



## **Eurasia Local Governments Congress**

### *Local Decisions for Global Development: Towards Eurasian Integration*

## **KAZAN DECLARATION**

**July 31, 2015, Kazan, Russia**

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**We, mayors and representatives of towns, cities, local and regional governments the world over, from small, medium-sized and large towns and cities, from metropolitan areas and regions came together July 31 in Kazan, the Russian Federation, on the occasion of Eurasia Local Governments Congress:**

1. **We confirm** that the founding values of peace, dialogue, and understanding among people and cooperation between local authorities are as relevant today as ever.
2. **We acknowledge** that diversity in all its dimensions is an asset for society and a source of innovation.
3. **We are concerned** by the crises, armed conflicts and natural hazards affecting numerous regions throughout the world and by the pressures on the planet resulting from the effects of climate change, food insecurity, lack of housing, poverty and social exclusion.
4. **We recognize** the need to unite efforts with all local authorities, civil society organizations and other partners, to support peace in the world and to promote the ideas of Eurasian integration.
5. **We consider** that Municipal International Cooperation, partnership, twinning, international local government diplomacy, sister city links, and mutual assistance through various programs and international municipal solidarity initiatives are a vital contribution to the construction of a peaceful and sustainable developed world.
6. **We affirm** the unquestionable political role of local authorities, as effective promoters of peace and dialogue among people and shared wellbeing.
7. **We are convinced** that democracy is built at local level and that current centralized models must be transformed. The local level, as the level of government closest to the people, is that which can best renew the social contract between citizens and public authorities as they are best placed to understand the needs of communities. States are far removed from the daily needs of citizens and increasingly constrained by the constantly changing global economic and financial environment.
8. **We are convinced**, as shown in the Third Global Report on Decentralisation and Local Democracy, GOLD III, that investing in basic services should be a priority as it reduces inequalities and contributes to development.
9. **We call** for European Unions of Local Governments to support the processes of Eurasian integration.

10. **We are committed** to playing our role in overcoming the current crisis, to innovating and revitalising the economy and creating employment in order to meet the increasing demands of essential services for all.
11. **We are highlighting** the commitments made during the previous World Congresses, through which towns, cities and regions participate in reaching the Millennium Development Goals, and welcome the increasing recognition of our World Organization before the United Nations.
12. **We are sure** that Eurasian integration processes correlate with UN Millennium Development Goal.
13. **We oppose** to Eurasia turning into a field for geopolitical games.

**Through this declaration, we, local and regional authorities, our associations and networks commit to:**

1. Continue our mobilization by maintaining the values that unite us.
2. In the international context of crises and conflict and at a time of democratic development, to establish that our activity is aimed to reaching peace, development and contributing to democracy on the local level, to cooperation with the youth to involve them into the development of their territories.
3. Take determined steps toward the realization of the Agenda of Towns, Cities and Regions of the XXI century towards Habitat-III.
4. Acknowledge that the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development “Habitat III” in 2016 be an inclusive process engaging all stakeholders and building on the recommendation of the II World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities.
5. Actively contribute to the preparation of Habitat III by ensuring the consultation of constituencies through the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Authorities for Post 2015 and towards Habitat III
6. Call for one single, bringing together the objectives of eliminating extreme poverty and contributing to prosperity and sustainable development
7. Consider the key elements of Global Agenda for Sustainable Development Post 2015, such as reduction of inequalities, the improvement of cohesion and cooperation between territories and the promotion of governance and local democracy.
8. Believe that the right to the city, inclusion, equality, access to essential services, decent work, adequate housing, culture, and a balanced environment are essential elements in the sustainable future for all.
9. We, local and regional authorities the world over, undersign this declaration with renewed ambitions for the work that our movement must promote for the next 100 years and starting now in the streets of our villages, cities and towns.