



The Hague



Migration

Strategy Session 1: Integrating Economic Migrants

10 September 2016

Chair(s): Mayor Peter Kurz (Mannheim)

Co-Chair(s): Mayor Sanjeev Nayyar (North Delhi)

Guiding Principles – Discussed and agreed upon

- **We believe migrants should be integrated into our local economies and be made partners in the development of our cities.**

Prioritized Actions

- **Diversity declaration and benchmarking:** We will engage with civil society in our cities to create a common unified Declaration that expresses our commitment to diversity and we will develop a framework on which to benchmark ourselves on an ongoing basis (The Mannheim Declaration could be the role model for this).
- **Residency-based rights of access:** We will implement and/or advocate for changes in national statutes (where necessary) to enable cities to provide access to services and labour markets to all those who reside in the city, regardless of legal status.
- **Mapping our cities as part of a network:** We will use a common approach to gather data and map our cities as nodes in a global network, in order to understand our migrant communities and linkages they have with communities and cities elsewhere in the world.
- **Direct city-to-city connections:** We will build a common technology-based information exchange platform to enable us to share data, learnings and capture economic opportunities between cities on a direct city-to-city basis. We also propose to create development partnerships on a city-to-city level (e.g. Europe-North Africa) financed by national governments and/or supranational institutions.
- **Twinning cities:** We will plan and implement a twin city cooperation strategy for pairs of cities that are linked by migrant flows (e.g., North-South cities) with migrant communities playing a key role in developing the cooperation.

This document includes draft statements of shared principles and common, opt-in actions that represent the insights and discussions of mayors, city leaders, and experts from more than 60 cities around the world. These principles have not yet been ratified by the Global Parliament of Mayors but will be considered by the founding executive committee of Mayors.



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Migration

Strategy Session 2: Integrating Refugees of War

10 September 2016

Chair(s): Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb (Rotterdam).

Co-Chair(s): -

Resource team members: Dr. Hugo Slim (ICRC), Joanne Irvine (UNDP Brussels/JMDI), Helge Lunde (ICORN), Khaled Rifai (McKinsey).

Guiding Principles

- **We believe that migration (forced and unforced) is a fact. Hence, we believe that cities should develop and implement policies that assume that refugees are settling – in line with international human rights and the Geneva Convention, return to their home countries is always voluntary**

Prioritized Actions

- **Institutionalize human mobility holistically:** We will establish departments of ‘human mobility planning’ at the mayor’s office that plan for human flows across voluntary or forced intra-country and cross-border migration and that will connect with other cities’ departments to exchange best practices.
- **Forecast migrant flows to increase urban preparedness:** We will explore a more sophisticated use of data to plan and align on expected human flows. This should allow the municipal administration to better plan affordable housing in a way that avoids ghettoization, education for refugee youth, access to emergency health care services, etc.
- **Foster platforms that connect host and refugee communities:** We will foster cultural activities that promote intercultural understanding.
- **Allow refugees to contribute economically, politically, and socially:** We will promote the idea of a municipal citizenship that – independent of national residence status – allows the city’s population to access certain public services and offerings (e.g., emergency health care, museum nights, etc.), participate in the political process and engage in civic activities.

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- **Demand integration efforts from the migrant population:** We will work together with the migrant population to make them aware of the host community expectations (e.g., with regard to language proficiency, acceptance of social norms, etc.).
- **Ensure appropriate focus on security:** While we acknowledge that the vast majority of refugees is well-intended, we have to acknowledge that some have been traumatized on their refugee journey and / or come with political ambitions that jeopardize public safety. We will work hard to promote and protect public safety.
- **Focus on positive framing of the issue:** We know that migration outcomes are dependent on how well host and migrant communities connect and how quickly they accept each other. We hence commit to eliminating negative vocabulary from city representative's public speeches and refrain from participating in unsubstantiated fearmongering.
- **Make the cities' voices heard in national and supranational forums:** We believe that cities will be key to cope with the challenges and capture the opportunities that forced migration hold. We hence will work toward increasing the collective voice that cities have in national and supranational decision-making bodies.

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Strategy Session 3: Migration and Security

10 September 2016

Chair(s): *Giorgos Kaminis (Mayor of Athens).*

Co-Chair(s): *Mick Cornett (Mayor of Oklahoma City).*

Resource team members: *Robert Muggah (Igarape Institute), Elizabeth Johnston (European Forum for Urban Safety), Mark Singleton (Director ICCT), Robert Carsouw (McKinsey), Godfried Engbersen (BOLD cities) .*

Guiding Principles

- We believe that dealing with security should be based on facts and acknowledge the fear that some citizens are experiencing in our communities.
- We believe that security concerns should be considered for the receiving communities and for the migrants themselves.
- We believe that policy and actions should address both security issues and rapid integration of migrants which may serve to reduce risks.

Prioritized Actions

- We will collect and assess real time data in a dedicated function, to confirm and communicate the reality to citizens that ‘new’ migrants have lower crime rates than average, to identify patterns of high crime caused directly or indirectly by migration, and to better tailor and integrate emergency, social, and support services to avoid the challenges that lead to crime.
- We will facilitate rapid integration of migrants, by starting with the integration process as of the moment of arrival, re-balancing the current focus on the legal process, providing language courses directly after migrants arrive, identifying opportunities in the job market, providing the education required to enter the job market, and assisting with housing whilst avoiding segregated neighborhoods.
- We will fight the criminal organizations that support illegal migration.

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Strategy Session 4: Migration Administration & Management

10 September 2016

Chair(s): *Mayor Bitalji of Amman*

Co-Chair(s): -

Resource team members: *Kent Larson (MIT Media Labs), Nuno Nunez (IOM)*

Guiding Principles

- **Migrants are full members of our society whether temporary or permanent and will be served by our city**
- **Migrants should be integrated within the larger communities, not be left separated**
- **Mayors should play the role of educators within their cities, leading the public discourse towards acceptance and support**

Prioritized Actions

- We will provide identification for migrants to access all city services and assist undocumented residents to access equal services in health, safety and education with dignity and without discrimination.
- We will create or facilitate social networks to help immigrants find services in their city of arrival.
- We will eliminate questions from forms that could serve to discriminate migrants (e.g., religion), and instead focus on identifying characteristics that enable us to integrate them faster (e.g., vocation).
- We will deploy creative bottom up tools to engage communities rather than leveraging top down decision making (e.g. to assign housing).
- We will eliminate the use of long term migrant camps and set aggressive targets to integrate migrants into community housing rapidly.
- We will work with counterparts in the communities that migrants are leaving to identify solutions that could improve conditions and help citizens remain in their homes when possible.

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