

WOMEN4CLIMATE
WOMEN MAYORS
EMPOWERING A NEW
GENERATION OF
WOMEN LEADERS

NEW YORK CITY, MARCH 15TH

C40
CITIES
CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GROUP

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ABOUT C40 CITIES

C40 connects more than 90 of the world's greatest cities, in a global alliance to tackle climate change. Representing 650+ million people and one quarter of the global economy C40 cities are leading the way in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, tackling air pollution and delivering on the promise of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Founded and led by mayors, C40 is helping to create the sustainable, low carbon, cities of the future. The chair of C40 is Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, and three-term Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg serves as President of the Board.

FUTURE
INNOVATION
CHANGE
ACTION

INTRODUCTION



Ever since I was elected Mayor of Paris, the media has emphasised that I am the first woman to take up this responsibility. Across the globe, I am no longer an exception to that old rule, which was maintained for far too long. My friends the mayors of Washington D.C., Tokyo, Sydney, Caracas, Barcelona and Cape Town share similar experiences.

Women are breaking through the glass ceiling at more and more local elections, and women mayors are increasingly normal. The figures bear this out: in 2014 just 4 cities across the C40 network had women mayors - now, since the beginning of 2017, 15 mayors are women, a 275% increase. Governing large metropolitan areas is no longer forbidden territory.

The purpose of the Women4Climate initiative is to show that we are pioneers, with a responsibility to future generations.

Women are more vulnerable to the natural disasters caused by climate change than men. It is our duty to pave the way for the next generation of female leadership. The actions of future women leaders will be key in the fight against global warming.

Our initiative will offer support, advice and guidance to promising young women and their sustainable projects, for the benefit of the largest possible number of people.

The French poet Louis Aragon said that “woman is the future of man”. With the Women4Climate initiative, women can decide to be the future of women.

ANNE HIDALGO,
MAYOR OF PARIS AND CHAIR OF C40

WOMEN4CLIMATE FACTS

WOMEN BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

C40'S WOMEN MAYORS REPRESENT 100 MILLION URBAN CITIZENS AND OVER \$4 TRILLION \$ IN GDP.

= GREATER THAN THE POPULATION AND GDP OF GERMANY.

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IN 2014, THERE WERE JUST 4 WOMEN MAYORS OF C40 CITIES. IN 2017, THERE ARE

15 WOMEN MAYORS OF C40 CITIES (+275%)

#WOMEN4CLIMATE

C40
CITIES

THE COLLECTIVE AREA OF ALL CITIES RUN BY THE C40 **WOMEN MAYORS** IS AROUND

20,000 KM² = ROUGHLY HALF THE SIZE OF SWITZERLAND

#WOMEN4CLIMATE

C40
CITIES

THE TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET OF CITIES REPRESENTED BY THE C40 **WOMEN MAYORS** IS OVER

130 BILLION US DOLLARS = OVER 50% OF APPLE'S ANNUAL REVENUE!

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CITIES

WOMEN MAYORS ACTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

CITIES RUN BY C40'S WOMEN MAYORS HAVE OVER

3,500 KM OF BIKE LANES = 2/3 THE DISTANCE FROM LONDON TO NEW YORK

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WOMEN ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



90% OF THE 150,000 PEOPLE KILLED IN THE 1991 BANGLADESH CYCLONE WERE WOMEN

*SOURCE: UNICEF

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WOMEN IN POORER COUNTRIES TEND TO BE MORE VULNERABLE TO DISASTERS BECAUSE:

- THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO **BE AT HOME** WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE
- THEY MAY **NOT HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION** AND ARE LESS LIKELY TO BE AWARE OF THE NEED TO EVACUATE
- THEY MAY **NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO LEAVE**

#WOMEN4CLIMATE

*SOURCES: UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNCTAD

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**MEET THE WOMEN
MAYORS LEADING
THE GLOBAL FIGHT
AGAINST CLIMATE
CHANGE**



ANNE HIDALGO, MAYOR OF PARIS

Anne Hidalgo has been Mayor of Paris since 2014. After co-hosting the Climate Summit for Local Leaders in December 2015 with Michael Bloomberg, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, she was elected as the new Chair of C40 Cities, the leading network of the 90 most important cities in the world committed to addressing climate change.

Born in Spain, she is the mother of three children and married to Jean-Marc Germain, a Member of Parliament. Former Labour inspector, she has occupied several positions in national and international organizations before becoming First Deputy Mayor of Paris (2001- 14), in charge of gender equality and later in charge of urban planning and architecture. She holds a Master's degree in Labour law from the Labour and Social Security Institute of Paris.

KEY NUMBERS:

Paris has more than 700KM of cycle lanes. More than the distance from Paris to Nice.

Paris has committed to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 75% by 2050.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AS MAYOR?

In Paris we are implementing a bold plan to tackle climate change and clean the air that Parisians breathe. We have progressively banned the most polluting vehicles from the roads, helping Paris citizens with concrete accompanying measures. At the C40 Mayors Summit in Mexico City, last year, Mayor Mancera of Mexico City and Mayor Carmona of Madrid joined me in committing to ban diesel vehicles from our cities by 2025.

Paris is also tackling climate change by increasing the space available exclusively to pedestrians and cyclists. Through our cycling plan, we want to make Paris a world's bicycle capital, and we will double the amount of cycling lanes by 2020. We will particularly focus on seven emblematic squares, including the Bastille and the Pantheon.

With the pedestrianisation of the banks of the Seine, we demonstrated that bold measures to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gases in the city can be achieved. By closing these UNESCO world heritage sites to cars, we are providing Parisians and to those who share our love of Paris, a wonderful new space to enjoy.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING YOUR CITY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ADDRESS THEM?

I have said it before and am saying it again: we cannot negotiate with Parisians' health. Tackling air pollution is urgent and the city of Paris will take action along with other mayors and megacities, through C40 to avoid a public health crisis.

The effects of climate change are already being felt in cities around the world, including Paris. In 2016, Paris received a C40 Award for our Adaptation Strategy, which is preparing the city for the heatwaves, flooding and droughts that climate change could bring in the years ahead. Just some of the actions we are delivering include, planting 20,000 trees, creating more than 30 hectares of new green spaces, and 1 million m² of green roofs and walls. By 2020 Parisians will be no more than a 7-minute walk from a cool place including new open-air swimming pools, natural swimming areas open to the public, and parks open 24 hours a day during heat spells.

WERE THERE ANY WOMEN LEADERS WHO INSPIRED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST ENTERED POLITICS?

When I was a teenager, I lived in Lyon and there was a feminist library where I discovered all the powerful texts of inspiring women such as Simone Weil, Simone de Beauvoir, Anaïs Nin,... I was not thinking at all about entering politics one day but all these powerful thinkers helped in understanding the key issues for any woman in a world where the prevailing model was the one of the dominant male.

**WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU THINK
WOMEN LEADERS STILL FACE IN
DELIVERING THEIR AGENDA, INCLUDING
ON CLIMATE CHANGE?**

Women have to work ten times more than men to succeed. And as soon as we succeed, we have ten times less the right to fail. It's a matter of fact and that is what the Women4Climate initiative has to change. We, women mayors, need to work with young women leaders, particularly those working on the climate change challenge, to help them and empower them. Their determination to succeed and change the cities they live in and therefore the world, can't be diminished or deflected by their critics.

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO
YOUNG WOMEN IN MADRID OR ANY
OTHER CITY WHO ARE CONCERNED
ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND WANT
TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?**

The key thing to recognise is how little time we have available to act and prevent the worst effects of climate change. If you are concerned about the future and you want to see transformation indoor community, you can't afford to wait for someone else to make it happen.

As Chair of the C40 Cities, I know that the mayors of 90 of the world's greatest cities are committed to action on climate change, but there are also forces and politicians out there who would deny the science and hold back our progress. We can only deliver the bold, ambitious change that is needed with the support of the millions of citizens who share our concerns. So young women, and men, who care about this issue need to speak out, whether through joining a local environmental group, writing to your elected officials to tell them your views, or running for public office. Your voice is key and the moment to act is now.

The Women4Climate initiative will provide a platform to demonstrate and advocate for women leaders working in climate change. By supporting this next generation of women leaders, we can deliver the bold changes necessary to create a sustainable future for all citizens.



FUMIKO HAYASHI, MAYOR OF YOKOHAMA

Fumiko Hayashi has been Mayor of Yokohama since 2009 and is the first woman to hold the post. Her previous roles have included president of BMW Tokyo, president of Tokyo Nissan Auto Sales, and chairperson and CEO of the Japanese supermarket chain Daiei.

In 2006, Forbes magazine named her 39th most powerful woman in the world, the highest rank for a Japanese woman. Ms. Hayashi is the president of Mayors Association of Designated cities in Japan, and also serves as the member of the Council for Gender Equality of the Cabinet Office of Japan. She has also written several books on management and workforce relationship.

KEY NUMBERS:

Yokohama has committed to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AS MAYOR?

Yokohama has implemented urban development in cooperation with various stakeholders such as citizens, companies and other groups, overcome many environmental issues and promoted city development that harmonizes the environment and the economy. In dealing with climate change, we are promoting efforts that take advantage of our achievements in urban development up until now.

With regard to energy issues in particular, through the Yokohama Smart City Project, in collaboration with 34 major Japanese companies, we are aiming to realize an advanced, energy-circular city with systems aimed at optimizing the balance between energy supply and demand in existing urban areas such as by introducing Home Energy Management System (HEMS) in 4,200 homes and improving the energy efficiency of commercial buildings. We were well-received at C40 and awarded the C40 Cities Award in the Clean Energy category in 2016. Behind this was the fact that ours are some of the world's leading large-scale projects in existing urban areas.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING YOUR CITY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ADDRESS THEM?

Developing the city to be low-carbon and disaster-resilient. With 3.73 million citizens and over 110,000 businesses, Yokohama is a major city and a major energy consumer. The key is solving issues, and for this, not only the government but also the power of our citizens - which is the pride of Yokohama - and the technical expertise cultivated in the public and private sectors have become major strengths. As a "FutureCity," we will continue to work hand in hand with citizens and companies.

WERE THERE ANY WOMEN LEADERS WHO INSPIRED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST ENTERED POLITICS?

A woman leader I was inspired by is Sadako Ogata, who helped provide humanitarian aid for many years as Japan's first UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Even as ethnic and religious conflict was intensifying, I was impressed with the way she visited these various locations and flexibly built new support frameworks through her strong leadership. I met her in person when she was serving as President of JICA and she was a wonderful woman with a strong will, heart-warming humanity and overflowing hospitality.

On the other hand, and much regrettably, the participation of women in Japanese politics seriously lags behind. Even at present, it represents no more than 1.6% overall, with only 28 women leaders of local governments. Having women in leadership positions can help deepen men's understanding of working women and promote a society in which women can participate more. I view this as my mission, after having worked for more than 50 years in an androcentric structure, and is why I took up politics.

WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU THINK WOMEN LEADERS STILL FACE IN DELIVERING THEIR AGENDA, INCLUDING ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

Being a woman will not be an obstacle in implementing the agenda. The strength of women lies in leadership that employs empathy and acceptance. Better results are produced by men and women taking advantage of each other's strengths, coming together and producing results in tandem. Therefore, I believe that women's ability to demonstrate their capabilities in all areas, including climate change countermeasures, will yield great results. Under the leadership of C40 Chair Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, we will deepen the unity of C40 member cities and continue to work to implement climate change countermeasures.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN IN MADRID OR ANY OTHER CITY WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

Climate change is a complicated and very difficult issue occurring on a global scale, and is caused by a variety of factors. It is critical to think about this global issue with a broad perspective but also in terms of what can we do in our own everyday lives and what is to be done in society as a whole - thinking together with numerous people and putting into practice what is initially possible. I expect much from today's young women.



MANUELA CARMENA, MAYOR OF MADRID

Manuela Carmena has been Mayor of Madrid since June 2015. After graduating in Law in 1965, she founded the Atocha's legal office in Madrid where, in 1977, an attack from the extreme right led to the deaths of several of her colleagues, leaving the whole country in great shock.

Carmena defended prisoners and workers during Franco's dictatorship and represented the Basque Country, acting as spokesperson to the General Council of the Judiciary of Spain.

She is also a Senior Judge in Madrid and a Penitentiary Judge. She represented Spain in the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention in the UN. In 2008 she received the Manuel de Irujo award. In 2010 she retired and a little later she came out of retirement, carrying out critical work with victims of police brutality for the commission set up by the Human Rights Bureau of the Basque Government Justice Department. She has also been a Rapporteur for the United Nations.

KEY NUMBERS:

Madrid has two electric car sharing schemes operating across the city with a combined fleet of 1,000 electric cars

The Bicimad Cycle Hire scheme in Madrid includes more than 2,000 electric bikes.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AS MAYOR?

Air pollution is one of the biggest challenges facing our city. For decades, Madrid has been changing according to the interests of car and automobile users, which means that 70% of public space has been dedicated to only 30% of the citizens (which is the percentage of people who travel by private vehicle). For this reason, we're working on an ambitious plan regarding air quality and climate change. This plan includes improvement of pedestrian and cyclist mobility, the promotion of cleaner technologies in transport (electric mobility and alternative fuels) and the development of renewable energies, so that the city is self-sufficient by 2030. One very interesting initiative of this plan is the Madrid más natural (M+N) program. We have been researching the future impact of climate change, and some consequences are already being observed in our city, such as less rain, heat waves and flash floods. Facing the adverse effects of climate change, this program presents a vision of an urban network of natural solutions in which small interventions connect with large green areas and natural elements from Madrid. This well-developed system of green and blue infrastructures connects public space, parks, green areas and buildings with garden facades and roofs, which contribute on the whole to the resilience of the city to climate change.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING YOUR CITY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ADDRESS THEM?

In my opinion, the most important thing is that we have managed to change the awareness and attitude of Madrid's citizens towards environmental issues. This is very positive. We are approaching the city in a very different way and this will not be possible without the citizens' enthusiasm, support and

understanding. The first signs of Madrid's change in environmental awareness is the very positive response of citizens towards the measures that we were forced to implement during the recent high pollution levels last December. Even though it was the first time in the city's history that these restrictions were implemented, Madrid's residents understood the seriousness of the problem and, therefore, the measures taken by the City Council to protect their health. This was demonstrated by the fact that citizens respected these restrictions with normality and scrupulousness.

WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU THINK WOMEN LEADERS STILL FACE IN DELIVERING THEIR AGENDA, INCLUDING ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

It is not easy to answer that question. It depends a lot on the character of the person who is in charge of political responsibilities. Being a woman may lead to a different type politics, as well as increasing the reformist energy needed in politics.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN IN MADRID OR ANY OTHER CITY WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

Do it. There are so many alternatives... We all know what we are supposed to do regarding climate change. The gift is the multiplying effect of exemplary behaviour. Therefore, what young people need to do is to show exemplary behaviour. I often walk about Madrid and it strikes me that public transport is not used more often or that few people seem worried about cigarette butt littering. I encourage young people to show exemplary behavior. Those actions will promote environmental changes.



KARIN WANNGÅRD, MAYOR OF STOCKHOLM

Karin Wanngård has enjoyed a long political career and she entered the Stockholm City Council in 1994. Representing the Social Democratic Party she acted as Opposition Vice Mayor in 2011-2014 and during the same period also as Vice President of the City Executive Board. After the general elections in 2014 the City Council elected Karin Wanngård to be the Mayor of Stockholm.

Wanngård is President of the City Executive Board, Chair of the board of Stockholm Stadshus AB and Group leader of the Social Democratic Party in the City of Stockholm. Wanngård is also an elected member of the Executive Committee of EUROCITIES, a Co-leader of C40 Low-carbon District Network, a Champion Mayor of OECD Inclusive Growth in Cities Campaign, a member of EU-commissioner Moeda's High-level Panel of the European Decarbonisations Pathways and a Board-member of Strong-Cities Network.

KEY NUMBERS:

Stockholm has committed to be fossil-fuel free by 2040 and has one of the boldest emissions reduction targets of any city in the world.

Stockholm has over 750 km of cycle lanes, more than the distance from Stockholm to Copenhagen.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AS MAYOR ?

The target of being fossil fuel free, not just climate neutral, by 2040. This is actually five years ahead of the Swedish national target. Stockholm is the engine and role model for all of Sweden in this case. We now have an ambitious strategy decided by the City Council on how to reach this goal.

We also took a big step towards becoming the world's cleanest capital when we inaugurated our new biomass power plant in May 2016. It generates renewable electricity and heat that is enough for 190,000 apartments.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING YOUR CITY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ADDRESS THEM?

Traffic of course and the fossil fuel dependence of vehicles. We have many projects in the city to accelerate the transformation to more sustainable alternatives.

A lot of the emissions are difficult for the city to control, for example consumption patterns by individuals. What we try to do is for example to set tough environmental targets in public procurement and provide services for citizens to help them be more sustainable, like for example provide charging stations for electric vehicles at municipal parking places. I also believe in economic incentives, such as congestion charges. We also have a mobility strategy that prioritises pedestrians, cyclists and public transport ahead of cars.

WERE THERE ANY WOMEN LEADERS WHO INSPIRED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST ENTERED POLITICS?

One politician that I respect a lot, is the late Anna Lindh. Before she became foreign minister, she was vice mayor responsible for the environment, she initiated the work that led to Stockholm becoming the first European Green Capital.

WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU THINK WOMEN LEADERS STILL FACE IN DELIVERING THEIR AGENDA, INCLUDING ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

We need to work more with gender equality in politics overall, this is also true when it comes to policy on climate change.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN IN STOCKHOLM. OR ANY OTHER CITY WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

Make changes in everyday life. Recycle, use public transport or ride a bike. Be aware that your choices make a difference. In general, men tend to leave a larger ecological footprint than women. So we also need to talk to our boys about changing their behavior.



ADA COLAU, MAYOR OF BARCELONA

Ada Colau, has been mayor of Barcelona, since 2015, the first ever woman mayor in the city's history. She has been researching and championing human rights for years, specialising in the right to housing and the right to the city.

In 2007 she became a member of Observatori DESC [the Social and Cultural Economic Rights Observatory], a platform made up of organisations and people dedicated to studying and championing economic, social and cultural rights.

She has authored several books on human rights and urban housing.

KEY NUMBERS:

Barcelona has over 126 km of cycle lanes, with a further 60 km under construction.

The Bicing cycle hire scheme in Barcelona includes 6,000 bikes, in 420 rental stations. More than 1 million people use a Bicing bike each month.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AS MAYOR?

The Barcelona Commitment to the Climate, as a major citizens' pact, which sets out two objectives for the year 2030 (40% reduction in emissions per capita compared to 2005 and a 1.6 km² increase in green urban space) and includes municipal action and action by citizens' organisations. We are creating a municipal energy operator, enabling the stimulation of renewable and local energy in the city. The commitment also includes supplying third parties, prioritising those most vulnerable, and offering the public other services such as advice, optimisation of energy management, and maintenance of installations generating renewable energy. Likewise, information points have been set up offering information on energy-related matters, directed at vulnerable citizens and the public in general.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING YOUR CITY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ADDRESS THEM?

We have a major challenge in generating a different city model, from the economy to the urban make-up and mobility. The main objectives are

1) Decarbonising the economy, in particular generating with 100% renewable and local sources

We're working to cut energy consumption and, in turn, greenhouse gas emissions and other local pollutants, seeking savings, energy efficiency, the rational use of energy and renewable generation as a constant element in all action promoted by City Council. We're also working on transferring that criteria at a city level a plan to drive the generation of renewable energy in the city; a plan for savings and energy efficiency in municipal dependencies; etc.

2) Improving air quality and gaining space for people.

At present, 60% of public space is given over to use by cars. The aim is to reduce that level of occupancy and at the same time cut CO² emissions and atmospheric pollutants. We're working on cutting the use of private vehicles and incentivising the use of public transport, bicycles and electric vehicles. The roll out of bike lanes has meant the total network has gone from 97 km in 2012 to 126 km at the end of 2016 (up 30%) and the construction of a further 60 km is currently being planned (when these are built the network will have been doubled since 2012). As regards the new bus network, 16 mainline routes have been established and there has been a 21% increase in the total number of km covered compared to 2012. At the same time the Superblock Plan is about gaining public space for people, improving environmental quality and cutting emissions.

3) Adapting effectively to heatwaves (with serious health effects for children and the elderly) and drought.

We're analysing heatwaves. In the last 30 years there have been 8 recorded heatwaves in Barcelona and in the work we've done with the Catalan Meteorological Service we've found they are becoming more frequent and more intense. We're also analysing vulnerability in the city according to certain criteria: the population aged over 70, the energy behaviour of buildings, their state of repair and the presence of greenery, which freshens things up. This information allows us to design strategies in the neighbourhoods which are most exposed and vulnerable to heat, such as the location of shelter facilities, the revision of prevention programmes and an increase in greenery at strategic spots. As for drought prevention, we're drafting a new plan for alternative hydro resources to increase the percentage of groundwater and regenerated water used.

WERE THERE ANY WOMEN LEADERS WHO INSPIRED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST ENTERED POLITICS?

Not only are there several, but more than anything it's been leading women who encouraged me to go into politics, initially from outside and now from within institutions. From Simone de Beauvoir and Hanna Arendt in my teenage years, two philosophers whose example led me to study philosophy as a way of understanding and transforming reality, to brave and rebellious women such as Rosa Parks, in her struggle for black rights, and Rosa Campoamor in her struggle for women's right to vote. Women who went against the tide, like so many who aren't mentioned in the history books but who have contributed to the defence of life and to the conquest of rights, even giving their body and their life for their cause.

WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU THINK WOMEN LEADERS STILL FACE IN DELIVERING THEIR AGENDA, INCLUDING ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

I'd like the empowerment of women to also be a new way of conducting politics, as traditional political methods, with their hierarchies, designed and executed by men, form part of the obstacles we come up against in getting into politics. This new way of doing things is based on comprehension, empathy, cooperation instead of competition. I think these values must be applied from all perspectives and at all levels, in all political areas, from the economy through to ecology. If we can look after each other by working together, the results will undoubtedly mean more inclusive policies, which also look after the environment.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN IN MADRID OR ANY OTHER CITY WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

I'd tell them not to give up, that they must keep fighting to awaken global awareness of the seriousness of climate change and its terrible consequences in the short-term, the mid-term and the long-term. I've seen this awareness increasingly alive among young people, men and women alike. They're going to have to overcome plenty of resistance, as there's a whole economic and privilege-based system which won't want to change and will make it difficult. You only need to hear Trump denying climate change to understand that it's going to be a long hard battle. But we have no choice: we have to fight because the future of our children and grandchildren is at stake.



YURIKO KOIKE, GOVERNOR OF TOKYO

Yuriko Koike has been the Governor of Tokyo since August 2016.

Prior to being elected to the post, she was active in national politics. She was a member of the House of Councillors and the House of Representatives for a total of 24 years, during which she has held major posts including Minister of the Environment and Minister of Defense. As the first woman to serve as the Minister of Defense and the Governor of Tokyo, she is paving the way for women to be more active in society.

She is fluent in English and Arabic, and was a prominent news anchor before entering politics.

KEY NUMBERS:

More than 50% of Tokyo is green space, parks, forests and farmlands.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AS MAYOR?

When I was a member of the Diet, I worked as Minister for the Environment for three years, and during that time, I initiated the Cool Biz campaign, with the aim of changing people's thinking on the issue of climate change. The campaign looks to devise ways to comfortably spend the summer months without relying on excessive air conditioning, including a more casual dress code, minus neckties and jackets, which enables offices to slightly raise air conditioning temperature settings. By encouraging changes in the lifestyle of each and every individual, Cool Biz has contributed to reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions.

By stimulating public awareness about how they can contribute in small ways, and encouraging action, this initiative contributes to resolving the issue of global warming starting at the personal level and—without spending funds—has developed into a major movement, which is now firmly rooted in Japanese society.

In order to apply these experiences and ensure that Tokyo matures as an environmentally-advanced city, we formulated an action plan for Tokyo to 2020.

Using the opportunity presented by the Tokyo 2020 Games, I also want to spread the traditional Japanese concept of MOTTAINAI, which means “It's too precious to waste,” around the world.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES FACING YOUR CITY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ADDRESS THEM?

As a major consumer of energy, it is Tokyo's duty to become a low-carbon city that leads the world.

In the field of climate change, Tokyo has taken an advanced approach to date, including implementing an urban cap-and-trade program, which covers large office buildings and other facilities, and has achieved impressive results.

To more strongly advance initiatives related to climate change and the environment, I will promote policies aimed at making Tokyo a world-leading smart energy city. To that end, we will launch an initiative that targets the energy efficiency of lighting, which accounts for about thirty percent of household CO2 emissions. Through the initiative, the TMG will subsidize the exchange of two conventional incandescent lightbulbs for one LED lightbulb.

In addition, as a specific initiative to promote awareness of the MOTTAINAI concept, we have just started the collection of small used electronic devices. Recycled metals from these devices will be used to create the medals for the Tokyo 2020 Games.

In this manner, I hope to change the awareness of each and every person and develop initiatives that lead to specific action.

WERE THERE ANY WOMEN LEADERS WHO INSPIRED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST ENTERED POLITICS?

I take great inspiration from Margaret Thatcher, the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. I was able to meet her twice. On one of her visits to Japan, after giving a speech in elegant English, she readily took part in questions and answers from the audience. Occasionally she would share a joke, and the impression she gave was less that of “iron lady” than that of supple bamboo.

Some of Margaret Thatcher’s words are etched in my memory. She said, “I am not a consensus politician. I’m a conviction politician.” Ours is not a time for the politics of listening to everyone’s opinions and pulling them together to make a “consensus”; leaders must grasp the trends and needs of the current age, make judgments with confidence, and then persuade others with conviction.

Most of what Margaret Thatcher was able to achieve was done by devising solutions to problems based on her own convictions, persuading parliament and the people of them, and finally enacting them.

Do what needs to be done, and get results. I have learned a great deal from this leader, and it is because of what she believed, not simply because she was a woman.

WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU THINK WOMEN LEADERS STILL FACE IN DELIVERING THEIR AGENDA?

Japan has very few female leaders in comparison to other countries, and the gender gap is still wide when looked at globally. It is a sad fact that in a study which compared gender equality worldwide, Japan lagged behind, ranking 111 out of the 144 countries. As we change industry, society, and lifestyles, the perspectives of women are indispensable, and we can release huge potential by achieving a society where women can more actively participate.

Fixed ideas are an obstacle to reform. I am breaking down these barriers and advancing reform. I have a sense of urgency that the Tokyo Metropolitan Government will not be ready for the transformation that should occur in 2020 if it continues to be run the way it has been, and it is with this in mind that I want to progress various measures.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN IN TOKYO WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND WANT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

It is important to take on new challenges. Instead of looking for reasons why you will not be successful, look for ways to achieve your goal. And, then take action. I do not like to back away from a challenge before even taking it on due to the fear of failure, and later regret that decision. I hope that you will take on challenges firmly committed, work hard, and not worry about what the final result is.



ELISABETH ACKERMANN, MAYOR OF BASEL

Elisabeth Ackermann was elected President of the Government of the Canton of Basel-Stadt in 2016 and assumed office in February 2017. As Mayor she represents the City of Basel in Switzerland and abroad. As head of the Department of Presidential Affairs she is in charge of foreign relations, cultural affairs, urban development, gender equality and statistics. Before becoming Mayor, Ms. Ackermann served on the Grand Council of the Canton of Basel-Stadt as a member of the Green Party. In 2015 she was acting President of Parliament. From 1983 to 1988 she studied at the Basel Conservatory and has, up to her election as President of the Government, worked as a school teacher. Born in 1963, Ms. Ackermann is married and mother of two children.

KEY NUMBERS:

100% of the non-recyclable household waste is incinerated and converted to energy in Basel

100% of the electricity consumed in Basel's households comes from green energy sources

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AS MAYOR?

I have been the Mayor of Basel since 8 February 2017. Considering myself socially engaged and eco-friendly, I intend to represent Basel accordingly. My vision for Basel is to become a green Leader city with new quarters and innovative approaches able to tackle economic and energy related challenges. Furthermore, a green city – in my opinion – is a vibrant city in which culture and arts play an important role and equal opportunity in education is guaranteed.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING YOUR CITY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ADDRESS THEM?

The consumption of energy and resources in Basel per capita is still many times higher than what a sustainable ecological footprint would allow. In Basel, consequences of climate change are noticeable especially during heat waves which can cause a decline of the population's well-being. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can easily be applied to the local conditions of Basel. Sustainable development, according to the cantonal constitution, is a holistically integrated guideline that characterises Basel's political agenda in a unique way. As the Mayor of Basel, I advocate for coherence in politics- across departments and borders to promote sustainable development not just in Basel but in the whole region too. The aim is to ensure the quality of life for everyone, today as well as tomorrow; thereby saving energy and resources in order to protect the overall climate as well as that of the city in particular.

WERE THERE ANY WOMEN LEADERS WHO INSPIRED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST ENTERED POLITICS?

The late Lilian Uchtenhagen, one of the first female members of the Swiss National Council (the lower house of the Federal Assembly) who in 1983 was the first female candidate for the Swiss Federal Council (collective executive head of government and state of Switzerland).

WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU THINK WOMEN LEADERS STILL FACE IN DELIVERING THEIR AGENDA, INCLUDING ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

Fifty years after the introduction of women's right to vote in Switzerland, we still have to fight for parity of pay, the compatibility of family and work, and an appropriate representation of women in politics and top management. Integrating and engaging women in politics is crucial as we can bring in different life experiences and perspectives than men. Men associate through social networks where they cultivate relationships, exchange views, and forge out plans. As the Mayor of Basel, I want to help bring women together so that more, for instance, can become members of administrative councils themselves.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN IN BASEL, WHO WANT TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Be visionary and courageous. Stand up for your political beliefs. Argue with facts. Don't be daunted by failures and always keep sight of your political goals.



ZANDILE GUMEDE, MAYOR OF DURBAN

Zandile Gumede was elected as the first woman mayor of eThekweni (Durban) in 2016.

Having worked her way up within the African National Congress (ANC) ranks from the 1990's, Gumede was first elected Councillor in 2000.

With the City being the economic hub and epicentre of development in KwaZulu-Natal and home to the busiest port in Africa, Gumede's focus during her tenure will be to drive eThekweni's radical economic transformation agenda and ensure that Durban becomes the most caring and liveable City in Africa. Gumede also wants to empower women during her term in office as she believes South Africa is ready to have more women in leadership positions.

KEY NUMBERS:

Durban has more than 750 km² of green space in the city, covering one third of the area of the city.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AS MAYOR?

I was proud to be presented with a prestigious opportunity to lead the C40 African Continent cities as a Vice President. This gives a platform to become one most influential female leader in politics and climate change.

The city has been a leader in driving the adaptation agenda at a global level through the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC). This was initially developed as advocacy tool for climate change adaptation. Furthermore the DAC encouraged the development of partnerships between climate change practitioners at a global and local scale. The City also led the establishment of the Central KwaZulu-Natal Compact. The Compact is a thriving platform where municipalities neighbouring the eThekweni Metro come together, to share information and highlight their challenge in terms of their work relating to climate change. Capacity building also forms an important part of this engagement

WHAT ARE THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES FACING DURBAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ADDRESS THEM?

The risks associated with climate change in Durban include increased pressure on water resources, energy security, health services, food production and security, loss of biodiversity, decrease in tourism attractions due to the impacts of sea level rise, loss of life, livelihoods and damage to infrastructure

WERE THERE ANY WOMEN LEADERS WHO INSPIRED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST ENTERED POLITICS?

In Durban, we are proud and privileged to have one of their own, Dr Debra Roberts, who previously headed the Environmental Planning Climate Protection, which leads for the city's climate change adaptation agenda; and now heads Sustainable and Resilient City initiative as a Co-Chair of working Group II for the Sixth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). She is the first South African and the local government official to date to fulfil this role. Her passion in climate change adaptation for the developing cities has made her a world renowned and a highly respected figure in the field.

WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU THINK WOMEN LEADERS STILL FACE IN DELIVERING THEIR AGENDA?

Women are generally underrepresented in these fields. They have to work harder in order gain recognition and to influence a male dominated fields.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN IN BASEL, WHO WANT TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Women are nurturers by nature. They need to take a lead in climate change action to ensure that the environment and the future generations are protected. Response to climate change depends on your lifestyle choices and young women need to be trend setters for "green lifestyle".



HANNA GRONKIEWICZ-WALTZ MAYOR OF WARSAW

Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, University professor in Law, has been Mayor of Warsaw since 2006, elected for a third term in 2014.

In 2008 she established Warsaw Climate Protection Committee to introduce the importance of climate matters. Under her leadership Warsaw became a more comfortable place to live, with the development of sustainable and efficient public transport system, including a top 10 European public bike scheme, the biggest buildings' energy efficiency revitalization programme in the capital's history and protection of Vistula river.

KEY NUMBERS:

Warsaw's cycle hire scheme includes 4,660 bikes, including 100 E-bikes, available from 300 rental stations.

Warsaw has over 450 km of cycle lanes

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AS MAYOR?

I would mention two issues here. The great practical example of our conforming to the leading world standards is the flagship investment of the City of Warsaw – extension and modernization of the Wastewater Treatment Plant “Czajka” with accompanying investments. Completed in 2012, it was the largest environmental project in Europe, with total value of 800 million euro, which allowed us to treat 100% of wastewater released to the Vistula River. The additional installations produce clean heat and electricity from combusting sewage sludge – while very soon will also supply us with biomethane for propelling vehicles.

The second is our ongoing support for public transportation, which in Warsaw enjoys 60% modal split of all non-pedestrian travels (out of which 50% is covered by rail). The largest investments are dedicated to this sector, including construction of the 2nd metro line. Its central stage was completed in 2015 for more than 1 billion euro and already next year its extension was launched. We should highlight here pro-environmental policies of our municipal bus operator MZA, which in last years purchased 4 hybrid buses, 35 LNG buses and 20 electric buses. The company’s plans for 2020 envision as many as 150 electric and hybrid vehicles, what shall make it one of the largest operators of clean buses in Europe. We are also to employ private operators offering EV/HEV buses.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING YOUR CITY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ADDRESS THEM?

The largest environmental problems that Warsaw is facing are connected with pollutants and greenhouse gases generated by private cars. Their number in Warsaw exceeded 640 per 1000 inhabitants, which is twice as many as in Berlin. We are tackling this challenge by further strengthening and prioritizing public transportation system (which already enjoys 60% share in local travels) compared to the private transport, e.g. thanks to purchase of modern stock and introducing bus-only lanes. We are also making the city more friendly for bikers and pedestrians. An example of it is a very successful Veturilo public bike system, which for the nearing season will cover as many as 316 stations with 4 660 bikes, including 100 e-bikes. Currently we are preparing a launch of the similar car-sharing system, which will also present an interesting competition for individual cars. Our intention is to gradually include electric cars in this system.

Other problems are related to waste management, but the situation has been and will be improving in this field, due to both our efforts focused on segregation of waste and nearing modernization and extension of the existing municipal ZUSOK solid waste incineration plant, which will give us an additional source of renewable electric energy and network heat.

WERE THERE ANY WOMEN LEADERS WHO INSPIRED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST ENTERED POLITICS?

I set myself certain goals and I aspire to them. I've always been active. President of the «Solidarność» during study on University, formerly President of the strike on the training and class president in Primary school. It is thanks my mother and grandmother - two brave women who raised me up. I received gene of a strong woman from them. And thriftiness.

I have a passion to organize the world around me. The sphere of politics, actually dominated by men, not intimidated me. It is thanks to upbringing, the influence of my father - a lawyer, a soldier of Home Army and Warsaw Uprising insurgent. Politics has always attracted me, it is way I got involved in the activities of illegal «Solidarność». I became a public figure, but not as a politician, but the president of the national bank.

WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU THINK WOMEN LEADERS STILL FACE IN DELIVERING THEIR AGENDA, INCLUDING ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

Women in public life are often underestimated. It still happens that men occupying high positions, as potential partners or candidates for various functions - see mostly men. What I appreciate in women on manager positions is creativity and entrepreneurship. Managing is a job for a person of a certain nature, regardless of gender, you must have the ability to make decisions. There are men who do not take decisions, and there are women who take

it quickly. And conversely. It still happens, that better qualified women can't break glass ceiling. It is way I strongly support parities and women rights. Fortunately, The Polish Parity Act requires currently on election lists not fewer than 35 percent of women and not fewer than 35 percent of men.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN IN WARSAW, WHO WANT TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

I reckon that every human being, regardless of gender, should start here from her/his own actions. Selecting pro-environmental means of transportation, taking care of segregation of waste, or even simple methods like not leaving your electronic devices in "standby" mode; these are actions basically available for everyone. Then, depending on your specific position and capabilities, please try to influence the others. Once there is a solidarity in the world as to tackling climate change, this world will be saved.



MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR OF WASHINGTON D.C

Muriel Bowser serves as Washington, DC's seventh elected Mayor. Sworn in on January 2, 2015, she pledged to bring a fresh start to the District of Columbia, create pathways to the middle class for residents, and foster a culture of inclusion, transparency and action. Prior to her time as Mayor, Bowser served as the Ward 4 councilmember of the DC Council.

As a Councilmember, Bowser served as the Chairwoman of the Committee on Economic Development which created more than 5,000 units of affordable housing, passed legislation to build a new soccer stadium and secured from the federal government the best portion of the Walter Reed campus for DC. Bowser led her colleagues to pass comprehensive ethics reform and increased transparency in government contracting.

KEY NUMBERS:

Washington D.C. has committed to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050.

Washington D.C. has a fleet of over 300 hybrid buses.



CLOVER MOORE, LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY

Clover Moore is the longest serving Lord Mayor of Sydney, recently re-elected for a record fourth term, and the driving force behind the City's progressive policies for more than 12 years.

Under her independent leadership, Sydney has developed a global reputation for ambitious action on climate change, delivering award-winning facilities, protecting open space, promoting design excellence, delivering new transport options and initiating progressive solutions to complex social problems.

KEY NUMBERS:

Since becoming mayor, Sydney's emissions have fallen by 17% whilst also growing the economy by 37%

Sydney has committed to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 70% by 2030

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AS MAYOR?

We did the research, consulted with our city community, set ambitious targets and practical actions to meet them, and we're now making significant emissions reductions. Since 2006, we have reduced our organisation's greenhouse gas emissions by 26 per cent and across our area by 19 per cent. And we've set ambitious targets to reduce the greenhouse emissions of our organisation and the local government area by 70 per cent on 2006 levels by 2030. I'm proud we have been able to take effective local action on climate change in the face of hostile or ambivalent state and federal governments – and we've shown climate action does not have to curtail strong economic growth.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING YOUR CITY?

For so long we've been talking about the catastrophic climate change coming, it's here now. This summer we broke 205 rainfall and temperature records in Australia in just 90 days. Fierce heatwaves, extreme storms and bushfire are the main threats we face. The impacts of climate change are here now, they're likely to get worse, and will likely be irreversible. But across the board our federal government refuses to take action, in fact they are dramatically reducing funding for the environment. Instead of waiting for action, we're taking the lead ourselves, installing trigeneration and solar panels to supply green energy to our offices and buildings, rolling out energy saving LED park and street lights across our area, and through our Better Buildings Partnership with the owners of more than half the commercial office space in the city centre, we've delivered a 45 per cent emissions reduc-

tion since 2006. Plus we've incorporated climate adaptation measures in all our major work, specifically addressing how we will deal with these extreme weather events when they come.

WERE THERE ANY WOMEN LEADERS WHO INSPIRED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST ENTERED POLITICS?

I never intended to go into politics. I was a teacher, just back from several years living in England with my husband and two small children. My husband Peter was from Canberra, and neither of us wanted to move there. I grew up in Gordon, on the leafy north shore, and both of us knew we didn't want to live there, either. So we found a terrace on Bourke Street, in Redfern. It was very different then. After our years in London, with its civilised inner-city living, community facilities and green parks, I found the state of the children's playgrounds in Redfern and fast through traffic in every local street soul destroying. The playgrounds were run-down, dangerous, littered with broken glass, surrounded by barbed wire fences and padlocked at night by someone called the lamp lighter. But when I protested I got nowhere. I wrote letters and took up petitions that made no difference, so when it was time for council elections I decided to run. The Greek women of the neighbourhood were at my elbow, saying, "You speak for us." Much to the surprise of everyone – I was elected. People told me that as an Independent I wouldn't have any power. But when I got onto council, no one else was interested in the things I was concerned about. So I was free to go around with the Head of Parks and get trees planted and improvements made. Slowly – very slowly! – I began to make some headway. Some years later, the Labor Mayor said, "I wish we'd given her the grass for the park – then she would have gone away!"

WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU THINK WOMEN LEADERS STILL FACE IN DELIVERING THEIR AGENDA, INCLUDING ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

Women still have to fight societal, personal and attitudinal barriers to get as many opportunities and have influence. Despite there being an abundance of women doing great things in our cities, we are still largely underrepresented – as leaders, as innovators, as voices in decision making, as role models. There is hope though, and evidence of change – seven of our 10 City Councillors are women and so is our Chief Executive Officer. We've made a long-term commitment to gender equity at the City of Sydney and I'm proud to report women now account for 43 per cent of all our management positions. Our first gender pay equity survey last year showed the City's gender pay gap is 2.5% - well below the public sector average of 12% and the national gap of 16.2%. It might not be possible to say that having women leading the City is the key to the success we're currently enjoying but there is no doubting that our city is thriving at a time when women hold top leadership positions.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN IN SYDNEY, WHO WANT TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Some of the key drivers behind the way cities are changing are increasingly social – peer to peer platforms, social networks, behavioural economics, emotional intelligence, collaborations between unlikely partners such as big business and small producers - and women seem to be able to more naturally operate in this way. So if this is really the way business and cities are going, then this is a fantastic time for women to seize the opportunity, to be leaders at all levels as well as encourage and support other women to start something that has positive social benefits for cities and the people that live there. I think that the more voices that are women will result in the weight of opinion on certain issues being very different to what we are hearing today.



PATRICIA DE LILLE, MAYOR OF CAPE TOWN

Patricia de Lille was elected as the Executive Mayor of Cape Town in 2011 and was re-elected for a second term in August 2016 with a two-thirds majority.

Under her leadership, Cape Town has received close to 90 international awards including taking the top spot on the prestigious New York Times' list of 52 Places to Go in 2014 and the winner of the 2015 C40 Cities Award for Adaptation. Cape Town was also awarded the World Design Capital for 2014.

Under her direction, the City of Cape Town has expanded the MyCiTi Bus Rapid Transit System. By expanding quality, reliable and affordable transport to communities most in need, it has delivered basic services to millions of people, whilst also reducing carbon emissions. Cape Town recently became the first African city to use electric buses for its public transport system.

Mayor De Lille currently serves as a board member of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, Chairperson of the Global Parliament of Mayors, Vice-President of the World Energy Cities Partnership and a commissioner for the Global Commission on Economy and Climate. Mayor De Lille has served in all three spheres of government including as a Member of Parliament for 15 years. Former President Nelson Mandela described her as his favourite opposition politician.

KEY NUMBERS:

This year Cape Town will become the 1st city in Africa to introduce electric buses. Each bus will have a range of 250km from a single charge.

Cape Town has over 450 km of cycle lanes

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AS MAYOR?

We are delivering on our commitment in Paris at COP21 to become the first city in Africa to procure electric buses for our public transport system as part of our contribution to reducing emissions.

Cape Town also pioneered the small scale embedded generation project in SA. We have more than 110 residential consumers connected to our grid and more than 55 commercial small scale embedded generation contracts where they are feeding excess renewable energy into the City's grid.

Our solar water heater programme is also doing well and supporting the rapidly evolving green economy. We have installed over 46 000 solar water heaters in the metro which has contributed R830 million to the economy, creating 1 300 jobs. The goal is to have 116,000 solar water heaters on the roofs of Cape Town homes by 2020.

Energy Efficiency is a priority and the cornerstone of our Energy2040 goals and the foundation of our action plan targets for 2020 where we aim to source 10 to 20% of our energy needs from renewable sources by 2020. In the City of Cape Town, we are leading by example and reducing electricity consumption by retrofitting the lights in our buildings, as well as our traffic and street lights. All 1,500 traffic lights now have efficient LED bulbs and more than 25,000 street lights have been retrofitted.

These initiatives, conducted progressively over the past six financial years, have saved over 70 000 Megawatt hours, which translates into savings of over R100 million and almost 70 000 less tonnes of carbon dioxide.

WHAT ARE THE KEY CLIMATE CHANGE/ ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING YOUR CITY?

To deal with drought, the city has implemented a proactive approach by implementing the Water Conservation and Demand Management plan to reduce water demand and water losses and achieve greater water savings through technical interventions and involving residents in proactive water saving measures. Water losses for the overall systems have been reduced from around 25% in 2009 to below 15% according to latest data. The City is a leader in this field. This programme won a C40 award in 2015.

The WCWDM Programme has resulted in a reduction in demand or water savings of more than 30%.

To deal with flooding, we have a Winter Readiness Task team in place to assist the most vulnerable residents in poorer communities who feel the harshest impacts of climate change as they are more prone to flooding.

- The task team's key approach is to move from a reactive to proactive mode of managing disaster risk. Key interventions included:
- Relocating a number of people away from very low lying areas, wetlands and river and canal banks
- Providing people with flood kits well in advance of winter to make them less vulnerable to floods

- Digging of furrows to channel water away from structures
- Educating communities to maintain their structures well in advance of winter
- Clearing of culverts, drains, canals and rivers in order to prevent any blockages
- Maintaining and upgrading stormwater infrastructure.

Between 2014 and 2015, the number of people affected by floods dropped from 259,000 to 74,000 (71% drop). This resulted in a 63% decrease in budget spent on emergency relief.

On the other side of the extreme with hotter temperatures, before the summer months, we also have a multipronged, multi department task team which rolls out initiatives to prevent fires as the hotter temperatures gives rise to an increase in fires, again affecting the most vulnerable residents.

WERE THERE ANY WOMEN LEADERS WHO INSPIRED YOU WHEN YOU FIRST ENTERED POLITICS?

Rosa Parks inspired me because of her defiance and resistance when standing up for the rights of all people. She refused to be ruled by an oppressive regime. She was as an icon because of her courage and is known as the “Mother of the Civil Rights Movement”. Even in her retirement, Parks maintained that the fight for justice was not over and more needs to be done.

The fight for more women to claim their rights is not done, and those of us who are leading must do more to empower women.

Another leader who inspired me is Cissie Gool, daughter of a prominent Cape Town politician, Dr Abdullah Abdurahman, leader of the African Peoples Organisation (APO). Abdurahman was also the first black South African to be elected to the Cape Town City Council in 1904.

During the 1940s, Cissie became the president of the Non-European Front and also became more active in a campaign to start passive resistance. She was arrested and charged for her involvement in the 1946 Passive Resistance campaign, but this did not deter her from her political activities. In 1962, Cissie received a law degree from the University of Cape Town and was admitted as an advocate to the Supreme Court.

WHAT OBSTACLES DO YOU THINK WOMEN LEADERS STILL FACE IN DELIVERING THEIR AGENDA, INCLUDING ON CLIMATE CHANGE?

Women are not getting enough opportunities to speak out as women. There has not always been an opportunity created just for women until the Women4Climate initiative. There is a lot that women can do to address climate change. Women who are already empowered must do more to help vulnerable women and claim the rights of all women.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN IN CAPE TOWN, WHO WANT TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Take these words out of your vocabulary: “I can’t do it”.



VIRGINIA RAGGI, MAYOR OF ROME

Elected in 2016, Virginia Raggi is the current Mayor of Rome and an Italian lawyer. Mayor Raggi is the first woman mayor in the city's nearly 3,000-year history.

Virginia Raggi has advocated for women's rights and pledged to make Rome more "livable." As mayor, one of her main priorities is to address congested traffic in the city and renovate the public transit system.

Following her election victory, Raggi wrote, "Finally Rome has a woman as mayor. This is a historic moment. At a time when equal opportunities are still a myth, this victory is of extraordinary value."

KEY NUMBERS:

Rome has more than 250 km² of green space in the city



HELEN FERNANDEZ, MAYOR OF CARACAS

Helen Fernandez, has been mayor of Caracas since 2015. As an employee of the Metropolitan City Hall, she held various positions, including the Director of Social Development, the President of Fonfinep (Fund to promote entrepreneurs) and later the Mayor's Office.

As the Director of Social Development, she advanced significant programmes for the benefit of young people, the elderly and small business owners.

Prior to working in the Metropolitan City Hall, she was a political activist of the National Resistance Command and a founding member of several NGOs, such as Organized United Women by Venezuela, Vigilantes de la Democracia and National Front for the Freedom of Political Prisoners.

KEY NUMBERS:

More than 50% of Caracas is green space, parks, forests and gardens.

The Línea 7 Bus Rapid Transit in Caracas route carries more than 30,000 passengers per day.



G PADMAVATHI, MAYOR OF BANGALORE

G Padmavathi is the 50th Mayor of Bengaluru (Bangalore) in September 2016. Following her election, she stated her top priorities as road repair, waste segregation and garbage disposal.

WHY ARE WOMEN MORE VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE THAN MEN?

Women disproportionately suffer the impacts of natural disasters and severe weather events, because of sexist social structures and the unequal distribution of resources and power. As climate change makes these natural disasters more frequent and more intense, it is women, particularly in low and middle income countries that will suffer the most.

- 90 per cent of the 150,000 people killed in the 1991 Bangladesh cyclone were women.
- Surveys suggest four times as many women than men died in the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami
- Studies in France show 65% of those who died during the 2003 heatwaves were women.

Women in poorer countries tend to be more vulnerable because they are far more likely to be in the home, when disasters strike. They are less likely to be aware of the need to evacuate, because they may not have access to the information. Even if they are aware, they may not have the money to leave and are more likely to be looking after children or older people. Women are also less likely to have been taught how to swim and less likely to own a mobile phone to call for help. Climate change also affects supplies of clean water. All over the developing world, women and girls bear the burden of fetching water for their families taking time away from other opportunities like earning money or going to school.

EXAMPLES:

- In Andhra Pradesh, India, twice as many women as men reported eating less in response to drought. Girls were more likely to be stunted and underweight than boys.
- In the Philippines, infant mortality increased after typhoons among girls but not among boys, as scarce food was given to sons ahead of daughters.
- In Bangladesh, women and girls are typically the first to skip meals if there is a shortage of food, as often occurs during droughts, floods or storms.
- In Indian city daughters are kept out of school to serve as lookouts for infrequent water tanker trucks.
- Research from nine Mediterranean cities shows that women age 75-84, were significantly more likely than similarly-aged men to die in heat waves between 1990 and 2004.
- Heavy flooding in Lagos, Nigeria, in 2011 destroyed the informal businesses that many women relied upon for their income.
- In New Orleans, during Hurricane Katrina, many low income women were hampered in evacuating due to lack of access to adequate transport.

- Women in New Orleans experienced an average loss of earnings of 7% in the year after Katrina (14% loss for African American women), while men experienced a 23% gain, thanks largely to the construction jobs following the storm.

LACK OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AND POLICY-MAKING ROLES:

Women are bearing the brunt of the impacts of climate change. Women are also massively under-represented in the political spaces where decisions are made on climate and sustainability policies. If nothing changes then women will inevitably suffer the most in the years ahead as the effects of a warming planet become more extreme.

- In the European Union, women make up only 26% of individuals in high level government positions responsible for energy, transport, and environmental policymaking as of 2011.
- Only 12% of federal environment ministries globally are headed by women, as of 2015.
- At the World Energy Council, only 4% of chairs and 18% of secretaries are female.



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