



*GOVERNING LOCALLY: CITY LEADERSHIP AT THE FRONT
AND CENTER IN IMPLEMENTING MIGRATION POLICY -
PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT AND SECURING PROTECTION
Quezon City, 29-30 September 2016*

CONCEPT NOTE

1. INTRODUCTION

For the first time in history, more people are living in urban areas than in rural ones.¹ It comes as no surprise that cities are the main entry points for migrants, since they provide the necessary economic opportunities and the desired social networks.² Cities are the closest level of government to citizens, and migrants often identify with their new city over any other reference point. Cities are at the forefront of integrating newcomers, and they often do so without the support and resources needed. As a group of mayors assembled on this topic conceded: *“We receive migrants but often act beyond our powers; we need more tools.”*³

Globally, local authorities develop practical solutions and apply inventive approaches to migration governance, integrating migration into development planning; seeking to minimize the negative effects of migration; fostering connections between migrants’ territories of origin and destination; developing innovative policies that are often replicated elsewhere; and implementing policies that facilitate “living together” for all city residents including internal and international migrants and refugees.

¹ With 3.9 billion people moving to city centres by 2030 (as compared to 309 million in 1950), it has been described as “the largest migration in human history” See: Douglas Saunders, *Arrival Cities: How the Largest Migration in History is Shaping our World* (London: William Heinemann, 2010).

² JMDI, *From Migration to Development: Lessons Drawn from the Experience of Local Authorities* (2010). Available at: <http://www.migration4development.org/content/migration-development-lessons-drawn-experience-local-authorities>.

³ First Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development, 19-20 June 2014, Barcelona Spain

Despite these constructive in-roads, progress varies significantly by region. Moreover, a lack of capacities and support can severely hinder city administrations' ability to respond effectively to greater diversity. The international community is therefore increasingly acting as direct support to city administrations in order for them to develop the technical capacities required to meet the challenges of greater diversity. It can open access and dialogue amongst different levels of governance so that the fruits of city-to-city exchanges become part of the consciousness of inter-governmental dialogues such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).⁴ And, just as significantly, it can play a central convening role bringing voice to city leadership that shares progressive views on greater human mobility; understands the very practical challenges and opportunities elicited by it; and is thinking creatively of new ways to translate diversity into productivity and economic development.

In today's context, where many consider migrants and refugees societal burdens, the Mayoral Forum supports bold leadership, courage and dialogue rooted in global values founded in justice and equity for all.

II. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Mayoral Forum are to:

- Promote a globally relevant policy dialogue 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;
- Support new and innovative approaches to urban governance in contexts of greater diversity, and to showcase city leadership in the implementation of migration policies for inclusive growth including through the implementation of the new 2030 UN Sustainable Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as espoused in the Quito Local Agenda endorsed by the Second Mayoral Forum on 13 November 2015;
- 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 the parameters for such initiatives;

⁴ <https://www.gfmd.org>

- Bridge macro and micro levels of governance by sharing information and insights on inter-governmental processes from the annual GFMD (taking place on 10-12 December 2016 in Dhaka), to the UN-Habitat III Conference (taking place on 17-20 October 2016 in Quito), and the UN Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (19 September 2016), in addition to supporting in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the work of Regional Consultative Processes on migration;
- Supplement existing regional and international initiatives by connecting with the inroads being made at the sub-national level.

THE THIRD MAYORAL FORUM, QUEZON CITY (29-30 SEPTEMBER 2016)

The Third Mayoral Forum, entitled **Governing by Proximity: City Leadership at the Front and Center in Implementing Migration Policy – Promoting Development and Securing Protection** is taking place in Quezon City on 29-30 September 2016. Considering the pressing challenges facing cities today, the Quezon City Mayoral Forum will have a two-pronged emphasis on: the role of diaspora in furthering development in communities of origin and destination; and the inclusion and protection of migrants and refugees in vulnerable situations within urban centres.

THEMES

A) PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN PROSPERITY – SUPPORTING THE ROLE OF DIASPORA IN FURTHERING DEVELOPMENT IN COMMUNITIES OF ORIGIN AND DESTINATION

Cities represent conducive environments (physically, socially, economically) to maximize the local development impacts of migration. Diaspora are often interested in investing in the region they have left or they know well. To the extent that diaspora do and will continue to play an important role in the development process, city administrations are “the” key partner in facilitating development outcomes in origin and increasingly in destination communities as well. City administrations act as intermediaries between diaspora and industry, and can connect diaspora initiatives to municipal diversity management and development planning. Nevertheless, there exist challenges in engaging with diaspora not least having reliable data on who and where diaspora reside. In addition to understanding what these obstacles are and how city administrations may be overcoming them, this segment of the Forum will focus on learning more about the kinds of diaspora interventions that are facilitated by municipal government, their impact, and potential for replicability elsewhere.

The Mayoral Forum will engage on global experiences of City leadership in:

- *Identifying and addressing obstacles to productive engagement with diaspora (abroad);*
- *Mobilizing diaspora financial and technical resources for growth;*
- *Championing local Public/Private Partnerships with diaspora;*
- *Creating matching grants and other incentive schemes to facilitate investment by diasporas and returning migrants in community development initiatives;*
- *Use of new technologies for communication, project implementation to connect and promote growth;*
- *Building data on diaspora, e.g. data gathering by local administrations on diaspora (including diaspora databases), mapping and creating lists of diaspora with specific skills and expertise (such as legal skills, contractual negotiations, cross-cultural communication, etc.) who may be able to assist (from the country in which the diaspora is resident); and repositories on projects involving diaspora;*
- *Managing diversity and working with diaspora to mitigate xenophobia for social, economic and cultural inclusion and growth;*
- *Inter-generational sensitivities towards integration and the role of diaspora in building identity and fostering active inclusion;*

- *Role of the diaspora in addressing emerging local level development concerns (e.g. disaster risk reduction, good governance, etc.).*

B) DELIVERING EFFECTIVE PROTECTION TO THE FORCIBLY DISPLACED INCLUDING REFUGEES - INCLUSION AND PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS WITHIN URBAN CENTRES

From schools to health and psycho-social care, housing and social services, from welcoming services to documentation and identification processes, to services to support small businesses, not to mention the humanitarian work broached by cities with rising numbers of urban refugees and forcibly displaced, local administrations have experienced an impressive transformation in recent years. More than not with limited resources, city administrations must develop “living together” policies that incorporate the needs of all city residents while acknowledging the special needs of newly arrived migrants - in particular those that experience a heightened vulnerability be they refugees or migrants at risk. What are the contextual realities of different city administrations, and how have they managed increasing diversity, be it from the effects of gradual globalization, environmental change and urbanization, or from the effects of sudden influxes of people?

The Mayoral Forum will engage on the global experiences of City leadership in:

- *Ensuring the human rights of migrants and displaced, regardless of migratory status, through equal access to social services, education, housing, employment;*
- *Ensuring the economic inclusion of migrants through job training and recognition of qualifications, employment and entrepreneurship;*
- *Ensuring safe and secure working environments for all migrant workers with special attention to migrant women and those in precarious employment;*
- *Reducing all forms of violence and violations of migrants’ rights (including cross-border violence) and deaths (including relating to terrain and sea voyages) and countering human trafficking;*
- *Addressing the gender dimension of migrants in vulnerable situations, especially of women and child migrants;*
- *Ensuring enhanced public participation of migrants in civic life;*
- *Building resilience within communities;*
- *Building firewalls between administrations to deliver services despite migrants’ legal status;*
- *Identifying the role of diaspora communities in partnering with cities for prevention of vulnerabilities;*
- *Exploring existing models and tools to look at: e.g. Migrants in Countries in*

Crisis (MICIC) Initiative⁵, and the Protection System for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (SPRAR)⁶;

- *Identifying areas for strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships across cities, and with regional and national government to facilitate the inclusion of newcomers, engaging the private sector and harnessing technology.*

WORKING MODALITIES

Mayoral representation is expected from at least 60 countries around the world. In addition, international and regional organisations, networks of local and regional authorities and civil society representatives will be invited as observers, including IOM, the World Bank, the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), UNITAR, UNDP, IOM, UN HABITAT and UCLG.

A dedicated event with Civil Society is being coordinated by the Migrant Forum in Asia (more information will be available soon).

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.

Discussions will be guided by experts, who will act as rapporteurs and prepare the draft daily Summaries for Action, collecting relevant key recommendations and findings from participants.

⁵ MICIC is a government-led process that will result in voluntary, non-binding guidelines for the protection and assistance of migrants in countries experiencing conflict or natural disasters, with a set of effective practices that states and other stakeholders notably municipal and regional authorities can draw upon in responding to such situations.

⁶ SPRAR is a national network of 382 municipalities in Italy, to resettle people, bring towns back to life and offer a model for Europe as it faces problems integrating large migrant populations.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME (SEE DRAFT AGENDA)

The venue of the Quezon City Forum will be the [Novotel Manila Araneta Center](#). Participants will also be housed at the [Novotel Manila Araneta Center](#) in Quezon City.

[Arrival times will vary for those participating in the JMDI Course on 28 September]

Arrival: Wednesday 28 September day/evening
Start: Thursday 29 September 8:30 - 20:00
End: Friday 30 September 8:30 - 18:00

A Reception hosted by Quezon City will take place on 29 September.

CONTACT INFORMATION

In Quezon City and Manila: Ms. Ma. Nicole Pangilinan (632) 552-4778;
3gmf.pangilinan@cfo.gov.ph

In New York and Washington: Ms. Kato Van Broeckhoven
kato.vanbroeckhoven@outlook.com

In Brussels: Joanne Irvine joanne.irvine@undp.org