



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Sustainable  
Development  
Goals

# Meeting on Learning to Live Sustainably in Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean

Villa María, Argentina (26 - 28 April 2017)

**Villa María Declaration**





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## Villa María Declaration

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### Learning to live sustainably in cities in Latin America and the Caribbean

26-28 April 2017, Villa María, Argentina

We, the mayors, deputy mayors, officials and representatives of 40 cities, participating in the meeting entitled “Learning to live sustainably in cities in Latin America and the Caribbean”, held in Villa María, Argentina, from 26 to 28 April 2017, recognize the efforts made by Villa María in innovating and promoting lifelong learning, but also its great generosity and care in hosting the event. We recognize UNESCO, the joint organizer of the event, for its continuing commitment to equity, inclusiveness and quality in education in communities, cities and nations, and the Government of Japan, through its Trust Fund, for its generosity in supporting this meeting.

We recognize that, in today’s world, where social, economic and political patterns are constantly changing, people also need to reassess and update their learning continually throughout their lives. This lifelong learning is a key resource to help individuals and their communities to achieve sustainable social and economic development.

Learning to live sustainably requires collective action and collaborative efforts from stakeholders at various levels, from international organizations and national governments to communities and families. To ensure the health and well-being of their citizens and promote the prosperity of their inhabitants, cities increasingly focus their attention on lifelong learning and education. Thus, Learning Cities are contributing to the sustainability of the urban environment, which also has rural and global impacts, thereby ensuring their viability for future generations.

We reaffirm our commitment to UNESCO initiatives and programmes in the field of education, learning and sustainable development, particularly through the Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development and the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities.

We also reaffirm our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals, particularly Goal 4, which urges countries to “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. UNESCO has a leading role in this area, particularly in respect of the commitments undertaken in the Buenos Aires Declaration, adopted at the first Meeting of Ministers of Education of Latin America and the Caribbean, held on 24 and 25 January 2017, jointly with the Ministry of Education and Sport of Argentina.



With these points in mind, we commit to promoting the following activities in our communities:

- Set up a support group with cities representing the Mercosur countries, in order to strengthen their partnerships and promote the creation of other networks of cities interested in developing as Learning Cities.
- Develop strategies for lifelong learning and Education for Sustainable Development with intersectoral approaches and solid partnerships.
- Ensure that education is taken into account in town planning and integrated into discussions of urban policy, in order to take the best approach to intersectoral commitment, community participation and the development of locally relevant solutions.
- Review and propose curricular changes in the teaching of students, taking account of education for world citizenship, peace, education for sustainable development programmes and the reduction of and risk management for disasters and, where relevant, the ancestral knowledge of indigenous peoples.
- Promote the development of approaches which improve gender equity and diversity, including multiculturalism and multilingualism and the rights and needs of migrants and refugees.
- Provide information and training to all public officials and to communities on themes relating to Learning Cities.
- Promote consideration of local policy and an Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development
- Participate in the third International Conference on Learning Cities, to be held in Cork, Ireland, from 18 to 20 September 2017.

Villa María, 27 April 2017.