



XXI Conference

INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES



June 15 -18, 2015

**Strengthening Local Governments
in a Time of Crisis and Conflict**

Hilton Miami, Downtown Hotel

www.ConferenciadeAlcaldes.com



The government of Miami-Dade County, The World Bank, and Florida International University invite you to participate in the XXI Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities which will focus upon “Strengthening Local Governments in a Time of Crisis and Conflict.” The Conference provides an excellent annual forum for representatives of local, regional and national governments, NGOs, various international and multilateral organizations and all of those interested in local government issues to share experiences; information and best practices; discuss public policy and common goals which can aid in the development of local government and help to promote decentralization in the region.

Background

As one the largest gatherings of local leaders from throughout the hemisphere to occur each year, the Conference continues to build upon the many successes of the twenty previous conferences. Efficient local, regional and national governments are of extreme importance for economic development, guaranteeing public service delivery and the strengthening of democracy. Governments cannot be efficient without solid and transparent intergovernmental relations. Smart, efficient and transparent local governments today, more than ever, must contribute to the building of more equal and just societies. Thanks to the valuable participation and input from The World Bank, we are able to bring you yet another annual Conference of Mayors.

Participants

The Conference is annually attended by mayors, commissioners, governors, legislators and other elected representatives, as well as senior executive officials from the local, regional and national governments of the Americas. Other attendees include academics and interested parties from the private sector, non-governmental organizations and major international and multilateral agencies. Attendees also include representatives of the media and the leadership of major municipal associations. Last year’s Conference was attended by more than 700 participants - representing almost every country of the Hemisphere.



Title: “*Strengthening Local Governments in a Time of Crisis and Conflict*,” the Twenty-first Inter-American Conference of Mayors and Local Authorities.

When: **June 15 - 18, 2015** at the Hilton Miami Downtown Hotel Miami, FL. (*Opening Reception - evening of June 15, 2015 at the hotel*).

Sponsorship: *Miami-Dade County Government, the World Bank, the Center for Democracy and Good Governance, and the Institute for Public Management & Community Service, School of International and Public Affairs, College of Arts and Sciences of Florida International University.*



In recent years, Latin America has experienced transitions in its political, economic, and demographic composition. Local governments have increased their roles as primary actors in social and economic development within their respective regions. Local governments have also become a major player in vital issues of the current global scheme. The changing dynamic of providing means and distributing responsibilities by central government causes local Latin American governments to face the challenges of offering their citizens better public services in a more efficient manner. Local governments have a substantial role in such transitions. Undoubtedly, the region is showing signs of progress in many areas. However, over the last decade, it has become necessary to address issues such as the complexities involved in job creation, sustainable and equitable economic development, poverty reduction, strengthening of democracy in terms of participation and rights for all, decentralization of services and resources and the urgent need for sustainable environmental management to help alleviate climate change. These challenges have arisen as a consequences of economic and social crises that have impacted the development of public policies and the stability of governmental institutions. Conflicts that go from ideological aspects to situations of violence affect governance directly as well as the capability of local governments to do their job in an effective manner. Without a doubt, it is necessary to discuss these topics and approach them from various angles, as well as give attention to themes such as managing public services, sustainable

and equitable economic development, poverty reduction, strengthening democracy in terms of participation, generating jobs, and the urgent need to manage sustainable environmental practices to help mitigate climate change. All of these challenges require local governments to become more efficient, effective, and intelligent, as well as promoting cooperation and collaboration between municipal, regional, and national leaders.

The Conference will discuss these themes, including the importance of improving institutional capabilities and managing municipalities, evaluating the importance of intergovernmental relations, examining issues of strengthening civil society, expanding participation and democracy, reducing poverty and inequality, improving urban infrastructure and natural resource management, and strengthening intergovernmental coordination and relations. The conference will provide attendees with an unparalleled opportunity for sharing new tools and techniques for addressing the problems facing communities and local governments today.

A number of special plenary sessions are being organized in conjunction with the World Bank during which attendees will have the opportunity to actively participate. Each panel will analyze specific examples from Latin America in order to better understand the difficulties faced by local leaders in establishing operational partnerships for local development.

Best Innovative Practices

Continuing with an initiative launched in 2004, the XXI Conference will again recognize some of the most innovative practices implemented in the hemisphere. In a special plenary session, four outstanding best practices, which have been competitively selected, will be presented.

If you believe that your local government has implemented, or is implementing, an innovative practice for the benefit of your community, please submit a brief summary of no more than 3 pages (double space, font

size 12 - more than that will not be considered. No tables, charts or attachments) explaining the type of project, the difficulties and successes of its implementation, as well as clearly stating the benefits to your community. Send it by e-mail no later than April 30, 2015 to lagierc@fiu.edu. The Organizing Committee will select as winners four best practices. Those selected will be notified in May 2015.

Principal Sponsoring Organization

Hon. Carlos Giménez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County
Hon. Javier D. Souto, Commissioner
Miami-Dade County, Board of County Commissioners
Chair, Organizing Committee

Conference Co-Sponsors and Organizers

Dr. Allan Rosenbaum, Director
Mrs. Cristina A. Rodríguez-Acosta, Deputy Director
Institute for Public Management and Community Service
Center for Democracy and Good Governance
School of International and Public Affairs
College of Arts and Sciences
Florida International University

American Airlines 

American Airlines is the official airline for the Conference. Please visit the conference's website for more information.

MIAMI-DADE
COUNTY 

With the support of the Miami-Dade's Tourist Development Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners.

Registration

Register online at:
www.conferenciadealcaldes.com
by **June 10, 2015** or by sending the registration form via fax, email, or postal mail to:
Institute for Public Management – FIU
11200 S.W. 8th Street – PCA 270 A
Miami, FL 33199 – USA
Phone: (305) 348-1271 Fax: (305) 348-1273
E-mail: ipmcs@fiu.edu

If you need a personalized invitation letter, please request it at the conference's website.

Fees

US\$350 for non-US public sector and nonprofit organizations (\$400 after June 10). US\$450 for US public sector and nonprofit and international organizations. US\$550 for private sector organizations. Fee includes two luncheons, receptions, conference material and certificate of participation.

Hotel Information

Hilton Miami Downtown Hotel
1601 Biscayne Blvd. Miami, FL 33132
Each participant is responsible for his/her own lodging and travel expenses. Single or double room special rate \$139 + 13% taxes. For a hotel reservation, please call the Hilton Downtown Hotel directly at (305) 374-0000 before **June 1st** in order to receive the special rate. Please visit the conference's webpage for more details on making your reservation.

