, every year for one year. Paris' involvement is growing: after the unprecedented "Paris – Mexico: Capitals of Exile" symposium in June 2015, the City will welcome the Annual General Meeting of the ICORN network in 2016, in which member cities, committed associations and many writers, journalists and artists who are the victims of threats and oppression in their country will participate. Paris, the capital where paths cross and are intertwined, wants to strengthen its capacity to welcome artists from across the world and to continue its action as a city of refuge in a spirit of artistic solidarity.

IV. Paris, the relentless defender of universal values and remembrance

1. Promoting human rights

➤ Supporting those who fight for human rights

Because of its unique history, Paris plays a major role in the promotion of human rights worldwide. We bring our support to associations that fight for the defense of freedoms in the world, such as the International Federation of Human Rights whose headquarters are in Paris, or Amnesty International. This support takes the form of subsidies but also of practical assistance from the City to organize events or political meetings.

For about 10 years, Paris has given new momentum to the Citizenship of Honor of the City (two titles were awarded in 2015, including an exceptional one to Charlie Hebdo) often awarding this honor to a foreign personality who promotes the defense of human rights and is under threat because of his or her beliefs. The Citizenship of Honor is a formal recognition, but it is also a very powerful means of protection for its recipients. Within a few weeks, the Paris Council will receive a proposal to set up the Commission of the Citizenship of Honor in which all the groups represented in the Council will participate in the interest of democracy.

➤ Defending the freedom of the press

Foreign journalists in danger in their own countries because of their work can benefit from a special welcome at the House of Journalists. This exceptional place hosts and protects journalists and their families who have had to flee their country. This crucial place of welcome offers them refuge and leaves them some time to envisage a more lasting solution, often being granted political asylum. The House of Journalists aims to consolidate its missions in the coming years.

The support that the City of Paris provides in favor of freedom of expression takes a wide range of forms: support for demonstrations, festivals, press meetings, artistic projects, visits from foreign authors. After the Charlie Hebdo tragedy, we must reinforce the actions we are taking to promote freedoms and supplement this work with international actions on the theme "living together".

➤ A commitment in favour of gender equality

Gender equality and the place of women in society are top priorities in our projects. This cross-cutting approach is the continuation of the work undertaken in Paris since 2013 through the UCLG global network's women's commission, chaired by the Mayor of Paris. As well as the projects that are directly related to women's rights, their safety, their education, their health or their economic opportunity, this work also involves constant mobilization and advocacy at the international level to give more space and recognition to women. Thanks to unprecedented collaboration with the UN and its UN Women agency we will continue these efforts with the support of the United Nations.⑨ Our ambition is to create, by 2016, an active network of Mayors committed to this fundamental issue.

2. Honoring our commitment to remembrance

Defending these values will remain futile if it is not supported by a crucial remembrance work, forming the basis of our collective identity. The year 2015, marked by a large number of international commemorations, is particularly representative in this respect. After a delegation from the Paris Council travelled to Auschwitz in January for the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the death camps, and following the inauguration of a commemorative headstone at the Père Lachaise cemetery as a tribute to the Rwandan Tutsis, we have recently inaugurated an exceptional exhibition at the City Hall on the Armenian genocide. In this spirit, I will travel to Yerevan in the autumn and we will also commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre in July 2015.

Through these many tributes and events, which always require close collaboration with associations and schools, we wish to lay the emphasis on education, dialogue and the transmission of memory. The right questions must be raised everywhere and we must encourage debate within a peaceful framework, respecting the principles of democracy. This must be done first and foremost in the underprivileged neighborhoods of the capital. It is for this reason that testimonies and examples from abroad are often very useful: they offer a long range and unprejudiced view of our own sensitivities. They provide comfort and an attentive ear which we sometimes deprive ourselves of in

Paris. They support the work of remembrance that is the basis of the collective Parisian identity that is very much alive today.

- ① In 2015, 66% of the world population will live in cities (source: UN, 2015)
- ② United Cities and Local Governments
- ③ International Association of French-speaking Mayors
- ④ Source : CNCD, 2014
- ⑤ Paris' commitment spans all aspects of the fight against the pandemics, from prevention to caring for affected patients, mother to child transmission or the link with other infectious diseases like TB.
- ⑥ Over the course of the coming months, this program will be supported by a new measure arising from the law, which will gradually gain momentum to reach an annual budget of 1 million euros per year at the end of the Mayor's term.
- ⑦ *Cities of opportunity* ranking, PwC, May 2014 – *Studies CB Insights – The next Silicon Valley*, November 2014
- ⑧ In the sectors of digital technology, science, biotechnologies, tourism, fashion and luxury, gastronomy, culture, and education in particular.
- ⑨ Including in our city-to-city cooperation agreements, such as the one signed with Kinshasa in October 2014.