

Chefchaouen Declaration-Charter of the Intermediary Cities of the World

First UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities

Chefchaouen, Morocco, 7 July 2018

We, leaders and representatives of intermediary cities, gathered at global level, present in our diversity and fully committed to the first UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities held in Chefchaouen from 5 to 7 July 2018:

- Acknowledge the Moroccan experience on the issue and the support provided by the public authorities and their partners during the good discussions held at the World Forum, and the opportunities that this offers for a better consideration of intermediary cities in the global agenda, with great interest;
- Have taken into account the discussions led in all world regions with a view to bring the common voice of intermediary cities to the local, national and international levels;
- Note that, from now on, intermediary cities represent at least half of the world's urban population, in all regions of the world;
- Are convinced that the defence of local democracy and social inclusion are the conditions to ensure that no one is left behind;
- And call for the urgent implementation of strategies for ecological transition;

Declare the following:

That it is necessary to root the global development agendas in the human values, knowledge and experiences of intermediary cities.

That there is a need for a better structure and definition of the "living systems" of territories that can be translated into strategies that can be developed, understood and supported at international level.

That it is necessary to concretize multi-level dialogue as a regulatory mechanism for the definition and implementation of the local, national and global agendas.

That it is important to strengthen systems of local solidarity in order to achieve the global goals, from a human scale that is essentially found in intermediary cities, whatever their size.

That it is necessary to defend quality of life and access to basic services in their territories in order to reduce inequalities.

That it is essential to promote integrated models of governance involving all levels of governance: national governments, metropolitan governments and rural areas.

That, as a space of intermediation between the rural and urban, intermediary cities are essential to the structuring and territorial organization of the economy, and act as shock absorbers and decompression chambers when faced with the negative impacts of exchanges and fluxes at global level.

That the resilience of intermediary cities is strongly linked to their identity, culture and the defence of diversity.

We commit to:

Develop concrete actions that will complement the orientations identified below in the form of an Action Plan, and commit to pursue the actions towards holding the second UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities.

Work as a network and make this work fruitful.

Work on the following strategies to ensure a change in economic, human, social, cultural and environmental models:

Intermediary cities as “value capture” and citizens as drivers of economic growth

1. **Generate a constructive dialogue between metropolises and intermediary cities** with a view to implementing the global agendas and towards sustainable co-development, taking into account decent work and the involvement of youth.
2. **Generate an inclusive dialogue** with central governments that can support the participation of and listening to intermediary cities in the development of national policies, with a view to developing a national strategy for intermediary cities that strengthens their assets, supports solidarity between cities within the same national systems, and positions them as an integral part of co-development at the national level.

Building consciousness: citizenship as a multiplier of SDG implementation and impact on the Climate Agenda

3. **Define and recognize citizenship value** based on urban citizenship and grounded in participatory processes as an inclusion tool to integrate vulnerable groups, and the development of instruments to measure the participation of different actors in the life of the city and decision-making processes, paying particular attention to the inclusion of minorities and rural communities.

Leveraging intermediary cities in the world: a unique potential for global sustainability and territorial justice

4. Recognize the **right to be identified as actors and leaders of development**, capable of integrating and valuing women and minority groups, in the implementation of global agendas for, in and with intermediary cities.
5. Work towards a **referencing of basic services**: considering the increased pressure that intermediary cities are facing in terms of resources, basic public services and infrastructure, a reference document of the basic minimum services for intermediary cities should be explored.

Strengthening and making the culture of “good living” a sustainable reality

6. **Consider the territory as an eco-responsible system** used as an instrument for the preservation of the natural environment in its own right, by generating a product value supply chain across different types of intermediary cities based on local entrepreneurship, as well as towards the preservation and enhancement of culture in the territories.
7. **Develop a green land use ratio**, or coefficient of land covering, concept of evolutive planning and green land-use planning, putting in place specific rules to control the balance between urban and rural, and to help local municipalities guarantee quality of life in their territories.
8. Put in place **housing policies for each inhabitant in areas of high value and quality of life**, bringing added value to the intermediary city and, at the same, time allowing the reception and integration of migrants from rural areas, metropolises and others, in a decent way, protecting the rights of each of them.

The concept of natural resources as heritage for humanity

9. **Develop the concept of the “Climate Intermediary City”**: with relation to the fight against climate change, a “climate intermediary city” based on local indigenous knowledge, in order to act at a human scale and release the potential of sustainable development on the planet; and develop the concept of Intermediary Cities Green Funds to be used to support natural biodiversity, the treatment of endemic plants and transparency in the management of natural resources and food systems that reinforce the ecologic transition.

Building on the strong of the values of solidarity, responsibility, transparency and service that characterize our century-old global movement, we, intermediary cities, commit to contribute to the global agendas by bringing the rich experiences of our territories, centred on human values, to them, and by acting as bridge between all urban, metropolitan and rural communities.