LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY AS DRIVERS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BEYOND NAFTA

The "Cities for North America" Network

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Nothing should be done by a larger and more complex organization which can be done as well by a smaller and simpler organization. In other words, any activity which can be performed by a more decentralized entity, should be.

*Principle of Subsidiarity*
CITIES AS NEW GLOBAL ACTORS

➤ Associations of cities
➤ City marketing strategies
➤ Presence in international events
➤ City networks
CITIES FOR NORTH AMERICA

A regional city network proposal
OBJECTIVE

To create a strong institution aimed to promote and manage cooperation efforts among diverse North American actors, and on different issues in order to face common challenges.
THE CONTEXT

Global

The UN Sustainable Development Goals
The Paris Agreement
The New Urban Agenda

Regional

NAFTA Re-Negotiation
Social Links (Diasporas)
Current (Independent) Partnerships

Technology resources: Communication / Information sharing
WORKING GROUPS

Example

- Economic Development
- Social Inclusion
- Public Security
- Mobility
- Urban Planning
- Heritage Preservation
- Entrepreneurship
- Resilient Cities
- Sustainability
- Tourism Promotion
- Youth Opportunities
- Smart Cities
- Education
- Innovation
- Governance
- Public Services
ACTIVITIES

- Conferences
- Training: Seminars / Workshops
- Study Visits
- Technical Advisory
- Research Reports
- Trade Missions
- Lobbying / Negotiations
- Best Practices Database
**STRUCTURE**

**Example**

- **Advisory Board**
  - City Mayors
  - University Presidents
  - CEOs
  - NGO Representatives

- **Management Structure (Staff)**
  - President / Pro Tempore (City Mayor)
  - Director
  - Administration
  - Finance
  - Memberships
  - Policy Advisors
  - Communications
  - Human Resources

- **Management Structure (Staff)**
  - General Coordination
  - Project managers
  - Communications
  - (...)

- **Management Structure (Staff)**
  - Secretariat
  - (...)

- **Management Structure (Staff)**
  - Working Groups
BENEFITS

- Find solutions to common problems
- Strength to lobby other actors
- An inclusive forum for different voices
- Capacity to act aside central governments
- A solid institution for continuous cooperation
PROCESS / THE NEXT STEPS

- Founding Committee
- Network Blueprint
- Institutional Endorsement
- Invitation
  Founding Members
- First Summit
CONCLUSIONS

In times of uncertainty, working together and organized as a region can help us, not only to be stronger, but also to be more creative to face present and common challenges; it’s on us to take advantage of this great opportunity.
Thank you

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