

Mayoral Forum

On Mobility, Migration & Development

Barcelona, 19-20 June 2014

Organised by



In collaboration with



With the participation of the

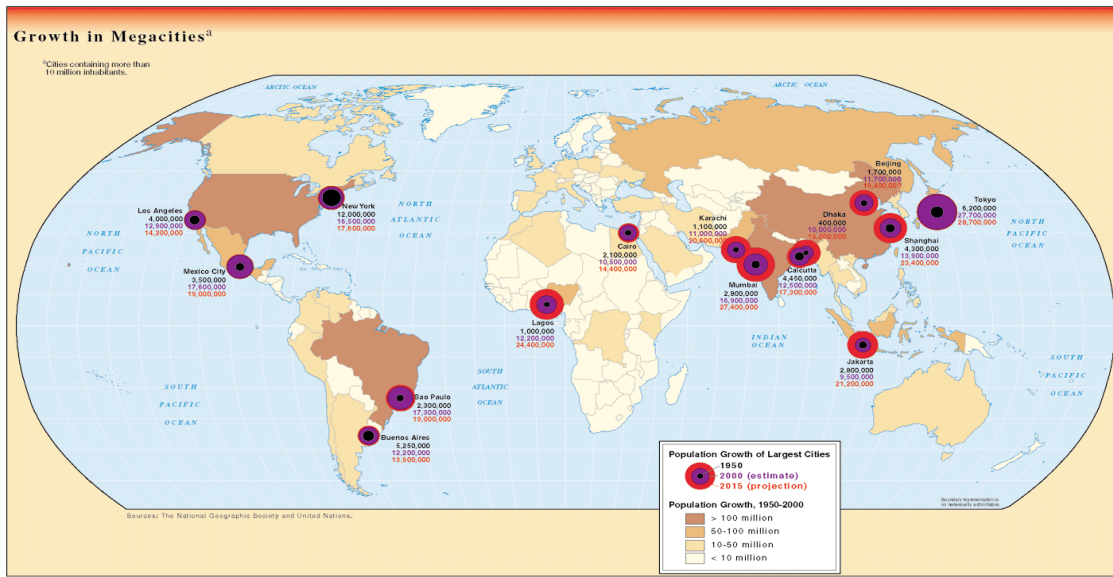


CONTEXT

Local governments seek to foster novel solutions that respond to common challenges faced by cities worldwide with the two-fold purpose of simultaneously ensuring economic growth and enhancing coexistence and social cohesion.

Participation and interaction of people from all around the world is a powerful instrument of creativity and transformation in the local arena. Throughout history, migration has shaped major metropolitan sites, new and old alike. Urbanization and cross-border migration are the major challenges of the future. It is estimated that, by 2050, 60-70% of the world's population will live in urban areas and the number of megacities will rise remarkably in developing countries.

Diversity is indeed a distinctive feature shared by the great cities around the world. It is also a challenge for cities. By identifying the most appropriate instruments, actions and policies tailored to each city's circumstances, diversity can be a powerful force towards prosperity.



It is generally acknowledged that the contribution of migrants, either internal or international, has been a core element for growth and development of cities and states. Increased international human mobility has also brought new challenges for local authorities. Cities are at the front-line of integrating newcomers, and they often do so

without the support and resources needed. Cities have had to adapt their services to an increasingly plural and diverse citizenship. From schools to health care, from welcoming services to identification cards, to support for small business, local administration has experienced an impressive transformation in recent years.

These developments were discussed during the meeting in New York entitled “*On Local Government: Taking the Migration and Development Agenda Forward*,” which was held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development last October. This was an initiative of the World Bank's Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Joint Migration and Development initiative (JMDI). There, the Mayor of Barcelona launched the initiative of the **Mayoral Forum**, aimed at bringing together local leaders worldwide to work on the challenges and opportunities that mobility and development mean at the local level, to share a vision for developing a local agenda on human mobility and development, and to channel and enhance the visibility of the role played by local authorities in the governance of migration.

GOALS

The Mayoral Forum will assemble some 20 mayors from world cities and representatives from international organizations (the World Bank, UNITAR, the International Organization for Migration, UN-Habitat, and the European Commission).

The dual goals of the first Mayoral Forum are: first, to highlight the role of cities at the front-line of addressing migration; and second, to discuss the value of mobility for development in cities and around the world. These objectives embrace the shared conviction that migration is primarily a positive, urban phenomenon, and that cities are the main attraction pole (and driving force).

The Mayoral Forum will thus focus on two related themes:

1. City Government: Its Leadership Role Within and Between Countries Regarding Global Migration and Mobility Governance;
2. Fostering Economic Prosperity in City Centres and Peripheries: the “Virtual Circle” of Migration and Development.

The Mayoral Forum also aims at strengthening relations among local government counterparts from around the world, and between them and international institutions working in the field of migration. The City of Barcelona will support the process of building such a dialogue.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the Mayoral Forum, a statement will be issued – the **Call of Barcelona** – that will:

- Emphasize equality of rights, duties and opportunities as core bases for a cohesive society;
- Acknowledge the central role played by local governments on the issues of mobility, migration and development; and
- Reassert the need for city leadership and related support by national and regional government and other actors.

The **Call of Barcelona** may lay the foundations to develop a future **local agenda on mobility and development**, an instrument to channel and enhance the visibility of the role played by local authorities in the field of migration governance. 4

WORKING METHODOLOGY

The Mayoral Forum aims to foster open dialogue among local leaders participating in the meeting. The idea is to provide a comfortable place to work following the *Chatham House* rules and allowing Mayors to share their experiences, challenges and concerns in addressing diversity in their cities.

Discussions will be guided by experts, who will act as rapporteurs and prepare the draft proposal of the Call of Barcelona, collecting recommendations and arguments from the various participants.

The **United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)** is a training arm of the United Nations System, serving some 25,000 beneficiaries annually by conducting more than 400 capacity development and research activities around the world. In 2012, UNITAR developed the Learning Platform on Human Mobility, the first global platform dedicated to training local and regional authorities on all aspects of migration and human mobility through a blended learning approach.

The **Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD)** is envisaged to be a global hub of knowledge and policy expertise on migration and development issues. KNOMAD draws on experts from all parts of the world to synthesize existing knowledge and generate new knowledge for use by policy makers in sending and receiving countries. KNOMAD works in close coordination with the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and the Global Migration Group (GMG). The World Bank has established a multi-donor trust fund to implement the KNOMAD. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) are the largest contributors to the trust fund. Within the World Bank, KNOMAD is located in the Development Prospects Group of the Development Economics Vice-Presidency (DEC).

The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** is the leading migration agency. It is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants. In 2015, the next edition of IOM's flagship publication: the "World Migration Report" and IOM's next Ministerial Conference will be on the subject of "Migrants and Cities."