UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE (HLD) SIDE EVENT

On Local Government: Taking the Migration and Development Agenda Forward

Hosted by KNOMAD, JMDI and UNITAR

In collaboration with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration

13'15 – 14'50
4 October 2013
United Nations Headquarters, New York

Summary and Proposed Next Steps
Four Channels of Support

Summary

The close proximity of local and regional authorities (LRAs) to their constituencies – their direct experience in implementing policy, their potential to initiate multi-stakeholder dialogue and participatory decision-making, as well as the range of skills that they have often developed in spatial development planning – make them central actors on the stage of global migration.

Despite LRAs' role at the forefront in addressing migration's challenges and opportunities, their full potential is constrained by, in many cases: a general lack of resources; low levels of awareness of local migration dynamics and their connection with development impacts; undefined competencies and responsibilities within local administrations; and varying degrees of decentralization, among other factors.

Building on existing initiatives and partnerships with national and sub-national governments targeted to LRAs, but also diaspora groups and other relevant civil society organizations, the following new initiatives and areas of support have emerged following the UN General Assembly High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development Side Event entitled "*On Local Government: Taking the Migration and Development Agenda Forward*" which took place on 4 October at the United Nations in New York and in which 80 persons participated:

Four Channels of Support

High Level Political Convening and Political Declaration

Under the aegis of the Mayor's Office, the City of Barcelona, with relevant partners, networks and expected support, is scheduled to host a strategic *Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility and the Post 2015 Development Framework*, gathering 15-20 mayors from around the world during the fourth Quarter of 2014. The Forum will serve to: catalyse policy leaders in cities and regions around the key challenges and opportunities of mobility

and development; shape a vision for what is required to carry a "mobility and development" agenda forward for cities and regions in the form of a political declaration; and channel global visibility on the role played by sub-national government.

Recognition, Visibility and Support at Highest Levels of UN System

As the UN's second High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development assesses how migration fits into the post-2015 development framework, the role of local and regional governments must become a focus of attention. In his upcoming article "*UN Migration Summit: 10 Commitments States Can Make*", the UN Special Representative for International Migration Peter Sutherland reaffirms this point, arguing that local authorities should play a greater role in designing and implementing policies that amplify the development impact of migration.

New Investment in Policy Tools and Dedicated Research

The recently launched Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), financially supported by the Governments of Germany and Switzerland, through its 12 working groups two of which are specifically dedicated to supporting LRAs in this field (integration issues in host communities, and internal migration and urbanisation) will seek to create and synthesize multidisciplinary knowledge, generate a menu of policy options and provide technical assistance and capacity building for all migration stakeholders including LRAs.

Multi-agency/UN Commitment to Technical Support

As of 2013, with financial support from the European Commission and Switzerland, the JMDI that it is led by UNDP and implemented in partnership with IOM, ILO, UN Women, UNFPA and UNHCR, is up-scaling on-going initiatives managed by LRAs in eight target countries across three continents; developing knowledge products on migration and development specifically targeted towards LRAs, and through its web- based platform, connecting LRAs globally (www.migration4development.org). Moreover, UNITAR through its CIFAL Network, and dedicated Learning Platform on Human Mobility will continue to support demand-driven requests for technical support in this field (www.unitar.org/human-mobility-programme).