



Concept Note

Local Democracy Talk in Bogotá, Colombia

Gender Equality

“If Gender Champions Rule Our Cities?”

Date & Time: 19 March, 16:00-18:00 (*local time*)

Aula: Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Facultad de Ciencias Económicas. Auditorio 1.

Organisers: Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD), Urban Studies Institute of National University of Colombia, Embassy of Sweden in Bogotá, Colombia, Escuela Superior de Administración Pública (ESAP), Alcaldía Mayor de Bogotá.

Background:

The role of local government in promoting gender equality at the local level has never been more crucial. Gender equality faces persistent challenges worldwide, and local governments are increasingly recognizing their pivotal role in advancing gender equality within their communities. ICLD's new Gender Equality Network with local authorities from Colombia, Guatemala and Sweden is providing an international platform for local authorities in becoming champions of gender equality. As part of the network's first workshop in Bogotá a Local Democracy Talk will be organized.

Aim:

The aim of *the Local Democracy Talk*, conducted in the format of a panel discussion, is to foster a constructive dialogue and exchange of experiences among key stakeholders, including local government officials, local politicians as well as representatives of civil society to strengthen gender equality and democracy locally.

Local Democracy Talks focusing on the participation of marginalized gender groups and other topics have been successfully conducted in Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, receiving appreciation from participants and reaching a wide online audience.

The *Local Democracy Talk* is inspired by the Swedish foreign policy initiative *Drive for Democracy*. The concept of Democracy Talks is an effort to make democracy resilient, and to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Focus Area:

The starting point for discussion of the Local Democracy Talk will be on how local governments in Colombia, Guatemala as well as Sweden can institutionalize efforts to promote gender equality, increase the participation of marginalized gender groups. Possibilities on how to improve the

outcomes of the local public policies in benefit for their citizens and the strengthening of democracy within their communities will also be highlighted.

Agenda:

4:00 p.m. Installation and opening –

Welcome Remarks:

Helena Storm, The Swedish Ambassador to Colombia.

Sandra Borda, Special Advisor for International Relations for Bogotá.

Monica Fortich, Professor Escuela Superior de Administración Pública

Panelists:

1. *Carol Adrianda Gonzáles Aguilar, Representative of the Departmental Assembly of Vaupés, Colombia*
2. *Annika Dalén, Gender Specialist of the Municipality of Umeå, Sweden.*
3. *Candelaria Lorena Queché Cum, Municipal Office of Children and Youth, Panajachel, Guatemala*
4. *Alcaldesa de Colombia representando La Red de Alcaldesas de la Federación Colombiana de Municipios*

4:15 p.m. Opening and reflections on gender equality and equity in local democracies with a focus on gender – Monica Fortich, Professor at ESAP

4:25 p.m. Beginning of the panel

4:35 p.m. Panel Discussion

5:40 p.m. Public Participation

6:30 p.m. Closing Remarks – ICLD, ESAP, UNAL