

# Montevideo, destino de paz



Foro Mundial  
de Ciudades y  
Territorios de Paz  
Montevideo, 2025



Feria Internacional  
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Inteligentes

## THEMATIC AXIS 2. RESPONSE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO MIGRATION, DIASPORA AND VIOLENCE

### I. Context

Human mobility is a global phenomenon that has been increasing rapidly in recent years. The magnitude and complexity of the problem, particularly when it occurs irregularly, compromises the human dignity, and even the lives, of those who are forced to migrate motivated by conflicts, violence, poverty, lack of opportunities and natural disasters in their places of origin. The phenomenon of migration has intensified in recent decades. According to the International Organization for Migration's 2024 World Migration Report, it is estimated that 3.6% of the world's population is a migrant, equivalent to 281 million people, which reflects three times the number of people living in a country other than where they were born compared to figures from 1970. Consequently, there is evidence of an increasing trend in migratory flows at the global level.

The international community has been consolidating concrete instruments to improve the effectiveness of the response to the migratory phenomenon, with a human rights-based approach. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, better known as the Marrakech Pact signed in 2018 by 150 countries, and the Lampedusa Charter for Dignified Human Mobility and Territorial Solidarity, adopted in 2022 at the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon, offer concrete frameworks for action for governments at their different levels and communities to put people at the centre, move beyond migration and forced displacement approaches focused on borders, and advance towards collaboration schemes based on human dignity and solidarity. Today, more than ever, these instruments must frame collective action to respond, from collaboration and human rights, to the challenges of both migration and unilateral responses to the phenomenon of human mobility.

Cities and territories are scenarios from which the prevention and response to the multifaceted expressions of human mobility is directly influenced. Local and regional governments (LRGs) have tools under their authority to contribute to the realization of the human rights of communities, and to avoid or respond to the human drama of forced migration. They are also the spaces where hate speech and various attacks against migrants can be reversed, recognizing them as part of the community and moving away from the notion of "otherness." Public policies and interventions associated with the generation of opportunities for education and employment, health, housing, coexistence, security, and mitigation and adaptation to climate change are a fundamental part of the management of the migratory phenomenon.

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## II. Methodology

The sessions dedicated to addressing the thematic axes will be addressed at two different times<sup>1</sup>: a panel discussion and a workshop session with guiding questions:

**Panel of Experts: Key Perspectives and Approaches**      **Objective:** To provide a technical approach to the key perspectives and approaches of the thematic axes  
**Format:** Conversation between a maximum of 5 experts with a moderator.

**Duration:** 60 minutes

**Workshops on experiences and learning**

**Objective:** To share innovative learnings from public policies and successful projects, carried out by LRGs, networks of cities, civil society organizations, communities or citizens around the thematic axis.

**Format:** Presentation of success stories, followed by an interactive methodology, through which attendees will be consulted to nourish the conversation. Digital instruments will be used to interact with those present in the auditorium and question and answer spaces will be opened.

**Duration:** 90 minutes

## III. Dimensions

Under the concept of **Participatory Management for Coexistence and Peace, Thematic Axis 2. Diaspora, Migration and Violence**, opens the space to talk about significant experiences to face the challenges imposed by migratory flows, from the instruments available to LRGs and communities. To this end, the panel and workshop will be made up of participants who make contributions in the following dimensions:

**1. VIOLENCE AS A CAUSE OF MIGRATION.** At a time in history marked by wars and armed conflicts, both internal and international, political or ethnic persecution has led to an increase in the number of displaced persons and refugees.

<sup>1</sup> It is recommended that the participants of the two segments refer to the general Concept Note for greater clarity regarding the comprehensiveness and main bets of the 5th FMCTP.

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## Panel Questions:

*What role do LRGs play in preventing and managing politically or ethnically motivated expressions of violence and avoiding emigration?*

*What role can cities play in peacebuilding, especially in territories affected by internal conflicts?*

*How do young people interpret contexts in which they are faced with options such as joining criminal organisations or emigrating?*

## Workshop Questions:

*What significant experiences can be identified to counteract phenomena of political and ethnic persecution?*

*Is there room for participatory management of this type of violence?*

**2. VIOLENCE IN DESTINATION CITIES.** Illegal migration implies that people have very limited opportunities for effective insertion into the formal social and productive fabric of the host community. As a result, they often end up developing activities in the informal economy and even linked to criminal drug trafficking networks or sexual exploitation. The irregular nature of their presence in the territory is reflected in social and economic exclusion, and makes them vulnerable to community violence with expressions of xenophobia and discrimination. Although the decisions associated with the regularization of migrants are not the responsibility of LRGs, they are the ones who face the challenges of inclusion and coexistence that arise between host communities and irregular migrants.

## Panel Questions:

*How do LRGs arrange for the provision of local public services so that host communities are not affected and the human rights of migrants are guaranteed?*

*What kind of projects do you develop with civil society organizations and international cooperation to implement projects aimed at the irregular migrant population?*

## Workshop Questions:

*What initiatives and inter-institutional articulations do you promote to counteract the action of criminal networks of human trafficking, prostitution and drug trafficking?*

*How can cities change negative narratives around displaced people and refugees to promote inclusion and empathy?*

**3. DIASPORA AND COSMOPOLITAN TERRITORIES.** People who make the decision to migrate maintain a cultural, economic, and social connection to their communities of origin. From cultural processes that enrich the diversity of host communities to make territories more global and cosmopolitan, to sending remittances to places of origin, the diaspora represents a dynamic

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long-term phenomenon. These links also have an impact on cities and territories. Since it is an issue associated with cultural identities, the way in which it is managed has profound implications for the coexistence of communities.

### Panel Questions:

*How do communities of origin and host dialogue through cultural processes derived from the diaspora and what is the role of LRGs in that conversation?*

*How can LRGs manage the cultural integration of migrants with host communities in a participatory manner?*

### Workshop Questions:

*What opportunities for social innovation arise in territories that become key destinations for migrant communities?*

*How can the experience of diasporas be used to design more inclusive public policies?*

**4. HUMAN MOBILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE.** According to estimates by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in the 2023 Report, between 3.3 and 3.6 billion people live in territories highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, particularly related to the availability of water and food. There is a strong correlation between the level of development of communities and their vulnerability to climate risks, which is why citizens in the Global South are more susceptible to climate migration. It is expected that by 2050 around 1,200 million people will have to be displaced by natural disasters. As poles of opportunity, urban centers are located as a destination for people who are forced to leave their places of origin as a result of climate change.

### Panel Questions:

*How are you addressing actions to reduce the probability of climate migration within climate change mitigation and adaptation plans?*

*How can we ensure that reception and integration policies respect the principles of climate justice and do not increase inequalities?*

### Workshop Questions:

*What kind of leadership actions can young people take to strengthen prevention and response to climate migration?*

*What participatory management actions with relevant actors are LRGs carrying out to prepare for the arrival of climate displaced people?*

*What public management approaches need to be implemented to combine cross-sectoral resources for climate migration prevention and response?*

**6. NARRATIVES.** The magnitude of the migratory phenomenon has been politicized in host societies. In recent years, there has been evidence of a radicalization of the discourse by

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stigmatizing migrants as the cause of security and employment problems, and responsible for the detriment to the quality of life of the host communities. The consolidation of social networks as the most influential mechanism for shaping public opinion and the digital illiteracy of citizens has made it easier for hate speech to gain roots. Unfortunately, and consequently, this narrative has been highly effective electorally.

### Panel Questions:

*What role do social networks play in amplifying hate speech against migrants?  
How can cities leverage digital platforms to promote positive narratives about diversity and migration?*

### Workshop Questions:

*How can LRGs be active participants in building narratives based on solidarity and empathy that foster coexistence between host communities and migrants?*

*How can they co-create with other stakeholders new narratives that facilitate migration management and enhance the economic, cultural and social benefits derived from the phenomenon?*

**7. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION.** Multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance marks a route to ensure collaborative management of the various dimensions of the migration phenomenon and prevent unilateral actions by the governments of receiving countries from causing greater damage to the human dignity of migrants. In the face of the growing politicization of the migratory phenomenon, and the current pressures against illegal migration that are expressed unilaterally, the instruments of international cooperation that promote respect for the human rights of all migrants through collective action are becoming relevant. The Marrakesh Pact and the Lampedusa Charter set out the frameworks for action to respond to the challenges of migration and are based on international cooperation.

### Panel Questions:

*What is the role of subnational diplomacy and collaboration between networks of cities to respond to the migratory phenomenon and take care of democracy?*

*How can we counteract everything from LRGs and collective action in city networks to unilateral responses by States to problems associated with illegal migration?*

### Workshop Questions:

*What are the bottlenecks that the different levels of government face in implementing the Marrakesh Pact and the Lampedusa Charter?*

*How to maintain political leadership lines and narratives that promote human rights and global solidarity in polarized contexts where the effects of illegal migration have gained ground on the electoral agenda?*