



1st World Forum Intermediary Cities



5-7 July 2018
Chefchaouen-Morocco

“Imagining the urban future together through Intermediary Cities”
Implementing the Global Agendas in Intermediary Cities

UCLG Forum of Intermediary Cities

Intermediary Cities’ positioning document

for « The World Forum of Intermediary Cities »

Introductory key points

A strategic world momentum

International institutions have generated a strategic momentum for the planet when defining the 2030 Agenda, Climat Agenda and New urban Agenda, between all the Global Agendas. This momentum is happening thanks to the awareness of the international institutions and nations worldwide getting engaged and implicated in the process of saving the planet, through global instruments for all : transmitting values, awareness and a deep dynamic of transformation of the societies towards a better engagement with the Earth.

The role of Local Governments and UCLG at the heart of the implementation

International institutions know that no implementation of this dynamic and recommendations will happen without the implication of local government, and the citizens they do represent.

Knowing that the local action is the channel to get the international recommendations to the ground where citizens' daily life happens, and that the direct implication of the citizenship and the local governments are the only institutional channel, the dynamic of implementation of the Global Agendas through local governments represents a unique breach for mayors to play their role. This enhances the necessity and responsibility of the UCLG World Institution and the role it has to play, because cities like the intermediary Cities are given a voice for their specificities and added values, giving them an opportunity to take up their responsibility in the global dynamic of sustainability.

A unique chance to complete the 'Earth sustainability project'

Having in mind that Intermediary Cities are each one of them inscribed in their own territories, they offer a unique chance to complete the sustainability agendas through their development. The call made by the

Intermediary Cities through this World Forum is to those international institutions that have launched the Global Agendas, to engage in processes and policies that will allow Intermediary Cities to take their responsibilities, through unlocking the unique potential they offer, enabling everyone to take their responsibility towards the future of the planet.

A global urban democracy to unlock local implementation processes

Generating a local urban democracy for the 75% of the urban population that will be living in urban environment in 2050, is another aim of the Forum : 50% of this population is estimated to be in Intermediary Cities. The right decision today would be to generate an instrument that helps while the urban evolution is building up, to integrate the population coming from spaces where democracy and its rules are unknown, to implicate her and be responsible towards the sustainability of the Earth, knowing that no implementation can happen, if it is not done through democratic values and processes.

Decisions taken today for the urban future through Intermediary Cities

Implementing Global Agendas in Intermediary Cities is the aim of the UCLG Forum of Intermediary Cities. Therefore, generating the right policies for the realities lived by the Intermediary Cities, and right recommendations to enable them to fulfill the conditions to take their responsibility when it comes to the planet sustainability is crucial.

Local Implementation in Intermediary Cities generates Value at all scales

Indeed, implementing sustainable actions in Intermediary cities will be generating Value from the existing potential and resources. Not only when talking about Human Capital, but also as urban spaces and environment for “good living” and quality of life, but at territorial level and National level.

The UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities' vision

Indeed, Intermediary cities have been living apart from the Global international policies and recommendations until Quito (October, 2016), Habitat III where they got integrated into the New Urban Agenda in different paragraphs thanks to the lobbying and work done by the Local Governments through UCLG.

Since Habitat III, what was a working group became a political organ of UCLG on Intermediary Cities, based on their specificities and the potential they offer to the Planet sustainability. UCLG : *the Forum of Intermediary Cities*.

The vision is about :

- building a concrete positioning through a specific role based on their specific added value to the Earth sustainability,
- generating a shared vision of sustainability between by all local governments of Intermediary Cities and International Institutions through the implementation of the Global Agendas.
- Launching a specific agenda enabling the implementation of policies, generation of processes and instruments for Intermediary cities in a synergy dynamic with International Institutions.

This document aims at developing the Why, What, How, Where and Who of this milestone that is the World Forum into a general strategy of the UCLG Forum and the vision of its President Mr Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of the Intermediary City of Chefchaouen (Morocco).

WHY

Today, the Forum is organizing a World Forum of Intermediary Cities as a step into a specific strategy : an event conceived as **a platform to gather international decision makers and international institutions, as well as different levels of governance, joining together around a shared vision and strategy for the Intermediary Cities of the World.**

WHO

After monitoring implementation through the continents & regions

After building up the World Forum by monitoring in the continents & regions the implementation in the Intermediary Cities, **the strongest messages from Local Governments were :**

We are aware that we need a global impact on sustainability to make it happen. This means that we need a global answer, and our cities can help that : Intermediary cities cover the major urban areas geographically speaking on the planet, furthermore each Intermediary City is defined by its inscription in its territory : this makes of the Intermediary Cities a unique potential in implementing the Global Agendas in a larger area of coverage of the Earth. This explains why the Intermediary Cities must be seen, taken as a whole, receiving answers and implementing on a world recommendations basis.

We, Local Governments of Intermediary Cities, are ready to take our responsibility, however we need :

- *to be enabled to do that*
- *support from **the international level and the national level of governance** : policies, instruments and methodologies*
- *means to face up specific challenges that are similar to most of us*
- *instruments & means (global instruments that we can adapt following each city specificity) to unlock the potential our cities represent*

- ***implicate our citizens in the dynamic so that our strategies are understood and supported, made sustainable by them, as well as integrating innovative approach from them***

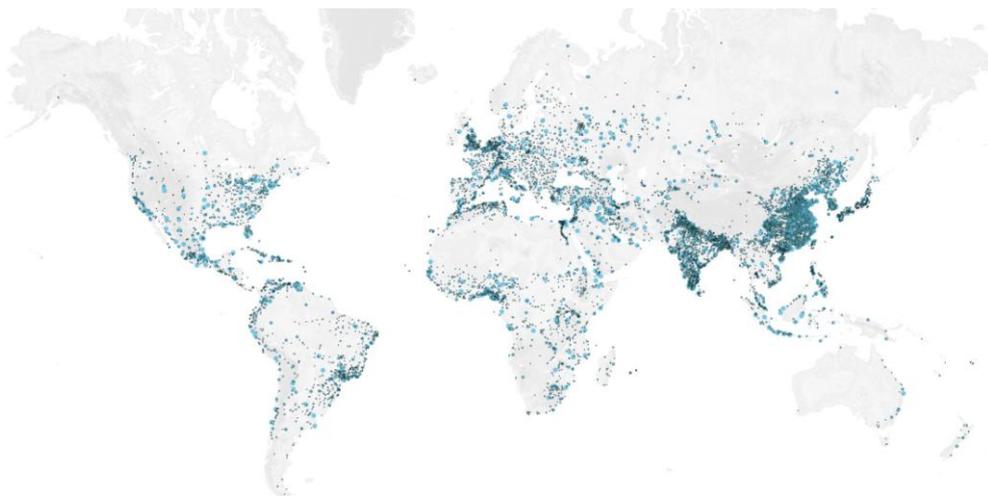
We need to unlock the high potential of our cities and territories through the empowerment of their strengths and through facing some challenges we deal with on a daily basis.

WHAT

The philosophy is based on a shared true narrative : Intermediary Cities have *a great potential* to play a significant (if not determinant) role in the planet sustainability. This potential have not neither been seen, neither been developed to empower the Intermediary Cities to play their role.

The Global Agendas are an instrument for a deep transformative dynamic on the planet : they play a unique role of transformation of our societies, and this can not be done at different scales and levels which would generates less equity in the world, but at the inverse : **local governments are asking for their ‘Right to implement Global Agendas’, and be players at the world level.**

Knowing that each daily act of each citizen has an impact on the global scale, what would be the strength of having all local governments of Intermediary Cities taking/using ‘their’ right to implement sustainable dynamics in their city/territory?



Map of the Intermediary Cities of the World following UNESCO Chair Standards – Borja Iglesias

Intermediary Cities, because of the characteristic of the proximity that they offer, **can't afford to 'forget' that the local governments represent the citizens**, and as so, they are dealing on a daily basis with the challenges the citizens are meeting : poverty, lack of employability, waste management, infrastructure, number/high/quality of the constructions and lack of basic services, like health, water, healthy environment, are some of the challenges faced by the mayors and asked by the citizens.

All these challenges can be transformed into opportunities through the implementation of projects for sustainable development, directly linked to the strengths these cities have.

Intermediary Cities have their own strengths and those strengths can be of an added value when talking about sustainability implementation at global level, as well as at national level.

HOW can we unlock the potential of these cities, allowing on one hand the Local Governments and Mayors to take their responsibility in the world dynamic, and on the other hand, open perspectives to generate development, but a sustainable one, through the direct implication of the citizens of the Intermediary Cities, that will represent in the future 20 years, half of the urban population of the world.

There are concrete localizations *where* this potential resides and this must be studied and answered through specific instruments.

Unlocking Intermediary Cities Potential

Unlocking the potential of the biggest strength : the critical mass of Intermediary Cities of the world. This will mean in the future that today **the right decisions were made at the right time** :

1. Building together an agenda for Intermediary Cities with the most relevant International Institutions for the most relevant topics
2. Bringing on the table the decision makers to :
 - make them aware of this hidden potential,
 - support them to make the right decision with this potential : this means accompanying them on the right focus when it comes to talk, speak or decide about Intermediary Cities.
 - set a true permanent platform to develop the agenda

WHERE

There are tables of negotiations that the Local governments of Intermediary Cities need to seat on, to be able to express their needs, and propose or receive proposals for policies (local, national or international), instruments and methodologies to enable them to fulfill their tasks in correct conditions.

Political development

Therefore the World Forum is developing with the following concept: **organizing tables of negotiations that will allow the Local Governments** to express the needs, bring answers on the tables, and exchange directly with the world institutions on how it is possible to make it happen, would they be from continental level, or international level or national level of governance.

Any validated recommendation or policy or methodology will be an opportunity for developing a reflection, a public policy, and/or milestones for the agenda that will come out from the tables. Any engagement made from an institution or National level of governance will be part of the agenda coming out from the event : **this agenda and the recommendations will constitute a first Charter of the Intermediary Cities of the World.**

A document that will be a basis for Local Governments of the world to advocate, implement or justify for 'support's asking'. The objective is an "enabling document" that will integrate different means for the Mayors as a reference, as well as an agenda for further development.

The agenda will aim to reveal and empower the Intermediary Cities potential :

A. At global Level, the Critical mass of the Intermediary Cities represents the potential of an *impact on Earth sustainability*:

1. *A Critical mass to be able to raise the level of basic services for the citizenship of a country or at world level, to be able to say : half of the citizenship of the world are on a sustainability path.*

2. *A Critical mass at global level to leverage the balance rural-urban for food & agro-alimentation versus industrial alimentation in the present and in the future*
3. *A critical mass to share Values all around the world : Values around sustainable implementation, setting a different Dialogue between Public authorities and citizenship (looking together at the same common target),*

B. At national level, a critical mass of intermediary cities represent :

1. *A possibility for another economical development model, an alternative one, based on the proximity with the human capital, on the unlocked natural resources and realities of the territories through their tangible and non-tangible Value, that could be relevant in different sectors : tourism, culture, gastronomy, local know-how on cultural basis or handmade basis to be empowered, local economy to be empowered, etc.*
2. *Connectivity & Mobility* : another possibility of connecting the infrastructures, based on the intermediation between Intermediary Cities and their territories. This connectivity and mobility can address the issue of mobility through another angle less cost generator, and more in 'Value Capture' concept, in respect of the territories and their specific potential.
3. *Another way of looking at migration issues from abroad and local (rural-urban) :*
 - a. to facilitate the integration through the implication of the new citizens to the city dynamics,
 - b. The development of a urban democracy that will integrate the migrants through Values and respect of the existing DNA of the city.
4. *Spreading public policies on the territories* : Intermediary cities at national level are also a possibility of developing a Climat Agenda for example at national level that will be spread on the territories through public policies

C. At territorial level, the concept of Intermediation is at the heart of the intermediary city dynamic of development through the rural-urban linkages :

1. *The question of the in-between _ in-between rural and urban spaces_ : why this limit should be treated as the waste place by bringing pollution, contaminated industries, deposit site of the waste of the city, instead of the*

generating a value from this limit to enhance the *concept of “Value Catcher”* of the city. And furthermore, generating a strategy of waste management and treatment from Local government, will bring a landscape treatment for a better environment of life.

2. *Balance on the territory between Nature & Construction* : what instrument could help the local municipalities in defining a bold extension in the limit of the city, but as a place to live in, setting specific rules to master is the extension growing, it will keep specific balance – Concept of *“Evolutive strategic planning”* between rural & urban, and *Concept of Green rate of occupation of Land* (GROL instrument).
3. *The local economy Value chain* : the question of the rural Culture & Traditions located in the generation of Local Economic Development : traditional food in compliance with a local production & agriculture and with a gastronomy centered economical development and culture, in synergy with the earth quality, characteristics and survival (before resilience). Generating a cycle of regeneration of the Value chain in the local economy stimulated by local consumption : *the ‘right’ consumption & production, to allow the resilience of the circle of regeneration*, without overexploitation.
4. *“Good Living” concept in the way of “relationshiping”* : the question of keeping alive this local culture of bonds and behavior, respect of traditions and the “living” together of ‘Homo urbanus’ and ‘Homo ruralus’ are a complete part of the “Good Living” concept.
5. The question of bringing together Natural Resources with Heritage is Intermediation as well, since it does gather the concept of Heritage (tangible & non-tangible) with the idea of keeping alive the Planet’s Nature, as something we are all responsible for, and have the obligation to transmit to the future generations.

D. A sustainable ‘living’ the Intermediary City :

1. *The potential of keeping alive bonds between people* like it only happens in Intermediary Cities : it is a societal question, directly linked to the *safety of the city and social cohesion, quality of being and living, respecting the other in a specific environment of the Intermediary City* : characteristics like proximity, local feeling of belonging (where ever the

citizen comes from), sense of attractiveness of Nature from urban side, make of the Intermediary city a special place to live, in respect of the environment, would it be natural or artificial.

2. *The DNA of the city : a key challenge to the intermediary cities of the world is the Brain drain and retaining talents & Human capital in the city*, as well as keeping alive what the city, as local government and citizens decide as being crucial to the city identity and belonging: the DNA of the city.
3. *The potential of generating value from the existing life (nature-rural-urban), economy, behaviors, bonds in Intermediary Cities*: all are a combination of assets that should be taken as cumulative combination to the sustainability of the city. This crucial point is the one that will allow local governments to manage a development without having to compromise the sustainability of the city & territory : not accepting contaminated industries, unbalanced strategies of development, because they will have an alternative way of generating a value, (and a value chain) from which citizenship can generate revenues, as well as the city enabling both to act towards the sustainability of the community and territories.