

Break Out Session Human Rights of Migrants

THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER, 15:00 – 16:30

International Human Rights treaties establish the principle of both universality as well as inalienability of human rights. But even so, in many cases there is a discrepancy between the rights migrants legally hold and the rights they effectively enjoy in a number of jurisdictions – at times due to de facto obstacles at times due to legislative restraints which do not reflect international obligations

All level of government has a responsibility in implementing human rights. Local governments, being the closest to the citizens, are often those who translate these rights into concrete actions with civil society. And thus local actors play a key role in effectively ensuring and implementing rights such as freedom of expression and assembly, the right to food, housing, security or to a life free from discrimination ... It is also often local governments that are in a position to offer immediate and concrete protection to the most vulnerable groups of migrants, including (but not limited to) women and children.

This implementation of international, as well as often national, standards, can be complicated by immigration legislation which conditions the exercise of certain rights upon migratory status such a residence permits. Likewise, the increasing financial constraints of local authorities prevent them to properly tackle the growth of poverty in urban spaces.

Despite these trends, and being aware that a sustainable management of territories can only be based on actions aimed at restoring equality based on the rights found in international treaties, local governments continue to implement mechanisms to protect and fulfil internal and international migrants' rights, in some cases providing humanitarian reception independent of state or international support. This is often done through cooperation with civil society, making migrants' real participation and inclusion possible.

This session would address the following issues to the speakers in order to build a dynamic dialogue and come out of this session with concrete views and recommendations:

- How to implement a Rights Based Approach to Migration Governance
- Human Rights violations as a cause of migration – analysing how vulnerabilities and lack of protection of rights result in further victimization
- What practices can guarantee migrants' rights and their participation in the local environment-going beyond the prevailing "security-based" policies?
- How can local governments best assess the needs and create the most positive impact with the scares resources available?
- How to take into account the specificity of minors and women migrants and protect the more vulnerable kind of migrants?
- How to establish mutual help and solidarity networks to achieve a universal guarantee of human rights between departure and host cities? What role for cities networks?
- How can local authorities present the use of such resources as not only worthwhile but beneficial to the broader community?

Speakers

- Juan Acevedo, Mayor of Upala, Costa Rica
- Abdoulaye Thimbo, Mayor of Pikine, Senegal
- Kalgo Calvin Thutlwe, Mayor of Gaborone, Botswana
- Gustavo Baroja, Prefect of Pichincha, President of CONGOPE, Ecuador
- Glenda Josefina De León Ovalle, Local Economic Development Specialist, Association of Municipalities of Metropoli de Los Altos, Guatemala
- Amina El Oualid, Deputy Mayor of Nador Municipality, Morocco
- Berta Cao Mendez, Assessor for Migration and Refuge at Madrid City hall

Moderated by Ms. Arruda, City of Sao Paulo, Brazil and Magali Fricaudet, UCLG.