



The Strong Cities Network
August 10, 2015

Dear esteemed colleague,

You are formally invited to join the International Steering Committee of the *Strong Cities Network*, a new global network of cities united against violent extremism.

The White House *Summit to Counter Violent Extremism* held in February 2015 highlighted the need to build community resilience and address the underlying drivers of violent extremism. The Summit, which included participation of Mayors and municipal leaders from around the world, underlined the critical role of local governments and their communities in challenging and building resilience to violent extremism at a local level.

We recognize that cities around the world are developing innovative responses to the challenge of violent extremism; we must capitalize on these isolated experiences in order to share learnings, pool shared resources, and build a community of cities that can inspire local action on a global scale. The *Strong Cities Network* represents the first global network of municipal leaders and local government practitioners involved in building community resilience to counter violent extremism.

The *Strong Cities Network* will create the first international hub to systematically strengthen strategic planning, policies and practices among local government representatives and build the capacity of practitioners to counter violent extremism. The network will catalyze, inspire and multiply community-centric approaches, while safeguarding the fundamental rights of the citizens that local authorities strive to serve, support and represent.

The launch of this network will be marked by a ceremonial event on 29 September 2015 in New York on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), followed by the inaugural Steering Committee Meeting on 30 September. The launch event will bring together Mayors from 20-25 cities across the globe that are leading efforts to challenge violent extremism.

As a Mayor who has demonstrated leadership in the area of preventing violent extremism, we would like to formally request your participation as a member of the **Strong Cities Network International Steering Committee**. The International Steering Committee will be composed of a group of 20-25 leading Mayors and their cities selected from regions across the globe that can actively contribute to shaping the international agenda of the *Strong Cities Network*.

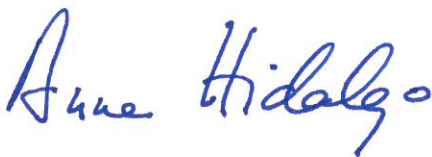


We would like to invite you to be our guest in New York on the 29 and 30 September 2015 and would value your input into the work of the *Strong Cities Network*. We will support your attendance at these events, including travel and logistical assistance.

We hope that you, alongside a suitable local government practitioner or representative of your city, can join us in New York in September. The *Strong Cities Network* will be coordinated by staff at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue who look forward to hearing from you and hope to welcome you at the event.

For more information and to discuss your participation in the *Strong Cities Network* please contact info@strongcitiesnetwork.com.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Hidalgo
Mayor, Paris
France



Hon. Denis Coderre
Mayor, Montreal
Canada



H.E Hassan Ali Joho
Governor, Mombasa
Kenya



Michael B. Hancock
Mayor, Denver
United States



Stian Berger Rosland
Governing Mayor, Oslo
Norway

