



International Coalition  
of Inclusive and  
Sustainable Cities – ICCAR

## **BOLOGNA DECLARATION TOWARDS GLOBAL SOLIDARITY AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**April 2016**

### ***Preamble***

1. We, the lead cities of the regional and national Coalitions of the International Coalition of Cities against Racism (ICCAR) and the ICCAR Secretariat (UNESCO), have gathered in Bologna, Italy, in April 2016 for the first Meeting of the ICCAR Global Steering Committee. We are grateful to the Comune di Bologna, lead city of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR), for their generous hospitality. We are equally grateful to ECCAR (Presidency) for their overall support of the event. We thank UNESCO for organising this meeting, which represents an important milestone for global solidarity and city-level collaboration to promote inclusive and sustainable urban development free from all forms of discrimination.
2. We consider the creation of a Global Steering Committee for ICCAR as an important transformative step in further strengthening the international bonds of cooperation and solidarity across the Coalition, thanks to the leadership of UNESCO since the creation of ICCAR in 2004. We also recognise the dedication and achievements of the members of all regional and national Coalitions of ICCAR in fostering a global culture of cooperation and exchange through the Coalition, notably: the African Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination; the Coalition of Arab Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance; the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD); the Coalition of Cities against Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific; the Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia; the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR); and the U.S. Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination.

### ***Global solidarity and collaborative action for urban inclusion***

3. On the occasion of the Global Steering Committee's First Meeting, we recognise the international community's adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in September 2015 as a landmark achievement towards building a sustainable, prosperous and equitable future for all. In this spirit, we reaffirm our adherence to the Agenda's vision for sustainable development that must *leave no one behind*.

4. In particular, we fully identify with and are committed to the implementation of Agenda 2030's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)#11 "*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*" and SDG#16: "*Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*", including specific target 16.b: "*Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development*". We reaffirm our commitment to the 2030 Agenda's cross-cutting priorities of human rights, gender equality and poverty eradication as pre-requisites for sustainable development.
5. In an increasingly urbanised world, we underscore the importance of cities as key sites in the realisation of sustainable and inclusive development. In this spirit, we recognise the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III), to be held in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016, as a key global milestone in realising the full potential of the ambitious 2030 Agenda for sustainable urban development. We recognise the significance of the *New Urban Agenda*, to be adopted at Habitat III, as a guide for sustainable development in human settlements.
6. At this important international juncture, we recall that the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa in September 2001, highlighted the need for a common front in the global fight against racial discrimination. It is in response to this call that the International Coalition of Cities against Racism (ICCAR) was launched by UNESCO in 2004.
7. We recognise that more than a decade on, the call for global unity in combating racism and all forms of discrimination has never been more relevant. Today, it is also clear from the centrality of inclusion and respect for human rights in the SDGs and emerging *New Urban Agenda* and from the complexity of the challenges faced in cities around the world, that there is a broader need for shared action and leadership to make inclusive and sustainable development in cities a reality.

***Realising the potential of sustainable urban development: ICCAR and the implementation of contemporary agendas***

8. As a global network of over 500 member municipalities united for the advancement of inclusive urban development free from all forms of discrimination, we are committed to continuing our contribution to the elaboration of the *New Urban Agenda*, and consider ICCAR as a key platform for action in its implementation.
9. We recall the essence of the Prague Declaration (March 2016), the Abuja Declaration (February 2016), the Montreal Declaration (October 2015), the Karlsruhe Declaration (October 2015), the Montevideo Declaration (September 2015) and the Auckland Declaration (March 2015), underscoring their common emphasis on the importance of inclusion to sustainable urban development.

10. We stress that sustainable urban development is only possible if racism and all forms of discrimination are effectively prevented and countered as part of broader progress towards fully inclusive and equitable development in cities.
11. As we reaffirm our commitment to making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the emerging *New Urban Agenda*, we wish to advocate for the centrality of inclusion and diversity in promoting sustainable urban development, and highlight the following key messages:
  - Sustainable urban development cannot be achieved without addressing challenges posed by a culture of racism and discrimination.
  - Translating human rights into concrete actions and mechanisms fostering gender equality is a key factor for development, democracy and inclusion.
  - As incubators for cultural, social, economic and political innovations, cities are well-placed to empower their populations to foster inclusion, resilience and diversity.
  - Promoting the full integration of migrants helps reap the fruits of migration in economic, social and cultural life.
  - Acknowledging the potential contribution of migration in economic, social and cultural life promotes peaceful, just and inclusive societies.
  - Learning about rights, and how put them to practice, is the basis for social cohesion and peace in multicultural societies, promoting the full and meaningful participation of populations.
  - Through identifying good practices as related to the promotion of inclusion in the design, implementation and evaluation of city level policies and services, municipal authorities will be better equipped to develop effective action to tackle exclusion and discrimination.
  - As key actors in the data revolution for sustainable development, cities and all urban stakeholders - including citizens themselves - can strengthen understanding of city dynamics and facilitate participatory and inclusive urban development through enhanced engagement in innovative data practices.
12. As cities of ICCAR we commit ourselves to making every effort to accommodate people in need and respect their dignity, commit ourselves to an anti-racist welcoming culture with short-term and long-term measures along the lines of the commitments in the Ten-point plan of action, to preserve and improve the social cohesion of our cities, particularly in the fields of vigilance towards racist attitudes, prevention of hate crimes, and equality of access to shelter, health services, the labour market, and education, and the proactive implementation of these measures in conformity with the national laws and legislation.

13. In this spirit, we are committed to the full mobilisation of the ICCAR platform in response to the priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals and the emerging *New Urban Agenda*. We have therefore taken the decision to align the name and mandate of the Coalition accordingly. As such:

- We hereby present the new name for the Coalition:

**International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities,**

effective as of 1 June 2016.

- We welcome and support the initiative of the International Peace Forum that will take place in Madrid in 2017 and will make every effort to contribute to it.
- We agree to ask each Region to discuss if there is a need to review their 10 Point Plan of Action, responding to the priorities and commitments of global development agendas and contemporary opportunities and challenges for sustainable urban development around the world.
- Based on these priorities and building on the experience and achievements of the regional and national Coalitions, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthening collaborative action, advocacy and joint initiatives in order to identify and disseminate good practices.

*Mr Eric Apelgren, Head of International and Governance Relations, eThekweni Municipality, Durban, South Africa – lead city of the African Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination*

*Ms Cassie L. Palamar, Director, Education and Engagement, Alberta Human Rights Commission; representative of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD)*

*Ms Nabila Rmili, Deputy Mayor of Casablanca, Morocco - lead city of the Coalition of Arab Cities against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance*

*Councillor Arthur Anae, Chair of Economic Development Committee, City of Auckland, New Zealand – lead city of the Coalition of Cities against Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific*

*Mayor Daniel Martinez, Coalition President, Intendente, Intendencia de Montevideo, Uruguay – lead city of the Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia*

*Mr Benedetto Zacchioli, ECCAR President and Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister of Italy, Comune di Bologna, Italy – lead city of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR)*

*Mayor William A. Bell Sr., Mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, U.S.A. – lead city of the U.S. Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination*

*Bologna 18 April 2016*