



Side Event to the 51st Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) Mainstreaming migration into urban/local planning 13.15 – 14.30, 10 April, Conference Room 11, UNHQ New York

When supported by appropriate policies, migration can contribute to the development of both places of origin and destination, as well as to the well-being of migrants and their families. This has now been firmly recognised within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Migration is also a multi-faceted phenomenon that has an effect on and is affected by all areas of governance and sectors.¹ As highlighted by the UN Secretary-General's report 72/643 *Making Migration Work for All*, migration governance therefore necessitates a whole-of-government approach that considers how other policies in fields like housing, health or agriculture affect and are affected by migration and what sectors and actors are involved. Such an approach is crucial if we are to achieve all 17 SDGs and truly ensure that no one is left behind. This means considering including migration in existing national and subnational strategies on development, urbanization, health, education, child protection, housing, employment, social inclusion and social protection for enhanced policy coherence in migration and development and as part of their response to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals.²

This is particularly important at the local level: as now outlined in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, States have 'recognised the needs of local authorities, who are first receivers of migrants' and affirmed that the local level is 'where migration happens'³. The New Urban Agenda offers a pathway to achieve the SDGs in urban areas and includes guidance on frameworks to enable the positive contribution of migrants to cities, strengthening urban-rural linkages and migration governance as a key success factor to achieve sustainable urban development.

Cities are centres of social, economic and political activity that concentrate an increasing share of the world population, and that attract internal and international migrants alike. The movement of people from rural areas to urban areas, between urban settlements of various sizes, and from one country to the other will continue to affect the distribution of the population within and across national boundaries.

Moreover, within a global context of increasing urbanisation with over half of the world's population now living in cities, cities and other urban areas have fast become the main destination of choice for migrants and displaced persons. For example, nearly 1 out of 5 of the world's foreign-born population lived in major "global" cities alone, and 20 per cent or more of the inhabitants of 18 of these global are international migrants.⁴ A recent study⁵

¹ JMDI, Guidelines on mainstreaming migration into local development planning, 2017 Available at http://migration4development.org/sites/default/files/guidelines_on_mainstreaming_migration.pdf.

² Preparatory (stocktaking) meeting of 4-6 December 2017 in Mexico for the Global Compact on Migration.

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⁴ IOM (2015) World Migration Report 2015. Migrants and cities: New partnerships to manage mobility, ISBN 978-92-9068-709-2.

⁵ Price, M. (2017) *Revisiting Global Immigrant Gateways: Hyper-diverse, Established and Emerging Turnstiles of Human Settlement* UN/POP/EGM/2017/14.

reported that 22 metropolitan areas hosted over one million foreign-born residents in 2015. In total, these metropolitan areas accounted for 44 million international migrants, representing 18 percent of the global number of international migrants. While many migrants originate from rural areas, and poverty is largely concentrated among people who depend on agriculture for a living, there is also increasing awareness of mobility between urban and rural areas, and the role that rural towns and small cities play towards more sustainable and inclusive patterns of rural transformation⁶.

Cities themselves are also taking initiative and successfully stepping up to this role, committing to achieving good migration governance within the framework of the SDGs and requesting States for their support. IOM, UN-Habitat and its partners have been engaging with and empowering such cities and local and regional authorities through the annual Global Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development and the 2017 Global Conference on Cities and Migrants in Mechelen (citiesandmigration.com, see also [Mechelen Declaration](#)).⁷

Such platforms are providing city administrations and their associations and networks with the opportunity to raise their voices and share their expertise, and expectations, within the current debate about global governance of migration in particular in relation to their efforts to achieve the migration related targets of the New Urban Agenda, the SDGs and the upcoming Global Compact on Migration. Recognition of the importance of small cities and towns in rural economic development is also prompting renewed interest in a territorial development approach that recognizes the diversity of development potentials and performances of geographic areas at the subnational level.

This side event will therefore **explore concrete ways to build a conducive environment for cities and local and regional authorities** to take on this role. It will look at the **challenges they face and the resources and support they need to effectively mainstreaming migration into national and local level urban policies (including regional and urban planning) and support the achievement of the actionable commitments of the GCM**. Examples will be drawn from efforts by IOM, UN-Habitat and UNDP and experiences shared by mayors and other local and regional authorities.

“...including local authorities in governance mechanisms can strengthen coordinated action, shape a positive discourse on migration and enhance social and economic integration of migrants;”

“Recognizes the importance of a community driven approach to local urban governance that clearly benefits communities of origin, transit, destination as well as migrants, including refugees, returnees and internally displaced populations;”

Mechelen Declaration on Cities and Migration

“We ask for a voice and role in deciding on migration policies”

Call of Barcelona, 2014 Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development

“We, Mayors and Governors from around the world, call attention to the fact that cities will be faced with addressing the needs of an additional 2.5 billion people by 2050. In doing so, we strive to “leave no one behind”, and to build our cities and human settlements to be “inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable” (UN Sustainable Development Goal, 11).”

Berlin Declaration, 2016 Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development

⁶ FAO (2017) State of Food and Agriculture 2017. Leveraging Food Systems for Inclusive Rural Transformation. FAO. Rome. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-l7658e.pdf>.

⁷ UNESCO has mobilized on this issue its International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities - ICCAR (<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/fight-against-discrimination/coalition-of-cities/>), producing in 2016 in cooperation with its European branch the report *Cities Welcoming Refugees and Migrants*, available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002465/246558e.pdf>.

Key objectives:

- Discuss the key role of cities, local and regional authorities in the effective implementation of the migration-related SDGs, the New Urban Agenda and the actionable commitments of the upcoming Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;
- Promote an enhanced understanding of the needs of cities, local and regional authorities for them to be successful in this role;
- Disseminate existing tools, good practices and lessons learnt in mainstreaming migration into urban planning;
- Contribute to ensuring the key role of cities, local and regional authorities is embedded in the Global Compact on Migration.

Agenda:

13:15 Welcome remarks

- *Mr. Ashraf El Nour, Director of IOM office to the UN in New York, on behalf of Global Migration Group (GMG)*

13:20 Keynote speech

- *Dr. Ernesto M. Pernia, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary, Philippines*

13:30 Panel discussion (5 – 7 mins each)

Moderator: *Mr. Filip Decorte, Head of Office a.i., UN Habitat New York*

Speakers:

- *Ms. Liora Danan, Chief of Staff, NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs*
- *Ms. Colleen Thouez, Director, Integrated and Welcoming Societies Division, Open Society Foundations (OSF)*
- *Ms. Vittoria Zanuso, Senior Manager, Network and Learning, 100 Resilient Cities*

14:00 Questions and answers

14:25 Concluding remarks

- *H.E. Mr. Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations*

The Global Migration Group (GMG) is an inter-agency group bringing together heads of UN entities to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to migration, and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. The GMG is particularly concerned with improving the overall effectiveness of its members and other stakeholders in capitalizing upon the opportunities and responding to the challenges presented by international migration. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are the Co-Chairs of GMG in 2018. More information is available at: www.globalmigrationgroup.org.

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