



Urban-Rural Linkages in the Time of COVID-19 :
Intermediate Cities and Small Towns

Intermediary Cities Facing Pandemia & Post pandemia

Firdaous Oussidhoum

Adviser to the UCLG Secretary General

Coordinator of the Intermediary Cities Forum

Member of the UNESCO Chaire of Intermediary Cities and World Urbanization

Expert in Urban Strategy & Sustainable Development

Professor of Phiosophy of Architecture

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 immediate 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

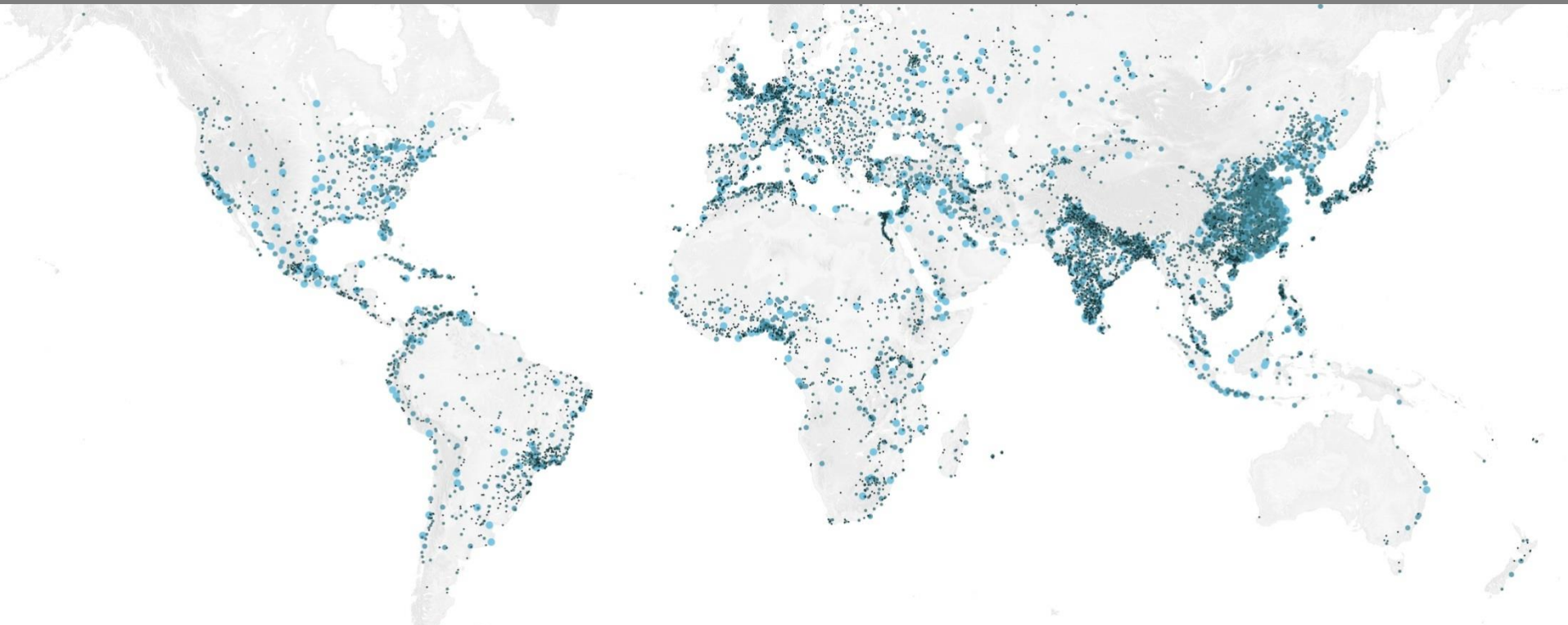
Metropolis: 503 Cities ; **1.626** millions inhabitants; **41,21%** urban population

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



Intermediary Cities

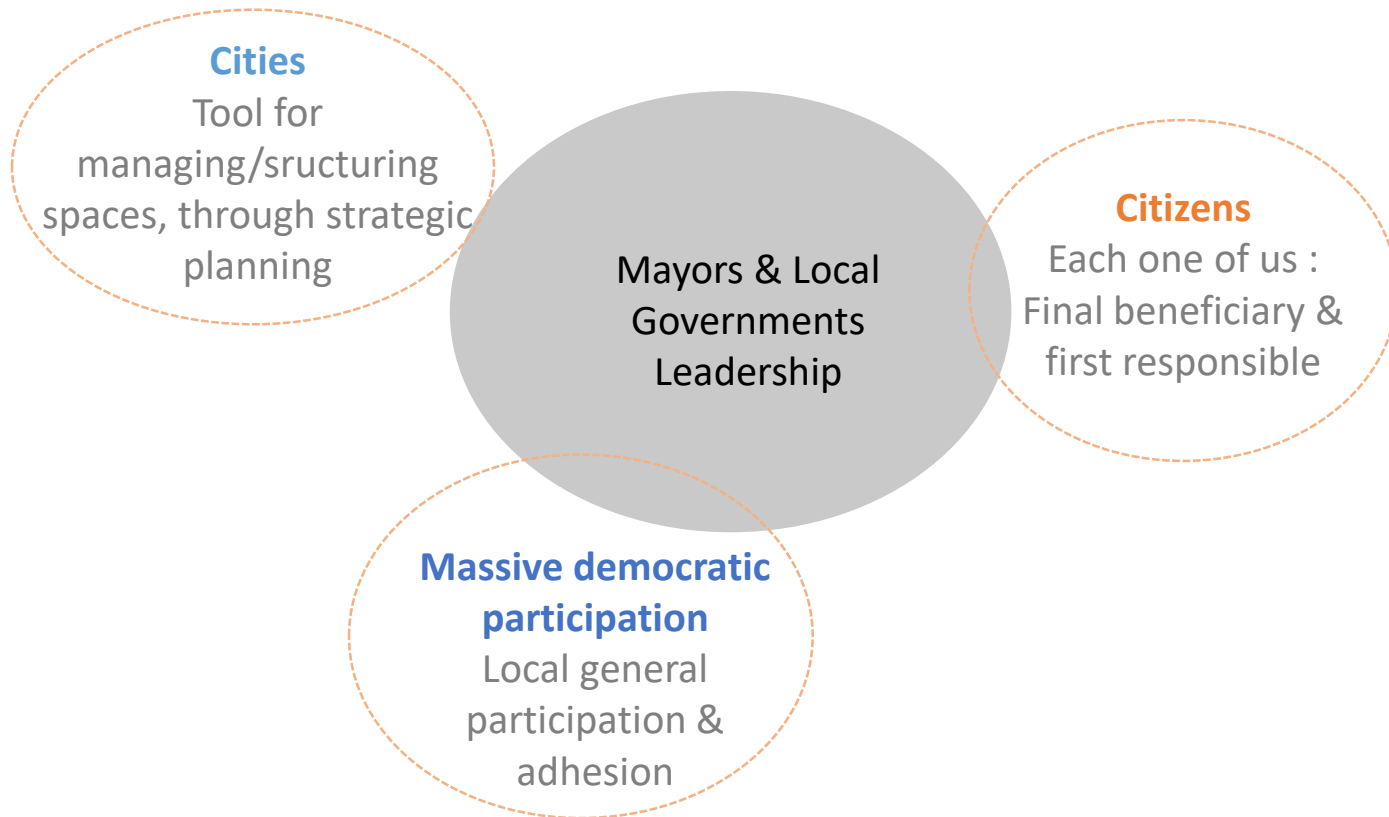
0,5 - 1 million* : 545 Cities	 370 millions inhabitants	8.923 Cities
0,3 - 0,5 millions : 715 Cities	 271 millions inhabitants	1.423 millions inhabs
0,1 - 0,3 millions : 2.571 Cities	 434 millions inhabitants	36,06% World urb pop.
0,05 - 0,1 millions : 5.092 Cities	 347 millions inhabitants	

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



FOR



TO AVOID



BY



UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan



The New Urban Agenda has been adopted!

This new global standard for sustainable urban development adopted at Habitat III will help us rethink how we plan, manage and live in cities.



Through An integrated vision of the territory

The Charter – Declaration of Intermediary Cities of the World

https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/en_declaration_charter_of_intermediary_cities_of_the_world.pdf

Charter based on the 5 criteria for Resilience

1. Economic
2. Social
3. Cultural
4. Environmental
5. Human

Specific to the 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

Today with the COVID-19

Intermediary Cities facing COVID – Local Governments in the front line

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...



Today with the COVID-19

Intermediary Cities facing COVID – Local Governments in the front line

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.

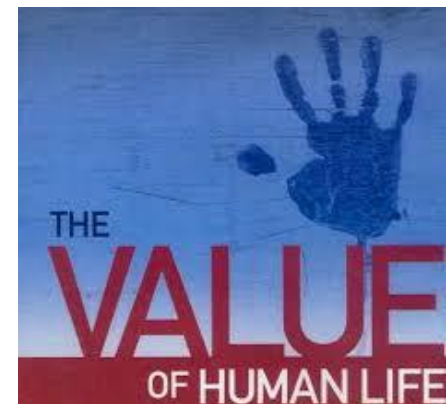
Today with the COVID-19

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

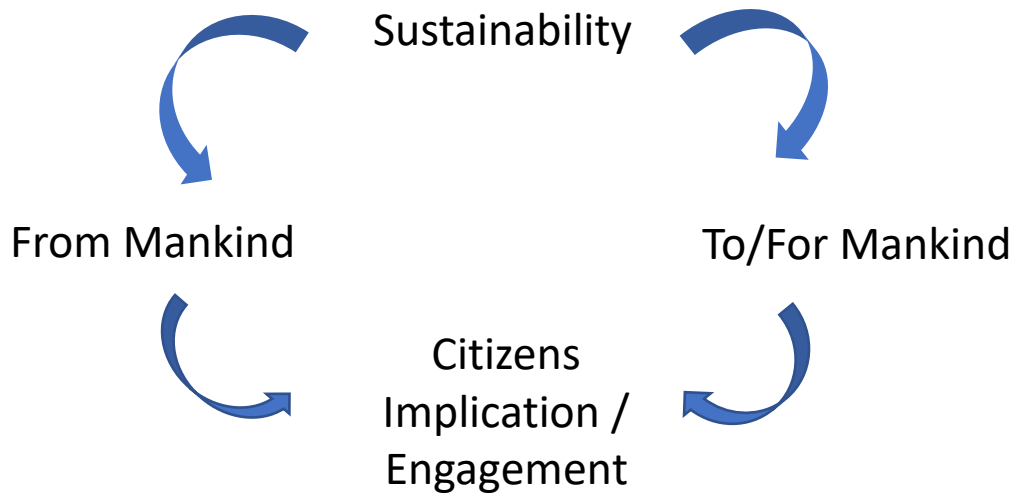
- From Intermediary Cities to Metropolis – fearing the lack of health equipment
- From Metropolis to Intermediary Cities – looking for a more healthy life, linking this urban life to its rural linkages

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



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



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INTEGRATING

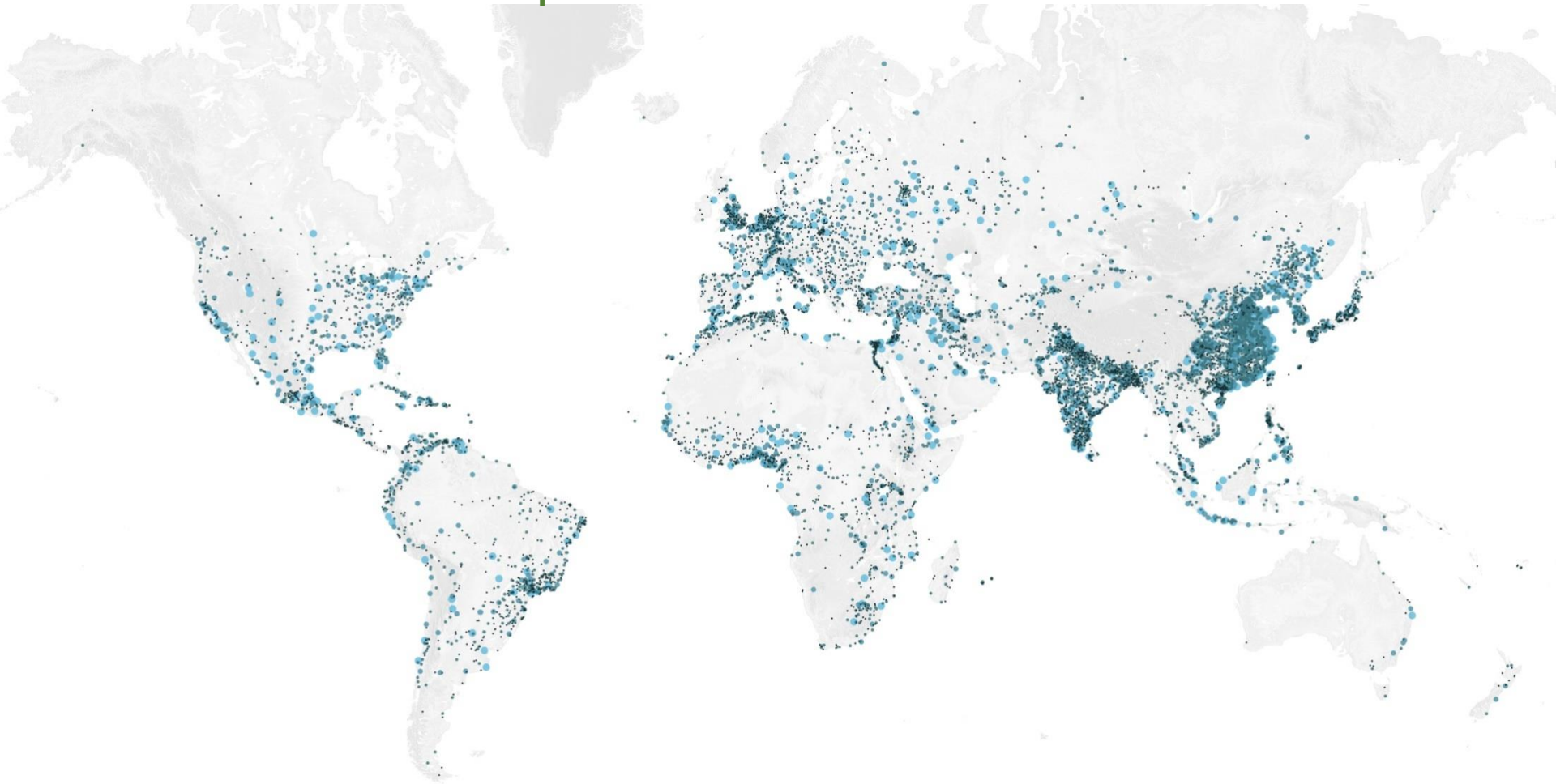


*An integrated vision of the territory
as a Rural-Urban entity*

FOR



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 lives.

* Charter of the Intermediary Cities of the World



Thank you