

To:
UBC Commissions/Task Forces
Member Cities
Partner organisations

**25th Anniversary Session and XIV General Conference of UBC
Växjö, Sweden, 24th–27th October 2017**

**“LEADERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE – CITIES AS LEADERS
FOR GLOCAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**

Invitation to participate and to co-create the programme

Dear friends,

This is an urgent call for cooperation and joint action.

We live in challenging and in many ways extraordinary times. Today, Europe is facing fundamental challenges, which are intensified by the uncertainty in global context.

In our cities, the closest level of governance to the citizens, we are facing big challenges to create jobs, innovate, make people feel more secure, integrate newcomers, protect the most vulnerable – and to make the water sources and the air everyone breathes cleaner.

Now, even more than in ordinary times, cities have to stand up, join forces and show leadership!

Accordingly, the main theme of the XIV UBC General Conference, which also celebrates our 25th Anniversary, will be **“Leadership for the future – cities as leaders for glocal sustainable development”**. Fittingly, it takes place in Växjö, “the greenest city in Europe”.

We call upon all our Member Cities, our commissions, all other cities and partner organisations to join our General Conference, not only by participating but by co-creating the programme together.

We invite proposals for workshop themes and speakers!

The draft programme outline – which is attached – contains many possibilities for interactive thematic meetings. These include following slots:

- Tuesday 24 October between 15:30–18:00
- Wednesday 25 October between 09:30–12:30
- Thursday 26 October between 14:00–16:00

Likewise, we invite proposals for high-level speakers in the plenary session on “Leadership for the future – cities as leaders for glocal sustainable development” (Wednesday 25 October between 15:30–17:30).

While the topics are yours to choose, we expect that they **reflect the main theme** of the Conference – the role of cities as leaders in development. We also prefer proposals, which allow for interactive discussion, instead of being filled with (too) many speakers.

Please note also, that UBC Executive Board wants to **emphasize the role of youth** – we want to listen to the voices of tomorrow. Our Youthful Cities Commission is planning a week-long event around the General Conference with young representatives from as many cities as possible. We appreciate if proposals for workshops/round tables include possibility to include youth representatives as speakers/panelists!

The UBC Youthful Cities Commission is shortly sending you more information on the youth dimension of Växjö. However, we ask you already now to ensure that your representatives include a strong youth participation!

We would appreciate if you can send your proposals (proposed theme, length, proposed slot) as soon as possible but latest by 18 April 2017 to the UBC Secretariat in Gdansk.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Kolding, 15.3.2017



Per Boedker Andersen
President of UBC

PS – The formal invitation to the General Conference will be sent in the beginning of April. However, we appreciate if you already take note of these dates and ensure also, that they are marked in the agendas of your mayors and leaders!