

Global Conference on  
**Cities &  
Migration**

16 – 17 November 2017 • Lamot Congress and Heritage Center • Mechelen, Belgium

**PROGRAMME**

As of 15 November 2017

## From Habitat III to the Global Compact on Migration: a role for local authorities

### FIRST DAY – THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER

**09:00 – 10:15** Room: Auditorium (English-French-Spanish-Turkish)

**Hosts' welcoming remarks**

Bart Somers, Mayor of Mechelen

**Keynote remarks by institutional partners**

William Swing, Director General, International Organization for Migration

Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Parks Tau, President, United Cities and Local Governments

**10:15 – 10:30** Break

**10:30 – 12:00** Room: Auditorium (English-French-Spanish-Turkish)

**Guided discussion:** “What are the key elements that can inform the Global Compact on Migration”

In 2018, UN member states will gather at a conference to endorse the first global compact on Migration. Local authorities can make important contributions to this agreement, particularly through innovative and more effective approaches to urban governance that accounts for greater diversity, including migration policies for inclusive growth. Guiding questions might include:

- What could the role of local authorities be in the Global Compact on Migration?
- How can local and regional governments strengthen migration governance at the international level?
- What are the policy gaps that the Global Compact on Migration could fill to bring clarity for action on areas for local action?

**Speakers:**

- Afeku Isa Kato, Mayor of Arua Municipal Council, Uganda
- Yousef Alshawarbeh, Mayor of Greater Amman Municipality, Jordan. Representative of the MC2CM project
- Boubacar Bah, Mayor of Bamako 5th District and President of the Malian Association of Municipalities, Mali

- Emily Ruskin, Fellow, Mayor's Office for Immigration, New York, USA
- Mohammad Ramdhan Pomanto, Mayor of Makassar, Indonesia

**Moderators:**

- Michele Klein-Solomon, Senior Policy Advisor to the Director General, IOM
- Mohamed Boussraoui, Director of Programme, United Cities and Local Government

**12:00 – 12:45**

Lunch Break

**12:45 – 14:45**

Side-events provide a platform to showcase or present innovations or best practices. On the first day of the conference, these will focus on regional approaches to local migration governance. Participation is open to all conference attendees, in line with requirements established by the side-event's organizers.

**Room: Dijlezaal (English-French-Spanish)**

**Side-event:** Mesoamerica and the implementation of the Migrants in Countries in Crisis recommendations, with a specific focus on trafficking and smuggling of migrants  
*Organized by IOM Costa Rica*

Central America is subject to earthquakes as well as hurricanes, creating an important need for majors and local governments to be aware of the following categories of migrant and how to incorporate them in their preparation and response mechanisms: labor migrants within Central America; Central Americans moving to the US or Canada; returnees from Mexico, the US and Canada; irregular transit migrants from Haiti, African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Countries; and the large numbers of tourists from Europe, the US and Canada. The side event will also showcase examples linked to the larger objective of reducing high-risk migration, and counter-trafficking and counter-smuggling approaches, supplemented by activities to educate populations at risk about the dangers of irregular migration and about their legal migration options.

**Room: Herten Aas (English)**

**Side-event:** The Middle East and North Africa perspective  
*Organized by UN Habitat and IOM Regional Offices for the MENA region*

While migration is a global phenomenon, the effects of migration are most felt at the local level. Being a key driver of urban growth, migration makes cities much more diverse places to live in. In this regard, migrants are considered individuals with specific needs during times of crises, but can also become agents of development when the right policies are put in place. The side event will particularly look at the wide range of migration dynamics in the Arab region, experiences gained in addressing those at local level and outline opportunities

migration has provided for more inclusive, resilient cities in the Arab region. This multi-stakeholder event will serve to:

- Identify key facts and figures on rapid urbanization triggered by forced migration as a result of conflicts and natural disasters in the Arab Region;
- Reflect on policy priorities on Arab migration for national, regional and local government which are complementary and coherent, and rooted in the New Urban Agenda;
- Provide guiding principles on how to mainstream and implement sustainable migration policy and management measures which complement and are supported by all governance structures.

Following a general introduction on Arab migration trends and dynamics, concrete examples of local migration practices with potential to become good practices at Arab regional level and inter-regional learning across the Mediterranean basin will be highlighted. By drawing on the involved partners' experiences, lessons learned and approaches taken, this side event will highlight the common understanding of how migration-related commitments of the New Urban Agenda are operationalized in concrete terms.

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#### Room: Alcazar (English-French-Spanish)

**Side-event:** Human mobility and the right to the city  
*Organized by United Cities and Local Governments*

The reception of migrants is at the heart of the challenges linked to the evolution of cities and segregation. From the capacity of local governments, citizens and urban implementation of the right to the city for all will depend in large part on the peaceful future of our predominantly urban societies. The right to the city looks at the use and equal enjoyment of towns and villages, with the aim of promote inclusion and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, can live and create cities and human settlements that are equitable, safe, accessible, resilient and sustainable as common goods that contribute to the prosperity and the quality of life of the inhabitants. Local governments and their administrations are thus called upon to play a leading role for the inclusion of migrants, either through direct action, or in coordination with institutional actors and non-governmental actors including the private sector, associative fabric and citizenship in general.

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#### Outside the venue (10 minute walk)

**Visit to some grassroots projects:** One of the key elements in the migration policy of Mechelen is a solid network of several grassroots projects: a boxing club, a football club, a movie director, a youth club. All of them are role models in the lives of young migrants, searching their way. All of them are telling the story of Mechelen as a diverse city where more than 120 nationalities live together.

All of them are spreading the words of the city hall or was it the other way around? An inspirational meet and greet with Mechelen.

**14:45 – 15:00**

Break

**15:00 – 16:30**

Breakout sessions. Three parallel sessions will provide the space for interactive discussions on key themes proposed in the outcome Declaration.

**Room: Auditorium (English-French-Spanish-Turkish)**

**International cooperation and global governance:**

This session would present innovative partnerships for migration management at local level involving both local and national authorities. City-to-city partnerships to manage the contribution made by migrants to communities of origin and destination, as well as partnerships between migrants, civil society and the private sector, will also be presented. The session will also consider the role of international and specialized organizations in supporting cities' efforts to promote orderly migration. The questions below are among those proposed to guide the discussion:

- What innovative policy instruments and governance arrangements exist at local and regional levels to respond to migration challenges in cities?  
How can international organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector effectively assist cities in building capacities for migration management?

**Speakers:**

- Gilbert Jiminez, Mayor of the Municipality of Desamparados, Costa Rica
- Moahmed Dié, Mayor of Rachid – el Wahat, Mauritania
- Aligi Molina, Councillor, Palma Municipality, Spain
- Musah Iddrisu Executive Mayor of Tamale Metropolitan City, Ghana
- Tekin Başar Vice Mayor of Kecioren, Turkey  
Ettayeb Masbahi, Vice-President of the Regional Council of Oriental, Morocco

**Moderator:**

- Ioana Popp, Policy Officer, IOM Office to the United Nations

**Room: Alcazar (English-French-Spanish)**

**Drivers of migration:**

- Migrants are often disproportionately affected by crises such as conflicts or natural disasters in places in which they are living, working, studying, traveling, or transiting. The earthquake and tsunami in Tohoku, Japan (2011), the floods in Thailand (2011), hurricane Sandy in the United States (2012), and the outbreak of conflicts in the

Central African Republic and in Yemen in recent years are but a few, recent examples where the vulnerability of migrants has been strikingly obvious.

While they can be exceptionally resilient and resourceful, migrants (both internal and international) often face language barriers, restrictions on mobility, irregular immigration status, confiscated or lost identity or travel documents, limited social networks, isolation, and attacks and discrimination that make them particularly vulnerable in the face of such crises. This session will aim to explore the ways in which cities have responded to pressures linked with incoming population flows, have prevented or addressed the specific vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced persons to shocks and crises, and have built on the newcomers' capacities to reduce risks, build resilience and promote the well-being of all city dwellers. The questions below are among those proposed to guide the discussion: What are the experiences of cities that have managed large inflows of migrants or people displaced by crises?

- How can the specific needs and vulnerabilities of urban migrants and displaced persons be addressed? Are specific responses actually needed?
- What responses exist at local level to include migrants and displaced persons in efforts to prevent, prepare for, manage and recover from urban crises (both natural and man-made)?
- How can migrants, Diasporas and home communities contribute to building the resilience of cities of destination and localities in areas of origin?

**Speakers:**

- Francisco Antonio Peña Tavarez Mayor of Santo Domingo Oeste, Dominican Republic
- Soualiho Sylla, Mayor of Tissale, Ivory Coast
- Mario Ismael Valencia Ordoñez, Vice Mayor of Autonomous Decentralized Government of the Canton San Lorenzo Ecuador
- Lilia Umaña Montiel, Vice-Mayor of San Pedro Sula, Honduras
- Luís Bernardo Tiago Nhaca, Councilor of Urban Planning, Maputo, Mozambique  
Mehmet Duman , Secretary General, UCLG Middle East and West Asia

**Moderators:**

- Katja Schaefer, UN Habitat Katja Schaefer, Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States
- Peter Defranceschi, Head of Brussels Office, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

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**Room: Dijlezaal (English-French-Spanish)**

**Human rights of migrants**

Local actors play a key role in supporting migrants exercise their rights, specifically in terms of access to services to which they are entitled by law, employment, housing and access to justice. It is also local governments that are in a position to protect the most vulnerable groups

of migrants, including but not limited to women and children. Guiding questions for this session include:

- What are some good practices to provide adequate access to services?
- How can local authorities best assess the needs and create the most positive impact with the scarce resources available?
- How can local authorities present the use of such resources as not only worthwhile but beneficial to the broader community?

**Speakers:**

- Juan Acevedo Mayor of Upala, Costa Rica
- Abdoulaye Thimbo Mayor of Pikine, Sénégal
- Kagiso Calvin Thutlwe Mayor of Gaborone, Botswana
- Eleftherios Papagiannakis, Vice Mayor on Migrant and Refugee Affairs and Municipal Decentralization, Municipality of Athens, Greece
- Glenda Josefina De León Ovalle, Local Economic Development Specialist, Association of Municipalities of Metropoli de Los Altos, Guatemala
- Amina El Oualid, Deputy Mayor of Nador Municipality, Morocco
- Berta Cao Menéndez, Advisor for Migration and Refuge, Municipality of Madrid, Spain

**Moderators:**

- Eloisa Arruda, Secretary of Human Rights, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Magali Fricaudet, Coordinator of UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Human Rights and Participative Democracy

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**16:30 – 16:45** Break

**16:45 – 17:30** **Room: Auditorium (English-French-Spanish-Turkish)**

**Summary plenary**

Introduced by Jill Helke, Director of International Cooperation and Partnerships, IOM

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**17:30 – 19:00** **Mechelen-Centraal (Common Zone inside the venue)**

**Reception**

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## SECOND DAY – FRIDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2017

09:00 – 09:30 **Room: Auditorium (English-French-Spanish-Turkish)**

### Introduction 2<sup>nd</sup> day

#### Keynote remarks

Alexander De Croo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation, Belgium

09:30 – 11:00 **Room: Auditorium (English-French-Spanish-Turkish)**

#### Guided discussion: Implementation of migration-related commitments of the New Urban Agenda

The growth of cities is overwhelmingly due to migration. The New Urban Agenda (NUA) marks an unprecedented achievement in this respect: integration of all migrants in the UN agenda for action at the local level. There is consensus to “enable all inhabitants [including migrants], whether living in formal or informal settlements, to lead decent, dignified, and rewarding lives and to achieve their full human potential.” States agree that migration takes multiple forms, but all migrants are right holders, whether internal or international, voluntary or forced, and regardless of the causes, legal status or length of stay. Proposed questions to guide the interventions:

- What actions are needed to effectively implement the migration related commitments of the New Urban Agenda?
- Who are the main actors that need to be involved?
- How would this contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals?
- How can a discussion on the needs of migrants, and host communities be taken forward beyond Quito?

#### Speakers:

- Michalis Angelopoulos, Mayor of Samos Island, CEMR representative , Greece
- Boubacar Bah, Mayor of Bamako 5th District and President of the Malian Association of Municipalities, Mali
- Daniel Vecilla, Mayor of Yaguachi, President of Ecuadorian Association of Municipalities
- Eleftherios Papagiannakis, Vice Mayor on Migrant and Refugee Affairs and Municipal Decentralization, Municipality of Athens, Greece

#### Moderators:

- Filiep Decorte, Director ai, New York Liaison Office, UN-Habitat
- Emilia Saiz, Deputy Secretary General of UCLG

11:00 – 11:15

Break

11:15 – 12:45

**Breakout sessions**

**Room: Auditorium (English-French-Spanish-Turkish)**

### **Session 3: Social integration**

The panel will discuss the role of mayors in achieving social cohesion as well as the protection of migrants' rights through comprehensive local policy planning. It will also address the significant role of local authorities who, through their first-hand experiences with migrants, promote inclusive societies by recognizing both the cultural and social contributions made by migrants to cities and by sensitizing local populations to the potential positive impact of diversity. The questions below are among those proposed to guide the discussion:

- How can mayors be part of the solution to effectively manage urban migration and how can they link smart migration policies and urban planning?
- What kind of local strategies can be used to promote migrants' inclusion and integration to facilitate the socioeconomic development of cities?
- How do migrants fare in cities? What is their level of health and well-being and what inclusion challenges do they face?
- What is the role of local authorities in the development of migration policies? How can this role impact the successful integration of migrants?

### **Speakers**

- Abel Cabezas Barrera Mayor of Zacatecoluca, El Salvador
- Rodrigo Delgado Mocarquer, Mayor of Estación Central, Santiago Metropolitan Region, Chile
- Sarah Turine, Deputy Mayor, Molenbeek, Belgium
- Klever Alban, Director of Social Inclusion, Metropolitan Municipal District of Quito, Ecuador
- Eloisa Arruda, Secretary of Human Rights, Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Ephrem Gizaw Haile Head of Labour and Social Affairs Bureau, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Véronique Lamontagne, Advisor on International Relations, Sustainable Development, Human Rights and Migration, Montreal, Canada
- Lola Lopez, Commissioner for Migration, Barcelona, Spain
- Teymour Ashkan, Founder of Istanbul&I

### **Moderators:**

- Juan Acevedo, Mayor of Upala, Costa Rica.
- Colleen Thouez, UNITAR

### Room: Alcazar (English-French-Spanish)

#### **Session 2: Migrant smuggling and human trafficking, addressing irregular migration**

Human trafficking is a scourge which leads to incalculable suffering of migrants, while filling the pockets of criminals and organized transnational criminal groups. Smuggling migrants likewise supports criminal enterprises, makes migrants more vulnerable and even victims of trafficking and makes it all the more difficult for the poorest to benefit from safe and orderly migration. Key questions that can guide the discussion as to how mayors and governors of regional governments can fight against trafficking and smuggling:

- What can local authorities do to provide immediate assistance to migrants?
- How can local authorities crack down on traffickers and smugglers?
- What could the Global Compact on Migration include to make regular migration options more regular and transparent?
- How can local authorities reduce the factors that drive migrants take such risks?

#### **Speakers**

- Mohamed Dié, Mayor of Rachid – el Wahat, Mauritania
- Musah Iddrisu Executive Mayor of Tamale, Ghana
- Tekin Başar, Vice Mayor of Kecioren, Turkey
- Gustavo Baroja, Prefect of Pichincha Province, President of CONGOPE, Ecuador

#### **Moderators:**

- TBC

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### Room: Dijlezaal (English-French-Spanish)

#### **Session 1: Migration and sustainable urban development**

Cities are experiencing constant internal and international migration flows that bring with them increasing population density and diversity, as well as creating complex interconnections between cities at the national, regional and global levels. While managing the complexities of increasing mobility and migration can be challenging for cities, there are significant potential benefits in terms of city growth and development. This session will discuss how both internal and international migration shape the social, demographic and economic life of cities around the world. It will look at how local and city leaders adapt to the rapidly changing demographic dynamics prompted by migration and present best practices to manage and leverage the potential of migration for the socioeconomic development of cities. The questions below are among those proposed to guide the discussion:

- How are migration factors included in cities' policymaking processes?
- How does migration contribute to the future of cities and how are population movements taken into account?

- What are the main challenges associated with growing mobility flows towards urban spaces?  
How do migrants contribute to building partnerships between cities of origin and destination? What role do Diasporas play in connecting cities and promoting co-development?

**Speakers:**

- Francisco Antonio Peña Tavarez Mayor of Santo Domingo Oeste, Dominican Republic
- Mohammad Ramdhan Pomanto. Mayor of Makassar, Indonesia
- Kagiso Calvin Thutlwe Mayor of Gaborone, Botswana
- Development Specialist, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala
- Luis Nhaca Councilor of Urban Planning, Maputo, Mozambic

**Moderators:**

- TBC
- Vice-Mayor of Ahuachapán, El Salvador

**12:45 – 13:30**

Lunch Break

**13:30 – 14:30**

Side events provide a platform to showcase or present innovations or best practices. Participation is open to all conference attendees, in line with requirements established by the side-event organizers.

**Room: Scala (English)**

**Side event: Youth Migration: Why the Silence**

UN-Habitat Youth Unit and the Youth Advisory Board

This side-event will discuss the social and economic risks and opportunities for young people which can either lead to their development or the very opposite, depending on policies and measures supporting them at the local city level. Strong, evidence-based migration and youth policies are the cornerstones of ensuring that the benefits and opportunities of youth migration are fully harnessed. Legislation, policies and administrative regulations that affect young migrants should comply with international obligations under international human rights, labor, and immigrants' law. It will also discuss the expected benefits/contributions of a more empowered role of the local youth bodies, such as the city youth councils on the immigration and the refugee crisis. It will disseminate successful examples on how cooperation at all levels of government- local, national, regional and international can lead to better integration of youth in cities and harness the development potential of youth migration while mitigating associated risks. Finally, the event will also strengthen meaningful youth participation in the migration policy debate and feature effective

programming.

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### Room: Dijlezaal (English-French-Spanish)

#### **Side event: The European perspective**

Organized by IOM Regional Office for the European Union and IOM Coordination Office for the Mediterranean.

The rise of migration flows to the EU reinforced the need for strengthen socio-economic and health services for migrants and refugees. In this scenario, municipalities remain the key actors in the implementation of enabling policies fostering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of well managed migration and Member States commitment to “*leave no one behind*”. This calls for new, innovative and effective local governance processes that are able to strengthen local governments’ services, expanding their reach to the people most in need while making them sustainable over time. The side event intends to showcase different local governance models in the provision of socio-economic and health services for migrants and refugees in Europe, with a focus on integration outcomes, integration policies, and other contextual factors that can impact operational effectiveness in Member States at municipal level.

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### Room: Hertzen Aas (English)

#### **Side-event: Global Migration: Resilient Cities at The Forefront**

Organized by the Rockefeller Foundation’s 100 Resilient Cities Initiative

As first points of arrival, transit, and ultimate destinations of millions of migrants, cities are at the forefront of the challenges of global migration, but are also well-placed to deliver solutions that benefit existing and new residents. Moderated by Lina Liakou, current 100RC Director for Europe and the Middle East and former Deputy Mayor and Chief Resilience Officer for Thessaloniki, Greece, this panel will focus on approaches and tactics to leverage urban migration, including that of displaced populations, as an opportunity to build resilience in cities. Representing municipal governments operating in different contexts, panelists will deliberate over successes (and failures) in addressing global migration issues at the local level and coordinating with national and international partners. They will also share concrete examples of how they’ve incorporated migration considerations into Resilience Strategies and other city-wide plans. In partnership with the session’s audience, panelists will then brainstorm and propose concrete ideas to be included in Mechelen Declaration, the official document generated by the Conference meant to inform the development of the Global Compact on Migrants.

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**Outside the venue (10 minute walk)**

**Visit to the social house:** Migrants are often more than natives in need of professional help on a local level. In the social house of Mechelen we find different social services under the same roof. Social workers will present their projects and results in the continuous battle to fight poverty and strive to achieve everyone's full potential. An inspirational meet and greet with Mechelen.

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**14:30 – 14:45**

Break

**14:45 – 16:30**

**Room: Auditorium (English-French-Spanish-Turkish)**

**Summary plenary**

Introduced by UN-Habitat, Christophe Lalande, Leader, Housing Unit, Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch

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**16:30 – 17:30**

**Room: Auditorium (English-French-Spanish-Turkish)**

**Closing plenary**

Presentation of the Declaration of the Conference  
Bart Somers, Mayor of Mechelen

Best practices on cooperation for migration governance at local and national levels  
William Swing, IOM Director General

Inputs to the follow up and implementation of the New Urban Agenda  
Joan Clos, UN-Habitat Executive Director

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**Closing remarks**

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