

4th Global Mayoral Forum On Human Mobility, Migration and Development

Opening remarks to Session III: Working through multi-stakeholder partnerships to enhance the development impact of migration and forced displacement

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Audience, Mr. Chairman,

It is a great honour to moderate this session on the role of „multi-stakeholder partnerships in enhancing the development impact of migration and displacement“, together with my distinguished colleague, Director Jill Helke from the International Organization for Migration. It is an even bigger pleasure as the 4th Global Mayoral Forum and this session focus on building those partnerships together with cities and mayors.

At ICMPD, we have the privilege to be part of the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project together with UCLG and UN-Habitat, which brings together the cities of Amman, Beirut, Lisbon, Lyon, Madrid, Tangiers, Tunis, Turin and Vienna on dialogue, knowledge exchange and work on joint solutions. We know how good cities are at what they are doing and how much we can learn from them. But we also see that it is challenging for them to engage in partnerships at the state level and beyond.

We live in a world of nation states, and international migration is defined as the movement between nation states and across national borders. Our frameworks to regulate and discuss migration are based on this very logic. In reality, however, migration is a form of human mobility that takes place between cities and urban areas first and foremost. Simply put, without the cities we will not be able to manage migration and situations of displacement, and we will not be able to harness their development potentials. Building multi-stakeholder partnerships involving cities is an inevitable pre-condition for that.

Today, 54% of the world's population live in urban areas; by 2050 it will be more than 70%. The reasons for the unstoppable trend towards urbanisation are manifold; but they are quite similar around the globe: the hope for a better life and economic opportunity, access to education or the loss of agricultural jobs and the shift to jobs in the service sector. But it is also displacement as a result of conflict and environmental factors which contributes to this trend. It is estimated that 60% of all refugees and 80% of all Internally Displaced Persons live in urban areas.

Many of these urban areas are economic powerhouses. Tokyo, New York, Mexico City, London and Paris, Sao Paulo, Singapore or Mumbai, to name only a few, have GDPs that are higher than the GDPs of many small and not so small States, including many in the

richest regions of the world. It is no wonder that these cities turn a beacon of hope for those who are looking for opportunity and for those who are forced to flee their homes.

Cities benefit from migration. They are the places where immigrants unfold their potentials and make their contribution to economic, cultural and social development. But cities are also vulnerable. Jobs, space, housing, traffic, water, energy, health care or education are not endlessly available. And when growing numbers of people compete over them; frictions and conflicts might grow as well.

Cities have to include and integrate; they have to provide immigrants with the support that caters for their immediate needs but also allows them to participate successfully in the long run. But they also have to take care that the complex and fragile fabric, which holds them together, is not torn apart by situations that are beyond their management capacity. This principle challenge is common to all cities, no matter how big they are and no matter where they are located on our globe. But of course the actual responses to this challenge will have to differ depending on their size and their economic, geographic and social situation.

All successful responses, however, will have to involve a multitude of actors at the city, at the regional, at the national and the international level. They will have to involve the private sector, interest groups and civil society actors. Last but not least, they will have to reach out to the non-migrants and the migrants which form their populations, and whose support they need.

I think you all have consulted the excellent and very timely questions in the programme that should guide our discussion. For reasons of time management I want to ask all our speakers to limit their contributions to a five minute time-frame.

We have a list of distinguished speakers and are very much looking forward to their interventions. Our first speaker is Ms. Corinne Mauch, the mayor of Zurich in Switzerland. Ms. Mauch, the floor is yours.