

## **Panel B**

### **Building Consciousness: Citizenship as a multiplier of SDG implementation and impact on the Climate Agenda**

Friday 6 July – 11:45-13:00

The UCLG Forum on Intermediary Cities is a consultation and policy development process that culminates in an event every two years. The Forum, conceived as a political process, is led by the City of Chefchaouen with the support of a core group of pilot intermediary cities.

As preparation for the first World Forum of Intermediary Cities, a series of Regional Forums were conducted. During these regional gatherings, discussions led to the identification of challenges and opportunities for intermediary cities as key actors for sustainable development and their particular role in the localization of the different global agendas (Paris Agreement, 2030 Agenda, Sendai Framework, New Urban Agenda).

A series of key topics and recommendations were identified, and provide the inputs to be discussed in the different thematic tables. The key outputs of these sessions will be included in the Charter of the Intermediary Cities of the World.

Proximity and a human scale are a strong capital of intermediary cities. These factors have a positive impact on the quality of life for all inhabitants and foster a strong feeling of belonging. These strengths, as well as a strong rural-urban link are some of the characteristics that create a special quality of life in intermediary cities. Nonetheless, due to lack of resources and opportunities, intermediary cities face the loss of human capital and talent, which triggers the question of how to create opportunities for all inhabitants, while maintaining all positive attributes of life in intermediary cities.

## **Possible Framing Questions and Recommendations**

### **1. A new kind of dialogue between local governments and citizenry: assuming shared responsibilities**

- Building capacities and creating awareness of the municipal administration is crucial to improve the services provided to the citizenry.
- For social conflict resolution strategies and the development of innovative policies to achieve social cohesion and peace, it is important to consider structured dialogues as a key instrument.
- In order to enable a better response and manage stressful situations, it is essential to count on strategies to train local officials.
- To sustain the localization of the global agendas over time, the involvement of all inhabitants is crucial. An open dialogue between the citizenry and local government is crucial, as is the incorporation of mechanisms that enable the skills of the inhabitants beyond employability.

## **PROPOSALS:**

### ***Developing instruments and mechanisms***

- *Develop instruments to monitor the participation of different actors in city life and decision making processes, with special attention paid to the inclusion of minorities and rural communities.*
- *Develop mechanisms to make participation accessible to all, including older people, young people, rural populations, women and cultural minorities.*
- *Develop instruments like an Intermediary City Vision 2030: a methodology of dialogue through which all actors can envision the city, building local narratives and success stories together.*
- *Taking advantage of the proximity dimension of intermediary cities, local governments can reinforce processes to co-create a common narrative for the city that incorporate local stories, focusing on the role of the citizenry.*

### ***Municipal empowerment and citizen empowerment: enabling all actors to take on their own responsibilities:***

- *Develop strategies to enable the development of skills and capacities of all inhabitants towards sustainable and resilient societies.*

## **2. Values and rights: rebuilding trust and human value through participatory approaches**

- Programmes to monitor the municipality's actions on the ground need to include capacity building and training strategies for the local staff that take into account their technological knowledge.
- Participatory approaches are key to implementation, especially when talking about the hidden potential of the citizenry: better means of expression for women and youth should be found to unlock the potential they represent for city development at all levels.

## **PROPOSALS:**

- *The concept of citizenship value: a new concept that defines a local bill of rights and values, for/by/with citizens to jointly define and imagine the future urban world.*
- *Develop an instrument to build trust between elected officials and inhabitants, to re-believe in the political system on one hand, and to believe in the human capital on the other: rules for dialogue and conduct.*

## **3. Citizen participation and organized civil society**

- The development and implementation of local projects need to incorporate a clear strategy to ensure transparency in management models at the local level.
- Citizen platforms are a suitable response strategy to raise awareness about projects and actions taken by local governments. These platforms support management models based on transparency and allow citizens to exercise control mechanisms over decisions related to land management and use.
- Innovation and the integration of smart solutions should be directed to improve citizen participation and transparency, as well as facilitate the involvement of local actors in the development of policies, in particular those related to the development of sustainable and inclusive urban settlements.

- It is key to fully involve the citizenry in the processes to co-create a common vision for the future of intermediary cities. The creation of a common vision needs to include monitoring mechanisms that are able to link different sectors of society, indiscriminate of their technical skills.

#### **PROPOSALS:**

- *Structure civil society through a channel that raises awareness of the global agendas and citizens' responsibility on those matters, with the aim of driving civil society to strengthen its role and implication in the implementation of global agendas.*
- *Generalize the brand 'SDGs' as a powerful instrument to strengthen the participation and implication of civil society in the intermediary city through generating a co-branding: with the people and by the people, to increase attractiveness and strengthen the feeling of belonging.*

#### **Concept of the Smart, Social & Human Intermediary City:**

- *Can we generate "Intermediary City Smart Governance", based on values, enabling people to access basic services at national or sub-national levels?*