

**Statement delivered by Ms. Marta Suplicy,
Head of International Affairs, City of São Paulo**

IMRF Multi-stakeholder Hearing – 16 May 2022

EIXOS DE INTERVENÇÃO ESTABELECIDOS PELO PRESIDENTE DA ASSEMBLEIA GERAL DA ONU:

- (1) Exemplos concretos dos principais progressos, lacunas e desafios na implementação do GCM – Pacto Global para Migração
- (2) Recomendações sobre o fortalecimento do engajamento de partes interessadas – AUTORIDADES LOCAIS E REGIONAIS

SUGESTÃO DE PONTOS DE FALA

- Mr. President, Mr. Director General, my fellow delegates, to all those who devote themselves to the implementation of the GCM.
- It is my honor to speak to you for the first International Migration Review Forum, representing the City of São Paulo and all local and regional governments that play a central role on welcoming people who come to an unknown frontier – full of hopes, as well as fears.
- As a global community, we are challenged to address issues wherein lie prodigious opportunities for a safe, orderly, and humane migration.
- It is our responsibility to serve migrants and to ensure access to services regardless of status or how they get there.
- This approach is firmly grounded and fully consistent with the GCM's mission and the commitments of local governments that I am proud to represent today.
- We are the first responders, promoting efficient solutions that can have a positive impact for communities, and tackling a full range of significant needs.
- For instance, I will share with you some initiatives that emerge at the local level:
- (1) We build inclusive communities by balancing narratives on migration that are comprehensive regarding our concern about systemic racism and all forms of discrimination.
- (2) We promote the social and economic inclusion of migrants, reducing their vulnerabilities and protecting them from exploitation and harm.
- (3) And we promote migrant participation such as the pioneering initiative of the Municipal Council of Immigrants in São Paulo, that assures a seat for migrant communities in policy planning and political participation in the city.
- (3.a) The council exists as a development from the city's Municipal Policy for Immigrant Population, launched back in 2016. This is a concrete example to giving a political voice to migrants at local level, something emanated from the wish to give opportunities of participation in political actions, as they do not have the right to vote in Brazilian elections, and in some cases, even in their country of origin.

- (3.b) This reveals local governments' vocation to be inclusive in its administration, for a truly democratic and participative process, facilitating the integration of migrant communities and, as a result, enabling the development of the city as a whole.
- To seek this whole-of-government development, despite the challenges, such as restricted mandates and scarce resources, we are collectively invested since the start of the negotiations of the GCM and continue to stand ready to be at the table in international forums to show how cities have proven themselves as vanguard of overseeing the impact of migration in local communities.
- Such role of local governments is firmly recognized in the GCM, by the Secretary-General 2022 Report, and during some preparation meetings in which we learned a lot. However, access for us to join the IMRF discussions is still limited.
- By facilitating more meaningful engagement of local governments, relying on partners such as the Mayors Mechanism, we could, together, show real progress and bring the best of the power of cities.
- And we are ready to do so: this week, collectively – we are bringing over 50 local pledges to the Forum this week, collected through the Mayors Mechanism' Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, which will be launched this Wednesday.
- This number shows the enormous potential cities have to spearhead and accelerate global agendas.
- We, therefore, at the UN Member States and international partners convenience, suggest to: (1) foster meaningful local-led participation in the GCM processes; (2) unlock resources directly to local realities to push actions delivered faster and at scale; and (3) coordinate new partnerships both nationally, regionally, and internationally.
- We stand ready to achieve people-centered migration policies and to address the 23 GCM objectives. It requires sustained cooperation with a broad range of stakeholders here represented, who will take the floor thereafter.
- We should listen to all experiences - successes and failures. From these exchanges, including this outstanding hearing, we grow stronger, to bring our highest-possible ambitions and to set actions that, even in such turbulent times, can help us welcome people with generosity.
- Thank you very much!