

Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development

“Call of Barcelona”

The Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development, held in Barcelona on June 20, 2014, has brought together mayors and other local authorities from cities around the world and representatives of International Organizations. It has been organized by the City Council of Barcelona in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) of the World Bank, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the European Commission. It has also been supported by the following organizations and institutions: Council of Europe, EU Committee of the Regions, Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), Metropolis, The Hague Process on Refugees and Migration (THP), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the United Nations University Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility (UNU-GCM).

As announced by the Mayor of Quito at the Mayoral Forum in Barcelona, Quito intends to host the second Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development in 2015.

The Mayoral Forum reflects the will to highlight the role of cities at the front-line of addressing migration and the need to discuss the value of mobility for development in cities and around the world.

The Forum of Mayors’ 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.

Reflections and thoughts of the participants include the following ideas:

- * Human 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.
- * Cities are the closest level of government to citizens. Faced with the challenges of governance of migration, mobility and development, cities are in charge of achieving integration processes and ensuring social cohesion. These processes begin in the neighbourhood, district and city, in public spaces, in schools, in workplaces.
- * Cities also fight against segregation and inequality and often have to cope on their own with multiple challenges of coexistence, housing, irregularities and security, among other.
- * Cities experience the complexities of human mobility, but have little or no voice in global forums where priorities on the agendas of human mobility are determined.
- * Likewise, the 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.

For all of these, cities and representatives of international organizations participating in the Mayoral Forum on Mobility, Migration and Development:

- Demand a **dignified treatment and respect for all people, regardless of their origin.** Authorities must assure the same rights, duties and opportunities to all persons residing in their territory.

- Ask for a **voice and role in deciding on migration policies**. They claim 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.
- Demand 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.
- Call for the **adoption of legal frameworks that facilitate processes of integration of all residents** in our cities.
- Ask for **strong action against discrimination and the increase of a xenophobic and racist discourse** in some parts of the world.
- Finally, demand **funding sources for local policies of integration and to accommodate diversity**.