

# SECOND MAYORAL FORUM ON MOBILITY, MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

## ***City Leadership in Championing Economic Development, Social Protection and Cohesion***

Hosted by the City of Quito

[Convento de San Francisco](#), Quito  
12-13 November 2015

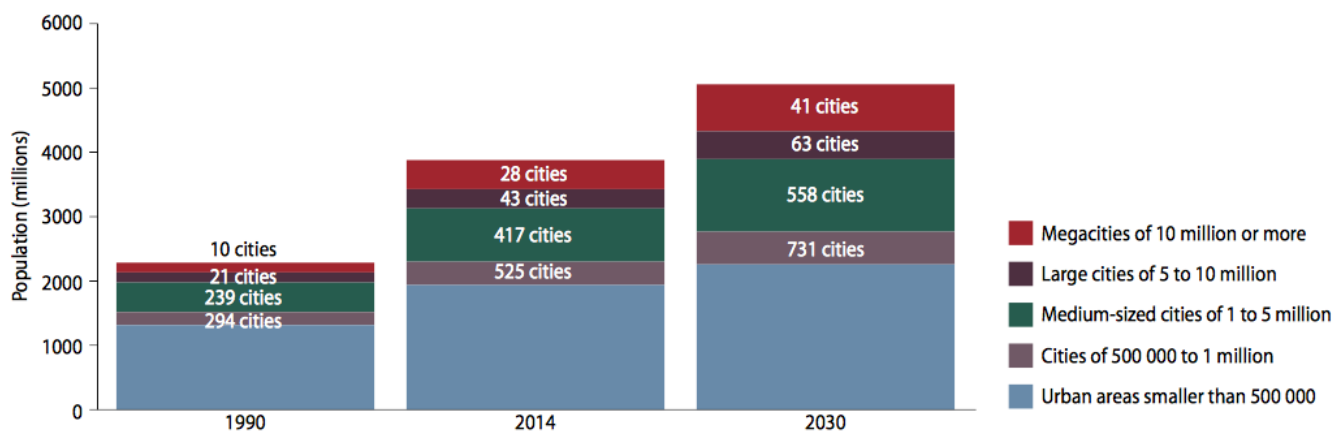
*"...Cities must be proactive in articulating the relationship between greater mobility and development; including in the context of the United Nations negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda..."*

Honorable Mr. Mauricio Rodas, Mayor of Quito, First Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development, Barcelona, 20 June 2014

### Background

The relevance of migration - or human mobility - is clearly *global*: one in every seven persons on the globe is a migrant, generating \$400 billion in remittances and contributing in many ways to development, for example through skills transfer and business creation. Its impact, however, is undeniably *local*: with 3.9 billion people moving to city centres by 2030 (as compared to 309 million in 1950).<sup>i</sup> With the greatest human migration in history unfolding, there are now 28 mega-cities worldwide with more than 10 million inhabitants. And by 2030, the world is expected to have 41 mega-cities.<sup>ii</sup>

Global urban population growth is propelled by the growth of cities of all sizes (UN DESA, 2014)



Given the estimated 232 million international migrants, and 740 million internal migrants, human mobility plays a crucial role in this urbanization process. And as stated elsewhere: *“the success of many of these cities is to a large extent tied to their success in realizing the hopes and dreams of thousands of migrants ... When they succeed, the result can be a strong economy and a vibrant ‘cosmopolia’, when they fail, the result can be poverty, segregation and social tension.”*<sup>iii</sup>

Attention is shifting to local and regional governments’ de facto or de jure competencies in governing migration in policy spheres as a result of mounting hyper diversity and rapid urbanization. It is also a reflection of the fact that migrants from the same town or region in countries of origin tend to concentrate in the same geographical area in the country of destination<sup>iv</sup> highlighting the local to local dimension, and the underlying imperative for cities and communities to work across borders on this issue.

Local governments are increasingly responsible for issues ranging from integration, re-integration, legal protection, education, public order, economic development, and health to urban planning. They must often act in the face of multiple challenges linked to the changing face of urban/rural populations; harsh economic landscapes; rapid, concentrated social change; difficult political climates; and new kinds of integration policies.

### The Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development

**The Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development** underscores cities’ role at the forefront in addressing migration governance and harnessing its development potential. At the first Mayoral Forum last June in Barcelona, Mayor Rodas declared: *“Cities are the key players in migration policies because they put in practice all the principles that national governments implement.”* The resulting **“Call of Barcelona”** emphasized the need to amplify the voice of cities in global discussions, and greater access and inclusion of local decision-makers in matters pertaining to migration.<sup>v</sup>

With its national tradition of inclusion enshrined in its Constitution, **the City of Quito and its Mayor are pleased to host the Second Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development on 12-13 November 2015.** The City of Quito is emblematic of the age of migration: being a city of origin, destination, and transit of migrants, Quito has historically enriched itself from internal and international migration.<sup>vi</sup>

What is more, Quito is where the New Urban Agenda will be decided upon by the global community next year. On 17-20 October 2016, it will host the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development that will span a number of subjects including those of urban social inclusion and equity. Among the priority areas identified for the New Urban Agenda is that of urban migrants and refugees.<sup>vii</sup>

### Objectives

The objectives of the Mayoral Forum will be to:

- Provide a globally relevant non-political space for mayors and municipal leadership to strategise on how to work collectively, stay engaged, and gain support for their policies and activities relating to promoting economic development in a context of diversity;
- Share experiences and concrete recommendations on how to progress in leveraging the development outcomes of greater migration and mobility, and successfully managing diversity;
- Launch new initiatives with on the ground impact within and between cities, and agree on parameters for such initiatives<sup>viii</sup>;
- Bridge macro and micro levels of governance by sharing information and insights including the new SDGs (25-27 September 2015); the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) (Istanbul, 12-16 October 2015); The IOM Inter-Ministerial Conference on Cities (Geneva, 26-27 October 2015); the UN-Habitat III (Quito, 17-20 October 2016); and through Regional Consultative Processes;
- Supplement existing regional and international initiatives with a political road map: the “Quito Local Agenda on Mobility and Development” for cities and regions after 2015.

To build on the momentum created by the new global development agenda (the “Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development”) and the role of decentralized levels of governments in implementing it, the Quito Mayoral Forum will focus on:

### ***Building prosperity: migration and mobility in the context of development***

In 2000, when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were agreed upon by 189 countries as benchmarks for reducing poverty and multiple deprivations, migration or human mobility was not explicitly mentioned as an enabler of development. Fifteen years later, there is a fundamental shift in how policy-makers perceive migration and mobility. No longer viewed as a development failure, it is now recognized that mobility and migration are also tightly linked to development and growth. In addition to reducing the costs associated with migration, the new development agenda to take effect in 2016 includes commitments on the protection of migrant workers, reducing the costs of remitting, countering human trafficking, and promoting better migration governance.<sup>ix</sup>

The role of city leadership in implementing such objectives will be pivotal including towards ensuring that cities are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.<sup>x</sup> It is undoubtedly for this reason that the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration, Mr. Peter Sutherland, emphasizes giving more responsibility to local authorities, as national governments seek to understand what will be the main development benchmarks in the next two decades, and the central role played by migration in this context.<sup>xi</sup>

What are the global experiences of City leadership in:

- Integrating migrants into the labour force?
- Providing access to education, legal assistance, appropriate housing, health care and social services for migrants?
- Countering brain drain and brain waste through skills recognition, training, skills transfers, etc.?
- Facilitating educated decisions about migrating (incl. through legal channels and at reduced costs)?
- Supporting financial literacy, facilitating financial inclusion and promoting good remitting practices?
- Promoting entrepreneurship and other means of employment?
- Building multi-stakeholder partnerships with governments, migrant associations, NGOs, the private sector, academic institutions and social partners?
- Linking migrants' financial and human capital with local development and working with diaspora to promote growth in origin and destination communities?
- Incorporating the experiences and lessons of migrants and the non-governmental sector in policy planning and implementation?
- Gaining insights from related regional initiatives?
- Promoting political and societal participation?

The implementation of the new Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development will require the establishment of partnerships at all levels, including with migrants and their associations. For the local development impact of migration to flourish, it is essential to acknowledge and integrate migrants' contributions into local development by creating a conducive and inclusive environment.

Much depends on the public's perception of migrants. Giving voice to migrants through formal channels and applying a non-discriminatory attitude towards how migrants are treated are both necessary in order to forge sustainable policies towards social cohesion in cities. New media sources such as social networking via the Internet are emerging as non-negligible communication tools and should be incorporated into any communication strategy.<sup>xii</sup>

What are the global experiences of City leadership in:

- Raising awareness on migration and development within public administration?
- Ensuring that diverse voices are represented in public services?
- Building inclusive public communication strategies?
- Engaging in positive messaging/city branding?
- Fostering city citizenship/non-discriminatory policies?
- Working with law enforcement to reach out to diverse communities?
- Preparing more targeted information on access to inclusive services for migrants?
- Gaining insights from regional initiatives?

## Working Modalities

Mayoral representation is expected from at least 80 countries around the world. In addition, international and regional organisations and civil society representatives will be invited as observers, including The World Bank, the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), UNITAR, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNCHR, and UNDP.

The Mayoral Forum aims to foster open dialogue among local leaders participating in the meeting. *Chatham House* rules will apply, allowing Mayors to share their experiences, challenges and concerns in managing diversity in their cities.

The Forum's format on Day 1 (full day, 12 November) will include plenary sessions, and break-out sessions on the themes of: "protection, rights recognition, and access to services"; "employment and decent work"; and "contributions of diaspora to development". Mayors will be invited to select and/or consider partaking in one of the break-out sessions, and making a 8-10 minute statement on how his/her City has addressed the issue at hand, describe related challenges and opportunities, and point to areas for deeper cooperation and support. [A reception will follow.]

The Forum's format on Day 2 (half-day, 13 November) will include a discussion and introduction of the Quito Local Agenda on Mobility and Development for endorsement by participants present (below). Representatives of civil society will also share observations and remarks concerning the Quito Local Agenda. [Lunch and a guided tour of Quito will be offered.]

## Outcome Document – Draft “Quito Local Agenda on Mobility and Development”

The draft Quito Local Agenda on Mobility and Development will be shared with confirmed participants in early October for feedback and commentary. Also in October, it will be the subject of online consultations with a wide array of stakeholders including civil society.

There are a number of areas where Cities contribute to the implementation of the new global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the benefit of migrants and their families, and for city dwellers at large. Reinforcing the principles outlined in the Barcelona Declaration (2014), a more visible and explicit understanding of the role played by local administrations in the implementation of the new UN Development Agenda can lead to greater inclusion in national, regional and global decision making processes on migration. What is more, the sharing of good practices amongst cities can help to further improve how cities address a more diverse urban citizenry.

Areas for consideration in the draft Quito Agenda are:

How to make cities more inclusive;

How to make cities more safe;

How to make cities more resilient and sustainable;

How to guarantee access to education and health for all children;

How to promote human development and economic prosperity;  
How to work towards planned and well-managed implementation of immigrant policies;  
How to promote global citizenship and an appreciation of cultural diversity;  
How to ensure equal access to justice for all;  
How to build evidence-base (data, research) on the impact of migration.

### Programme Highlights

The venue of the Forum will be el [Convento de San Francisco](#)

Participants will be housed at [Hilton Colon Quito Hotel](#)

Arrival: Wednesday 11 November day/evening  
Start: Thursday 12 November 9:00 - 17:00 (And reception)  
End: Friday 13 November 9:00 - 14:00

A Reception by the City of Quito will take place on Thursday 12 November: [Museo de la Ciudad](#)

### Contact Information

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<sup>i</sup> Douglas Saunders, "Arrival Cities: How the Largest Migration in History is Shaping our World," 2011.

<sup>ii</sup> UN DESA, "World's population increasingly urban with more than half living in urban areas," July 2014, <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/world-urbanization-prospects-2014.html>.

<sup>iii</sup> Cities of Migration: <http://citiesofmigration.ca/about-2/>

<sup>iv</sup> JMDI, From Migration to Development: Lessons Drawn from the Experience of Local Authorities, available here:

<http://www.migration4development.org/content/migration-development-lessons-drawn-experience-local-authorities>

<sup>v</sup> The Barcelona outcome document endorsed by 30 Cities represented (including Barcelona, Athens, Lisbon, Paris, Quito, La Paz, Sincan, La Unión, Bilbao, Budapest, San Salvador, Cologne, Ankara, Seoul, Malaga and Milan) is available from: <http://www.unitar.org/dcp/human-mobility-programme/facilitating-policy-dialogue>.

<sup>vi</sup> Mayor Mauricio Rodas during the first Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development (20 June 2014).

<http://www.unitar.org/dcp/human-mobility-programme/facilitating-policy-dialogue>.

<sup>vii</sup> "Migration and Refugees in Urban Areas" UN-HABITAT III Issue Paper #2, [http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Habitat-III-Issue-Paper-2\\_2\\_Migration-and-Refugees-in-Urban-Areas-2.0.pdf](http://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Habitat-III-Issue-Paper-2_2_Migration-and-Refugees-in-Urban-Areas-2.0.pdf)

<sup>viii</sup> While the proposal of concrete outcomes over dialogue has been on the table since before the Barcelona Forum, it is with the proposal from the City of Quito at the 10 March 2015 meeting in New York that partners seek to pursue launching one or two city-to-city initiatives around the Quito Forum. The exact modalities of what is being proposed will be discussed with the City of Quito and partners in April 2015.

<sup>ix</sup> The new global development agenda ("Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development") goes beyond the goal of poverty reduction to include a broad range of objectives related to social, economic and environmental progress, as well as improvements in governance and citizen security. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

<sup>x</sup> Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 11, <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>.

<sup>xi</sup> See SRSRG Peter D. Sutherland, "UN Migration Summit: 10 Commitments States Can Make", Project Syndicate Platform.

<sup>xii</sup> See Thouez "Working with cities on mobility, diversity and prosperity" [http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/MPP16\\_24June2014.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/free/MPP16_24June2014.pdf)  
UNITAR Course on "Addressing public perceptions of migrants, mastering communication strategies and partnering with the media" 15-16 May 2013, Antwerp Belgium.