



UCLG-MEWA COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION

Terms of Reference for the Global Task Force on Migration

Background

Migration and displacement has now become a part of daily life in many parts of the world. Whether national, regional, or international, it is one of the constant realities of a world in constant motion. Every woman, man, and child have their own story – whether they were forced to leave their homes, or embarked upon their journeys in search of better lives and greater opportunities elsewhere.

The Middle East and West Asia (MEWA) is a fragile volatile geographical region that has been affected by protracted conflict and displacement, as well as substantial immigration and emigration. Border and migration management are primary responsibilities of States; however, the impact of migration and displacement is often felt most acutely at the local level. Forced to respond, local authorities have therefore often found themselves in a position of having to address some of the foremost global challenges, and their consequences.

As UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion, we believe that refugee integration is always also a local issue. In the end, it is often primarily an issue for the communities in which they will live. The way in which cities will respond to migrants and refugees, the services they provide and the manner in which these are provided, as well as their efforts to promote inclusive urban development, will determine the success of the global response to migration and displacement.

In light of what is mentioned above, UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion unanimously agreed to establish the Global Task Force on Migration within the Committee as a result of the decision taken during its Presidency Meeting held on 11 October 2019 in Mersin, Turkey. The Global Task Force will be established at the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement to be held in Gaziantep, Turkey on 26-27 November 2019. The Global Task Force will be composed of cities and city networks which are leading and contributing to the global efforts on migration management at the local level. Representatives of private sector, NGOs, INGOs, international organizations (UNHCR, UNDP, IOM, etc.) and academia will have an observatory role in the Global Task Force.

1. Objective

The purpose of the Global Task Force is to develop a rights-based strategy to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated local response for the protection and humanitarian needs of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, to conduct projects, research and workshops in order to guide its members with the objective to enable cities to learn from each other. Improving the evidence-base on needs, gaps and opportunities regarding the arrival and presence of refugees and migrants in urban spaces would allow local, national and global decision-makers to better target and address the major challenges ahead in this field and to support the adoption of relevant strategies and actions. The Global Task Force aims to capitalize on the experiences and strategies developed at the local level.



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This Global Task Force is envisaged to serve as a network to follow up on the commitments of Gaziantep Declaration, which was launched during the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement. The Global Task Force will be a part of the global ecosystem of migration and its work will feed into the policies and practices of the Mayors' Mechanism, consisting of UCLG, IOM and Mayors Migration Council (MMC)¹, as well as other, city-related work streams taken forward jointly with UN agencies.

2. Membership

The complex nature of the topic requires that this Global Task Force be carried out with close collaboration of different stakeholder groups, such as local governments and administrations, private sector, NGOs, INGOs, international organizations and academia who will contribute their know-how and expertise to identify the underlying challenges in the local context.

The Global Task Force will be created through an open call for membership during the the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement. The Global Task Force will remain open for additional membership after the Forum. All members will be invited to nominate a representative from their institution to serve on the Global Task Force. Since the Global Task Force is a technical group, it is important that participants have an interest and expertise in the area of migration and displacement.

The political leadership of the Global Task Force will be led by the President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion. Technical affairs of the Global Task Force, including but not limited to implementation of the work plan and admission of new members, will be managed by a Steering Committee, which will consist of the partners of the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the Global Task Force will include but not be limited to:

- Participate in quarterly Global Task Force online meetings as well as one annual face-to-face meeting to progress collective work, contribute to decision-making and to highlight advancements made in relevant national and global Fora;
- Coordinate the work of the Global Task Force, facilitate and minute these regular meetings;
- Contribute to the development of the Global Task Force work plan, which could build on existing relevant frameworks, tools and actions, and identify linkages with other initiatives or actors relevant to the Global Task Force;
- Actively lead /contribute to work plan activities and provide regular updates on progress to the Global Task Force leads;
- Provide technical contribution to agreed joint pieces of work, such as tools, training and guidance materials, policy and advocacy papers;

¹ <https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org>



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- Offer its support to cities and local authorities faced with refugee and/or migrant arrivals, including with a view to sharing good practices, practical recommendations and support;
- Follow up with the requests sent by other members in a timely manner (including providing feedback on key documents, emails, etc.);
- Be responsible for keeping their institutions (or regions/countries) informed about achievements, requests, etc. of the Global Task Force, as well as the achievements made under the aforementioned key documents/resources;
- Oversee the full implementation of the Global Task Force on Migration's work plan;
- Finalize key documents with consideration of the members' feedback, including but not limited to the annual work plan;
- Seek synergy in collaboration between the Global Task Force on Migration and other coordination groups, including at local, national but also global levels;
- Contributing to advancing the priorities of the MMC's Call to Local Action² on Migration launched at the recent UCLG congress in Durban (11-15 November 2019)³;
- Lead resource mobilization and coordinate fundraising efforts to support the Global Task Force's work plan.

3. Reporting and Follow Up

The progress related to the work of the Global Task Force will be reflected in the yearly report of the Global Task Force by UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion. The implementation of the pledges of the Gaziantep Declaration will be followed up regularly through the quarterly online meetings as well as the annual face-to-face meetings. The work of the Global Task Force will be reported annually to the UCLG Governing Bodies, to ensure that the outcomes will be shared throughout the global local government community and other UCLG partner organizations.

² <https://www.docdroid.net/enGaoJH/call-to-local-action-on-migration.pdf>

³ <https://www.durban2019.uclg.org/>