

**24th Conference of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy  
(OIDP)**

**“Connect, Integrate and Humanize: Cities facing the challenge of generating  
Community”**

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**CONCEPT NOTE**

**Session 5**

**Meeting of local and regional women leaders towards a Participatory and  
Inclusive Democracy**

**Date:** 22 May 2025

**Time:** 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** UNC Room (Room A), UNC Cultural Center - Córdoba, Argentina

**Thematic Area:** **Community Building**

**INTRODUCTION**

This activity is designed as a transformative and exclusive space for women who drive and promote change at the local and regional levels. As part of the agenda of the 24th Annual Conference of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP), the initiative seeks to identify and analyze the particular challenges women face in accessing decision-making spaces in the political, public, business, and community spheres. Inspired by the slogan “Connect, Integrate and Humanize: Cities facing the challenge of generating Community,” the activity promotes the strengthening of the active role of women in all their diversity, the expansion of their involvement, and the development of collective strategies that revitalize democratic governance.

In a context characterized by rapid urbanization, growing inequalities, climate crisis, and profound technological transformations, democratic institutions require innovative responses that ensure the inclusion and resilience of communities. With the aim of guaranteeing access to rights and promoting gender equality, this ***“Meeting of Local and Regional Women Leaders towards a Participatory and Inclusive Democracy”*** is organized within relevant international frameworks, such as the UN 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, and is based on key initiatives such as the Pact for the Future of UCLG and the feminist municipalist movement. These leaders call on local governments and social actors to adopt decisive measures that promote both the autonomy and integration of women in decision-making processes.

## OBJECTIVES

1. **Recognize and reflect on the particular barriers and challenges** faced by women in the field of political participation, promoting solutions that strengthen their permanence and leadership.
2. **To foster collaboration among women leaders** from different fields, creating synergies that promote transformative initiatives for an inclusive democracy.
3. **To identify and design collective and transformative strategies** to address and counteract political violence and gender challenges, promoting actions and support networks for the full exercise of women's participation, while fostering the consolidation of resilient communities.
4. **Consolidate spaces for permanent dialogue, promoting the creation of an Advisory or Consultative Council to join the OIDP's Co-Presidency on gender equality**, aimed at strengthening and expanding the capacity for action around the participation of women and people in all their diversity.

## GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What were the key aspects that inspired and empowered you to pursue the career that has led you to become a leader?
2. What adversities have you had to overcome in your career as a leader?
3. What strategies are your local and regional governments promoting to support women's inclusion in decision-making spaces?

4. What kind of international cooperation do you aspire to for improving and accelerating the inclusion of women in decision-making spaces?

## TARGET AUDIENCE

- **Female leaders in local, regional, national, and international politics.**

Women decision-makers who are transforming their communities through their political and social action.

- **Public officials and managers.**

From administrative positions to ministerial and executive positions, committed to innovation in public management.

- **Student leaders and activists.**

Young activists committed to social and political transformation from the university sphere.

- **Researchers and academics on gender and democracy issues.**

Women who, through teaching and research, address the challenges of participation and equity.

- **Community representatives.**

Women linked to neighborhood centers, Community Participation Centers (CPCs), Justices of the Peace, and local organizations that promote cohesion and citizen participation.

- **Representatives of international organizations.**

Leaders who bring a global perspective by integrating local experiences with international development and governance agendas.

## OBSERVATIONS

This meeting reaffirms the commitment to transformative governance that places women at the center of decision-making and the building of participatory and resilient communities. By integrating diverse experiences and perspectives, the space presents itself as a decisive platform for renewing democracy from a

gender perspective, articulating local and global efforts aimed at a more inclusive and equitable future.

## **EXPECTED RESULTS**

### **1. Consolidation of Networks**

The aim is to form a dynamic and sustainable interregional network of influential women that facilitates the exchange of experiences and the co-creation of joint initiatives. This collaborative framework will serve as a basis for organizing working groups and implementing advocacy projects in public management.

### **2. Development of Specific Action Strategies**

Through dialogue and co-creation, participants will develop action plans with precise indicators aimed at overcoming specific challenges in the political and community spheres. These may take the form of pilot projects, which will serve as benchmarks for good practice.

### **3. Creation of a Gender Advisory Space**

A consultative body dedicated to the gender agenda is planned, which will operate as a permanent forum to review, promote, and adjust proposals aimed at inclusion. This mechanism will provide continuous monitoring of the initiatives implemented and facilitate their ongoing evaluation.

### **4. Promoting Women's Participation**

The meeting will amplify the voices of committed women, encouraging proposals that strengthen their presence in decision-making spaces. In addition, recognition will be promoted for successful cases that exemplify the integration of the gender perspective in various areas.

### **5. Formulation of Proposals with a Comprehensive Perspective**

Finally, concrete proposals will be formulated that incorporate a gender perspective into public management and urban planning, in line with international commitments such as the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. These solutions will be designed to adapt current practices to contemporary challenges, ensuring greater equity and resilience in both urban and regional environments.