
Intermediary Cities Facing Pandemia & Post Pandemia

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A. About Intermediary Cities: Figures & Definition
Intermediary City : Definition

Looking at the urban evolution and the development known by the world, (urban, social & economic, as well as human), the definition is becoming more coherent through the following definition recognized by the academics and by the UNESCO Chair : « the intermediary Cities are defined more by the relationship generated with their immediat environment, would it be systemic or governance, and by the intermediation concept that is developed to generate development / when generating development ». 
Intermediary Cities are not Secondary Cities

Key Figures

In 2050, Intermediary Cities are estimated to receive 50% of the world urban population

Metropolis: 503 Cities; 1.626 millions inhabitants; 41.21% urban population
Intermediary Cities*: 8.923 Cities; 1.423 millions inhabitants; 36.06% urb pop
Small Cities < 50.000 habs: 896 millions inhabitants; 22.73% urb pop
Rural population: 3.350 millions d’habitants; 45.9% pop in the world
1. Figures

In 2050, Intermediary Cities are estimated to receive 50% of the world urban population.
The « Urban world » needs the structure of the cities to get organized and to organize the urban planet/world sustainability:

- Cities are the closest space of democracy to the citizenship,

- Citizens are the beneficiaries but they are responsible as well.
Positioning adopted for Habitat III

A unique Potential: Momentum in the world for the World sustainability

A breach for Local governments to play their role and take their responsibilities

Through An integrated vision of the territory
The Charter – Declaration of Intermediary Cities of the World

Specific to thr Rural-Urban Linkages:

call for the urgent implementation of strategies for ecological transition;

Declare the following:
That it is necessary to root the global development agendas in the human values, knowledge and experiences of intermediary cities

That there is a need for a better structure and definition of the “living systems” of territories that can be translated into strategies that can be developed, understood and supported at international level.

That it is important to strengthen systems of local solidarity in order to achieve the global goals, from a human scale that is essentially found in intermediary cities, whatever their size

That it is necessary to defend quality of life and access to basic services in their territories in order to reduce inequalities

That the resilience of intermediary cities is strongly linked to their identity, culture and the defense of diversity
Strengthening and making the culture of “good living” a sustainable reality

6. **Consider the territory as an eco-responsible system used as an instrument for the preservation of the natural environment in its own right**, by generating a product value supply chain across different types of intermediary cities based on local entrepreneurship, as well as towards the preservation and enhancement of culture in the territories.

7. **Develop a green land use ratio, or coefficient of land covering**, concept of evolutive planning and green land-use planning, putting in place specific rules to control the balance between urban and rural, and to help local municipalities guarantee quality of life in their territories.

8. **Put in place housing policies for each inhabitant in areas of high value and quality of life**, bringing added value to the intermediary city and, at the same, time allowing the reception and integration of migrants from rural areas, metropolises and others, in a decent way, protecting the rights of each of them.

The concept of natural resources as heritage for humanity

9. **Develop the concept of the “Climate Intermediary City”**: with relation to the fight against climate change, a “climate intermediary city” based on local indigenous knowledge, in order to act at a human scale and release the potential of sustainable development on the planet; and develop the concept of Intermediary Cities Green Funds to be used to **support natural biodiversity, the treatment of endemic plants and transparency in the management of natural resources and food systems that reinforce the ecologic transition.**
B. Intermediary Cities & COVID-19
The key role of Rural – Urban Linkages
5 key factors

General situation

• the situation has known challenges, since what was before a big challenge in the intermediary Cities, is today, the reason of possible social & economic unrest. The social gap is going stronger.
• Intermediary Cities have been generally less touched by the COVID-19 than the Metropolis because of the less densified spaces
• However, when an Intermediary City is touched, the whole city is quickly contaminated - not because of density, but because of the humanity, solidarity and proximity that are key features of this kind of cities.

Some challenges identified...
1- Economic Resilience at stake

- Economic survival at stake with the lockdown: the relations between the rural and urban life
- The circular economy and virtuous circles of economy
- However, the proximity and human side of the Intermediary city, being a key feature of the intermediary Cities, are allowing a better solidarity between people, and the human side of local life finds its own solutions.
- The markets that were organized 2 or 3 times a week, are now organized in a closed space, localized in specific neighborhoods, etc..
- The exchanges from the city to the rural are reduced because of the lockdown
- Municipalities have quickly organized structures for banks of food

*Intermediary city is about a life rhythm and beating... through these linkages.*
Today with the COVID-19

Intermediary Cities facing COVID – Local Governments in the front line

2/ Human Resilience in the rural life through Public Services

The support given by the city’s municipality to the rural life is blocked:

• Supporting cooperatives
• Supporting basic services
• Supporting mobile equipment
• Goods of first necessity
• Food security
Today with the COVID-19
Intermediary Cities facing COVID – Local Governments in the front line

2- Trauma & fear
- Social cohesion in put a complexe situation - Economic ties
- Lack of equipment and services

3- Migration: a double direction
- From Intermediary Cities to Metropolis – fearing the lack of health equipment
- From Metropolis to Intermediary Cities – looking for a more healthy life, linking this urban life to its rural linkages

4- The Digital factor: a factor of exclusion during the COVID-19 “life” or survival...

Those are levers of the Social Resilience
The Human Factor: key to any implementation dynamic

From Mankind

Sustainability

To/For Mankind

Citizens Implication / Engagement

The “Life systems” must be the support of social, human & solidarity economic circles for the Intermediary city - rural linkages, to keep them resilient.
Today with the COVID-19
A breach for Local governments to play their role and take their responsibilities

An integrated vision of the territory as a Rural-Urban entity
Potential for a Green Recovery through the Rural-Urban Linkages, and its human attitude component

Intermediary Cities are a key element, as a mass, for the Green recovery: Ecological Transition and Climate are at the heart of the survival of the “Life systems”, as part of their Social and Economic lifes.

* Charter of the Intermediary Cities of the World
Thank you