



UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE (HLD) SIDE EVENT

On Local Government: Taking the Migration and Development Agenda Forward

Hosted by KNOMAD, UNDP and UNITAR

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

4 October 2013

13:15 – 14:45 PM, NLB CR6

United Nations Headquarters, New York

This side event is organized in the context of the United Nations General Assembly [High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development](#), and relates to the theme of Roundtable #3: "Strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration, mechanisms to effectively integrate migration into development policies, and promote coherence at all levels".

PROGRAMME

13:15 pm

Cities as Lead Actors on the Global Migration Stage - Local Leadership in Promoting Migration and Development

Moderated by: Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles, UN Assistant Secretary-General, Acting Head, Executive Director, UNITAR

a. Creating Opportunities to Invest Earnings, Share Knowledge and Incentivize Business Development

Ms. Fatima Shama Mansouri, Commissioner, Mayor Bloomberg's Office of Immigrant Affairs, New York City

b. Ensuring Rights and Reducing Discrimination

The Honourable Mr. Georgios Kaminis, Mayor of the City of Athens, Greece

c. Facilitating an Enabling Environment for Migrant Contributions, Including with Diaspora Organizations

Mr. Edward S. Miranda, Director of Foreign Affairs of the City of Cuenca, Ecuador



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14:00 pm

Tying Local and Regional Government Work to the Post 2015 Development Agenda

Sir Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration

Promoting Support and Solidarity in Leadership - Taking Forward Local and Regional Governments' Growing Responsibilities Towards Migrants

The Honourable Mr. Xavier Trias i Vidal de Llobatera, Mayor of the City of Barcelona, Spain

Mr. Magdy Martínez-Solimán, Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP

Questions and Answers

14:40 pm

Closing

Mr. Dilip Ratha, Manager, Migration and Remittances Unit; CEO, Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), Development Prospects Group, World Bank

Objectives

This side event will provide an opportunity for municipal leaders, other senior local and regional officials to demonstrate through evidence and experience:

- how to reduce discrimination against migrants and protect their rights;
- migrants' tangible and intangible contributions to prosperity in destination communities;
- evidence of how such contributions impact public perceptions of migrants and in turn, their rights and responsibilities;
- practical measures which can be taken to reduce the costs (financial and otherwise) of the migratory process;
- opportunities for migrants to more productively invest their earnings and share their knowledge;
- how to increase migrants' and diaspora organizations' participation in enhancing development in their communities of origin and destination;
- potential to capitalize on City to City partnerships for cultivating pro-migrant, pro-development policies;
- how and why migration can and should factor explicitly within the post 2015 development agenda.

Contact Information

UNITAR

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Introduction

The maxim “*suddenly...all politics are municipal politics*”¹ holds true for the field of international migration and its impacts on development. This fact is in no small measure influenced by the “largest migration in human history”, with 3.9 billion people moving to city centres by 2030 (as compared to 309 million in 1950).²

Indeed, with few exceptions around the world, cities and regions facilitate access to rights, benefits and services for migrants. 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 planning³ – make them important and some would argue “*lead actors*” on the stage of global migration.⁴

Despite LRAs’ role at the forefront in addressing migration’s challenges and opportunities, limited attention is dedicated to analyzing their insights, inroads, obstacles and the areas requiring additional (national and other) support.

¹ Douglas Saunders, “Suddenly, all politics is municipal”, Global and Mail, 20 July 2013,

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/commentary/suddenly-all-politics-is-municipal/article13319338/>

² Douglas Saunders, “Arrival Cities: How the Largest Migration in History is Shaping our World”, 2011

In its 2009 Human Development Report, UNDP also speaks of the need to examine internal migration when developing international migration policies: “Conventional approaches to migration tend to suffer from compartmentalization Over the past decade, scholars and policy makers have begun to question these distinctions, and there is growing recognition that their proliferation obscures rather than illuminates the processes underlying the decision to move, with potentially harmful effects on policy-making”. See: http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2009_EN_Complete.pdf, p. 12

³ EC-UN JMDI Report 2010, “From Migration to Development: Lessons Drawn from the Experience of Local Authorities”,

<http://www.migration4development.org/content/migration-development-lessons-drawn-experience-local-authorities>

⁴ See: “Good Ideas from Successful Cities Report” (September 2012), Cities of Migration Report, Maytree Foundation, www.citiesofmigration.org, p.12



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Further, given the conspicuous absence of migration considerations in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) when these were formulated back at the turn of the Century⁵, and as the United Nations General Assembly's second High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development⁶ looks to assess migration's implications within the post 2015 development framework⁷, part of this discussion must involve an in-depth look into the role of local and regional government.

Focus

The side event *"On Local Government: Taking the Migration and Development Agenda Forward"*, to be organized during the General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD) on 3-4 October 2013 will focus on advancing migration's role as a catalytic enabler for development through a combined understanding of what are commonly understood as the most relevant objectives pertaining migration and development for the next decades:

- reducing discrimination against migrants and protecting their rights;
- lowering the human, social, and economic costs of migration, including those related to recruitment, remittances, and obtaining documentation such as visas and residency permits;
- expanding opportunities for migrants to more productively invest their earnings and share their knowledge; and
- enlisting migrants and diaspora organizations in enhancing development in their communities of origin and destination.⁸

The side event will invite municipal leaders, other senior local and regional officials, and representatives of business and community interests to share on one or more of the above objectives, highlighting insights, inroads, obstacles and the areas requiring additional (national and other) support.

Moreover, it will offer an opportunity to share new (and planned) data and research accrued since the first HLD in 2006 – including that generated or to be generated in the context of the [KNOMAD](#). In addition, it will showcase two UN-initiated projects supporting local authorities through practice-based capacity development, the exchange of good practices and facilitated dialogue and cooperation: the [Joint Migration for Development Initiative](#) (JMDI) co-funded by the European Union and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and UNITAR's [Learning Platform on Human Mobility](#) (LPHM) – see below.

⁵ When 189 states committed to reducing poverty and multiple deprivations by 2015, See: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview.html>

⁶ The first HLD took place in 2006, <http://www.un.org/migration/>

⁷ See for example: "Global Partnerships and Challenges: the Role of Migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda", Background Paper on Migration and Mobility within the Post 2015 Agenda produced by Sarah Rosengaertner, UNDP, 12 March 2013

⁸ Text drafted by an informal working group led by the UN Special Representative on Migration and Development circulated in June 2013.





Three institutional partners are organizing this event: the World Bank's KNOMAD Project, the first comprehensive effort to generate major knowledge capacity on migration; the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), administered by UNDP and implemented in partnership with IOM, ILO, UN Women, UNHCR and UNFPA, whose goal is to maximize the potential of migration for local development through the delivery of targeted support to local authorities and civil society organizations; and UNITAR's Human Mobility Programme, mandated to build through a coordinated inter-agency approach, improvements in our collective understanding of effective learning in this field. The event is held in collaboration with the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for International Migration, Mr. Peter Sutherland.

This side event relates to the theme of the HLD's Roundtable #3: *"Strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration, mechanisms to effectively integrate migration into development policies, and promote coherence at all levels"*.

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- how to increase migrants' and diaspora organizations' participation in enhancing development in their communities of origin and destination;
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