



*Permanent Mission of Italy
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ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

September 28th 2009, United Nations Headquarters, New York

*HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE ON THE MARGINS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S GENERAL
DEBATE*

The Interethnic City: Management and Policies for a Better Integration of Migrants

Verbatim Report of the Roundtable

Integration of Migrants is Key to Cross-Cultural Relations

The integration of migrants, specifically in cities, is critical for the improvement of cooperative relations among peoples from different cultures and religions. Urban planning can play a key function in facilitating the inclusion of migrants. This event examined good practices and processes for better integration of diverse communities. Gathering results of research and experiences in the integration of migrants at the level of cities, as experienced by local administrators, policymakers and other stakeholders, the event showcased practical policies and facilitated networking of representatives of municipalities and other relevant institutions while providing visibility to the issue.

The High-Level Roundtable on “The Inter-Ethnic City: Management and Policies for a Better Integration of Migrants”, co-organized by the UNAOc, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Permanent Missions of Italy and of Canada to the United Nations, focused on September 28th 2009 on the challenges faced by municipalities in integrating migrants into their societies. It was conceived as a follow-up of the panel discussion on “Integrating Migrants – A Challenge for Inclusive Societies”, from the recent Istanbul Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations.

Participants spoke of the challenges of rapid urbanization and the increasing importance of migration in urban context. In his opening remarks, UNAOc High Representative President Sampaio said,

“Cultural diversity can spark innovation, stimulate creativity and boost the economy. But we cannot take it for granted. We need policies and common action aimed at the successful integration of migrant populations. In this regard, municipal and local governments play a crucial role in promoting sustainable urban development based on cultural diversity, as a key factor to prevent conflicts and contribute to security and peace.”

Other speakers highlighted that globalization and migration have brought about a level of diversity unseen before, with cultural diversity now a main feature in most cities. Participants stressed that integration policies must be coordinated at the urban level.

Issues relating to spatial distribution in urban areas should be considered on equal footing as those activities fostering social cohesion. While national governments can create the conditions and provide financial assistance, the real action on integration takes place at the local level. Unanimity was evident from the speakers that those heterogeneous cities which foster integration and inclusiveness have a more competitive edge providing greater social and economic advancements over homogenous cities.

The roundtable, held at United Nations Headquarters on the margins of the UN General Assembly, showcased practical integration policies as critical for the improvement of cooperative relations amongst peoples across cultures and religions.

A webcast of the event can be found at <http://www.un.org/webcast>

This document provides the full verbatim of the roundtable.

OPENING AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The roundtable began with introductory remarks by **Enzo Scotti, Italian Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs**, who drew connections to recent General Assembly discussions on the need to work collaboratively and eliminate ideological divides. He (and later other speakers) highlighted the economic and cultural opportunities provided by cities, while also reviewing the challenges of large-scale urbanization and the inter-mingling of previously isolated communities. **William Lacy Swing, Director General of the IOM**, echoed these remarks, stressing that there is an unprecedented amount of migration occurring today and this is unlikely to change in the near future; as a result, exclusion and isolationism are simply not viable options. **AOC High Representative Jorge Sampaio**, in recorded remarks, focused on cities as places of mixing, where individuals must live together. Cultural diversity may result in an increase in communal tension and potentially conflict, with local, national, and international implications; hence, he emphasized the need for good governance of cultural diversity. High Representative Sampaio noted that municipal governments and local leaders must play a key role, and city-to-city diplomacy can be a valuable tool. He also mentioned the UNAOC's Online Community on migration and integration that will be up and running in 2010.

Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, Mr. Giulio Terzi

I am the Permanent Representative of Italy, Giulio Terzi and I am very pleased to open this high level round table on the Inter-Ethnic Cities: Management and Policies for a Better Integration of Migrants. I am very pleased also to give the floor as opening remarks to the Secretary of State Enzo Scotti and after him, to his Excellency William Lacy Swing, the Director General of the International Organization for Migration, and to listen as a third point the welcome message by President Sampaio, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. I would like to invite Secretary State Scotti to take the floor and to give his remarks. Thank you very much.

Mr. Enzo Scotti, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy

Thank you Ambassador. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor and a pleasure to open today's important meeting. I want to thank Canada, the International Organization for Migration, and the Alliance of Civilizations for joining us in organizing this event. And I want to stress how grateful I am to the Fondazione Aldo della Rocca, and particularly to its President, my friend Professor Beguinot, who has studied the problems of the city for many years with his outstanding team of researchers, many of whom are here with us today. He was the first to propose holding an event at the United Nations on this important topic. His passion and commitment are the reason for us to be here today. Thank you Professor.

This last week, with all the world leaders in New York, the United Nations tackled all the great challenges of today: disarmament, climate change, poverty, food security, the economic crisis, peace and security, inter-cultural dialogue. What we have learnt is that all these issues are interrelated and that we can succeed only if we move away from the idea of the clash of civilizations and we start working together to reach our common goals.

We do not simply need to disarm our weapons. We also need to disarm culturally, getting rid of ideological divides that set us apart. This is the background of today's meeting, whose goal is to tackle another great challenge of today: the crisis of the city.

I am convinced that the urban level has a central importance in any strategy to foster understanding and in all integration policies.

The city is at the forefront of globalization, reproducing its effects. It is a place of increasing challenges: poverty, insecurity and crime; separation among communities at the social level creating separate and conflicting spaces within the same urban context. But at the same time, the city is also the place for increasing economic opportunities, enhanced communication, cultural vivacity, scientific advances.

We have therefore to look for practical solutions, for a different and a better model of urban planning, of city management, of social integration capable of overcoming those challenges and exploiting those opportunities. This is what many cities around the world are trying to do and their experience could prove precious for our project.

To be successful, today's meeting cannot be just a self-contained single event. On the contrary it must be the beginning of a process. We have to start from the ideas and the proposals that are going to be presented today and act upon them.

What's next then? In order to highlight the topic and give it more visibility, I believe we should explore the idea of creating an "Alliance of Civilizations Model City" framework, as a concrete example of different best practices in urban policies and integration. To achieve this goal we should call on experts worldwide to provide suggestions, proposals and solutions. From there, we could move to convene an international conference in 2010, under the auspices of the United Nations, and particularly with the support of UN HABITAT and the other partners involved in today's event specially Metropolis and Care foundation. The conference, which could take place in late fall next year, could be the occasion to take stock of these proposals, putting together different experiences and points of view involving civil society, cultural institutions, academia, NGOs already active in this field. I hope that with the help of everybody we can make this possible.

I thank you all for your participation and I look forward to what I am sure will be an enlightening discussion. Thank you.

Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, Mr. Giulio Terzi

Thank you very much Enzo Scotti, and now I have the pleasure to give the floor to Director General William Lacy Swing.

Ambassador William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration:

Your Excellency Enzo Scotti, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Mr. Ambassador, your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is certainly an honor for me and our organization to participate in today's discussion on the very important question of the Inter-Ethnic City and the integration of migrants into our urban areas. I too would like to thank the Permanent Missions of Italy and Canada, our co-sponsors, along with the Alliance of Civilizations for making this discussion possible.

Today's meeting is really an ongoing initiative of the AOC and IOM to try to contribute to promoting the richness of inter-cultural diversity in our societies, and in this particular session, our focus is on our cities and urban centers.

The discussion will build on a previous exchange at Istanbul in April, at the Alliance of Civilizations Forum, which was entitled "Integrating Migrants-A Challenge for Inclusive Societies". The Istanbul discussion served as an exploratory session, whereas today's meeting is intended to sharpen our focus on the integration of migrants in an urban context, and in so doing to highlight both the unique challenges and the opportunities that rapid urbanization and technological advances pose.

Today we will be looking specifically at good practices as they relate to integration, diversity management and social inclusion.

In doing so, we will be exposed to a range of perspectives, exploring how public and private sectors and service providers can contribute to promoting mutual understanding between immigrant communities and their host societies.

We are in a period of transition from mono-ethnic cities to multi-ethnic cities and ultimately inter-ethnic cities. Our subject today is therefore not without some controversy. The term "integration" is going to mean different things to different people. For some, it is akin to cultural assimilation. Others will speak about "cultural melting pots" or "cultural mosaics". In some circles, integration will still be treated as an internal security matter.

It would help us all, regardless of our point of view, if we can come to think of Inter-Ethnic Cities as getting everyone together around a common point of view and a common strategy so that everyone's interest can be protected and promoted.

We are of course in an inexorably inter-connected and inter-dependent world, and therefore can no longer afford, if we ever could, exclusivity, isolationism, segregation and stereotypical treatment. Cultural diversity enhances creativity in our communities, it strengthens our social cohesion and it contributes to cross-cultural relations and international peace and security.

We are in the era of the greatest human mobility in recorded history. The current labor market, demographic and economic trends are such that it is unlikely to change for anytime in the near future. So the question is not whether we are for or against migration, we simply have to learn how we can best manage it, by having everyone on board for the benefit of all. Integration is a dynamic process: one of mutual accommodation and adjustment by the migrants and the host community. And it is best supported by rational reasonable migration policies and practices on the part of the host government. Within villages, towns and cities, we find spaces where migrants meet the host community, workplaces, schools, community centers, shops, host government offices; these urban spaces are the social crucibles where the alchemy of integration will either succeed or fail. These are the points of contact; these can be the point of convergence of all.

The report of the High Level Group of the Alliance of Civilizations recognized this point and stressed the role of leadership in countries of immigration in promoting urban diversity as a great source of strength.

The International Organization for Migration takes pride in working to promote migrant integration-we have done it for many years. Whether it is migrant training activities, pre-departure orientation, cultural orientation,

or language training in 44 countries, we have assisted up to fifty thousand migrants annually, to prepare them for what awaits them in their host community. We also prepare refugees for challenges of resettlement in new societies, and engaging civil society and immigrant communities in diversity training at all levels.

We are also grateful for the excellent partnership we enjoy with the United Nations Alliance of civilizations. Together, we have an ambitious action plan:

- We want to display positive and successful integration experiences; because unfortunately much of the public attention on migrants today has to do with irregular migrants, sometimes called "illegal migrants", "not properly documented migrants", and very little attention on the contributions of the vast majority of our migrant colleagues.
- We would also like to share good integration practices globally, and
- To provide technical support for the development of national migration and integration strategies.

Our plan of action has particular relevance in a period of global economic and financial crisis, because there is a tendency at present, in a number of countries, to think in counter-cyclical terms when it comes to migrants. That is to say a tendency on the part of some governments to harden attitudes towards migrants, to send them home whereas, given the demographic transit in many of the developed countries, we know that legal migrants will be required if our economies are to recover. As difficult as it is to change attitudes, regulation and legislation, it would be prudent for Governments to include integration among the various options that are available. I was very surprised and pleased to hear recently, at a large gathering in a major developed country, with a hard language and traditionally rather closed society, that it was said that we can no longer rely on the rotational temporary work of model if we are going to meet our labor and social requirements. And therefore we have to include integration as one of the options.

So we have been particularly active over the past year assisting and encouraging Governments in this regard. We launched a campaign in several countries about the contribution of migrants and in some countries that have had recent issues of violence toward migrants; we have launched public information campaigns, working with communities to promote greater understanding.

Like many other challenges we face as an international community, migrant integration is one that requires the broadest coalition of partners. And I am therefore extremely pleased to see we have assembled here distinguished representatives from local governments, foundations, the UN system, academia and civil society.

So I believe this session will meet its objective and help us prepare for the next AoC Forum in Rio, in May of 2010.

In conclusion, let me thank you for your participation today. I think this promises to be a very fruitful discussion on a vital topic that needs to be critically addressed and continuously adapted over time to give voice to all who stand to benefit. Thank you.

Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu, Nigerian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Chairperson of the session

I want to thank on your behalf, Ambassador William Lacy Swing, Director General of the IOM, for his very lucid statement. Now we will watch a video which is a welcome message by President Sampaio, the High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

Welcome message by President Sampaio, High Representative for the UN Alliance of Civilizations (Video recorded message)

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I should like to greet this initiative jointly promoted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Permanent Missions of Italy and Canada to the United Nations and the Alliance of Civilizations.

I very much regret that I cannot be with you but, as you may know, having general elections in my country on the 27th of September it was impossible for me to be back in New York on time for this roundtable. However I really did not want to miss this outstanding opportunity to share with you some thoughts on the topical issue of integration of migrants in cities.

As a former Mayor of Lisbon, I know what I am talking about. Cities are where people from a diversity of cultures mix together and where people from a diversity of nations and backgrounds come together and have to live together. If you think that the majority of the world's population lives in cities, in 2008, about 3.3 billion people lived in cities and towns, and this number is estimated to reach 4.9 billion (60 percent of the global population) by 2030, we easily realize the huge dimension of the challenges ahead.

So, due to globalization and migration bringing together cultural communities in urban areas who may previously not have had much interaction with each other, cultural diversity has become one of the main features of our cities. This is why we witness nowadays the rising of social and community tensions. Interaction of different groups with different traditions and different cultures and beliefs can be a source of friction and often of conflict. Therefore, a government's relative inability to manage such a cultural diversity will make these cities potential breeding grounds for unrest, conflicts and violence, with the risk of spreading regionally, nationally, and internationally.

This is one of the main reasons why the Alliance of Civilizations is trying to promote "good governance of cultural diversity" and has put it as the core of its mission in its four main fields of action, i.e. youth, education, media and migration. Good governance of cultural diversity is central not only to achieve social cohesion within societies but also in terms of conflict prevention between societies.

In my view, cultural diversity can spark innovation, stimulate creativity and boost the economy. But we cannot take it for granted and to make it an element of progress and not a factor of conflicts and polarization, we need policies and common action aimed at the successful integration of migrant populations. This is my first point.

In this regard, municipal and local governments play a crucial role in promoting sustainable urban development based on cultural diversity, as a key factor to prevent conflicts and contributing to security and peace. In my view, promoting an appropriate "climate" for cultural diversity is a key role for local governments. And this is my second point.

Legitimacy, proximity to citizens and experience in local management make local authorities more attuned to succeed in fostering mutual understanding, confidence and respect among peoples of different cultural and religious traditions. In this regard I also want to stress that city diplomacy or city-to-city cooperation is a powerful complement to the traditional diplomacy between States. City diplomacy can play a significant role in peace building and conflict prevention. This is my third point.

In my view, the Alliance of Civilizations can serve as a catalyst to promote initiatives of city-to-city diplomacy, aimed at helping a number of local and municipal authorities to lay down conditions for sustainable peace between divided communities and societies.

As a catalyst and a platform for interaction of different players and stakeholders, the Alliance aims to build on existing initiatives and work in close collaboration with the main relevant players. We are very keen on facilitating exchange and bridge-building between actors of integration so as to promote further involvement and replication of good practices. And we are of course ready to disseminate positive experiences of integration of migrants so as to counter polarizing stereotypes about migrants.

This is why we promoted the organization of this roundtable that builds on recent work done by foundations, experts, Group of Friends and Focal Points, and follows up from the Alliance's Istanbul Forum sessions on integration of migrants, particularly at the urban level.

Moreover we plan to launch, at the beginning of 2010, an online clearinghouse on Migration and Integration. It will be a virtual platform for learning and exchange. It will showcase good practices collected, initiated and implemented by a variety of actors, from the private sector and academic institutions to national and local governments, including civil society, international organizations and United Nations agencies.

In addition, we would like to promote a thematic network for exchange and promotion of good practices at local level so as to help creating cities of inclusion and participation.

Last but not least, in the field of city diplomacy activities, I am pleased to announce that we will also launch by the end of this year a "Call for Interest to Cities" around the world, inviting them to submit a proposal to host a Dialogue café.

As you may remember, the Dialogue Café Network is a new Alliance of Civilizations project launched in Istanbul, aimed to bridge cultural and social misunderstanding and to promote diverse, multicultural innovative conversations and interaction.

Cities are at the core of this project, cities with the right mix of creativity, diversity, intercultural profile, innovation, collaboration, culture of peace and vision. So please keep an eye at our website.

Dear Friends, I am sure that this roundtable will contribute to take stock of the existing initiatives on integration of migrants and open up the way to bridge the gaps and explore possible additional actions that bring added value in this field of city diplomacy and city-to-city cooperation.

Thanks for your support and participation. I look forward to learning the outcomes of your debates. Again my apologies and of course, many thanks.

SESSION I: DESIGNING PROCESS AND SPACES FOR INTEGRATION

Professor Corrado Beguinot, President of the Aldo Della Rocca Foundation, a non-profit organization that has been focusing on urban studies for more than fifty years, was instrumental in the development of the roundtable, as the Della Rocca Foundation has spent the past ten years looking at the inter-ethnic and inter-cultural city as a solution to what it terms 'the urban crisis'. Professor Beguinot suggested, *inter alia*, bringing users and service providers closer together, and creating a team of 'inter-ethnic referees'. **Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-Habitat**, reiterated the importance of appropriate planning, management, and service delivery for resolving the problems faced by cities, including urban riots and slum housing. **Ratna Omidvar, President of the Maytree Foundation**, highlighted the Canadian Foundation's Cities of Migration project, which aims to identify and publicize the best ideas for integration from cities around the world-- those that are practical, innovative, successful, and exportable. Canadian examples included Punjabi-language hockey broadcasts in Calgary and professional mentoring of immigrants in Toronto. Ratna Omidvar concluded by noting the importance of local involvement in integration. **Ilda Curti, Commissioner of the City of Turin for Integration Policies**, highlighted how Turin has responded to changing economic and socio-cultural circumstances to empower new residents and support urban processes of change.

Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu, Nigerian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Chairperson of the session

Again on your behalf, we thank the High Representative of the Alliance of Civilizations for a very inspiring message.

Now we go on to the first session, which is captioned "Designing processes and Spaces for Integration". I would just want to say that I appreciate very much the invitation for me to share this first session. I want to commend the organizers of the Permanent Missions of Canada and Italy to the United Nations, the Alliance of Civilizations and the International Organization for Migration for this seminal event and for this very laudable initiative.

In our region, West Africa, migration is perceived as an essential of integration that could be utilized effectively to break the sub-regions' language, cultural, political, and especially colonial barriers. And so when ECOWAS was formed in 1975, it was intended to foster and accelerate the economic and social development of the 15 member states. A key component to the ECOWAS integration effort is the protocol of the free flow of persons, goods and services.

But over the years, as we all know, we sort of derailed quite a bit from integration to conflict resolution within the region. Now we are finding our way back, and the challenge for stakeholders and the leaders of the region is to make concerted efforts to eliminate a primary obstacle to sustainable development – that is political instability, stemming from endemic conflicts. Another looming task for the region is halting the spread of the HIV Aids which is taking a huge toll on the human resources.

All of these factors will have determined the cause of migration especially in the West African sub-region.

Now we go on to our next speaker.

He needs no introduction because he is very distinguished, but I want to say that he is a Professor of Architecture and Architectural Composition. He has published 40 volumes and over 200 essays about topics related to town planning, architecture, hospital organization, and technological innovation, most of them published in Italian and foreign reviews from 1950 to 2006. We have a nice institutional memory in the person of Professor Corrado Beguinot. Please welcome him.

Professor Corrado Beguinot, Chairman, Della Rocca Foundation:

(Talk preceded by video screening of *“Once there were Cities”*, poem by Giuseppe Limone)

The first poem written by a poet-philosopher has been donated to this event as hope for a path toward solving the complex problems of social life.

By way of introduction, I am Corrado Beguinot, a scholar of Urban Studies and a Professor at an ancient and glorious Italian University. Currently I work with a foundation, the Della Rocca Foundation, which is an Urban Studies research center that has been dedicated, in the past ten years, to the theme of the multi-ethnic city and its inclination toward inter-ethnicity.

The Foundation’s reason for being here today, I believe, is to discuss the contribution the Foundation intends to make to the work that has been long done for the Planet Earth by the Alliance for Civilizations, the IOM, Metropolis and UN HABITAT, and to examine whether our contribution could be useful. I would like to thank you for this opportunity and express my hopes that our collaboration may prove to be useful.

Allow me to also express my gratitude to the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, and to Ambassador Terzi and his exceptional staff. I would like to mention in particular Roberto Storaci of the Mission, with whom we have had the possibility to build this part of the event, because I admire the hard work, rigor and constancy with which our Permanent Mission has done its preparatory work. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the person of the Under Secretary of State, Vincenzo Scotti, has made a very important contribution to advancing the work of the Foundation. It has helped to open a new path not only for me, an elderly professor – I am 85 years old – but also opening for our young people, the young people of the planet, who could find something useful on the path that I believe we can identify today as the beginning of a long road.

All formalities aside, I would like to thank you, Vincenzo, for what you are doing, and not only for our country. In brief, I also feel that I have to thank the group here - an expression of our international scientific and scholarly community - for the major contribution being made to the work that I will try to explain briefly and concisely. Many people have participated in this work to varying degrees, depending upon their specialization and experiences. The Foundation will certainly work hard if it understands that this is an important contribution also taking advantage of my role as a kind of spreader, disseminator of your indications and your initiatives.

Let I forget them in my concluding remarks, I would also like to thank the professionals, the interpreters, with the hope that they will be able to improve on what I am saying which is necessarily short: thank you for your work and for what you are doing.

I would also like to thank those who in the various meetings we have organized in Countries, also outside of Italy, have helped make this event possible and contributed food for thought and action through a real time broadcast, disseminated to all of those who cherish the destiny of our cities.

I believe it is important for the Foundation to act as a kind of operative disseminator of what the UN agencies are doing to prioritize the crisis of the interethnic city: a crisis which is so difficult for cities today to respond to adequately, with demands expressing the deep motivations of urban society.

This is the theme: the crisis of the city. What are the reasons for this crisis? While we all know them, let me summarize them briefly. What are the best practices? Such practices have to be supported by initiatives like the ones I will describe in my short presentation. Sadly, the crisis will continue. It will continue as long as the cities increase in number and size; as long as scientific and technological progress increases the gap between the giant of complexity and the dwarf of humankind; as long as the new technology is treated as a mere consumer product, as long as the people of Planet Earth are forced to migrate because of hunger, persecution, and wars, until the inequities between rich and poor diminish, and as long as the use and consumption of finite, non-renewable resources exceeds what is available. This crisis will continue until the cities of yesterday (the center of the world, today the periphery of the world) regain their role, function, and vocation, as long as the city continues to ignore the need for a society that is more evolved, more multicultural and multiethnic and less interethnic, and as long as the city produces few values, little wealth, little urban growth and great insecurity, great pollution, great decay and great economic loss.

At the opening of this session of the General Assembly, President Obama addressed concretely and innovatively the need to manage more appropriately our resources by reducing every type of imbalance. Until we have access to other parts of the universe on the Planet Earth, we will have to find the answer to the problems of the crisis. Should the possibility of this access become available, then obviously the manner by which we address our problems will change.

We have to resolve through our own means on our planet, the Planet Earth, at the risk of the survival of the human race, the future of six billion men and women. I am convinced that only the United Nations, with the educated and powerful agencies that it has, is able to respond to the priorities of the 21st Century - the crisis of the cities - by accepting, by acknowledging these reasons for the crisis, and identifying the best practices and developing a series of initiatives to support these practices. I believe that having followed quite closely the unfolding of this latest session of the General Assembly, I believe we are perfectly consistent with the negotiations of some problems, some fundamental problems. Therefore, the reasons, the best practices and the support activities - what should they be? I would like to identify some possibilities that could be the subject of reflection.

We have identified five possibilities that I would like to briefly illustrate, but that are explained at great length in the supplementary brochure you were given by the Italian Mission.

1. Kilometer Zero (zero-distance philosophy)
2. Nanotechnologies
3. The epochal reversal, which we call : "from the cure to the prevention of the ills of the city"
4. The training of new professional figures to govern the transformation of the city to make it less distant from the demands of urban society
5. And then, to redesign the city, the architecture *of* dialogue *for* dialogue's sake.

What do we mean by "Kilometer Zero"? It means to close the gap between the user and the provider of goods, services and activities. Today, this gap tends to increase with economic, social and political results due to a lack of understanding and a lack of dialogue. But there is a philosophy, which could be tested in cities on every continent, that could redesign the response to one of society's demands, by using the findings of biology and other electronics fields are making in the field of nanoscience. The computerization of functions and services has unfortunately been geared more toward consumerism than toward solving people's problems.

Nanotechnology should not be condemned to the same road as other technological innovations. Instead, it should use its powerful instruments to address the problems of managing complexity.

We hope for an epic reversal, from cure to prevention, to avoid being preyed upon by microscopic phenomena that generate problems that require greater resources, including funding, than are available. A good example of this is the field of medicine, in which high costs are best contained by taking a preventive approach rather than dealing with ills only after they have appeared. I believe that following a similar path for the care of the city would produce very positive results in the medium term. This deep changes in the city, in society, result from two main phenomena: scientific and technological progress, and a more diverse population. In other words, progress and multi-ethnicity are the main cause of the difficult relationships between city and society.

Given the increase in this gap, and the failure of the city to meet the demands of society, and to implement the principles of the "Kilometer Zero," we need a new type of professionals assigned the role of inter-ethnic guarantor to help administer this problem. This can only happen through a redesign of the city to recover the semantic values it has lost, the values of the city of the past. These guarantors could have new functions, provide new services and perform new activities that meet the demands of multi-ethnicity where there is a difficult coexistence between population diversity and mutual respect. Because if we do not have this ability, if the administrators do not have this ability, and if they cannot guarantee respect for difference, to allow educated civic coexistence, then we risk being overwhelmed by such phenomena and jeopardizing the promise of nanotechnology and science becoming the greatest resource of the 21st Century. A renewed society that has achieved the goal of civic and educated coexistence would not ignore the theme of complexity or attempt to simplify it but rather try to close this huge gap between the giant of complexity and the dwarf of humankind. The struggle between the dwarf and the giant today favors complexity rather than humankind and its abilities. The city is no longer a place where values evolve, making this a matter of ethical priority. The primary aim of the city today is to produce economic imbalance (since complexity creates greater imbalance between costs and resources as well as pollution). The city produces constant entropy, creating even greater decay. So how can we tackle this problem at something other than the technical level? Perhaps by using the knowledge being developed on the planet. To do so, we need to create initiatives to spread knowledge and make the crisis of the city the priority issue of the 21st century, explaining the reasons for it, and studying the possibility of implementing best practices. Today's meeting should thus address three issues:

One, an intercontinental manifesto of ideas drafted and signed by the great Nobel laureates of the Earth, guaranteeing the widest possible dissemination.

Two, create a team of inter-ethnic guarantors.

Three, produce an encyclopedia of knowledge and support experimentation.

I believe that these short indications can provide food for thought and ideas from the protagonists of this dialogue between different cultures and different fields of knowledge. Thank you.

Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu, Nigerian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Chairperson of the session

We thank the distinguished professor of Professor Corrado Beguinot for this very scientific analysis and exposition of the issue in a very philosophical and also very spiritual blend of all. We know he provides an unbroken continuity with further generations. I would like for us to allocate some time for the next three speakers, I suggest that they have ten minutes each to speak and so that we can have about fifteen minutes of questions and answers because this session will end promptly at ten fifty-five. Thank you very much.

I would like to introduce an allegiant African woman, both in Africa and in the world, Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka; she is the Executive Director of UN Habitat. She was appointed in September 2000. A national of Tanzania, she holds a Doctor's degree of science in agricultural economy from the Swedish University of agricultural sciences in Uppsala. The introduction is very long and because the time is short I would like to invite her to give her presentation. You have the floor Madame.

Ms. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director, UN Habitat: Thank you very much, your Excellency Madame Chair.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good morning to you all and let me say that speaking after professor Corrado as I am going to do, I don't have to dwell on for too long, he has covered the considerable ground in addressing the topic.

I will start by thanking the Italian and the Canadian Permanent Missions to the United Nations, the UN Alliance of Civilizations and our colleagues from the International Organization for Migration for jointly convening this round table and for inviting us, UN HABITAT, to participate in this particular panel. For UN HABITAT, the challenge of developing policies and strategies that promote integration within cities is one of our core mandates and key concerns. International migration is one dimension over historic transformation in which the world is becoming predominately urban. And the need to exchange views and experience on how to foster inclusiveness and integration is very useful indeed.

I must say that I was encouraged to hear that this topic is now gaining ground. It was not the case ten years ago when UN HABITAT campaigned to raise awareness of the plight of our urban future. Recent events from cities in different parts of the world testify to the devastation that can arise from the failure to ensure effective integration. We have witnessed the ugly face of xenophobia and discrimination in places where we least expected it to happen. Think of the events in Moscow, Russia, think of the events in the African neighborhoods in Johannesburg, South Africa. We have witnessed urban riots and violence in the cities of both developing and developed countries sparked off by long fostering and neglected issues surrounding slums and housing estates. That was a physical expression of ineffective public policies and sometimes ignorant indifference. Think of the event of Paris and more recently, think of the events of Nairobi where actually UN HABITAT is headquartered. Sadly, we are witnessing these events in cities, the one place that should be more tolerant and cosmopolitan, or so one would have thought.

Integration and inclusiveness are without doubt important factors in enhancing social advancement and economic dynamism in urbanizing and globalizing world. The difference between cities that have harnessed the potential of diversity and the positive contribution of inter-ethnicity, as those pointed out by the previous speaker, and other cities that have failed to do so, is quite evident. Cities that have been able to promote social and structural integration are those who today celebrate their diverse cultural assets as part of their strengths and uniqueness a globalizing world economy.

So, Ladies and Gentlemen, the urban dimension of integration is something that I would like to emphasize. What we have failed to do until now, is to recognize the importance of urban and spatial dimension of social integration within the context of cultural diversity. This requires new policies and strategies. But more often

than not, they also require that we revisit the existing policies in housing, in urban safety, in urban planning and management and in the delivery of basic services. The period of denial is long gone. Migration is a matter that is here to stay and is likely to increase. As in those who think that it will not continue, they are just involved in futility, and really wishful thinking. People will move from rural to urban area and between cities and countries. To this, we need to add environmental refugees and the fact that transboundary and transnational migration can honor increase in the world economy that promotes the free movement of goods and capital.

For UN HABITAT, the integration and absorption of migrants in the urban social and economic fabric, is an indication of how well we are doing in terms of combating social exclusion, discrimination and segregation for society as a whole. It reveals the degree to which social economics and spatial integration is fostered and is successful in creating communities which people call their own. So your Excellencies, the destination of international migrants is cities, particularly larger cities, where they have more chances of finding income and opportunities. Often time, in such cohabitations migrants start of their new lives through the large and expanding informal sector of the economy. A significant number of them, particularly those in developing countries, end up living in informal settlements, called slums, that are generally the world of inadequate housing and basic services. It is also common for those who end up in developed countries, to settle in neighborhoods which too often have become ghettos, I am sorry to say. The spatial distribution of immigrant population is in fact very predictable. It is dictated by preference of being among familiar faces and cultural practices. But it is also dictated by a lack of choice. Why do many newly arrived migrants prefer to settle among their own communities to begin with? Most of do not have any real alternatives. This mismatch between the growing needs of a growing population and lack of capacity or willingness to respond results in increased vulnerability and exclusion and the increase of insecurity.

The role of local governments as frontline actors has already been emphasized. In the interest of time, I am just going to skip this part of my statement because it will be distributed, but I would like to say that of course as it has already been said by the president of the Alliance for integration that it is really the city, it is the mayors, the local actors who are going really take the lead in solving this problem. So unless local actors, unless the governance at local level is democratic, is open, is inclusive and is visionary in terms of finding the realities of our times things will not work in the direction that we wish to see.

So in this regard I would like to say, as the Under-Secretary has already pointed out, UN HABITAT, our role in the United Nations system really is coordination of implementation of the Habitat agenda and local governance is one of the core mandates that we have. So we work closely with local authorities, with Metropolis, with the Unites Cities and Local Governments which is now headquartered in Barcelona and whole armlet of local actors: women, youth groups, special interest groups, Habitat professionals, to be able to say that unless we have an inclusive city, as the poet was already saying before, we are all doomed. So we are really in this boat together. We are in this boat together of inclusiveness. And it is out of our own self interest. I feel that if we look at it as of our own self interest then maybe we can move this process forward.

Your Excellence Madame Chair, I have a statement which is going to be distributed. I would like to say that the UN HABITAT stands ready and that it s very pleased to be part of this project. Let me end with two announcements in part of this round table.

Next week, which is the first day of month of October, is World Habitat day. World Habitat day will be celebrated, hosted by the government of the United States. The Obama administration will be hosting the World Habitat day in Washington next week. And the theme is planning of urban future. So clearly, I will be taking the outcome of this round table to Washington to be able to inform the observation of World Habitat day. But I would like to say that, a round table like this one is something that should be discussed in every city on World Habitat day. Because World Habitat day is really designated by General Assembly to take stock and

audit how we live in our cities and our towns. Whether we are inclusive enough or whether we really have to put our act together.

Secondly, from Washington, next March, the fifth session of the World Urban Forum will be convening in Rio de Janeiro. And the World Urban Forum, if I may, I have already told the Under Secretary, in my view is a place where this round table also has an opportunity maybe to prepare for the international conference that the government of Italy has been talking about. The World Urban Forum is a meeting mandated by the General Assembly to discuss everything urban. But in an open manner. And it is really a market place of ideas, over practices, sharing knowledge on best practice on how we can deliver the UN HABITAT agenda. I thank you for your kind attention.

Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu, Nigerian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Chairperson of the session:

I thank Dr. Ms Tibaijuka for bringing her professional experience on her exposition. Thank you very much. The next speaker is Ms. Ratna Omidvar who is the President of Maytree, a private foundation that promotes equity and prosperity through its insights, grants and programs. Maytree supports development of social policy perspectives and settlement and integration of refugees and immigrants in large urban centers. Ms. Ratna also serves as the director of the Toronto Cities Summit Alliance and is a member of board of the Tamaraque institute. You have the floor Ms. Omidvar.

Ms. Ratna Omidvar, President of Maytree Foundation, Canada

Thank you very much. I thank you also for inviting me to this conference. The best way of really introducing me would be to say I am in the business of integration. I am an integration practitioner and have been one for 25 years. I have made a Power Point Presentation just because I think sometimes a picture tells you a thousand words. Before I start my presentation, perhaps we could go to the next slide,

I want to tell you a few words about Maytree. We are a private foundation in Canada. We invest a significant part of our resources in the integration and settlement of immigrants and refugees. And we do this for a sound business reason: we know that in Canada at least our prosperity, and the prosperity of our urban regions is inextricably linked with the prosperity of the hundreds and thousands immigrants who come to it every year. And we think this is a very wise use of private money for public interest. Our new project that I want to introduce you to is called "Cities of Migration". We've heard that term today. It is the first project that takes us outside the boundaries of Canada. We have partnered with Barrow Cadbury trust in UK, the Bertelsman in Germany, and the Tindall Foundation in New Zealand. And this new project rests on the twin forces of urbanization and migration and the creation of global cities.

We've heard enough about this, I am not going to delay but the point is to say is that there is a relentless march towards urbanization. I understand that close to 2075, close to 75 per cent of the world's population will be living in urban cities. At the same time we have this huge influx of people moving in all directions. Look at the arrows there: east to west and west to east. The search for a better life, the search for a safer life is also a powerful motivator in the world's population. This movement of people has created new demographics in cities of course like London, Paris, New York and Toronto but it is also creating regional hubs of diversity in places like Malmö, in places like Cardiff, in North America Minneapolis and Winnipeg. The demands of a labor market globally have also created new cities of migration in places like Dubai, Singapore, Muscat and Johannesburg. So the new cities of migration are not just in the east, not just in the west. They are in the east and they are in the south.

Our project, "Cities of migration" searches out the best ideas in integration practice regardless of which global city they come from. Next slide, please. We don't codify our search for good ideas, best practice, we leave that up to others. We look for good ideas that work, that are practical, that sometimes use new approaches, new tools that bring new players to the table that are using new ways of solving old problems. This is a virtual place that we have created, a meeting place where integration actors can speak to each other. There is no travel. There is no carbon footprint. It is a marketplace of good ideas. As I said, we look for ideas that are practical, innovative, successful and exportable. And exportable is not the same as replicable. We have found that local communities will take a good idea and make it their own with some adaptation and doing different things. This is all very good. This is a web based project and our website of "Cities of Migration" is currently available in German, English and French and we would of course like to expand it to Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese with new partners. Another key feature of our work is we are very aggressively looking for integration actors from all sectors of the society, not just the NGO sector and not just migrant communities themselves. Because we think that all actors are integration actors and some of the examples that I will tell you about, good integration practice actually includes these.

So, we have organized our work around the five themes that you see on top: work, obviously, good integration practices that attach migrants to the labor market. Live, dealing with all aspects of living including housing, cultural and social services and health. Learn, all about going to school and university. Connect, about civic and political participation. And finally plan, about urban planning, city planning and the impact of built form of integration.

I want to use the bounce of my time in giving you a sense of the scope and the scale and the creativity and the innovation that we have found in cities regardless of where they are. In London, in 2005, sorry, in 1995, Lloyds Bank merged with another financial services bank to create a huge financial services infrastructure which had a number of branches in high minority ethnic communities. They also found that in east London, which is primarily Bangladeshi, that their bank branches were underperforming, their customer participation rate was low and where they had customers there was a high level of miscommunication and complaints. They also found that none of their staff were from the community and they launched a 13 week project to bring the Bangladeshi community in to the bank as potential employees and at the end of the project a number were hired. Today, in east London, Lloyds Banks employees are 40 per cent representative of the Bangladeshi community and they increased their profit share by 30 per cent. They have been so impressed with this that they have taken this idea inside the headquarters of the bank to look at how they recruit graduates into their bank.

To give you a diverse range of actors, our next idea comes from the police services in Cardiff. In 2001, Cardiff became one of the many communities in the UK to receive roughly two thousand asylum seekers, and the police sergeant...it's fascinating that behind many of these ideas there is a single leader. And there was a police constable, I think his name is Don Ormond, who looked at this new asylum community, asylum seeking community and said "how do I bring law and order to them when I know that they do not trust, because of their background, they do not trust the police?" And he decided to position the police services in Cardiff as language teachers. So imagine a language class where immigrant and asylum seeking men and women are learning English, they are also learning about law and order, they are also learning about the city, but they are learning it from the community and the policing officers in Cardiff. This increased the level of trust to the extent that today the Cardiff police force has hired on a number of these asylum seeker individuals as police officers.

Our next good idea, from my home country of Canada, those of you who are Canadians, understand and are probably amused a little bit about our passion for hockey. Friday night, during hockey season, Canada sits down in front of its televisions to watch hockey night in Canada. A local producer in Calgary found out that whiles the significant Punjabi community watched the sport, they were very interested in ice hockey, they would put the sound on mute because they could not understand sports cast. Not because it was English, but

because it used a level of sports jargon that made it inaccessible to them. So the CBC Calgary hired two young sports enthusiasts who broadcasted it in Punjabi. This was a pilot project, it increased the viewers by such a high rate that this is now a permanent feature of the CBC in Calgary and they will now be moving forward to hockey night in Mandarin. I think this example is really important because it enables people to share, whether they are old or new to the country, to share in a common national passion.

Our next example comes from a city that I just visited in Denmark. One in three residents in Denmark uses a bicycle and the Danish Red Cross has taken it on themselves to teach immigrant women in Denmark how to cycle, many immigrant women do not know how to cycle. They teach them how to cycle, how to repair the bicycle and how to understand the laws and rules governing biking in Denmark. Again, this is important because it enables the Danes to see a migrant woman as one of them. Our next example comes from the world of Frankfurt. Two days a week, mama goes to school with her child to kindergarten. Not only does mama learn English, but she starts learning the good habit of participating in your child's education. And I think we all know in this room that parent participation in education is a key predictor for educational success.

Back to Toronto, one of my favorite projects, "Diversity on Board". In our city, as diverse as it is, 49 per cent of the residents are foreign born, power, influence and privilege is still in the hands of a minority. Call it what you may, it is a minority that looks largely tall, white and male. This project, interviews, screens, finds and creates a database of ready, willing, able, qualified candidates to sit on public agencies, boards and commissions of our city and our province. These are positions of power, these is where citizens make decisions, about infrastructure, and there are roughly a thousand people on the roster and close to 300 appointments that have been made. This idea has very long legs.

Over to New Haven in the US. This is very interesting for those cities where there are large numbers of irregular migrants. The Elm city resident card issued by the city is an identity card that enables residents, regular or not, to partake in municipal services such as licensing bureaus, such as the local bank, such as transportation and public libraries. Contrary to public opinion, irregular migrants in the US and possibly in other parts of the world are not so much perpetrators of crime as victims of crime. They have had no opportunity to put their money in banks, they are walking talking ATMs, and for the first time through this initiative, they have access to banking. This idea is catching on like wild fire in parts of the United States.

And finally, to Duisburg, "The Miracle of Marxloh Mosque", a mosque which has been built with input, with participation from the local community, with conversation and dialogue with the local catholic priest to the extent that the minaret of the mosque was designed so that it was not higher than any spire of any catholic church. The mosque has a meeting place for all residents regardless of whether they are Muslim or not and has now become a part of the community. This is in stark contrast of course to what happened in Köln.

So this is how we are connecting cities across the world. I understand that we are a new project. By the way, most of my examples have come from the western world. We need, and I know and I look to your help to help us find good examples in other parts of the world. And clearly we need to extend our reaching to other languages as well. In addition, we host monthly webinars where we take one single idea and people surround themselves on their phones and on their computer screens. It costs us less than ten dollars a head of brilliantly bringing a conversation easily with technology to people all over the world.

Success is of course, for us, when an idea goes over national borders. This is one of our successes. The mentoring project which originated in Toronto, linking skilled immigrants with their employer counterparts on occupational level, has traveled not Auckland. Not only did the idea travel, the systems have traveled, the processes have traveled, and Toronto has helped Auckland to get money for it as well.

Going forward, a lot of things to do as I said, more cities, more ideas. We would like to get to a list of 100 rolling ideas on good integration. We will retire some, put new ones on, but our hope is to get to 100 good

ideas. We will also have our first International Cities of Migration Conference next year in 2010 at The Hague with the cooperation of Metropolis, where we will be showcasing good integration to integration practitioners.

So what do we know after all of this about integration? I would like to share some closing thoughts with you. First, immigration is national policy but integration is a uniquely lived experience. The level of government closest to the people, which is the local government, is best equipped to deliver services. I think we've heard that point of you from others. It is a two way street, it is dynamic, it's not science, it's some art. I would like to see some more of these ideas drive to policy as opposed to policies driving to practice. And finally, if there is one ultimate indicator of good integration, it is inclusion...If you are looking at Mecca for instance, Mecca is a city that is inclusive. You can have cohesive cities that are not inclusive. You can have prosper cities that are not inclusive. But you cannot have sustainable cities that are not inclusive. Thank you.

Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu, Nigerian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Chairperson of the session:

On your behalf, I want to thank Ms. Ratna Omidvar for her very illustrative presentation. We will now go to the last speaker of this session, Ms. Ilda Curti, who since 2006 has been deputy mayor in Turin and the president of the development agency in Italy. The floor is yours.

Ms. Ilda Curti, Commissioner of the City of Turin for Integration Policies, Italy

Thank you Chair President. It is a big honor for me to be here. I thank you all, and the Italian and the Canadian delegations in particular for this opportunity. I'll try to give you in few minutes a picture of what we are doing at local level and how it is important for us to invest creativity, intelligence and resources to face with the big issue of our time. Only a right and strong cooperation between the different levels of governance, global, as the UN, European, local as well as national, cannot our local communities, with all their cultural diversities, to find a way. I think we should share the big responsibility and every day we ask ourselves if we are driving in the right direction.

In every picture that you will see in this slide show, there are situations, projects, or initiatives that we are implementing in my city. The flow of immigrants from beyond the borders of European Union into Italy started during the mid-70s, even if the issue only entered into the political agenda a decade later. In the early 80s however, many local administrations, especially from the more industrialized parts of Italy, started to work and mobilize practical solutions to face the growing number of non national residents. Turin is among these cities. The 80s was the starting point of a number of initiatives, services, and projects in order to face the varying exigencies of the non Italian population. During the last century however, Turin already managed an imposing of internal migration. In 20 years, from the 50s to the 70s Turin increased its population of 700,000 inhabitants coming from the rural parts of eastern and southern Italy.

The doubling of its population in a very short time charged Turin, a one-company town, of responsibilities in order to face with housing needs, social conflicts, educational problems, lack of public services. The city was suddenly transformed into a metropolitan city and the challenge was to cope with new social phenomena. The industrial decline in the 90s changed deeply the economical and social identity of the city. The diversification of productions, the mounting of unemployment, the need to face with global competition, the urban transformation and the loss of social cohesion engaged the local governments in a new strategic phase. The organization of the winter Olympic Games in 2006 was one of the goals achieved. The risk to make the non-Italian immigrants scapegoats was evident, as well as the need to invest in urban generation processes. In the 90s, the demand of security policies arose in some neighborhoods where the life conditions both of the Italian inhabitants and immigrants stressed the difficulties of cohabitation. The demands of security control of immigration entered in the political agenda.

Instead of visible and short term answers, the local government decided to set up public policies in order to manage social and cultural conflicts and to avoid a securitization of the issue. In these urban areas, therefore, the municipality adopted a holistic approach to try to improve the quality of life of everybody: housing, economy opportunity, social life, cultural initiatives, renewing public spaces, new functions for buildings, etc. adopting a community development approach. The main task of the local governance is still the empowerment of people, communities and local actors in order to regenerate and transform their neighborhoods, and the equality of urban lives. Different tools, methodologies, financial resources and skills are offered to the local communities and their urban environments. The urban regeneration policies strongly changed the aspect of the urban suburbs where Italian and non-Italian spend their lives.

After more than 20 years of immigration flow, Turin is now a plural identity city where 11 per cent of the population is non-Italian. There are different targets of new citizens. We are faced with different national origins, faith and beliefs, cultural and social backgrounds economical status, gender, age. There is a new generation of young people - 30,000 - the immigration children that are not immigrants, they are children of immigration, that are Italian without a formal citizenship. There is a high number of entrepreneurs that pay taxes and invest resources. 50,000 people are entrepreneurs in my city. There are a lot of workers that are stealing the weaker part of the labor market and they suffer from the effects of the global crises as their Italian work fellow. Also, they have more insecurity given by the law. All these new citizens have cultural and social needs and they ask to be considered as a resource of the city. They ask for citizenship, participation, engagement in the social life.

Turin is now engaged to be a new, contemporary city supporting the idea that there is a common responsibility to face with the complexity of urban life. And no longer can we admit that there are citizens that have no rights to play the game. We don't mask problems, contradictions, and social difficulties. We simply have the duty and the responsibility to act concretely, thinking of the future of our local community. That means to recognize that there is a cultural dimension as a transversal approach that affects all the public policies; to empower the capacity of the new citizens to play an active role in the social, cultural and economical life; to stimulate the interaction between people; not to consider the migration as a target and to go beyond the idea that there are a lot of ethnic communities - in general, I mean people not communities; to support the subsidiary principle, giving opportunities and tools to social bodies and organizations to find their own way to interact; to negotiate solutions and urban processes of change; adopting a social sustainability approach, avoiding processes of gentrification and then to adopt a people to people approach instead of the paper to people approach. The challenge for us here now is to build social cohesion and new citizenship processes trying to invest our shared capital to plural and multiple policies in order to face with plural and multiple needs. Thank you very much.

Ambassador U. Joy Ogwu, Nigerian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Chairperson of the session:

We want to thank Ms. Ilda Curti for a very illustrative presentation. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, we have heard the last paper for this first session. We have about 7 minutes to take questions and comments from the presenters. Yes, please.

Mr. Massimo Tommasoli, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Permanent Observer to the United Nations: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson, I am Massimo Tommasoli, from the Institute of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, and I would like to make a general remark on the relevance of this debate in the current United Nations setting. I think that a reflection on integration, migration and urban policy is a very good exemplification of the need to rethink the public sphere; and the existence of weak public spaces and strong public spaces. The strong public spaces are the spaces of our parliament, the spaces of our executives and the weak public spaces are those of the civil society. So I think this is a very good example of an event that tries to address how to bridge the gap between weak and strong public spaces. I think that the reasons of those dilemmas that emerged clearly from all the presentation the dilemma of the role of the state, it is very important, including at a local level, and the tendency of state actor to think and plan without taking into account local perceptions-and the need to empower. But how does that empowerment match with a rational bureaucracy that may actually be excluding that very voice of people who should be treated as citizens? I have a humble proposal that is adding to the reflection the need to adopt different and new assessment tools of the needs of local actors. The work that my organization is doing in this area is the development of an assessment tool at the local level that is based precisely on the ownership by local actors of the analysis. It's is called "State Democracy at the Local Level". We are trying to implement in different region of the world, particularly in the Arab regions, with support from institutions and also states like Italy and Spain.

My question is, perhaps addressed to the speaker from Turin; she made a reference to the challenges of integration of new migrants that Turin, in the case of Italy is also an example of integration of internal migrants from southern of Italy to the north during the industrial boom of the sixties. Therefore, I think there is also an issue of how can cities, from their own experience, refer to the challenges of internal migration and how they have been addressed in the past and what can they learn for the future. Thank you.

Ms. Gabriella Battaini Dragoni, Council of Europe.

Thank you. Madame Chairperson. I would like first of all explain why I am here; and secondly, I would like to raise a question. The reason why I am here is because I represent to Council of Europe, and in particular now, the Intercultural Cities Program which is a joint program run by the European Commission and the Council of Europe, and as the title indicates, dealing with intercultural issues within towns.

I would like to pay tribute first of all to the presentation which was down by the representative of the town of Turin. And to say that the experience of the town to Turin has been a great inspiration for the Intercultural Cities Program of the European Commission and of the Council of Europe. I would like to say that when listening to the different presentations, it comes rather evident to me that yes, indeed, the future will be organized and dealt with the cities; yes, the cities have a very important role to play in terms of inclusion, but as my previous colleague just said a minute ago in his statement, the point as we feel it, at least in Europe, is that you cannot just leave the situation to develop spontaneously, and there is a trend to wait and see what happens. The result of it is very non-equal, dis-homogeneous situations throughout to Europe, and more than that, I think, is one of the main challenges is that when political parties or yes, political majorities, change in the country at national level, then suddenly you see terrible results at local level, even in towns maybe like Turin, where you have certain political leaders guarantying a coherent development for decades and then suddenly, the situations changes politically, and there is a stop. I mention this very explicitly because I was seduced by the proposal of our Italian Professor. In his statement, he made a proposal which in my mind is extremely interesting and innovative. The idea of an inter-ethnic commissioner, you use the term "guarantee", "inter-ethnic", because unless we have a system organized throughout the country, whereby there is an institutional figure that can help in guarantying continuity and space for towns to continue their police of

inclusiveness, I am afraid that we will see ups and downs. It is a pity because then a lot of energy resources will be lost, and so, the question is, on the basis of experiences you have had, how to make sure that what you do can continue, and is not hold in a given time? Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Two more questions. The lady and then the gentleman by the side.

Shi Ho Lin, Grey Panther: My name is Shi Ho Lin, I am from Grey Panther. I am also part of the New York City Queens Borough Immigration Task Force. I am very happy to live in this great city of New York. New York City has like 8.3 Million people and 36 percent of us are immigrants. I would like to report about what we do. I will make it very short. Just like every year in New York City we have the Immigrant Heritage Week to encourage all the immigrants to present their own culture, especially encouraging multi-cultural cooperation and Festival. In our Queens Borough, we have a task Force. We meet once a month with non-profit organization from different countries and we also have Human Resources from the Government, and we also have a lawyer from the Police Department and directly send to our office. Everybody get to learn what immigrants need, and how can we help them. Regarding the school system, we have English as a Second Language to help the children in the school. All immigrant children are treated the same as the regular students. At the hospital, we have 150 language and telephonic language interpretation to help immigrants to go to the hospital. Hospitals also have a program which can work on fee schedule according to what people can pay. Thank you so much.

Wa'e El Atti'a, Permanent Mission of Egypt at the United Nations:

Thank you Ambassador and I would like to thank the organizers to having this meeting.

My name is Wa'e El Atti'a and I am from the Egyptian Mission and there are two points I would like to make here. First, from the presentation that we have had today, there is an observation that I came up with. There is a difference somehow between the experiences of societies, and perhaps they continue to be dominated by the concept of Nation States, and the societies where immigration has been the back bone of these societies in the way that they are trying to integrate immigrants: the examples that we have seen for instance, in which I believe were mostly in European countries.

The attempts for immigration was basically trying to make the immigrants learn the concepts and learn the language of their new societies. In that sense, they would seemed to me to be an attend not trying to integrate but to assimilate into their society while on the other hands, as the examples that we have seen, from Canada and other places in "the New World", they were actually trying to reach out to these immigrants and even in their own language. I think there is something there to learn from these experiences and from both sides to learn from each others. This is the first point.

The second point is, and again I believe, the speaker from Turin has raised a lot of questions and comments here today and I believe what has been done in Turin is very nice and very effective but you have mentioned something towards the end of your presentation that some of the immigrants and their children they, do not have the nationality. And in that sense I believe that if they don't then they lack the opportunity of participation and total integration into the society.

Maybe my question would be how could the efforts by the city, in order to integrate its citizens, including of course the immigrants, be more reinforced or could work out actually if the policies of the States were different and constitute some kind of hindrance to such effort? Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. We have had the last question. It seems that a lot of questions were directed at Turin so could you take about two minutes also because we are moving short on time. Thank you.

Ms. Ilda Curti, Commissioner of the City of Turin for Integration Policies, Italy

Thank you very much. It is difficult to answer to all the questions that are very focused. Well, first of all, Turin has learned from the past. I think that every one-company in town had during the past in term of migration, built its social and urban identity on the integration. There is a different context from the past that is the economic production -we are not more one-company town-, so there is not an only way to work. The common thing between all the people in Turin in the seventies where that they worked in the FIAT production, so they had something in common: the work, the dock, they were worker class. Now we don't have any more worker class. So, the first difference is the economical context. If you want the crisis of intermediary bodies, as trade unions, associations, that is data in Italy as well as in other part of Europe is strong, the crisis of collective bodies that help individuals and people to find a way.

And then, in general, less resources than in the past, less public resources. We have not money anymore to build new neighborhoods for instance, or to build social housing; to respond in the traditional way to the housing needs of the immigrants. For that reason, we try to be creative, try to solve and to face with needs, finding new way to face. Maybe this is the issue, the added-value, the creativity in crisis times.

It is true that integration is a voluntary policy. Only local government that wants to invest money, resources and energy in integration do it. That reflects, I want to answer to your question, the fact that the problem is a permanent and medium long term investment because integration is a process, and you need time to build links between people, groups and so on.

So the problem of continuity is real, if we don't agree on the basic level of principals, if there are not shared platforms that allow all of us to play different roles, to have different solutions, to have different answers to the questions. The common platform, I think, is essential to help even local authorities to work within a framework, a normal framework and not an emergency framework.

It is absolutely true that we have with the new generation – I don't like to speak about second generation. Normally, sociologists speak about second generation, I prefer to speak of new generation of young people that are growing in my city and in other local communities. It is true that the problem of formal citizenship is an obstacle from their capacity to be completely involved in the city where they are living and where they see their future. I do hope that we can really find a solution. There is a big debate in Italy on the issue of citizenship, of course there is a lot of different opinions but I think that I am sure that now it is urgent that we can find a national solution; because it is true that we have a lot of people born in Italy that perceive themselves, as young people say, "Italian with the hyphen", Italian-Egyptian, Italian-Romanian, but first of all, they feel their double identities and they want to be a bridge between the different identities of their life.

I think we have to help and support the capacity of this new generation to be a bridge that links different national origins, languages, culture, universal identities. I really do hope, because for us it is essential to find the way, even legally and by the law formerly to find a solution and to have citizens that paying taxes can play a role in choosing the representatives at a local level. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you very much. Well, we have come to the end of this first session. First I want to thank the convener of this round table, especially this English panelist and I am sure that we have been enriched by all the presentations and we believe that the future will be better than the past. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

SESSION II – REPLICATION OF GOOD PRACTICES

Dr. Howard Duncan, Executive Head of the Metropolis Project, described the Project, a partnership between government, academia, and civil society whose premise is that successful societies are those that manage diversity well. He noted that studying incentives offered to newcomers to persuade them to integrate may provide examples of good practices to replicate. Dr. Duncan further noted that while dialogue can occur at the international level, and while national governments can set the conditions and provide financial assistance for integration, the real action on integration is at the local and municipal levels. Geraldine Mannion, Program Director at the Carnegie Corporation, focused her remarks on the US, where national policy does not currently allow legalization of undocumented individuals, leaving them out of social, economic, and political systems. Carnegie Corporation focuses on inter-racial, inter-ethnic outreach to newcomers, such as municipal involvement (which may not require citizenship) and English language acquisition. Helene-Marie Gosselin, Director of UNESCO New York, noted that culture is becoming an economic asset, and multicultural cities therefore have a competitive edge. She highlighted potential areas of focus for more effective integration, including education policy (revision of textbooks and teacher training), social science research and data collection, and intercultural and linguistic education. Jose Ricardo Franco Montoro, municipal secretary on Participation and partnership of Sao Paulo, spoke on Sao Paulo's rich ethno-cultural mix and some of the tools and policies that have resulted in successful integration there, including a coordinator for immigrant complaints and a racial equality plan. He noted that the lack of data on irregular / undocumented migrants makes it difficult to develop appropriate policies to deal with them.

Chairperson, Dr. Howard Duncan, Executive head of Metropolis Project

My name is Howard Duncan, I'm the head of the Metropolis Project, which is an international policy research endeavor in the field of migration and the management of diversity. I'd like to begin by thanking the permanent missions of Italy and of Canada, the Alliance of Civilizations, and the International Organization for Migration for their leadership in organizing this discussion of ethnic diversity in cities. This is a topic that is being discussed throughout the world, is being discussed in places such as multicultural Canada and Australia. In traditional immigration societies such as the United States and New Zealand, in multi-ethnic societies such as India and Malaysia, in the new immigration societies in Europe, as we heard a great deal about last session, in emerging multi-ethnic societies including Japan in its new approach to multicultural co-existence, throughout the world's rapidly urbanizing societies such as China, Brazil, Russia, South Africa and many others, and urbanization that immediately intensifies the diversity of these cities. Now we've talked a bit about what we're trying to achieve with respect to integration or social cohesion, and as a questioner from the last session pointed out very clearly and, I think, entirely appropriately, the situations, the contexts within which these

efforts take place differ a great deal, not only from one country to another, but from one city to another. And I think if we're going to continue this effort, this global effort to talk about multi-ethnic or inter-ethnic cities, then we're going to have to recognize the importance of these different contexts. If there is a common ground, then it seems to me the very base of these discussions is social or societal stability. That if there's anything that we all hold in common in discussing diversity in our cities it is to ensure the social wellbeing or if nothing else the stability of these cities. Now this is not an issue that affects us very markedly or very poignantly in my country, Canada, but it certainly is something that is being experienced in the world, threat to the stability of cities as a result to the mixing of people. Now in this group we have to take it, and I'm stating perhaps the obvious, but I think it's worth stating, that we have to take it as a premise that the separation of peoples of different ethnic, racial or religious origins, what you might call ethnic cleansing, is simply not a solution anymore. This was a solution that was exemplified in the redrafting of borders after World Wars I and II, but it is no longer the kind of solution that any of us would even contemplate. So, the basis of this discussion is simply an acceptance, as Director-General Swing pointed out in his remarks to start us out this morning, that migration is a permanent feature of the world, and as a direct result, the diversity of our cities is increasing, and it is going to continue to increase. So turning back the clock is not a viable option for us.

Now this session is on the replication of good practices, and our speakers will make various observations on what counts as good practices, they'll speak about the transferability or the universality of some of these practices. I think the question of the possibility of some of these universal solutions or universal practices is an interesting question within itself. And also they will do so in regard to actions taken by local actors, by national governments, and importantly for this roundtable, actions to be taken by the international community.

So, our speakers to begin will be in this order:

Ms. Geraldine Mannion, Program Director, US Democracy and Special Opportunities Fund, Carnegie Corporation of New York, and I believe Gerie will talk about the role of foundations in this effort.

She will be followed by Hélène-Marie Gosselin, who is the Director for the UNESCO for the United Nations in New York

I'm supposed to be third, but I think I will go last to make sure we have enough time.

And Mr. José Ricardo Franco Montoro, who is the Municipal Secretary of Participation and Partnership in the City of São Paulo, Brazil.

We each have ten minutes, I will keep each speaker informed when we get close to the time limit. And I'll now turn the microphone over to Gerie Mannion.

Geraldine Mannion, US Democracy and special Opportunities Fund, The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Good Morning. Like everybody else I'd like to thank you for the privilege of speaking at this morning at this roundtable, on that very important issue. Like my colleague who spoke before about the Mayfair foundation, I'd like to speak a little about the Carnegie Corporation. Carnegie is a private foundation founded by Andrew Carnegie, who was one of those famous robber barons of the 19th century, at that time he was the richest man in the world, and left almost all his money for charitable purposes.

He himself was an immigrant, he had come from Scotland. And it was interesting for ourselves as we approached immigration work, to note that he had signed the first grant for the American immigration studies program, which looked at the integration of immigration in the early 20th century, who were of course the Italians, the Irish and the Eastern Europeans, who were not treated very differently from those that we talk

about today. They also faced very harsh treatment, very poor working standards, were also told to return to their countries when they came to the US through Ellis Island and other ports back in their time. So when we fast forward back to our program, which began in 2000, it followed a long time interest of Carnegie to support efforts to ensure that all Americans, all people who are in the US, were able to participate politically, civically, in all aspects of the country, including voting. So we have spent a lot of time looking at voting rights, the work of trying to include minorities and others, including naturalization of those who were illegalized in the last immigration reform in the mid-80's, mostly Latino. So in 2000, when we started to look at this issue, we noted the major changes in demographics that were occurring in the US. And the fact that one in eight US citizens were in fact an immigrant, one in two new workers in the 90's was an immigrant, most new workers in this decade and in the decades to come will be immigrants. Most of them will live in what we call mixed family status, which means that one, may be an illegal resident or citizen, they may have children who are American citizens, and some who are not. But most, two thirds of immigrant children are US citizens, 27% of children of immigrants are in the country, about 65% of children are undocumented young people graduate from US high schools in the US now, but are unable to go to college because they can't afford to, or they're not permitted to. So as we looked at all these issues, especially the dispersion of immigrants, you might not be able to see this, but as you will note, unlike in the past century when most immigrants came to the cities, New York, Chicago, Boston, immigrants today or moving all across the US predominantly in rural and local communities in the south, states with the largest percent of immigrant growth are indeed in the southeast, we see almost 300% / 400% change in population states like North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee etc.

So when we started to look at what we can do with immigration, the first thing we noted that the first thing we wanted to look at on immigration of people in the US, and not look at immigration policy, but it's become almost impossible to do so, because all immigration policy is federal policy, and those who live in the US currently, of which there are 12 million, undocumented residents, will never be able to become legalized, without a change in federal policy.

So, the Carnegie Corporation together, with other foundations, like Ford, Open Society Institute, many local foundations, have sort of come together to really help change some of those policies at a federal level to do something that has been referred to as comprehensive immigration reform. And as you may remember, we came close in 2007, but after a very vociferous debate, that was bailed. And I should note that this was during a time when it was very bipartisan, George W Bush very much wanted comprehensive immigration reform, as Obama has also said that he would like to see that happen. But the sentiment in the country has become very harsh, where in fact, especially led by talk radio, and anti-immigrant sentiment, especially aimed at Latinos, it has become so difficult to even have a debate. As you may note, even in our health care debate, the issue of immigration has come up, and has been seen as very much negative.

So what to do? Our argument is that unless you can change that system, many of you will not have immigration, and as most of you will know, if you are here as an illegal resident, you can in fact become a citizen, and that's a very important opportunity for immigration, because without that, you are not able to gain entry into the better jobs, you are not able to gain entry into getting your political voice heard, you are not able to be fully part-and-parcel of the socio-economic political system. We, together with foundations, have looked at issues that are policy development, how you can actually find better policies, that could be used to be pushed forward, that at the federal level and the state and local level, we really focus on strategic communications, trying to change the debate, especially in the use of ethnic media, we haven't talked a lot about that but most people in the United States really still read the local papers from their home country, so we focus on trying to get information on immigration policies to those who are, you know, in New York, there are 300 ethnic newspapers on the streets of the city. We also look at issues trying to build the field because as you see so many immigrants are living in cities and states without a history of immigration, try to build a field of immigrant serving organizations, NGOs that will in fact help with English language, civics classes, health issues etc. for this population. And we also are actually for those who are here illegally, we focus a lot on

helping them become citizens, and to be able to hear their voice politically, by voting and being active in the policy debate. I'll just take a few moments to talk about our models for integration. We talked about one this morning, which was the New Haven ID card, which is an excellent method to allow immigrants who are here regardless of status to have an ID, so they don't feel left out of the banking system, health care system, book systems, etc. But we also have through other funders, a range of what we call welcoming campaigns, in 16 states, in which folks especially from the south, are using their history of hospitality to reach out to people who are newcomers, to try to explain that their cultures may seem different, but they are also not unlike people who have come before them, they very much want to contribute to the local communities. We're also focusing on really trying to fight against the growing hate in the country by putting forward inter-racial, inter-ethnic and other communities that will reach out to newcomers, that they won't always be seen in this vacuum of this hate rhetoric that is out there so much.

Another interesting opportunity was to look at working with law enforcement. Many places working with local enforcement do not want to be immigration police. They find that it has become increasingly difficult to have people come forward to say that they have been victims to crimes or witness to crimes if they don't feel comfortable reaching out to the police. The police are starting to stand up around the country to say we need immigration reform so they don't have to be participating in raids and disrupting community life.

Most importantly, our schools now are full of immigrant children, and they need to be helped unless they are going to be left behind. Every child who is not given English language acquisition and who is not able to get the right education, will be left in poverty and will not be able to attain the kind of life they need, and what they came to the US for, to try to achieve a better life, a better existence. So our schools need to be brought into the process, and at Carnegie we need to do programs that can help immigrant children really be able to attain both a high school diploma and also get to college.

So in closing, I would say that the biggest challenge is a federal policy, that will allow all those that are here undocumented to in fact be able to come out of the shadows, and not be fearful of being picked up, even going to church, we heard recently that in some places, the local priests have stood up to say, "please don't to raids or arrests on Sundays, because many of the parishioners are undocumented." So they've asked the sheriffs in communities to stand down, so that their people can go to mass. This is happening across the country, but one we get comprehensive immigration reform, which may happen in 2010, the big challenge will be to help people go through the process because now it could be close to 20 million people, and the last time they did comprehensive immigration reforms, 23 million people that had to go through the system, so they'll be a need to have both corporations, businesses, NGOs, foundations and others and the private sector, public sector come together to really help those folks be truly integrated in the US. Thank you.

Chairperson, Dr. Howard Duncan, Executive head of Metropolis Project

Thank you very much Gerie. The work of Carnegie is very well known in the immigration and diversity field. Do you have a website you could tell us about?

Geraldine Mannion, US Democracy and special Opportunities Fund, The Carnegie Corporation of New York

Yes. If you want to look at the programs that we fund and we don't fund, it's www.carnegie.org. Thank you.

Chairperson, Dr. Howard Duncan, Executive head of Metropolis Project

And now, I will turn the microphone over to H  l  ne-Marie Gosselin from UNESCO.

Mme H  l  ne-Marie Gosselin, Director, UNESCO New York

Thank you, allow me first to thank the organizers of the meeting and specifically the missions of Canada and Italy, two countries I'd like to say have been champions in promoting cultural diversity within UNESCO's governing bodies, and over the last few years have been really proponent to the adoption of two international conventions that I would like to encourage you all to consult, and which are available on our website. Before I talk more about the role of our organization (which, by the way, stands for United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization) the work at an international level is more involved in conducting and promoting research policy advice to our member states, and of course supporting networking. I'd like to say just a couple of words very briefly, about giving a positive note to this discussion, because I know I've heard a lot of speakers talk about positive projects, and we've heard from cities, Torino, Toronto, and I have also heard and rightly so about the gloom and doom about the problems that cities encounter in terms of environment, in terms of increasing poverty, and in terms of exclusion, which is all a reality, and we at UNESCO, maybe because of our education and culture mandate, always like to talk about a more positive contribution migrants make to societies, and more specifically cities, and it has been indicated, but I'd like to start talking about that very briefly.

We all know that migrants are absolutely contributing very significantly and are an asset both economically and culturally to cities. And culture becomes a significant economic asset I think, as remembering that, it has been proved in lots of researches (Richard Florentine in Toronto, but in many others around the world) that multi-ethnic cities have a more competitive edge over more homogenous cities, just a little parenthesis before we start.

Some of the examples of the programs that my organization conducts around the world, facilitates over many decades, have to do, with no surprise to you, with education, education for tolerance, education for human rights, and education for cultural diversity. Education and tolerance programs, all rooted in a human rights approach to education. To give you a very few examples, because I have to be specific and I only have 3 or 4 minutes to talk about that, but we are involved in a number of programs in Asia and in Africa, in Europe and elsewhere in promoting, encouraging rather, the revision of textbooks, which is a very important area, in looking at normative instruments also, that encourage for example conventions in recognition of studies and diplomas, this is often a source of great frustration for migrants who come to a city. We all have met so many taxi drivers here in New York, or Paris or elsewhere that have incredible diplomas that cannot do it, who have incredible degrees that don't get recognition, so that's an area where we are involved. We also support social science studies, very important to inform policy, and policy advice that we provide at national level. The data collection is very key, it is easier done in more developed countries than in poorer countries, so this is where UNESCO puts more emphasis in developing countries. If I can give you more concrete examples, for example in India, and in other countries in Asia, we are helping not only social science research, but also to have concrete programs in the field in helping local communities in integrating human rights approach to education. Also in Thailand and in some indigenous tribes, promoting diversity and intercultural dialogue into the curriculum of schools there. We are involved, this is a two year pilot project, in India, Thailand and Samoa, with an interdisciplinary social science curricula module on migration. We also produce tools such as guidelines on intercultural education, also a publication I encourage you to look at, available on our website, *Education for Learning to Live Together*, which is probably when we talk about quality education, one of the very important aspects: learning how to live in multi-cultural and multi-ethnic societies.

I mentioned already the convention on cultural diversity, which is a very good basis for countries to refer to in promoting cultural diversity programs. , and I would like to mention one particular area, that is linguistic education or education on multi-linguism. Very soon in Brazil, in the country of our next speaker, UNESCO will cooperate with two foundations, Roberto Varino foundation in Sao Paulo, and the Linguamón foundation in Barcelona, Spain, on the issue of multi-lingualism and multi-lingual education. Extremely important, not just because it is respecting the rights of minorities in countries, but also, and that is something that we forget, when we talk about achievement in education, and that is something we have here in a city like New York, and I'm sure Commissioner Joel Klein is talking a lot about that. We often forget that a child has the best chance in succeeding initially at the primary level if he is given an education in his mother tongue, so that it is often an area we overlook when we talk about migration policies in cities. But it's something I'd like to insist upon, that UNESCO believes is very fundamental. We are encouraging that through publishing search findings, including education quality, but also in setting up a number of networking opportunities, including university chairs. That is another thing that UNESCO does, we are funding some chairs in universities, and to end here, I'd like to mention to those of you who are coming from richer countries or from foundations, that it is much easier to get funds from an established chair, in a city like New York or Toronto, than it is in cities in far poorer cities of the world. So that is the kind of advocacy that we are doing at an international level.

With UNESCO, with Human Habitat and in cooperation with IOM, the organization that organized today's discussion, we are also working on urban inclusive policies towards social and spatial inclusion of migrants and the objective of this long-term initiative is to build the capacity of local authorities to cope with new challenges posed by urbanization and migration in order to achieve inclusive cities. This means exposing social exclusion, equal opportunities, access to resources, social services, the issues of rights and responsibilities and citizenship, and there again, the access to education opportunities, is absolutely key in this regard.

Let me mention a couple of other examples, UNESCO with Human Habitat have produced a toolkit called «Creating Better Cities for Migrants and their Families» and this is a toolkit that is available on both the Human Habitat website and on UNESCO's. It brings together a network of international experts, so I think it's quite interesting when I talk about exchanges of experiences, and not necessarily replication but some examples. And we mentioned the chairs, there is one particularly active in Venice, Italy, also other chairs in Lyon, France on urban policy and citizenship. The one in Italy is called social and spatial inclusion of international migrants. Here again we would really welcome to have support including funding for universities in Africa, Asia and elsewhere.

Finally I'd like to mention an International Coalition of Cities Against Racism and Discrimination, this coalition was set up five years ago, I believe with UNESCO and a number of partners, and next month there is a regional meeting from 29 – 31st of October in Indonesia, an international conference I should say, entitled *Cities Coping with Global Crisis*. So I invite you, if you cannot participate, to look again on our website and to look at some of the local government organizations that will be participating.

I will leave it there, but what I would like to emphasize is the need to link up all these very interesting local projects, this platform that UNESCO provides, of course working with the Alliance of Civilizations, in establishing a network of network, should be built on and strengthened a great deal further.

Thank you, I look forward to answering your questions.

Chairperson, Dr. Howard Duncan, Executive head of Metropolis Project

Thank you. It is clear that UNESCO has been pioneering in this field, and we at the Metropolis we have been working with UNESCO for 15 years, and I know that their work predated ours, so it's good to hear from the international community. We are going to shift entirely from the international level, now to the local level. And we now have José Ricardo Franco Montoro from São Paulo.

Ricardo Franco Montoro, Municipal Secretary of Participation and Partnership, Sao Paulo, Brazil

I heard during these presentations two issues: one, the necessity for working on the local level. And also, I heard a lot about inclusive actions. That is exactly what the secretariat of Sao Paulo has, represented in 20 different departments. One is called Participation and Partnerships, and it tries to include within the social fabric of the city, those individuals who are vulnerable or who need special attention. In the case of children, teenagers, youths, women, sexual diversity, the black populations, issues concerning drugs and alcohol, and the elderly. And now, only 2 weeks ago, the president of Sao Paulo signed a new coordinating office, which will be part of our department, which will help to coordinate all issues and problems concerning immigrants.

So I'd like to begin my intervention, first of all, showing you this painting from 1933, and this shows at the time the mix of races, this is called the workers, and it shows the diversity that existed and exists in Brazil. The second slide shows facts about Brazil, where the city of Sao Paulo is located: 27 states, over 200 million individuals in Brazil, GDP of over 1.8 trillion dollars. The state of Sao Paulo only represents 3% of the countries, national territory, yet it represents over 40% of the GDP, and great Sao Paulo is made up of 20 million people, it encompasses 39 cities and Sao Paulo has 11 million individuals.

The next slide shows Sao Paulo has 11 million inhabitants, 5% of our exports represent 14 percent of the GDP, so compared to the rest of the country, we really have a very prominent role in the economy. The next slide, the arrival of foreigners in the country: by 1822 they were not considered immigrants but they were considered colonizers. These were foreigners and among them, 4 million were African slaves and Europeans, most of them Portuguese and Dutch. This immigration began in 1819, with an almost organic movement of people in search of a better future. By 1870, Brazil was receiving approximately 3000 immigrants per day. By the end of the 19th, beginning of the 20th century, approximately 5 million immigrants had arrived illegally, and 3 million of them arrived in the city of Sao Paulo.

During and after the First World War, the European immigration decreased significantly, but increased after WWII, after the city welcomed hundreds of thousands of European and Japanese immigrants with high levels of professionalism. They helped strengthen the city as an industrial hub, which allowed the city, by 1961, to have over a million Italian, 400,000 Portuguese descendants, 300,000 descendants of Japanese, and so on and so forth.

This shows Brazil, a picture of the world. The immigration process has been extremely important in the creation of the Brazilian culture. We incorporated characteristics from all over the world in our national culture. These influences can be seen throughout the national territory, and it's very obvious in Sao Paulo. It can be seen in the cuisines: Sao Paulo has been named the capital of pizza, for example. We have also the wonderful African rhythms of our music. Though the bargaining tactics that we have inherited from the Lebanese immigrants, beauty from the Japanese from the Liberdagi neighborhood. So thanks to all these peoples, we now have a country that is of multiple colors and flavors. We estimate that Sao Paulo is nowadays the third largest Italian city outside of Italy; the largest Japanese city outside of Japan; the largest Portuguese city outside of Portugal; the largest Lebanese city outside of Lebanon.

These immigrants brought to Brazil our national sport: soccer. In Sao Paulo, all the major soccer clubs were created by immigrants. In Brazil, the Jew and the Arab sit at the same table. And this is part of the national soul. This desire for harmony, this mixture of races, is our greatest wealth as a country.

The immigration was also an attempt to whiten the country, as can be seen by the laws approved at the time, and without any mechanism to protect the recently freed slaves. Suffice it to say, a study in 1901 about the city's industry, estimated that 90% of the country's working class was made up of white immigrants. The blacks were on the periphery of the work market, and were doomed to poverty, and this situation exists today and still proves to be a challenge to Brazil's governing elite. Today, Brazil has the largest African population outside of

Africa. 49% of Brazil's population identify themselves as African-Brazilian or Mulatto, in the population count of 2007. It has the largest number of gypsies, and has of 180 indigenous communities, which according to our Secretary of Participation and Partnerships, represent a significant group to be approached. Respect is the key word. A city where rights are respected. Will be a city of greater harmony, greater happiness, more democratic, and able to create a better and more integrated future. In search of better conditions, people from underdeveloped countries who have suffered from poverty and natural disasters, naturally seek a better place to live. Brazil, while on the one hand it sends immigrants to North America, Asia and Europe, it also receives immigrants from Africa and South America. According to the national council of migration, approximately 40% of immigrants are undocumented. Many of them live in Sao Paulo. We don't have reliable statistics, which would allow us to create adequate programs to help these populations. A plan for racial equality was drafted this year after the racial equality conference took place in May 2009, and was attended by over 800 individuals. It had representatives from South America, Africa, Bolivia, Gypsies, Jews and indigenous peoples. And these individuals met with their communities before attending this conference and brought their demands, their needs, as far as income, generation, culture, housing. This was the basis for the plan, counts for the participation of the representatives from the governing sector and civil society. The deadline for the conclusion of the plan is next year, and it will be deployed by 2010 with its own budgetary resources.

This next slide shows health prevention actions taken. Publications in Spanish that try to prevent tuberculosis and pneumonia, and Spanish, English and French to combat AIDS. The publications were made available to people who are Spanish speakers because those people have been traditionally fearful of seeking out information. We have done this work with civil society groups and organizations that work with the homeless. We also provided materials in Spanish, regarding the influenza.

The next slide speaks to the creation in February of this year, along with the human rights committee, of a work of partnership with immigrants through the Immigrant Project which aims at reaching immigrants and helping them to adapt to their new homeland. We work with 10 partners, among them representatives from the municipal states and federal governments, public ministries and NGOs that work with immigrants. The immigrant project helps the immigrants who arrive at the city to search a better life, and we work through email and many other innovative methods.

The next slide, fight against racism. A reference center for the combat against racism, was created against any kind of racial discrimination. The City Hall created this initiative to end all types of racial discrimination. Racial discrimination has been a crime in Brazil since 1997. Complaints of racial discrimination can be made at any police station. And it has been made a crime punishable by arrest and fine. Since immigrants are made up of so many youths, women and elderly who don't have access to information about their rights, and don't have specific public policies tailored towards them, to help them on an economic, political and social level, these public measures are essential to help these populations, to help quantify these groups, and to help inclusion of these immigrant classes. So that is why we are creating this coordinating body for the immigrants.

And I wanted to finish with this quote by Professor Ribeiro, a great Brazilian intellectual. He says, "We Brazilians are a mixed people. Both in flesh and in spirit. Miscegenation has never been a sin or crime for us. We were born into it and we continue to reinvent ourselves in it. This population has lived hundred of years without awareness of their ethnicity until they created a new ethnicity, that of the Brazilians. Thank you very much.

Dr. Howard Duncan, Executive Head, Metropolis International

I am going to say a little bit now and I vest Gerie Mannion to be my timekeeper. I'll talk a little bit about Metropolis and a little bit about integration in general. Metropolis is a partnership between academic researchers, government officials at all levels, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations. We study, we work on immigration and the diversity that results from migration. But our basic premise is that successful societies are going to be those societies that manage immigration, that manage diversity well. And secondly managing this well will be enhanced by ensuring that research feeds into the policy effort and into the developments of the actual ground programs.

So we look at research as a way to help us to understand the facts on the ground, help us to understand actually what is going on in our cities. And by the way Metropolis is focused on cities simply because most migrants go to cities, that's where their human capital can be most rewarded, hence the name Metropolis. We look at the research that describes the phenomena. We also of course are encouraging our researchers to explode myths about migration, to explode myths about diversity. And I think it goes without saying to the people in this room that migration can be an extraordinarily emotional subject and that if we allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by sensational, perhaps misleading stories in the press, we are going to end up with less effective policies. So what we try to do in Metropolis, is to provide research that is relevant to policy making, that is relevant to developing programs and then we communicate this to our network.

We are based in Canada where we have five research centers across the country that primarily are looking at the phenomena in Canada but we are also a relatively large and growing international network of researchers, policy makers, NGOs and so on. And the reach now, I am pleased to be able to say, is extending beyond North America and beyond Europe to include larger number of countries in Asia. We are making small inroads into South America, to Latin America and Africa but we are still primarily concentrated in Europe. But our hope is to expand rapidly not so much because we are trying to be imperialist but simply because understanding migration and understanding, been able to prepare people in policy for what is to come, requires that we understand this as a global phenomenon instead of simply as something that goes on within the west.

Let me say just a little bit about integration. The way that we understand integration is, we try to look at it more conceptually and more empirically. I think that there are some important conceptual points that we have to all bear in mind. When we talk about integration and when we talk about what some people call social cohesion, we are always talking about integration with respect to some points of orientation. And what is important about noting this is, I think, that the points of orientation are going to differ from society to society. When we talk about social cohesion, what we mean by cohesion, of course is cohesion with respect to something. It could be, as it is in some European countries, cohesion with respect to a national identity or a national history. It could be considered to be cohesion with respect to a set of political values or a set of shared experiences. The point again is that these points of reference or points of orientation are going to differ from one society to another. What this means is that when we talk about solutions to the crises of cities - and this is an interesting way to put the challenge, to refer to the crises of cities (and I would actually, in parenthesis, like to suggest that we have reason for hope that, perhaps in some cities we have crisis situation but in many of the cities we have rather peaceful coexistence - and the question is, I think, how those peaceful cities managed get where they are.

I do believe that we all should in this Alliance of Civilizations, we should all be hopeful about our ability to deal with diversity in ways that result with harmony. Something that I think has got many off guard is not just diversity, not just multi-ethnicity, but what some sociologists, some anthropologists refer as hyper-diversity or super-diversity. We are not talking about the diversity in New York thirty years ago, we are talking about cities that have hundred, hundred-and-fifty, hundred-and-eighty different ethnic groups. We are talking about cities where people speak well over two-hundred, two-hundred-fifty different languages. We are talking about the

level of diversity that we haven't seen before and this is something that William Swing drew your attention to earlier today: the level of diversity, the level of migration.

One thing that we've heard earlier, the natural tendency, the people from different parts of the world, will have to live together amongst themselves, in what sociologists call enclaves. And I think the question that enclaves pose, I mean there are many questions on enclaves. First thing that we have to ask ourselves is if this is necessarily a bad thing. And for us in Canada the answer is clearly no, that is something that we expect, especially when some of the enclaves are fully middle-class, very, very attractive places to live in. What this means for our talk about integration is what are the *incentives* that mainstream societies have to offer to newcomers to integrate with the mainstream, if they have a very nice life, a very comfortable life, or to look at less optimistically, if their life in the enclaves is just less dangerous than it is in the mainstream. We need to find incentives for them to join the mainstream somehow or other if we are actually going to succeed in this.

The question -and I just run out of the time- I will have to leave you with, is where should the action take place. International community can, as it has, show leadership, it can raise awareness for National Governments. National governments, seem to me, can do little more than create conditions, create an environment within which local actors can carry out integration work. National governments can set expectations. National governments are able to provide financial assistance. But where the *real* action takes place is in municipalities. So it seems to many of us that Non-governmental Organizations have a strong role to play in all of this. But there's a real question here: How is it that the work of NGOs can align itself with the basic policies, with the basic values that are established by the national governments. And I think that where we have seen national governments act in partnership with non-governmental organizations, to carry out the integration work on behalf of the entire society, that is where we find very successful results. So given that my time is up, I'll just leave you with this thought, about how the different levels of action, international, national, local, can play this out. And it seems to me that NGOs are an essential part of this, working with academics, working with governments as partners in a collective effort.

We have until quarter to one for questions and comments.

Question / comment

Just a general comment. I am working in Milan and New York. Just a general statement about the political dimension of immigrant integration. I think that's very much the emergency today in our societies, meaning that not only we have situation that which we don't grant general rights to our immigrants, participatory rights, but even when we grant these rights to our immigrants, in the very complicated machine that are urban political systems, we are very much not able to give new communities those kind of affirmative action tools that we need, in order to give them really the possibility fully participate in urban politics. If for example, I have been researching on urban and neighborhood politics on both side of the Atlantic, and I can see that especially in Europe, our political urban systems are very closed to the participation of immigrants. And I think that's very much the emergency today, at least in Europe. Thank you.

Dr. Howard Duncan, Executive Head, Metropolis Project

Thank you very much. That raises a question of how to increase the receptivity of a public that is for whatever reason hardened against the presence of immigrants or people from other background. I think you are absolutely right to point out that this is a challenge for politics, but often politicians are following their publics so the question is how do you increase the receptivity amongst the public to the presence of immigrants in the society.

Who else would like to raise a question?

Question / comment

This question goes to Mr. Montoro. In the sense of discrimination, how does your police department work with complainants when they file a report? Do they assist them with it or do they chase them away?

Mr. José Ricardo Franco Montoro, Municipal Secretary of Participation and Partnership – City of São Paulo, Brazil

Any person facing discrimination can file a report in a center of fight against racism. This person has a right to go there even if she feels threatened. The center is a reference to other cities that are inaugurating several centers of fight against racism. And these complaints are directed to the police department specifically. What happens after this, what the exact procedures and repressive action are, is not part of my function. But this question is very important and I am personally very interested what the procedures are afterwards. I will find information on what happens afterwards and I will then be able to respond more specifically. Thank you for your question.

Question / comment by Florence Laufer, UNAOc

This is a comment, in reaction to the comment about policies on regulation of migration flows and integration practices. I think that there is a very strong link in terms of change of perceptions, and I am very sure that the Cities of Migration website already makes a big difference, in basically showing that migration is not a threat. And if public perceptions develop this awareness, then repressive regulation policies will have less popular support. And this can be a positive circle to underline the link between integration practices and long term regulation of flows.

Question / comment by Rochelle Hachem, UNESCO

Thank you. I am Rochelle Hachem from UNESCO. As, within the UNESCO mandate, we work for intercultural dialogue and within that we recognize very strongly the component of interreligious dialogue in the world of different religious leaders and communities in particular in this kind of integration issues. I was very to hear intrigued to hear Gerie's mention of when the church stepped in with the police on this issue. My question regards both New York, since you seem to have very perceptive understanding here, and also in São Paulo. Are you partnering with different religious communities and how? How are they helping carry forward the issue of integration, because they are so based and rooted in the community? How is that going? What examples could you both highlight? Thank you.

Ms. Geraldine Mannion, Program Director, US Democracy and Special Opportunities Fund, Carnegie Corporation of New York

Well that is actually very much the case. In the US particularly, the Catholic Church has been incredibly forthright, with leadership where the Cardinals and Bishops have come out and said that they don't regard borders as an issue. The religious philosophy is Welcome to strangers, regardless. And all migrants, immigrants should be in fact treated with human rights as overall issue. They've been joined more recently by large number of Evangelical leaders. Especially in US, Latinos who have traditionally been Catholic have now recently become more and more Evangelicals. And the Evangelic Latino Church has been very active in trying to protect those migrants as well as to help move on immigration reform. Also the Jewish synagogues, the mosques, a whole range of interfaith leaders have stepped forward.

I think on the leadership side, for the most part it's been very positive. There have been some concerns between the leaders and the people in the pews, those at local level: they are still concerned about the new populations moving in. Why is Mass in Spanish? Why is Mass in all these other different languages? Why are all these people now there? There is still a big gap, you might say, between those who are on the leadership side and those who are at the local level, about trying to encourage better treatments of migrants and integration.

Mr. José Ricardo Franco Montoro, Municipal Secretary of Participation and Partnership – City of São Paulo, Brazil

In São Paulo in Brazil, I would say that the Church, and that several churches, as we have the diversity of the churches in São Paulo, have all, starting with the Catholic Church, a pastoral approach. Specifically with the immigrants pastoral, the church tries to welcome and bring these issues to the authorities, to demand solutions, concrete solutions. And they approach organizations, governmental organizations that may deal with this matter. São Paulo is somewhat starting, leading this work with several governmental organizations and Church has contributed in a big way to understand this issue. All the diversity of churches we have in São Paulo.

Question / comment

Thank you very much organizing this very important panel discussion. My name is (Naima Chaplin) I am a board member of communication and coordination committee. And my question is to UNESCO because it's very important to create understanding between diversity in cultural and all of these backgrounds of immigrants who come from different countries. And practically, as a positive element, all immigrants have different languages, which is very enriching. My question is: how are you interested to support initiative to create communication through different projects? And this is very important for diversity. Thank you.

Mme Hélène-Marie Gosselin, Director, UNESCO New York

Thank you. You are very right. Communication can mean so many different things by this word. But one thing that I did not mention is a scenario that we need international, national and local actors to pay lot more attention to: Media Literacy. I don't know, as a former journalist, if I would have agreed, decades ago, to that word "media literacy". But now, we are starting to reflect a lot, and work with many partners association of journalists, with the Alliance who is very interested in the topic also. But I think it is extraordinarily important to, let's say it, educate journalist in how to present some at times *very* complex social issues. But also to encourage them, because the international community often complains that only bad news gets reported. But I think that increasingly, media organizations themselves are interested to, not only partner, but also to access the world of information.

I will give you one encouraging example. I watch very little television, but did watch a few series of CNN, last two months, called Black in America. And I have seen launched, next week I think, Latino in America. This is very interesting, because who could have imagined this only a few years ago, this is CNN national network, not CNN international network! And apparently Black in America was one of the most successful series in terms of rating. I think that it's shows that when we work, I mean whatever actors, working in integration issues, work with large major group, these are very important issues. Why? Because our population in the cities and in countries is increasingly multi-ethnic and multi-cultural. Of course they want to hear about that.

Since I have the floor may I just mention one other thing? When you talked about communication and you raised a very important question that I like to address briefly. How do we raise awareness of the public about some of the issues faced by migrants and immigrants in the cities? I have a very unsophisticated answer and a long term one: educate, educate, educate. Now I know that when we look at short-term goals that politicians at the local level and at the national level have, it takes a long time to change the mindset of the people. But it doesn't mean we shouldn't work, and I mean this is part of our role at UNESCO, to advise Administrative Education departments and we do that increasingly. And the importance of equipping, not only the students from very early age, about issues of intercultural dialogue and what immigrants bring to the societies. But also

let us not forget about also equipping the teachers. And there not nearly enough has been done in terms of teacher training and re-training in our multicultural, multiethnic cities. I am sure there are very interesting projects out there but I think a lot more needs to be known about them and to link them together. This seems to be a great, great challenge: teacher training and also equip our teachers to be better teachers in their own communities as well. Thank you.

Dr. Howard Duncan, Executive Head, Metropolis Project

Do we have any more questions or comments? Something that we haven't yet heard much about from the audience are comments on the role of the international community in this local issue. Do we have any more questions?

Enzo Scotti, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Italy

How to integrate local, national and international levels? This round-table was a concrete example of how to be able to work together, the heads of international organizations and national organizations and local organizations. This issue of integration in all its various ways of presenting itself must constitute a great international issue. It is connected to the great challenges that we have before us and it is important that the United Nations open this session of General Assembly speaking about climate change. And this week it concludes today talking about integration. These are two aspects of a single problem facing us.

My second observation: I think that from everything that has been said, the General Assembly has talked about disarmament, about taking nuclear arms away from some and moving towards a new phase of disarmament. Today we are talking about cultural disarmament. The culture can be the worst weapon because it is the arm that creates the clash of civilizations. This is the other point that I wanted to make. And in closing, I believe that appeal to the religions is a fundamental appeal. Without a deep change in the relationship of one human being to another, there can be no integration policy. If I look at the other as someone that is diverse, as an opposite of me, I will not have any dialogue. What I need to know is that the other person is a projection of myself. This is the great contribution that religions must make to the world. Religions have produced many conflicts in the history of the world. Now they have to take awareness of a radical change that they must be the promoters of a dialogue among cultures.

Dr. Howard Duncan, Executive Head, Metropolis Project

I think that is a marvelous way for us to end this session. Thank you very much Mister Scotti. Can I turn it over to you, Mister Scheuer?

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Global Issues, Keith Christie delivered a concluding statement for Canada, emphasizing the centrality of multiculturalism to Canadian values and success. Mr. Christie also praised the AOC's convening abilities and urged continued collaboration from the international community. Marc Scheuer, Director of the AOC Secretariat, noted that migration and integration should be on the agenda of the next AOC Forum (2010 in Rio). Italy, IOM, and AOC all expressed a desire for the roundtable to be the beginning of a process rather than a standalone event. Indeed, this event followed on a working session at the April 2009 AOC Forum in Istanbul entitled "Integrating Migrants - A Challenge for Inclusive Societies." Mr. Scotti and others proposed that a conference be held next year to follow up on these issues, and several speakers also highlighted theme-specific conferences and workshops that will be held during the coming year.

Mr. Marc Scheuer, Director, UNAOC

Thank you. I would agree that we have had a very rich exchange right now. We are now approaching the concluding remarks part of this meeting. And I would like first to ask the Deputy Minister for Global Issues, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Mister Keith Christie, from Canada, to take the floor and share his own general concluding remarks. Thank you.

Mr. Keith Christie, Assistant Deputy Minister for Global Issues, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada

Thank you very much. Dear participants. It is my great pleasure to be here with you today and to have attended this seminar on inter-ethnic cities. The government of Canada is very pleased to have co-sponsored this event along with the government of Italy, the Alliance of Civilizations and the International Organizations for Migration. We like to express our particular appreciation to the permanent mission of Italy in New York for proposing the idea and for reaching out to the Alliance of Civilization, the IOM and to Canada to partner in making this event a success.

Canada is a very supportive for initiatives such as the Alliance of Civilizations that help promote understanding between cultures and faiths at the United Nations and much beyond. And we see today's event as contributing to that goal as it has allowed us to share perspectives on the challenges associated with managing increasingly diversified cities. It is very important that countries work together at the UN and elsewhere to continue to support diversity and to learn about best practices. We see today's event as a part of our broader effort to enhance mutual understanding, to combat discrimination and to promote respect among all cultures and all faiths. These are core Canadian values reflected domestically in our charter of rights and freedoms, in our policy of long-standing multiculturalism and in strikingly varied and vibrant humanity of Canadian cities. The promotion of these values internationally is a key tenet of our foreign policy. The diversity between and within

myriad cultures around the world should be celebrated and viewed in the context of our common humanity. We should not draw arbitrary distinctions between groups or people when framing these discussions, rather we must all work together to promote global pluralism and to learn from each other on how best to adapt to new challenges.

Today's event has made an important contribution in our view to that goal by allowing us to share views on the key issue of how our increasingly diverse cities should be best managed. One of the results of globalization and greater migration is the increased interaction between peoples and ideas. This increased interaction takes place first and foremost, as a number of you who mentioned it today, in our cities, where members of different communities constantly learn to interact with each other. There are concerns on a part of some that their way of life is changing, not of their own accord, but in response to far away influences and events or to newcomers in their midst. In some cases this has led to tensions between different ethnicities, cultures and faiths. Initiatives such the Alliance of Civilization and events such as today's symposium provide leadership and innovative solutions fostering better understanding and cooperation. The Alliance helps to combat ignorance that can lead to violence and extremism and can continue to build bridges for brighter global and local future.

Canadian cities are good examples of the positive effects of globalization but like many other countries Canada must also address the challenges of an increasingly diverse population working together. In Canada we like to say that the world lives within Canadian voices and I invite each and every member of the audience today to visit one of our cities and you see exactly and very graphically what I mean. And we pride ourselves and our commitment to promoting pluralism both domestically and internationally. Our experience in promoting pluralism is based on the importance we have accord to fostering intercultural relationships within Canada to our benefit and to benefits of others. Our country is more vibrant, prosperous and energetic country thanks to the contributions of our diverse peoples. That said, we, like others, face challenges. We recognize that we are far from perfect. That's why we accord so much importance to sharing best practices internationally. As we know we have much to share and also much to learn.

Canada is also happy to be co-sponsoring today's event because it represents the potential of the Alliance of Civilizations at its very best. As emphasized in High Representative, President Sampaio's plan of action, it is important that the Alliance not duplicate the work of other organizations nor transfer ongoing political debates into a different setting. The real value of the Alliance is the developments of practical initiatives and projects that allow the advancement of key objectives helping UN members better understand each other especially in issues such as management of diversity and pluralism. One of the Alliance's greatest strengths is also its approach to partnerships of wide range of actors including governments and civil societies. Today's event has displayed all these strengths. It was aimed sharing best practices of managing cities and involved extensive partnership with civil society. We will work to ensure that recommendations and ideas discussed today are shared as widely as possible so that all UN members benefit from our exchanges today. We also welcome views on how to further exchange information on inter-ethnic cities in an UN context.

Finally, let me also say that Canada will continue to support the Alliance of Civilizations objectives of greater cultural understanding in the future. One concrete example of our commitment is our partnership, partnership of my government, with the Aga Khan Development Network to establish a global center for pluralism in Ottawa, our nation's capital. The center to which Canada has committed 30 million dollars, will promote pluralism internationally as a means to advance good governance, peace and human development. This is an example how individual countries can contribute to the Alliance's overall objectives.

Thank you for participating in today's event. We in Canada look forward to continuing to work with all of you, in supporting the Alliance's objectives in to the future. Thank you.

Mr. Marc Scheuer, Director, UNAoC

Let me add just few words and few comments. I would like to start by thanking you for being such an advocate of the Alliance of Civilizations. I think you gave us a wonderful synthesis of what the Alliance is about. And now we place in this big frame the challenge that we have been trying to address today. I think we had an excellent meeting this morning. I am extremely grateful to all. Not only the partners, starting with the Italian Mission, who brought about these ideas, convened all of us, Canada, IOM, the Alliance around this, brought together experts and people with considerable practical experience of these issues. I think it was fitting that we had among us quite a few people coming from the local authorities and civil society areas where we all recognize that difference will be there to very large extent. And we have to come back to some state to the role of the international community there, which is moving and changing in many respects and not only in this one. And I think international community is less and less dictating, or finding the solutions but creating an enabling environment, and particularly in helping civil societies around the world to contribute their solutions increasingly.

The President Sampaio explained very briefly why the Alliance is so much concerned by this. Within its task, which is to address the rich cultural diversity of the world and how foster good governance of cultural diversity. As you may have understood, the Alliance is very special kind of process, rather than an organization bringing together not only States and international organizations without which we couldn't do much because they help us in many ways, providing expertise and the programs that can be brought together. But also cities, civil societies, media, religion and faith-based initiatives, corporate sector, foundations. All these partners are in fact on equal footing within the Alliance of Civilizations, which creates that very distinctive brand. I think therefore the Alliance is more to be seen as a matchmaker, as a bridge builder, as a platform for cooperation and an advocate which helps to keep these issues of bridging the cultural divides on high on the political agenda at international, national and at the local level, than as a doer itself, that is not the role of the Alliance here.

We all realize in the Alliance that these complex issues that we have been discussing require enormous sophisticated synergies, a new chemistry and new partnerships, large numbers of actors and partners at all levels. And particularly we have to invent new ways for civil societies and local authorities' initiatives to match with public policies coming from higher level. This is a big challenge for all of us.

Let me say just a few words about, many of the words I have liked very much in the debate this morning: about participation of all, about building inclusive societies rather than being obsessed with integration as such. Respect, people to people approach, there are communities but there is also the direct link, the direct inclusion of all people of societies which is tremendously important. Maybe also providing cities, local authorities in the world with a greater say in shaping some of those policies which are crucial at that level and which normally escape the competence of the local authorities including in education for instance, if I got the message in particularly.

To conclude I would say that as a matchmaker and a platform for cooperation, the Alliance commits to do a few things at this stage. First of all to play its role in knowledge sharing and fostering the online community that we would like to develop on this issue. Starting with the work of today with all partners, the missions of Italy and Canada and the IOM. I think we will try to produce if not the formal conclusions but the gist of what have been learned together today so it can be shared by all of us in the future. We will start there.

Then we also certainly would like to link up with those who brought to our attention so many interesting and innovative practices in different parts of the world. Let's connect this. Let's make sure that they don't get lost, that we support each other mutually together to get maximum publicity to this. We are also looking at the representatives of Brazil here, as we prepare the next forum of the Alliance of Civilizations in May next year. I think these issues of building inclusive societies in our larger cities would be very much in agenda. And we will prepare that in consultation with all of you. We will not describe the themes in all its parameters and then ask you whether you like to contribute. We will make sure that you will help us that the Rio Forum will be a step forward in that direction. Thank you very much to all of you. It has been extremely useful I think. And we are looking forward to cooperating more in the future with all of you