The Local Agenda on Migration and Development
The Second Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development
Quito Outcome Document (2015)

“Cities are the closest level of government to citizens...
Processes (of integration and social cohesion) begin in the neighbourhood,
district and city, in public spaces, in schools, in workplaces.”
Barcelona Declaration, June 2014

I. Introduction: the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development

On 25 September 2015, Member States of the United Nations adopted the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the form of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These replace and build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) first crafted in 2000 as benchmarks for reducing poverty and multiple deprivations. Reflecting a thorough process of consultation, the new SDGs¹, which balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, are more extensive both in number and in scope.² Each includes detailed targets qualifying how the Goal is to be achieved, and indicators quantifying whether the international community is reaching its intended objectives.³

As might be expected, there has been an important evolution in our understanding of factors that impact on the progress of development. Significantly, this includes the central role played by cities in implementing public policy decisions at the national level in all fields from economic, social, health, education, culture and immigrant policy. The new global Sustainable Development Goals include amongst them “Goal 11” dedicated to cities and human settlements calling for “mak(ing) cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

³ The SDGs and targets are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld
The contribution of migrants – both internal and international – has been a core element for growth and development of countries – and their respective cities. Increased international human mobility has also brought new challenges for local authorities. Cities are at the forefront 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, 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 administration has experienced an impressive transformation in recent years. What is more, cities around the world are economic engines spurring productivity and employment acting as poles of attraction for migrants at all skills levels.

Indeed, while migration or human mobility was not included in the original MDGs, today, migration is no longer viewed exclusively as a development failure; it is now recognized that migration is tightly linked to development and growth. As such, the new global Sustainable Development Goals include several migration-related targets ranging from: reducing the costs associated with migration by reducing the costs of transferring remittances (Goal 10 Target (10c)), promoting the protection of migrant workers (Goal 8 (Target 8)), countering human trafficking (Goals 5 and 16 (Targets 2)), promoting better migration governance (Goals 10 (Target 7)), skills transfers through international education opportunities (Goal 4 (Target 4b)), and data generation by migratory status (Goal 17 (Target 18)).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be complemented and reinforced with respect to promoting inclusion in urban settings by the new Urban Agenda, which will be adopted at the forthcoming UN Habitat III Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Quito, Ecuador, 17-20 October 2016), where issues of discrimination and respect for diversity occupy a prominent position. A key reference point for transforming this ambitious agenda into reality is the application of a human rights-based and gender-sensitive approach.

II. Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development – Founding Principles

The annual Mayoral Forum’s starting point is the shared conviction that migration is a primarily positive, urban phenomenon, and that cities are the main attraction pole and driving force.

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4 There are also other relevant SDG Targets: – ensuring that all have equal rights to economic resources and access to basic service (Goal 1 (Target 4)), ensuring access by all people to safe and sufficient food all year round (Goal 2 (Target 1)), achieving universal health coverage and access to quality essential health care services (Goal 3 (Target 8)), developing quality and sustainable infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being (Goal 9 (Target 1)), improving education and awareness-raising on and strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters (Goal 13 (Target 1&3)).
The “Barcelona Declaration” endorsed on 19 June 2014 by participating cities at the First Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development: “demanded a dignified treatment and respect for all people, regardless of their origin.” It specified that: “authorities must assure the same rights, duties and opportunities to all persons residing in their territory.” Adding that: “legislation has a more realistic approach in order to minimize the generation of exclusion and of persons who are in an irregular situation regarding regulatory norms.” This is in line with the spirit of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in which it is stated that: “We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind (ad sic)”.

The Barcelona Declaration also called for the “adoption of legal frameworks that facilitate processes of integration of all residents in our cities”. In doing so, it highlighted the need for “strong action against discrimination and the increase of a xenophobic and racist discourse” in different parts of the world.

Furthermore, the Barcelona Declaration stressed the need to strengthen the “voice and role (of cities) in deciding on migration policies”, calling on “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.” Cities stressed the need for: (additional) “funding sources for local policies of integration and to accommodate diversity”.

Driven by these principles, the Barcelona Forum generated a process with great potential in terms of creating momentum in mobilizing local governments and concerned actors.

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5 “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

6 The critical role of municipal authorities and local governments in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance was highlighted already at the 2009 Durban Review Outcome Document. Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the 2001 World Conference against Racism, para. 142.

7 This is acknowledged in the UN Habitat III Issue Paper on “Migration and Refugees in Urban Areas”.
The Quito Local Agenda on Migration and Development (2015)

We, gathered in Quito for the Second Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development, wish to highlight the important role of cities in addressing the practical issues related to migration and development, and contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for the benefit of migrants and their families, for promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, integration and employment, and for city dwellers at large in order to leave no one behind. We are committed to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 to address the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people, including the promotion and protection of the welfare and well-being of migrants.

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 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can lead to greater inclusion and policy coherence in national, regional and global decision making processes on migration. What is more, the sharing of good practices and relevant research amongst cities, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, can help to further improve how cities address a more diverse urban citizenry.

Action Areas

Action 1: Making cities inclusive

The international community has emphasized the need to promote inclusive societies (SDGs 11, 16), taking account of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (SDG 5), and opportunities for youth. It calls for the eradication of extreme poverty for all people everywhere, for ensuring that all women and men, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources as well as access to basic services (SDG 1), and for the implementation of nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all. Local authorities play a determinative central role securing inclusion with regards to local economic development, and access to social assistance systems and basic services, all of which are fundamental prerequisites for migrants’ inclusion – be they documented or not.

City policies should be non-discriminatory, empowering and promoting the social, economic, political and cultural inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status (SDG 10). All migrants should be provided with personal...
identification, including birth registration (SDG 16)\(^8\), without prejudice to their socio-economic status.

Given that the requirements of residents are in constant flux, urban planning and policies must continuously take into consideration access to: safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round (SDG 2); safe and affordable drinking water (SDG 6); adequate and appropriate housing (SDG 11); viable schools (SDG 4)\(^9\); employment opportunities\(^10\); and health care (SDG 3).

Cities’ policies, systems and programmes aimed at protecting child rights in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child often lack a focus on children and unaccompanied minors impacted by migration. Ensuring that child-orientated policies include a focus on the needs of migrant children, and those children ‘left behind’ by migrating family members, can reduce inequalities between these and other children (SDG 10). Indeed, local authorities, in collaboration with regional and national authorities, should provide specific support to minors until they reach adulthood to ensure they have access to housing, education and health services including as needed psycho-social care.

Migrants’ access to the process of elaborating sectoral policies is also an important element. This access should be available for all stages of migration: returnees, emigrants, immigrants etc. SDG 16 ensures responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, calling for inclusive institutions at all levels. This also requires that migrants and their families are organized, in both origin and destination communities such that they may have a voice in local and national governance processes. Legal pathways should exist so that migrants have the right to vote (at least in local and regional elections).

**Action 2: Ensuring cities are safe**

Safety considerations for migrants should be provided from the moment where borders are crossed to the vulnerability and exploitation in the work place and trafficking in persons as well as for those in detention. Protection also needs to be ensured to mitigate racism and xenophobia. While the international community has committed to safe cities and safe migration policies (SDG 11 and 10 respectively), it also demands significantly reducing all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere (SDG 16), and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spheres, especially human trafficking and sexual


\(^{9}\) Ibid

\(^{10}\) Ibid
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**Action 4: Guaranteeing access to health for all**

Prevention and treatment must be easily accessible, culturally sensitive and available in languages of migrants. SDG 3 calls for ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages.

Quality health-care coverage and affordable essential health-care services should be available to migrants regardless of status. SDG 3 also calls for access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all, with special attention to maternal and family health, and elderly populations in cities. To ensure this, adequate assigned funds that are well administered is extremely important to ensuring access to health for all.

**Action 5: Guaranteeing access to quality education for all**

SDG 4 stresses universal access to quality education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. There are dozens of cities that are committed to ensuring access to services without fear to immigrants without full status or without full status documents. However, many migrant and refugee children have no access to quality school education or, due to a lack of resources or the need to work, fail to attend. Mechanisms should also be put in place to ensure that children have access to education, and supportive environments such that they can actually attend school. SDG 4 calls for ensuring equal access to all levels of education including for children in vulnerable situations. Moreover, it sets the objective of providing safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all while targeting, and placing emphasis on the supply of qualified teachers.

Such education should be culturally sensitive. To facilitate social inclusion and help combat xenophobia, basic age-appropriate language classes should be available for all ages to help eliminate language barriers. Local authorities should also put in place ‘living together’ and diversity campaigns in schools and for youth for both migrant and non-migrant populations.

Cities also work with public and private establishments of higher education, which facilitate skills transfers by promoting international student mobility. SDG 4 calls for expanding the percentage globally of scholarships for developing countries for vocational training, ICT, engineering and scientific programmes. An important component is also skills recognition and certification such that migrants may have access to employment at par with their abilities.

**Action 6: Promoting human development and economic prosperity**

Migration has contributed positively to the development of cities and major metropolitan areas worldwide, particularly given the fact that the majority of migrants are of working age and with
required support, fill labour shortages and foster entrepreneurship. Human mobility creates diversity, which, in turn, is an asset making cities richer and more competitive spaces with greater prosperity (Barcelona Declaration). Indeed, while migrants are often perceived as a vulnerable category, we must not forget that many migrants are agents of development and social transformation both in origin and destination countries.

Cities play an important role in job creation, typically offering more and dignified employment opportunities and higher wages, where even the most vulnerable have access. Their role is therefore critical for inclusive and sustainable local economic development. When it comes to planning, local authorities, with the engagement of civil society, universities and the private sector, play a lead role in participatory programme development and design, capacity building, review, resource mobilization, among others. Local economic development planning and execution can also support rural-urban mobility. Cities can in the same vein serve to empower women coming from traditional, more restrictive societies. Indeed, human development is contingent on access to decent work for all. This also applies to migrants without documentation (SDG 8).

Moreover, cities represent conducive environments (physically, socially, economically) to maximize the local development impact of migration. This often includes promoting diaspora exchanges, encouraging entrepreneurship, facilitating cultural exchanges, establishing partnerships with migrant associations, etc. City administrations act as intermediaries between diaspora and industry. SDG 9 on infrastructure, industrialization and innovation calls on states facilitating sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries. To the extent that diaspora do and will continue to play an important role in this process, city administrations are “the” key partner in facilitating development outcomes in origin communities. This is because cities foster a base for migrants’ productivity and skills development, and cultural exchanges, all of which can be applied in other cities and regions. They often do so through collaboration with diaspora, chambers of commerce, the private sector and other stakeholders.

And, cities can and do foster enabling conditions that allow for a reduction in the costs borne by migrants (which include remittance transfer costs). SDG 10 calls for reducing to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%. Cities are also key players in promoting financial inclusion and literacy of migrants by working with the banking and financial sector, offering training, business assessment and accompanying them in their entrepreneurial activities.

Last but not least given the implications on future generations, creating hope and opportunity by investing in young people is key to spurring development and to stem the tide of migration. SDG 8 calls for substantially reducing the proportion of youth not in employment, education or
training by 2020. Strengthening human capital by ensuring empowerment, education and employment of youth will help countries reap a demographic dividend that can result in lifting populations out of poverty and raising living standards.

**Action 7: Working towards planned and well-managed implementation of immigrant policies**

Bodies responsible for the management of migration flows tend to make decisions without considering their impact on the local level. This may result, sometimes, in decisions that generate exclusion and segregation at the local level, and in local leaders finding difficulties in exercising their responsibility (Barcelona Declaration). While city administrations have no control over immigration policies, they are the primary forces in implementing immigrant policies, and in developing effective responses to the challenges deriving from significant inflows of migrants and refugees.

As such, greater coordination is required at all levels of government and across all sectors of government. Mayors and city representatives should have a voice in discussions on national migration policies, and should take the lead role in formulating policies relating to the integration of immigrants. This should include incorporating migration as an important factor into sustainable urban, development and sectoral planning, as well as enhanced inter-institutional co-ordination on migration at the municipal level. The establishment of sub-national or regional institutions, such as a committee on migration and development with a coordinating role within the region, can be a useful asset in this regard. Moreover, cities would benefit from direct access to national and international programmes and funding mechanisms.

SDG 10 calls for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. Such policies should contain special considerations for the needs of migrant children. Systematic measures should be made to avoid and undo spatial and social segregation between natives and immigrants in housing, employment and the social sphere.

Some cities already dispose of a wealth of experiences in this field, which can be of great benefit to others with a lesser exposure to the topic. City-to-City networks such as the (global) Mayoral Forum can support enhanced knowledge-exchange between cities, dialogue and partnership, serve to pilot projects based on good practices, and thereby contribute to more inclusive cities.

**Action 8: Promoting global citizenship and an appreciation of cultural diversity**

A successful strategy at managing inclusion and diversity will influence public perceptions of migration and migrants, and may nurture a positive view as to its potential impact on destination countries as well as that migration is indeed being well managed. A central piece of
the puzzle to planned and well-managed migration policies is connected to how cities handle diversity. Given that urban migrants challenge and contribute to reshaping urban identities and promoting social cohesion, they should play an active part in developing such strategies.

Many cities have adopted inviting brands and other important policy measures including: inclusive/diverse municipal workforces, positive communication that is geared towards communal (rather than segregated messaging), regular and sustained outreach through celebrations, citizenship ceremonies, working with the local media to combat stereotypes, scapegoating and anti-immigrant bias, adding topics on cultures - their traditions and contributions in the elementary school curricula; encouraging research on other cultures at secondary school level; convening “cultural days” at school, and encouraging the wearing of native costumes and inviting prominent diaspora representatives to speak; organizing ethnic festivals in the community; offering free mini/basic language courses to local government officials and urban residents to familiarize them with the basics of immigrant languages; investing in the arts as a sector where the positive contributions of diversity can thrive; and promoting multilingual communications/institutions.

SDG 4 calls for building the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development including through the promotion of education on global citizenship and an appreciation of cultural diversity. It also supports building the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development including through the promotion of human rights education, a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development. The notion of global citizenship was also recognized during the Global Forum on Migration and Development meeting in Istanbul in October 2015, where some participants emphasized the need to integrate the concept of migration as an inherent human condition into school curricula to promote its understanding as a universal and natural phenomena. Complementary to education initiatives are efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural heritage (SDG 11), tangible and intangible.

**Action 9: Promoting the rule of law, equal access to justice, accountability and transparency**

Migrants are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination in many domains. They have limited access to legal recourse in the courts. Additionally, they are often under-informed or misinformed of their rights. Public information is at the heart of efforts to ensure that migrants are well-informed of their rights and of the risks of migrating, in particular if it is done illegally. Information campaigns should also target the national population to ensure public understanding of migrants’ rights to mitigate cases where their rights can be undermined, and involve the cooperation of diaspora associations, trade unions, employer associations, and other relevant stakeholders.
SDG 16 emphasizes promoting the rule of law and providing equal access to justice for all. It calls for the promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies, to protecting fundamental freedoms, and to ensuring public access to information.

Cities should increase efforts to detect and punish hate crimes, and enforce zero tolerance for discrimination based on racism and xenophobia. Legal and social workers should be trained to work with migrant communities as well as in the languages spoken by the main migrant populations or have access to the necessary translation services to facilitate their work. Every effort should be made to break down language barriers. Legitimate legal services are also an important component so that migrants are not subject to fraud.

SDG 16 also insists on developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. SDG 10 calls for equal opportunity and reducing inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

**Action 10: Delivering effective protection to the forcibly displaced including refugees**

The unprecedented flow of refugees crossing borders as well as internally displaced persons homeless within their own countries requires a coordinated response to address the situation. Planning and managing migration and displacement is critical to promoting productive, inclusive, resilient and sustainable cities. Working towards sustainable solutions calls for reforms in admission policies and programmes to ensure human rights protection and the provision of basic services to migrants, as well as comprehensive policies and programmes to address the root causes of migration in countries of origin.

Local government should be systematically included in humanitarian governance and more specifically in forcibly displaced influx management. It can assist with the humanitarian-development divide not least in identifying sustainable development solutions such as providing access to work for refugees. The faster forcibly displaced including refugees have access to work, the faster they can contribute materially, and otherwise to their new environs thereby alleviating the fiscal obligations for cities hosting them.

**Action 11: Building the evidence-base in cities regarding migration**

A central element in implementing the SDGs will be relevant global, regional, national and local indicators that will rely heavily on solid migration data. SDG 17 calls for increasing significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status (ad sic), disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national and local contexts. This is particularly important at the local level where
resources and know-how are often lacking but given the proximity of local actors’ to their territories, there is great potential to enhance data points. Systematic data collection at this level would also allow for more tailored approaches that take in the very unique local contexts that can occur even within regions of a given country.

Use of both traditional census, survey and registration data as well as real-time data such as that generated by mobile phones and social media to complement conventional statistical systems and strengthen accountability at all levels will be essential. In addition, gaining insights from the smallest unit of analysis through GIS mapping will be critical to identifying vulnerable populations, including migrants, to ensure that they are not excluded. Finally, the evidence-base could also usefully incorporate qualitative forms of data on migrant wellbeing that brings in the voices of migrants themselves, as well as building up databases of best practices in cities around the world. On the basis of this data, cities could promote the setting up or reinforcement of endogenous review systems to monitor, evaluate and provide feedback on public policies and programme implementation.

International organizations working on migration also need to bring together their different expertise to promote a more integral and coherent approach to migration and development. Existing knowledge networks can be hubs for such knowledge collation, gathering and promotion of knowledge sharing, capacity building and networking among cities and other local and regional authorities.

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With the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)
**Sustainable Development Goals**

From Preamble:

We recognize that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We intend, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger once and for all; to combat inequalities; to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its resources; and to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth and shared prosperity.

As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that **nobody will be left behind**. We wish to see the goals and targets met for all economic and social groupings.

| Goal 1 | End poverty in all its forms everywhere |
| Goal 2 | End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture |
| Goal 3 | Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages |
| Goal 4 | Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all |
| Goal 5 | Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls |
| Goal 6 | Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all |
| Goal 7 | Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all |
| Goal 8 | Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all |
| Goal 9 | Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation |
| Goal 10 | Reduce inequality within and among countries |
| Goal 11 | Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable |
| Goal 12 | Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns |
| Goal 13 | Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts* |
| Goal 14 | Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development |
| Goal 15 | Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss |
| Goal 16 | Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels |
| Goal 17 | Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development |

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change