



UN-HABITAT



YYD-TALA



CAPPADOCIA PEACE DECLARATION

0. Preamble:

We, the mayors and representatives of local authorities and their associations from different regions of the world, representatives of national Governments, universities and civil society in partnership with the United Nations system have met in Nevşehir/Cappadocia, Turkey, from 25th to 28th September 2005, to discuss and exchange our experience on peace and social integration in human settlements.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Turkish people for their hospitality and the Turkish Government for the support to this invaluable initiative. We would like, in particular, to congratulate the Executive Mayor of the city of Nevşehir for his visionary approach in providing the local authority community with the opportunity to exchange ideas and experience on issues of vital and common interest. We extend the same gratitude to the president of the Turkish Association of Local Authorities for his collaboration.

After reviewing images of war and their impacts on the urban infrastructure and environment, we have been reminded of the scourges of war, armed conflicts and terrorism, and the destruction that they inflict on the urban poor.

We have discussed the challenges of cities in post conflict situations and exchanged lessons learnt by local leaders in this particular context. While the role of local authorities in peace building and promotion of social integration was being scrutinized, we also have examined the ongoing efforts in support of municipalities at all levels, taking into account relevant resolutions of the United Nations related to the dissemination of the “culture of peace, tolerance and mutual understanding”.

In light of these discussions, we have agreed to the following observations, principles and recommendations:

I. Observations and principles:

1. Peace is the paramount United Nations mission; it is the essence of our identity. The cause that animates everything we do. Without local-level democratisation initiatives, peace-building remains incomplete and unsustainable. The basis for long-term peace is a meaningful and well-developed democracy, the respect for the rule of law, education and good governance at all levels.
2. We recognize that in an urbanizing world, which is featured by globalisation and the emergence of new information and communication technologies, the opportunities for peace-building and development have become more evident.
3. We agree that world exchanges have mainly become inter-city exchanges across borders, while social exchanges are basically inter-municipal exchanges within borders.
4. We also recognize that across the globe local authorities have set up networks of partnerships and links that represent a new form of international cooperation.
5. We also acknowledge that while the world is urbanizing, the ranks that form the urban poor is also swelling at an alarming rate; the phenomenon of urbanization of poverty has become a reality.
6. We know that we are living in a time in which the means to solving the problems of poverty, hunger, famine, war and social conflicts are available. However, we deplore the lack of commitment and political will, which result in indifference vis-à-vis the disadvantaged sections of the urban population.
7. We believe that the local authorities and their associations have a key role to play in vital sectors of development including poverty eradication, providing infrastructure and basic services that are required to ensure access to health and education for all.
8. We recognize that the local authorities and their associations are in a unique position to assist national Governments and the international community in effectively implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular, target 11 that is focused on improving the lives and living conditions of slum dwellers, and in promoting the culture of peace and tolerance, civic engagement and cultural and religious diversity by eliminating any kind of exclusion and discrimination.
9. We consider that the eradication of urban and domestic violence, unemployment, child labor and exploitation, prostitution, drug

trafficking and alcoholism, slavery, infectious diseases including malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS constitutes a priority issue of our daily work.

II. Recommendations:

1. We call upon the leaders at all spheres of Governments to intensify efforts and mobilize resources in promoting peace, security and prosperity, especially in cities and regions effected by tensions and conflicts, natural disasters.
2. We urge local authorities and their associations to set up a network of partners for development to mitigate the negative effects of globalisation, *inter alia*, through concrete actions by providing an enabling environment for inclusive local economic development focusing on children and women, youth, refugees and internally displaced persons, and through the establishment of multi-cultural and multi-linguistic urban centres for a peaceful urban co-existence.
3. We encourage local Governments to actively participate in the on-going efforts at the international level to establish working partnerships to bridge the digital divide and set in motion a local process in favor of digital solidarity.
4. We strongly invite local leaders and their partners including civil society to engage the cities and towns administrations in the pursuit of poverty alleviation which will leverage the stakeholders capable of delivering services such as improved housing and infrastructure, water supply and sanitation in consultation with local communities.
5. We invite local leaders and their association to ensure an effective participatory approach to developmental issues, which includes the citizens in the post conflict reconstruction processes.
6. We appeal to stakeholders for local development to strengthen the mechanisms of consultation and exchange between cities and develop strong linkages to allow for an effective diplomacy of cities, which should focus on finding local solutions to the global challenges of a rapidly urbanizing world.
7. We urge all spheres of Governments, International Financial Institutions and other development Agencies to ensure that the linkage between development and peace is strengthened through concrete actions such as investments, income generation activities, protection of the environment and cultural heritage, and effective mechanisms of conflict prevention and management at the local level.

8. We agree on the establishment of a coordination secretariat in Nevşehir to follow up the recommendations of this conference in close collaboration with UN-HABITAT and to ensure a continuous exchange of best practices and initiate an effective dialogue of local authorities and their associations on post conflict reconstruction and urban development.
9. The main task of the secretariat would be to carry out design, planning, and coordination activities of a new network of Mayors and elected officials called ***“United Local Authorities for Peace”*** (ULAP).
10. An Executive Bureau serving as political organ of ULAP should be constituted in respect of the Turkish law and should comprise of representatives of local authorities and their associations, civil society, youth organizations and UN agencies working in close collaboration with UN-HABITAT.

***Adopted in Nevşehir/Cappadocia - Turkey
On 28 September 2005***