



## THE 6<sup>TH</sup> MAYORAL FORUM ON HUMAN MOBILITY, MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### FROM LARGE MOVEMENTS TO THE UN GLOBAL COMPACTS: CITIES AS FIRST RESPONDERS

QUITO, ECUADOR, 20 NOVEMBER 2019

#### DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

(as of 3 September 2019)

#### Background

Since 2013, the Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development (“Mayoral Forum”) provides an annual global gathering for municipal and regional leaders to exchange views and practices on migration, development and displacement. In 2015, the second Mayoral Forum was held in Quito, Ecuador, coinciding with the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Forum produced the “Quito Local Agenda on Migration and Development”, which highlighted cities’ potential to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and outlined associated resource and support needs.

A year later, in 2016, Quito hosted the Habitat III Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, which adopted the New Urban Agenda (NUA), a detailed blueprint for SDG implementation by and in urban areas. Developed through a broad-based consultative process involving local governments, the NUA seeks to deliver on the promise of safe, sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities for all, including migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons. It recognizes the contribution of migrants to urban life, pledges to support cities in establishing enabling frameworks and calls for non-discriminatory access for migrants and refugees to basic services, employment and livelihood opportunities and local consultative and participatory processes.

In 2018, the 5<sup>th</sup> Mayoral Forum took place in Marrakesh, in conjunction with the UN Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Over 80 cities adopted the Marrakesh Mayors Declaration, committing to contribute to the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), as well as the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), which was also affirmed last December.



*Affiliated Partners (additional partners to be added)*

## **The Mayoral Forum 2019: Cities as First Responders...**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Mayoral Forum will convene in Quito, Ecuador on 20 November 2019 under the title *“From Large Movements to the Global Compacts: Cities as First Responders”*. For the first time, the Forum will be an integral part of the annual Summit of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). At the same time, the GFMD established a Mayors Mechanism in 2018 that serves to bring the voices of local and regional authorities (LRAs) into all of the GFMD’s discussions with a view to intensifying the dialogue between different levels of governance and between the different GFMD stakeholder groups.

This year’s Mayoral Forum comes at a moment of reorientation for the GFMD. In 2018, the GFMD commissioned a Ten-Year Review that identified achievements of the process and issued recommendations for ensuring the GFMD’s continued relevance in a changing environment. LRAs will have the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing discussion on the future of the GFMD and to provide concrete ideas for taking forward some of the review recommendations geared to strengthen the multi-stakeholder and interactive nature of the GFMD.

The proposed theme of this year’s Mayoral Forum speaks to the frontline role of local and regional authorities when it comes to matters of migration and displacement. It ties in with the themes of the GFMD, including Theme 1 on “Joint responses to mixed migration flows: Partnerships and collective action to protect rights” and Theme 3 on “Addressing human mobility as part of urban and rural development strategies”. In particular, the preparatory process for the Mayoral Forum in 2019 should serve to inform the background papers for Roundtable sessions 1.2 on “Facilitating social and economic inclusion” and 3.1. entitled “Supporting arrival cities through policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships”.

### **... in Managing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants**

In 2015, large movements of refugees and migrants led to the adoption of the New York Declaration and the development of the two Global Compacts. Now and then, cities and municipalities are the main points of arrival for large movements and the first responders to migrants’ and refugees’ needs. Whilst the global response in 2015 was driven by the Syria crisis and a spike of arrivals in Europe, today it is the Americas that struggle with large movements of people seeking safety and a better life in neighbouring countries and across the continent. Taking place in Quito, the Mayoral Forum will provide an opportunity for LRAs from the region and those experiencing similar challenges in other regions to exchange on practical solutions and lessons learned.

### **... and Advancing the Implementation of the Global Compacts**

The 2019 MF will also provide an opportunity for cities to follow up on their commitment made in Marrakesh to be first responders and first movers when it comes to the implementation of the Global Compacts. In Marrakesh, mayors highlighted their contributions in four areas in particular: addressing special needs and reducing vulnerabilities; providing access to basic services; empowering migrants, refugees and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion; and eliminating all forms of discrimination.

In 2019, cities have pressed for inclusion in the follow-up and review processes of the GCM and GCR, reiterating their willingness, ability and expertise to advance the Compacts' implementation in unison. The Forum will allow cities to share information on and take stock of their diplomacy efforts to date, and to discuss how their role can be strengthened going forward by pursuing greater involvement in policy and review processes at the national, regional and global levels.

### **The Quito City Action Pledge**

It is foreseen that the 2019 Mayoral Forum will culminate in the presentation of an **Action Pledge** by Mayors and cities, following on from the Marrakesh Mayors Declaration and its commitments to implement the Global Compacts. The Action Pledge will provide cities with discrete action areas which can be endorsed individually or as a whole, depending on city context and capacities. The Pledge will be developed and validated with local authorities, their networks and partners over the course of the next months before Quito, including through the ongoing work of the MMC and Metropolis, and the summits of UCLG and the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) in November in Durban. All Mayors and cities participating in the 6<sup>th</sup> Mayoral Forum will be provided with the text of the Action Pledge prior to their arrival in Quito.

### **Meeting Format**

The 2019 MF will be organized in a manner that combines high-level plenary sessions, addressing topics of common and strategic interest, with break-out sessions that will facilitate a more in-depth exploration of specific topics in smaller groups, including through direct interaction with the inter-governmental deliberations of the GFMD. The break-out sessions will also allow diverse partners to contribute to the development and realization of the Mayoral Forum in line with their areas of expertise.

## **TENTATIVE DRAFT SCHEDULE**

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| <b>09:00</b> | <b>Registration</b>  |
| <b>09:30</b> | <b>Opening (Plenary)</b>   |
| <b>10:00</b> | <b>Roundtable session: How Mayors see and shape the World in 2019 (Plenary)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Political state of play on migration and refugees: Challenges, opportunities, priorities for cities and actions taken since Marrakech</li><li>• From SDGs to NUA, and the Global Compacts: How far cities have come in their international engagement and how far are they committed to go: Reports from GPM and UCLG World Congress</li></ul> |

- How to accelerate and galvanize cities actions and leverage it through partnerships. Opportunities for collective action: What should LRAs aim for? What can they achieve together? How to seize and shape the GFMD going forward?

**11:30 Break**

**12:00 Presentation of the Cities Action Pledge (Plenary)**

**12:30 Lunch**

**14:00 Parallel sessions: Cities' responses to large movements: Maintaining a commitment to welcoming in the context of scarce resources and populist politics**

- Arrival cities: Dialogue with government RT 3.1 (TBC)
- Building city capacities for local economic inclusion (TBC)
- Working through partnerships to bolster the local migration response in the Latin American region (TBC)

**16:30 Break**

**17:00 Closing Plenary**

- Collecting outcomes from the break-out sessions and closing remarks

**18:00 End of day**

**19:30 Reception**

All sessions will be actively facilitated by a moderator to be as interactive as possible.

