Summary Report

# Creating inclusive, safe and sustainable cities:

## Local approaches to global challenges

## Vienna, 30-31 March 2017

## Overview

*Today half the world's population lives in urban areas and the UN predicts that by 2050 this portion will rise to two-thirds. Cities therefore increasingly shape the social, political, economic and environmental conditions in their countries, and municipal authorities often spearhead innovative policies and approaches. They are also at the forefront in addressing many of today's transnational security challenges, including terrorism and violent extremism, organized crime, climate change, natural disasters and mass movements of people. Given the growing complexity, scale and interconnectedness of these challenges, it is becoming clear that cities should play a more prominent role in security policy discussions, including at the intergovernmental level.*

*The OSCE Security Days on "Creating inclusive, safe and sustainable cities: Local approaches to global challenges," co-hosted by the City of Vienna on 30-31 March 2017, aimed to help bridge the gap between policymaking on key security-related issues at the national, regional and global levels and the experience of cities in confronting these challenges. It provided a platform for frank and open dialogue engaging mayors from the OSCE region and OSCE Partner countries, representatives of civil society, international and non-governmental organizations with an urban agenda, the business community, academic experts and journalists, as well as delegations from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation. Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb of Rotterdam, Netherlands, delivered the keynote address, and other high-level speakers included Mayor Park Won-soon of Seoul, Republic of Korea, and UN-Habitat Executive Director Joan Clos.*

*The discussions highlighted the firsthand experience of cities in addressing many of today's global security challenges. A number of participants called for regional organizations like the OSCE to play a more active role in integrating lessons from the experience of cities in security policy development by facilitating an inclusive dialogue and enhancing interaction and co-operation among all relevant local, national and international actors.*

*In addition to over 200 participants in attendance, the event reached over 2.2 million people via Twitter, some 237,000 via Facebook and over 43,000 via LinkedIn. Over 90,000 people viewed the live stream, and a full video-recording of the proceedings is available on the OSCE website and on YouTube.*

## Local approaches to global challenges

Without a doubt, **the future of human civilization will be urban**. The global population, currently at just under 8 billion, will reach 10 billion in the next 30-50 years, with Africa's population projected to double from 1 billion to 2 billion over the next three decades. This rapid population growth is the main force behind urbanization. While official figures show that around half of humanity now lives in cities, a number of recent authoritative studies making use of satellite pictures put that figure closer to 70 percent. Particularly in the developing world, where populations tend to be very young, cities are growing extremely fast.

Rapid urbanization and population growth pose challenges to both cities and national authorities, affecting security in all its aspects. **Cities are increasingly dealing with national and transnational challenges**, from terrorism to climate change, and policymakers increasingly see urbanization as a strategic concern. For example, terrorism is already having an impact on urban policies, while the risk of radicalization of segments of urban populations is becoming a matter of strategic interest for military planners.

Historically, urbanization grew in tandem with industrialization, which provided economic opportunities for new residents. Yet today many cities, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, are growing rapidly without industrialization, leading to high rates of unemployment. These demographic and economic trends are creating pressures that suggest that **South-North migration will not abate in the foreseeable future**, making governance of migration flows a key policy concern for the OSCE region.

Effective urban planning is needed to deal with population growth, urbanization and related security challenges. Yet in many parts of the world, urban planning is still associated with central planning and is therefore seen at odds with free market forces. While in the developed world urban planning has often given way to urban landscaping and urban renewal, in the developing world

urbanization is largely spontaneous, often with disastrous environmental and social consequences. **Effective urban planning requires co-ordination between central and local governments**: even mayors of large, economically potent cities cannot establish necessary legal frameworks on their own but must operate within their national or provincial jurisdiction.

**Citizens can and should play a decisive role in addressing the challenges facing cities**, so cultivating a mature sense of citizenship is essential to guaranteeing security. Strong investments in education form the basis of any sound policy to create a safe and prosperous urban environment. Fostering a climate of trust and co-operation between citizens and public institutions is also important. In a healthy democracy, citizens are the primary watchdog of public institutions, while families and communities are the main bulwarks against radicalization and extremism that could lead to violence.

In tackling radicalization and violent extremism, policymakers should recall the distinction between radical ideas and violence. **Radical ideas play an important role in societies: within a lawful framework, they can be an engine of progress**. By engaging with rather than ostracizing orthodoxy of all stripes, public institutions can be more effective in preventing radicalization and violent extremism. In this too, education plays a key role.

## Inclusive cities: Building integrated and inclusive societies

**Diversity is a major attraction of urban life, but it can be a challenge for cities to build a cohesive society** and to ensure that all urban residents and communities have a sense of belonging. Creating an environment in which everyone is integrated and connected, their interests are recognized, and they are able to participate in public life and influence local decision-making requires continuous investment in many areas. Some of these include: empowering youth through education, providing a social safety net, and fostering interaction between citizens of different backgrounds on the basis of democratic values and respect for human rights.

The value of diversity is not always appreciated, so it is critical to make the case for it. **The impact of positive communication**, however, **depends on the strength of policies creating trust and confidence among groups**. By respecting and promoting diversity, cities can harness the potential inherent in diverse populations in terms of ideas, skills and connections to the wider world. Doing this consistently can help cities effectively counter xenophobia and extremist views. Positive role models such as "integration ambassadors" who visit schools to share their experiences as refugees or immigrants can help to dismantle prejudices and motivate young people to make best use of the educational and employment opportunities available to them.

In light of continuing large scale movements of people from neighboring regions into Europe, the interaction – or lack thereof – between local people, long-time resident migrant communities and recent arrivals deserves particular attention. Countries hosting refugees and migrants should make significant investments in fostering inclusion and participation in public life, especially in the first few years after their arrival. In the short term, this helps to maintain social peace, but it is an investment that will also pay dividends in the medium to long term. However, **integration is a two-way, continuous process; exclusively top-down approaches should be avoided**. Currently, only half of relevant legislation aimed at integrating migrants and refugees in Europe meets this requirement.

**Inclusive participation** should address the needs of specific groups such as people with disabilities, those with a migrant background, women and youth. Collecting data and ensuring monitoring of local contexts, with the participation of excluded and marginalized groups, is a key element in any inclusive approach.

**Good practices involving civil society** in integration efforts include so-called "buddy systems" that connect newcomers with local people at the individual level, enabling them to make vital interpersonal contacts, learn the local language, and familiarize themselves with local customs and mentality that make it easier to navigate the host society. In the business sector, some companies see it as a **corporate responsibility** to foster integration, and some have made public pledges to employ certain categories of disadvantaged groups, including migrants and refugees.

Urbanization offers various opportunities to **women and men** to improve their living standards, including health care, access to education and economic participation. At the same time, poverty, crime and environmental hazards that threaten urban populations often affect women and men differently. Creating safe and inclusive cities that take care of the needs of both women and men is therefore crucial to increasing social cohesion and security in societies.

**Populism** risks reducing policy discussions to empty, and often dangerous, slogans. It feeds on the fears and perceptions of people whose jobs are becoming obsolete because of the communication and technological revolution. Their views should not be excluded from policy debates, but should instead be addressed and countered by effective, inclusive and sustainable policies.

Sustainable policies depend on citizen participation: structures, guidelines, logistics must be put in place, but they mean little without the mobilization of citizens. Cities should provide platforms that foster citizen engagement in how their city is run. The right to vote bestows a particular kind of **political ownership**. Currently very few countries grant voting rights at the local level to residents who are not citizens, even within the European Union.

**Citizenship education** in schools, currently available in only a few European countries, plays a key role in integration by imparting knowledge of the laws and values underpinning society. A citizen's rights and responsibilities should be taught at an early age. A particular effort is needed to make sure that groups at risk of discrimination know about and have easy access to local redress mechanisms. De facto segregation of schools due to place of residence and social standing should be avoided. Critical thinking is a key element of education and should be encouraged throughout. In times of deliberate use of misinformation, critical thinking enables people to learn how to filter information and distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources.

Fostering activities that draw people together, whether through sports or culture, can create "magical moments" when people realize that their prejudices are unfounded and that they need not fear the "other". The importance of this kind of interaction is clearly demonstrated by research showing that **xenophobic attitudes are strongest where there is little or no interaction with people of different origins**.

## Safe cities: Reducing risks posed by transnational challenges

**Since cities are first responders to many transnational security threats, with unique knowledge of local conditions and needs, they should play a role in strategic planning and decision making for security policy both nationally and internationally.** Assessing the security situation, determining priorities and implementing policies should be better co-ordinated among local, national and international levels of governance.

The experience of cities and municipal authorities shows that **inclusiveness is a key element for designing effective security policies**. This requires the involvement of citizens and communities in local decision-making processes, development of strategies and their implementation. Fostering active and resilient citizenship by promoting social cohesion and preventing marginalization helps create a safe and secure urban environment, and should therefore be a priority. In this sense, strengthening trust and interaction between citizens and public institutions (e.g., local administration, police, educational institutions) is crucial. In multicultural communities, **diversity in police forces and municipal institutions** is an important element in this regard. For example, community policing increases community cohesion and resilience to crime and public safety concerns when it is based on a strong and inclusive alliance of police officers, community organizations, local authorities, schools and social services.

Although national governments control the most important instruments of security policy, **municipal authorities have some powerful tools that can be used to enhance local security, including regulation of land use and local business and tax regulations**. Local authorities can

use these instruments to strengthen social cohesion, prevent marginalization of certain communities and counteract the spread of organized crime, violence and radicalization.

**Sharing the experience of cities in addressing transnational security threats with each other and with national and international authorities should be encouraged.** Face-to-face workshops and training opportunities help to spread best practices, but online visibility and virtual facilities (such as online hubs) are increasingly relevant. The challenge is to get practitioners to share their experiences, both positive and negative (spreading a "culture of sharing, and no shame in failing"). Since language barriers could be a significant obstacle to knowledge-sharing at the local level, all necessary materials should be available in multiple languages.

While many cities face common challenges and experiences and best practices can be transferrable, responses and strategies should be tailored to local conditions and requirements ("context-specific responses"). For some challenges, such as violent extremism and radicalization, it can be useful to create a dedicated unit in a local administration; civil society actors and the private sector should also play an active role.

Many of today's transnational security threats and challenges pose special risks to **young people**, many of whom face overwhelming social and economic pressures that make them particularly vulnerable to exploitation, radicalization and criminality. Youth assistance policies should place stronger focus on prevention and early intervention.

## Sustainable cities: Promoting sustainable development through good governance and green policies

**Rapid urbanization is putting municipal authorities under pressure as they seek to maintain high-quality public services and create economic opportunities for a rapidly expanding population. At the same time, cities are increasingly vulnerable to environmental risks from climate change and natural and man-made disasters.** Weak infrastructure, inadequate services and a lack of proper urban planning can exacerbate these vulnerabilities and increase tensions. By contrast, sustainable and participatory urban management, targeted investments, good governance (including environmental governance) and effective policies for disaster risk reduction can mitigate them. Because the scale of environmental challenges requires decisive action and often radical solutions, which could come with high political costs, political courage and a participatory approach are necessary to successfully address them. Civic participation in urban planning and development can foster environmental sustainability and more efficient and fair use and distribution of scarce natural resources, contributing to cohesive urban societies and overall security.

Good public transport and non-polluting mobility (cycling, walking) are essential to sustainable cities. In many societies, however, a car is still a status symbol, so awareness raising is needed to effect a change in values. In countries without a long tradition of green policies, building centralized heating systems is a valid first step toward reducing greenhouse emissions and improving air quality. The increasingly urgent need to switching from coal and fossil fuels to **renewable sources of energy, in particular solar and wind, provides a good opportunity for public investment and economic development**. Other good environmental practices include planting "green belts" of trees around urban areas both to protect cities from natural disasters (such as sand storms) and to improve air quality.

Good governance is essential to making best use of limited resources and to achieving popular support for forward-looking policies that can unlock the economic potential of cities. The Internet and smartphone applications are useful tools for **fostering good governance and trust between citizens and public institutions**. Phone apps and other instruments of dialogue between citizens and public institutions give ordinary people the possibility to report dysfunctioning services and other problems, and can provide public authorities with fresh perspectives. Good governance also requires effectively **addressing corruption in public institutions**. A strategic approach is important in anti-corruption efforts since the very same people who might be corrupted in a system offering opportunities and temptations might be honest in a different system. An effective anti-corruption policy starts by tackling the system that allows people to misbehave rather than the people who are misbehaving.

## Key findings: The need to build new and flexible coalitions

- Rapid population growth and increasing urbanization come with challenges. As more and more people concentrate in cities, security issues gain prominence and need to be met at many different levels. As a result, **cities are often at the forefront in addressing many transnational and global challenges**.

- In tackling the array of new challenges facing cities, local and central authorities have a shared responsibility. There is a role for cities in national policymaking, and a role for national governments in urban planning. **Municipal and national policymakers should look for ways to co-operate more closely**.

- To protect communities and vulnerable individuals from security threats like violent extremism and organized crime, municipal policymakers must **work in partnership with** both national and local actors from **law enforcement, civil society and local associations** – including with women, youth and religious leaders.

- Growing diversity presents challenges for cities, but it can also be an engine for social and economic development. When inclusion policies are ineffective, socioeconomic segregation and marginalization can pose serious risks to social cohesion and public safety, and lead to tensions between groups. By **respecting and promoting diversity**, however, cities can maintain social peace in the short term and create the basis for a cohesive and resilient society in the long term.

- **Populist and xenophobic views**, although dangerous and destabilizing, should not be excluded from policy debates. They should instead be addressed and countered by **effective and inclusive policies** since evidence shows that xenophobia is strongest where there is little or no interaction between people of different origins.

- The experience of cities clearly shows that inclusiveness and **diversity in law enforcement and municipal institutions** – including significant roles for women -- are key elements in designing effective security policies.

- Investment in **public transport and infrastructure** and effective, forward-looking **urban planning** are examples of policies guaranteeing economic growth opportunities and a sustainable future to cities.

- Although many cities face common challenges and while experiences and best practices can be transferrable, **policies should always be tailored** to local conditions and requirements.

- As the importance of cities continues to grow, they should play a more active role in the larger international debate about security issues. **Multinational bodies and international organizations should work with cities as partners**. This would help to bridge the gap between strategic thinking and policy implementation. Good examples of this kind of co-operation include the 2015 UN Climate Change Summit in Paris and the 2016 UN-Habitat III Conference in Quito.

- As the world's largest regional security organization, **the OSCE is well suited to facilitating inclusive security dialogue** that enhances interaction and co-operation among municipal, national and international actors in addressing security threats and challenges and breaks down silos by adopting a comprehensive approach.

- The idea of creating **a forum for mayors in the OSCE area** was proposed. Such a forum could provide an inclusive environment for debate unconstrained by the boundaries of national diplomacy, exploring common security issues that cities have to deal with, and seeking solutions together.

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# CREATING INCLUSIVE, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES: LOCAL APPROACHES TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Vienna, 30-31 March 2017

## Final Agenda

**THURSDAY, 30 March 2017**

*Venue:* *Vienna City Hall*

**18:30-20:00**
**Opening event**

**Welcoming remarks**
- **Michael Häupl**, Mayor of Vienna
- **Lamberto Zannier**, OSCE Secretary General

**Reception**

**FRIDAY, 31 March 2017**

*Venue*: *Hofburg Congress Centre, Neuer Saal*

**09:00-09:15**
**Welcoming remarks**
- **Lamberto Zannier**, OSCE Secretary General
- **Tanja Wehsely**, Chair of the Vienna City Council Committee on Finance, Economy and International Affairs
- **Clemens Koja**, Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE and Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council

**09:15-09:30**
**Keynote address**

- **Ahmed Aboutaleb**, Mayor of Rotterdam (The Netherlands)

**09:30-10:30**
**High-level opening session: Local approaches to global challenges**

- **Joan Clos**, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat
- **Park Won-soon**, Mayor of Seoul (Republic of Korea)

- Moderator: **Sian MacLeod**, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the OSCE

**10:30-11:45**
**Inclusive cities: Building integrated and cohesive societies**

- **Jørgen Kristiansen**, Vice Mayor of Kristiansand (Norway)
- **Tanja Wehsely**, Chair of the Vienna City Council Committee on Finance, Economy and International Affairs
- **Friso Roscam Abbing**, Head of Fundamental Rights Promotion Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- **Seyma Genc**, Integration Ambassador, Ambassadors for Integration Network TOGETHER:AUSTRIA

- Moderator: **Katarzyna Gardapkhadze**, First Deputy Director, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

**11:45-12:00**
**Coffee break**

**12:00-13:30**
**Safe cities: Reducing risks posed by transnational challenges**

- **Hans Bonte**, Mayor of Vilvoorde (Belgium)
- **Julio Andrade Ruiz**, Vice Mayor of Malaga (Spain)
- **Elizabeth Johnston**, Executive Director, European Forum for Urban Security
- **Jonathan Birdwell**, Head of Policy and Research, Institute for Strategic Dialogue
- **Gautam Babbar,** Chief of Strategic Planning and Interagency Affairs Unit, UNODC

- Moderator: **Rasa Ostrauskaite**, OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats

**13:30-14:45**
**Lunch break**

**14:45-16:00**
**Sustainable cities: Promoting sustainable development through good governance and green policies**

- **Dina Oyun**, Mayor of Kyzyl (Russian Federation)
- **Jacek Jaśkowiak**, Mayor of Poznan (Poland)
- **Erion Veliaj**, Mayor of Tirana (Albania)
- **Ana Vasilache**, International Consultant, PartnersGlobal

- Moderator: **Sonja Popovic**, Manager, Aarhus Centre for South and East Serbia

**16:00-17:00**
**Wrap-up session: Building coalitions**

- **Kari Aina Eik**, Secretary General, Organization for International Economic Relations
- **Pekka Sauri**, Vice Mayor of Helsinki (Finland) and Vice President of Executive Committee of Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)

- Moderator and concluding remarks: **Lamberto Zannier**, OSCE Secretary General