

UCLG's INTERMEDIARY CITIES DECLARATION

BOGOTA UCLG CONGRESS & HABITAT III

QUITO 3rd UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Càtedra UNESCO. Ciutats intermèdies, urbanització i desenvolupament
Cátedra UNESCO. Ciudades intermedias y urbanización mundial
Chair UNESCO. Intermediate Cities and World Urbanisation
Chair UNESCO. Villes intermédiaires et urbanisation mondiale

WE, the Leaders of Intermediary Cities* of the world,

Having recognized that:

- 1) Intermediary Cities gather a third of the world urban population (aprox. 1,4 billion of inhabitants) and represent the major number of cities in the world, making of them key actors in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the New Urban Agenda.
- 2) Our Intermediary Cities are in the centre of the territories governance, they are nodes of exchanges and connectivity between the Metropolis, the small cities and the rural areas, with the capability to drive a more equitable and inclusive urban development, as well as a strongest and more balanced system of cities.
- 3) Intermediary Cities are key to play the role of intermediation based on Dialogue and Development on a horizontal level, through engaging city to city cooperation, particularly a South-South, North-South and triangular Cooperation, in order to share knowledge, learning, innovations and best practices between intermediary cities of all regions.
- 4) Intermediary Cities play also a role of intermediation key in the Dialogue between the different hierarchies of governance, at national, regional, local levels, highlighting the potential of mutual support and win-win agreements with regional governments and national governments, especially regarding resilience policies, for the most exposed to risk disasters, where climat change impact is the most notorious.
- 5) The knowledge of local actors and potentialities, allow Intermediate Cities to favour the emergence of local entrepreneurs and boost a more endogenous local economic development, as well as to improve circular economy, support local production while adopting a low ecological footprint path when managing these potentialities. New technologies and interconnectivity can also contribute to shape a future to I-Cities future, to become innovative actors in the national markets.
- 6) Intermediary Cities having the benefit of population scale and proximity, allow a better fostering of local democracy, citizen participation, social cohesion and culture. With adequate means, they can be key as a buffer role of intermediation in the management of

migrations, would they be rural/urban, crisis impact or normal migrations, avoiding big Metropolis to be the final point of arrival, especially in African regions. The size and proximity relations are advantages when applying strategic planning and management, key for developing countries, with territories of massive urban development in the next decade.

- 7) While most of the world's I-Cities lack of the necessary means and resources to tackle the economic, social, ecological, culture and governance challenges, We need to join our efforts in one voice to be heard and one world dynamic

Declare therefore that We commit to be a key instrument for implementation of the global agendas, in particular the SDGs, the Disaster Agenda, the Climate Agenda, and the upcoming New Urban Agenda for the *Planet and human sustainability*.

To that effect, we strongly support the localization of these agendas, and **call on national governments and the international community to recognize the Intermediary Cities as key implementers and coordinators of the provisions of these agendas in the territories under their competence.**

We call on International organizations and National States to recognize the crucial role of intermediary cities in the local, regional and national development ; we ask for national policies focused on intermediary cities, to reinforce our means and resources, especially finances. We ask as well to be associated in the production of National Urban Policies more inclusive and participative, taking into account gender issues as well.

We recommend to the domestic as well as the international private sector to regard intermediary cities as a place of opportunity to grow their business and contribute to wealth and decent jobs creation in there, thus contributing to the development of a more balanced settlements pattern, which is critical to the mastering of futur urbanization challenges.

We call the City Leaders to plan and develop I-Cities with a responsible governance, centred on human rights, social inclusion, sustainability and atractivity, accountable and respectful of cultural values, gender and diversity, and cultural heritage , to make of Intermediary Cities places of high quality of life and creativity ; so that our cities play their rightful role as the drivers of rural/urban linkages, of the development of local and regional markets, and of the emergence of a sense of belonging and citizenship, fostering development and sustainability as key players for tomorrow's territorial balance.

We call for the promotion of a dialogue between the I-Cities, the regions and the Metropolis for a better management of the flow of goods and migrations, and the well being of all of us in our territories.

We call on the leaders and representatives of Intermediary Cities, Metropolis and international institutions, as well as civil society, experts, academics and professionals, to support this declaration wanted by the leaders and opened to all the development actors in the territory.

**I-Cities are defined as Cities playing a role of intermediation in their regional or national territories : with a potential of Dialogue intermediary or Intermediate Dialogue in their regional or national systems, Dialogue between the forces on the territory, would they be political, economical, environmental, cultural, social and/or human. Although generally defined by the number of inhabitants (between 20.000 and 1 million), I-Cities are more defined by their relationship with their environment and the intermediation concept they do _or are keen to_ develop to generate development.*