

THE GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATION IN THE CITIES ALONG MIGRATION ROUTES: RESPONSES AND ATTITUDES OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES IN AFRICA

Centro de Convenciones Metropolitano in Quito, Ecuador
January 22nd, 2020

The migration policies implemented by national States have given priority to an approach that is essentially securitarian. This shift has led to what is unfairly called the migration crisis, which corresponds in reality to the tightening of policies relating to the movement of populations, their settlement in foreign countries and also the failure of some welcoming policies. This political hardening is observed everywhere, particularly in the European Union Member States, with significant repercussions in Africa and Europe, in relations between the State and local authorities.

The adoption in December 2018 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration gave hope to the main actors involved in migration management (States, local authorities and civil society organizations) that better guarantees would be provided for the protection of migrants' rights and freedom of movement. But since then, some European states have reaffirmed their willingness to **externalize the management of migrant "flows" and to strengthen the security of their external borders**, while making their financial assistance to African states conditional on the **acceptance of "hotspots"** on their territory. This strategy casts doubt over the willingness of these States to really preserve freedom of movement on the African continent and human rights in general.

The Charter of Local and Subnational Governments of Africa on Migration adopted in November 2018 at the Africities Summit in Marrakech aims to provide local authorities in Africa with an instrument to promote and protect the rights of migrants at the local level. In point 11, the charter states that any local and subnational government that adheres to it firmly and unequivocally opposes the **« construction on its territory of detention camps to accommodate African migrant populations expelled from other parts of the world »**. However, since the adoption of the CCTAM, several African cities that have chosen solidarity with migrants and the protection of their rights have found themselves confronted with the divergent interests of their States with regard to the treatment of migration.

Many African local authorities that have joined the CCTAM consider that the installation of hotspots in territories located on migration routes will not serve neither the local authorities nor the States of the Maghreb and Sahel region targeted by these European projects, and is far from being a solution to the migration policy crisis. The obsession with security tends to overshadow the principles of solidarity and the welcoming values defended by cities, but also the opportunities that migration can bring, whether economic, environmental or forced migration.

The argument that the establishment of hotspots is intended to combat "illegal" migration ignore the fact that "illegal" migration exist because there are serious obstacles to the freedom of movement in the various host or transit countries. In the case of West Africa, concerning the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), compliance with the Community rule adopted in the Agreement on Accession to ECOWAS requires national and territorial public authorities not to place obstacles to the free movement and settlement of nationals of ECOWAS Member States on their territories. However, the restrictive provisions

on population movements linked to the establishment of hotspots are in contradiction to the free movement and settlement of nationals of ECOWAS member countries.

What attitudes should local and regional authorities in Africa have towards the obstacles to freedom of movement caused by the establishment of hotspots? How to support local and regional authorities in their expression of solidarity with each other and with migrants?

This session will allow an exchange on the issue of hotspots in so-called "transit" cities located on migration routes in Africa and will also be an opportunity to question the solidarity of local authorities on specific issues of the welcoming and the protection of migrants. From a comparative perspective, the experience of Latin American cities will contribute to a better identification of the challenges and opportunities to be seized for the development of strategies to make cities more resilient to migration "flows".

The analysis of the negative effects of return policies will also be one of the issues to be discussed in this session, in particular the one proposed to Africans under the anglicism "more for more" approach (the more African States accept refouled migrants, the more they will receive European grants) to incite African States to support them. The situation of West African cities such as Gao, Mali, calls for a common strategy by local and regional authorities to affirm their opposition to the management of migration.

In the light of the experiences of Latin American cities, what solutions and actions should be considered for a better welcoming of migrants in local authorities along the migration routes? How we shape a positive narrative about the contribution of migration in promoting living together? What partnerships should be developed to ensure that the management of migration "flows" contributes to the emergence of a more equitable world, including for migrant populations?

Provisional programme of the breakout session

THE GOUVERNANCE OF MIGRATION IN THE CITIES ALONG MIGRATION ROUTES

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Hours	Content	Key actors
13:45	Registration	
14:00- 14:15	Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to local action on migration launched in Durban • Declaration of the Summit of the Mayors of Gazientep • Provisions of the African Charter of Regional and Local Authorities on Migration and its expectations 	Introduction by the UCLG Programme Director, Mr. Mohamed BOUSSRAOUI
14:15- 14:35	The treatment of migration in West Africa: the experience of the city of Agadez in Niger, and the city of Gao in Mali	Presentation by the Mayor of Agadez, Mr. FELTOU Rhissa ; Presentation by the Mayor of Gao, Mr. BEN MAOULOUD Mohamed
14:35- 14 :55	The issue of hosting migrants in North Africa: the experiences of the Moroccan cities, and the city of Tunis in Tunisia	Presentation by the Mayor of Arbaoua, Mrs. Fatna EL-K'HIEL Presentation by the Deputy Mayor of Tunis, Mr. Mounir SRARFI
14 :55- 15 :10	First comments on the situation of African cities	Short exchange with the room
15:10- 15:30	Latin American experience on solidarity and welcoming of migrants: Mexico and Guatemala	Presentation by the Mayor of San Martin Texmelucan Mme. Maria Norma Layon Aarun Presentation by the Mayor of Santa Maria Vistacion, Profesor Mario Roberto Dionisio
15 :30- 15 :40	Youth inputs and perspectives	Ms. Darla Anguiano, Youth delegate
15 :40- 15 :55	First comments on the situation of LAC cities	Short exchange with the room
15:55- 16:20	General discussion & recommendations	Discussion with the participants
16 :20- 16 :30	Conclusion	UCLG Programme Director, Mr. Mohamed BOUSSRAOUI

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