



## The (draft) 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 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 and employment, and for city dwellers at large in order to leave no one behind.

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 amongst cities 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). 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.

City policies should be non-discriminatory, empowering and promoting the social, economic and political 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).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> On forcibly displaced, see *"Brazil Declaration: A Framework for Cooperation and Regional Solidarity to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean"*, Brasilia, 3 December 2014 <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5487065b4.pdf>

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)<sup>2</sup>; employment opportunities<sup>3</sup>; 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 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).

Migrants' access to the political process is also an important element. SDG 16 ensures responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, calling for inclusive institutions at all levels.

### ***Action 2: Ensuring cities are safe***

Safety considerations for migrants range from death in transit, threats of racism and xenophobia, to greater vulnerability to exploitation in the workplace and in the form of human trafficking. 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, including human trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation (SDG 5), and an end to abuse, exploitation, human trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children (SDG 16).

SDG 8 calls for the protection of labour rights and promot(ing) safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

### ***Action 3: Fostering cities that are resilient and sustainable***

Cities are confronted with the challenges of rising displacement due to conflict, natural disasters, and environmental change. Meeting the needs of the forcibly displaced is a major humanitarian challenge of the near future. SDG 11 calls for reducing the number of people affected by natural disasters with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> (Para. 23 defines vulnerable persons to include refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants.)  
"Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Urban planning should also include planning for disaster risk reduction, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. SDG 11 also calls for promoting mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

Resilience is also key in dealing with the fast urban growth in general, be it due to all kinds of migrants arriving in cities or due to inner-city population growth. There is therefore a need to build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and for reducing their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (SDG 11).

#### ***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, 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 concerns maternal and family health, and elderly populations in cities.

#### ***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 education. 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 target, and places emphasis on the supply of qualified teachers.

Such education should be culturally sensitive. To facilitate social integration and help combat xenophobia, basic age-appropriate language classes should be available for all ages to help eliminate language barriers.

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.

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

Migration has contributed positively to the development of cities and major metropolitan areas worldwide. Human mobility creates diversity, which, in turn, is an asset making cities richer and more competitive spaces with greater prosperity (Barcelona Declaration).

Cities play an important role in job creation, typically offering more employment opportunities and higher wages. Cities can serve to empower women coming from traditional, more restrictive societies. Indeed, human development is contingent on access to decent work for all (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, which can be applied in other cities and regions. They often do so through collaboration with diaspora and the private sector. Cities also offer entrepreneurship opportunities to migrants and to refugees that are supported in their creation and success through diaspora networks.

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.

***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. This should include integrating migration as an important factor into urban, development and sectoral planning. 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. 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.

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

A successful strategy at managing inclusion and diversity will influence the public's perceptions of migration and migrants, and may nurture a positive view in the general public 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. Many cities have adopted inviting brands and other important policy measures include: 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 need 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. 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 can have limited access to legal recourse in the courts. And, 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.

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 and should have access to the necessary translation services to facilitate their work. Every effort should be made to break down language barriers.

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 a sustainable solution calls for reforms in admission policies and programmes to ensure the human rights and provision of basic services to migrants, as well as comprehensive policies and programmes to address the root causes of migration in countries of origin.

It must also look at the humanitarian-development divide: and identify sustainable development solutions such as providing access to work to 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 of cities hosting them.

Last but not least given the implications on future generations, creating hope and opportunity by investing in young people is key to spur 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 11: Building the evidence-base in cities on the impact of migration***

A central element in implementing the SDGs will be relevant global, regional and national 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 contexts. This should be done by 2020.

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 identify vulnerable populations, including migrants, to ensure that they are not excluded. In addition, surveys at the sub-national level could also provide a good understanding of the challenges faced by cities. 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.

*Draft Text developed by C. Thouez, with direction from the City of Quito, and comments from colleagues at the World Bank, JMDI, UNFPA, UNITAR, UNU, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM.*

## 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*