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United Nations Institute for Training and Research

**GMG Technical Meeting
Realising post-2015 Aspirations for Migrants and Migration**

**16-17 October 2014
UN Headquarters New York**

***How Cities are already leveraging a more mobile world*
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The focus of this presentation is on how Cities work to promote diversity by broaching the real obstacles to equality and inclusion. Be it in discussions amongst American mayors or through global gatherings such as the Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration & Development that took place last June in Barcelona, by and large, city leadership seeks to play a determinative role in shaping effective integration - or more accurately - effective urban policies. As the international community seeks to define what the new benchmarks will be to measure society's progress in reaching sustainable development, cities are already leveraging a more mobile world to reach these ends.

Why Cities are Important

Why are cities important players? In the 1970s, cities were largely considered to be in decline. Today, the opposite is true. This is due to a number of objective factors:

Objective factors

First among them is the fact that more migrants are moving to cities and urban centres than ever before. We are experiencing the "**largest migration in human history**", in which the number of people living in cities and urban centres is expected to rise to some 6.4 billion in 2050, almost twice more than today.

Compounding rapid urbanisation, is a form of **hyper-diversity** where the integration paradigm is turned on its head as the underlying question becomes "integrating into what"? - when speaking of cities like Toronto, Amsterdam, Atlanta in which half of their citizenry is foreign born.

We are also witnessing more **circular patterns** of mobility as compared to traditional immigration patterns. City governments must therefore be fluid



and flexible in adapting policy to changing circumstances, and in understanding the relationship between different layers of newcomers. In New York City, for instance, migration policies today must adapt to a migrant population dominated by Latinos and Asians, a population which 40 years ago, primarily hailed from Europe.

There is also an immediacy and a very practical side, **service-oriented side**, to city government. Even despite today's very real budgetary constraints, city officials are on the frontlines in meeting migrants' needs ranging from housing, health, schooling, safety and security.

And, cities **foster economic development** in migrant communities at home and abroad. They do so through a variety of channels including by supporting entrepreneurs, SME creation, organizing consultations to identify strategic economic areas, and training and networking opportunities and fostering partnerships. As the work of the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMIDI) (www.migration4development.org) reveals: the most successful and sustainable migration and development interventions are those developed around a strong partnership between with the local governments in countries of origin and destination of migration.

Subjective factors

In addition to these objective conditions, it is with little surprise that in speaking of "subjective factors", we are witnessing a rising call or sense of duty for Cities to act.

Douglas Saunders in his 2010 book *Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Shaping our World* (<http://arrivalcity.net>), goes so far as to invoke a **window of opportunity** for city officials: He states: "*(arrival cities) are not just the sites of potential conflict and violence but also the neighbourhoods where the transition from poverty occurs, where the next middle class is forged, where the next generation's dreams, movements, and governments are created.*"

Indeed, Benjamin Barber argues that in this field as in other governance areas, cities are filling a **responsibility vacuum** in instances where federal government has stalled. He famously portrays cities as "*cross border problem-solvers going boldly where states no longer dare to go*" (www.huffingtonpost.com/benjamin-r-barber/dysfunctional-nations_b_4192366.html). And indeed, we see this, be it: city leaders implementing their own policies to ensure inclusive policies (offering services



regardless of migration status for instance); and becoming their own interlocuteurs beyond national borders meeting with the executive branch in other countries on issues such as foreign labour recruitment and education programmes.

In terms of self-identity, a recent study on Western Europe, the US and Australia reveals that individuals identify as much if not more with their city than with any other geographical reference. Again quoting Barber: "*Cities are home, cities are us. Cities are the essence of community and theaters of participation and innovation for all of us.*" (www.huffingtonpost.com/benjamin-r-barber/dysfunctional-nations_b_4192366.html)

And last, municipal leadership is widely considered essential in fostering a process described as "harmonious living" or "living together policies". The (2012) AMICALL Report on "*Attitudes to Migrants, Communication and Local Leadership*" (www.compas.ox.ac.uk/research/urbanchange/attitudes-to-migrants-communication-and-local-leadership-amicall/) concludes that **municipal leadership**, while not a sufficient requirement is a prerequisite criterion for municipalities' support of migrants' rights and well-being, beginning with how migrants are perceived in destination communities.

A Place at the Table

The influence and impact of city government policies and practices is translating into a place at the table in inter-governmental policy discussions on migration and development. Ten years ago, countries resisted the inclusion of references to sub-national levels of government in United Nations (UN) resolutions on sustainable development. Eight years ago, the local dimension was marginal in the first annual Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). Today, by and large, the impact of local government is beginning to be taken into account.

Last October, during the second General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD) (www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/), at a meeting dedicated to local government, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) on Migration, Peter Sutherland emphasised that: "*local authorities should play a greater role in designing and implementing policies that amplify the development impacts of migration.*"



(www.unitar.org/dcp/human-mobility-programme/facilitating-policy-dialogue)

Similarly, at the 7th Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) gathering that concluded in Stockholm last May 2014, the role and impact of local government was elicited several times both in relation to labour mobility and diaspora engagement. It is likely that the 8th GFMD in Turkey will showcase the role of local and regional authorities (LRAs) not least as the central theme is on "*strengthening partnerships*" (www.gfmd.org).

And, as stated in the "*Declaration of Barcelona*", the Outcome Document resulting from the first annual Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development launched last June by UNITAR and the City of Barcelona, with the European Commission, the World Bank's KNOMAD, JMDI, and in partnership with IOM and UNU: Cities represented called for: "*a voice and role in shaping migration policies*" "[requesting] the international community to pay attention to local policies of integration and to take into account cities as key actors in discussions and decision-making processes on the design of migration policies". (http://eldigital.bcn.cat/en/my-new-post-5324_61634.html?lang=en)

Looking Ahead: Post 2015

All the more reason for us to welcome this opportunity to explore, in this 2nd section of my presentation, what cities' role is in the context of the post 2015 development agenda as it is currently unfolding.

Using the Final Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals dated last July (http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518SDGs_FINAL_Proposal%20of%20OWG_19%20July%20at%201320hrsver3.pdf) as a main reference point, we can look to Goal 11 as a starting point as it forthrightly calls on States to "*make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*".

In studying the Report in more detail we see that there are a number of explicit and implicit target areas whose fulfillment are and will continue to be incumbent on local government, with a view to securing greater inclusion and reducing inequalities.

In starting with Goal 11, its Target 1 pertains to inclusive housing: indeed, it is city planners who are designing cities from a social perspective which, to



cite one European city, Antwerp, has the overarching ambition of *"placemaking for all city dwellers"*. As an urban planner explained in a UNITAR training, the competencies of residents are in constant flux, and newcomers alike should have access to what is needed to prosper: adequate and appropriate housing; viable schools; employment opportunities.

Goal 11 is also closely tied to the most comprehensive of proposed "mobility targets" namely Goal 10 Target 7 on *"facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies"*.

Indeed, how a city manages diversity, its levels of real and perceived safety and "social cohesion" (borrowing from the Global Commission on International Migration Report (www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/policy_and_research/gcim/GCIM_Report_Complete.pdf) is largely a function of a city's "body language". Many cities have adopted inviting brands (including logos) and other important policy measures include: diverse municipal workforces, positive communication that is geared towards communal (rather than segregated messaging), regular and sustained outreach through celebrations, citizenship ceremonies and the like, and working with local media.

A successful strategy towards diversity will influence the public's perceptions of migration, and may, as studies have revealed, nurture a positive view in the general public that migration and the broader notion of mobility is indeed being well managed, with an underlying sense of effective governance. So, a central piece of the puzzle to planned and well-managed migration policies is connected to how cities handle diversity. In short, successful implementation of a Goal 10 Target 7 will well be reflected in how Goal 11 will be carried through.

The duality of Goal 11 and Goal 10 Target 7 permeates other Goals as well, and a strong example is surely under the Education Goal, Goal 4, and its Target 7 where there is a call for promoting "global citizenship" and "appreciation of cultural diversity". We know that to the extent that this is done within the public education system, city government plays and will continue to play a pivotal role.

An emphasis on "responsible migration and mobility" in this same Goal 10.7 could infer policies in which migrants' rights are respected, which is made



explicit in Goal 8.8 on *"protecting labour rights,safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment"*.

A planned and well-managed migration policy to use again the language of 10.7 will also mean that development is taken into consideration, including the contributions of diaspora. Goal 9 on infrastructure, industrialization and innovation, under little a) has *"states facilitating sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS..."* To the extent that expatriates will play an important role in this process, we also know that local government is a key partner in facilitating development outcomes in origin communities (but in destination ones as well).

An additional entry-point, pertains to the "safe" migration referenced in 10.7 that is also highly relevant to Goals 5 on Gender and 16 on Peaceful and Inclusive Societies both of which have counter-trafficking related targets. We know that counter-trafficking national action plans spanning prevention, prosecution and protection are contingent on the support and in some cases, the direction of local government.

Two other additional entry-points that I will raise here highlight the centrality of local government. First, again under Goal 4 on Education, while the explicit proposed mobility target refers to scholarships for developing countries, the most relevant is certainly: the focus on inclusive and equitable quality education for all, and Target 5's reference to *"access for children in vulnerable situations"*, which surely implies (among others) migrant children (incl. unaccompanied), and undocumented migrant children. Indeed, there are dozens of cities in Canada, the United States and Europe that ensure access to services, including education, without fear to immigrants without full status or without full status documents.

Second, and last, Goal 16 on Peaceful and Inclusive Societies provides a real opportunity to look at just how cities will meet the challenges of rising displacement due to conflict and natural disasters. Just last week in New York City, the head of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), David Milliband, flagged what he considers to be a major humanitarian challenge in the future namely meeting the needs of a growing number of urban refugees and displaced.



The GMG is issuing as we speak a joint communication entitled "*Call to strengthen the inclusion of migrants and migration in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda*", which supports a recent letter directed to the UN Secretary-General on behalf of the three principal humanitarian/operational agencies and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs – in which a call is made for a stronger emphasis on the relationship between displacement and development within the post 2015 development agenda.

I mention these developments here because part of the GMG recommendation includes establishing a standardised list of vulnerable groups (including migrants), and data disaggregation by sectors that will call into play local government work namely in the areas of: "poverty, education, health, social protection, water, sanitation, etc."

And even as it currently stands, Goal 16's Targets call on municipal input if not their leadership role. For instance, and far from an exclusive list: a) access to justice (e.g. the City of Chicago, for instance, has issued a City Ordinance so that undocumented migrants can file abuse charges without fear of deportation); and b) provision of legal identity (e.g. the City of New York, for instance, is launching a municipal identity card programme for all City residents).

Conclusion

In acknowledging the influence and impact of local government, it can also be observed that cities are an important outlet for creative and innovative approaches to new emerging migration issues. A focus of the current GFMD Chair, the Government of Turkey precisely challenges the international community to consider "creative solutions to new and emerging issues". Indeed, it is *local* government that is putting forward new solutions including: inter-city resettlement (of stranded migrants) proposals; arrangements for temporary work permits (for undocumented migrants); protections for unaccompanied minors (including alternatives to detention); policy planning on the reintegration of returning combatants; to name a few areas.

Global City and Mobility Initiatives - Links

The Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development (www.unitar.org/dcp/human-mobility-programme/facilitating-policy-dialogue)



The Second Mayoral Forum will take place in Quito in May 2015 and will focus on Mobility & Post 2015.

JMDI's Migration4Development Portal
(www.migration4development.org)

The Joint Migration and Development Initiative is implementing migration&development projects in 8 countries (Ecuador, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal, Nepal and the Philippines). Its online M4D portal is a virtual space for practitioners broadly defined to exchange good practices and initiate partnerships.

IOM's Inter-Ministerial on Cities, and World Migration Report on Cities (2015)
The principal migration organization – the International Organization for Migration, is also focusing on cities in 2015, and is a partner in the Mayoral Forum.

Cities of Migration
(<http://citiesofmigration.ca>)

A learning space, much of it virtual to “showcase good ideas in immigrant integration and promotes innovative practices that create inclusion and urban prosperity.”

Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)
(www.gcerf.org)

A new global effort to harness the skills, capabilities and resources of both the public and private sectors to support local, community-based projects on education, vocational training, civic engagement, media, and women's advocacy aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremist agendas, which can create significant barriers to political and economic development.

To the extent that there is a link between marginalization caused by the failures of integration – of belonging, and now the inter-connected challenges of reintegration of former combatants – while this may seem far off track from what is being discussed, it is a real issue for city officials in Europe and progressively in other parts of the world including North America.