



## **UCLG-MEWA**

### **INTERMEDIARY CITIES DECLARATION**

**We, as the leaders of Intermediary Cities (I-Cities) in the MEWA region,** gathered in Nevşehir, Turkey on **21-22 September 2017**, on the occasion of **Intermediary Cities MEWA Regional Forum**; to reaffirm UCLG Intermediary Cities Declaration, adopted during the UCLG Congress in Bogota, Colombia on 12-15 October 2016 and Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, on 17-20 October 2016;

#### **recognizing that:**

- I-Cities constitute 38.5% of the urban population (approx. 90.800.000 inhabitants) in the MEWA region; which makes them key actors in localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the Goal 11 on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, as well as the New Urban Agenda,
- MEWA region is currently facing an unprecedented migration influx, which gives I-Cities of the region a greater role in terms of acting as buffer zones for the better management of this influx, as they are instrumental in managing migration flows into the big metropolises as the final points of arrival,
- I-Cities in the MEWA region also have an important position, with their pivotal role in territorial governance and exchange, and in the promotion of positive dialogue between metropolises, small cities and rural areas to settle conflicts among communities,
- Taking advantage of their tight-knit social fabric and their characteristics of ideal size and 'human scale', I-Cities have a strong resilience against external shocks,
- Through their ideal scale, intermediary cities also offer an optimal area for successful implementation for bottom-up governance and participatory democracy, setting a model for larger cities,
- I-Cities in the MEWA region can become major stakeholders and natural partners in global sustainable development as they have an optimal use of available resources with a limited impact on environment;

#### **calling:**

- International organizations and national states in the MEWA region to recognize the crucial role of intermediary cities in terms of local, regional and national development, and to develop national policies with a focus on intermediary cities,
- National governments and international agencies in the MEWA region to provide support to I-Cities for a better management of the current migration challenges in the region, and to develop migration policies that are responsive to the specific dynamics of I-Cities,
- The private sector to invest in I-Cities, and national governments to incentivize I-Cities in their specific promising sectors, in consideration of their future potential for establishing a more balanced overall development pattern;

**declare collectively that:**

- We will work together towards developing efficient economic flows through supporting local markets and production as well as uplifting inter-municipal cooperation in service and infrastructure provision, supporting local enterprises and boosting a more endogenous local economic development, as well as promoting circular economy,
- We will work together towards increasing overall regional and national economic resilience by providing an investment-friendly environment for the investors and entrepreneurs from all sectors, and by ensuring an optimal use of our local and financial resources,
- We will work together towards developing new strategies for branding, through promoting their added values, and gaining more recognition on national, regional and international levels by highlighting our local assets with a united voice; to promote the historical and cultural wealth of our cities,
- We will establish stronger inter-municipal cooperation mechanisms among the I-Cities in the MEWA region by ensuring development of multi-actor partnerships, with an aim to promote an effective dissemination of good practices and contribute to the overall balanced welfare of the region,
- We will use the synergy stemming from the ideal size and population of our cities, to ensure improved social cohesion by fostering horizontal and vertical dialogue among local communities which can eventually feed into national and regional peace,
- We will work towards mobilizing a local movement on global agendas, in particular the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda, by developing our institutional capacity and raising overall awareness on the issue, with an aim to *leave no one behind*.

In the light of the foregoing, we commit ourselves to promote the principles and the recommendations included in this declaration, ensuring that this document effectively contributes to the creation of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable intermediary cities in the MEWA region. We therefore pledge our support for these common objectives and our determination to achieve them.

*22 September 2017*

*Nevşehir, Turkey*