



Declaration

**of the
2nd ASEM Meeting for Governors and Mayors in Berlin in 2012
“ASEM Goes Local – Strategies for Change”**

The ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) for Governors and Mayors (ASEM-MGM) stands for dialogue on a partnership basis and respectful cooperation between major cities of ASEM partner countries. In the age of globalization and urbanization, metropolises worldwide are experiencing breathtaking growth and fundamental structural change – economically, demographically, and culturally. Cities are facing enormous shared challenges and must find intelligent ways to combine urban quality of life with economic growth, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability. At their first meeting in Jakarta in 2010, city representatives agreed to establish a permanent exchange between the cities on three core themes:

- Climate – Energy – Environment
- Urban development – Migration – Social integration
- Good governance – Participation – Transparency

and to hold regular meetings in the future.

At the 2nd ASEM-MGM on 18 and 19 October 2012 in Berlin, Governors and Mayors from Asia and Europe discussed strategies and solutions supporting forward-looking management of today's metropolises and shared best-practice approaches to innovative urban policy.

The Governors and Mayors believe

- that ASEM offers a valuable platform for cooperation between major cities in Asia and Europe,
- that the dialogue between metropolises makes an important contribution to political and economic stability and development,
- that the exchange of information, ideas, and experience is vitally important to advancing development in the member cities, and
- that the top-level regular meetings should be supplemented by specific, project-related co-operation.

The Governors and Mayors reached an understanding on the following statements:

I. Climate – Energy – Environment

Sustainable urban policy is aimed at dealing responsibly with natural resources and using energy efficiently. Such policy contributes to finding solutions to the challenges posed by climate change:

- The development and use of renewable energy can drive innovation and growth and help bring down pollution levels.
- New vehicle types, such as electric vehicles, offer interesting, innovative, and environmentally friendly mobility options that are of special benefit to big cities, especially in the context of the attempt to reduce motorized traffic worldwide, increase the use of renewable energy sources, and consider all environmental impacts.
- A modern construction industry helps to prevent unnecessary consumption of resources and creates energy-efficient buildings.
- An efficient circular economy makes it possible to have clean cities and, at the same time, to re-use valuable raw materials in a way that protects our resources.
- A far-sighted approach to disaster control and demand-oriented health care make an important contribution to safety and quality of life.

II. Urban development – Migration – Social integration

In the face of growing migration to the cities, metropolises are confronting the challenge of creating jobs and a functioning infrastructure and facilitating social cohesion. Both strategic economic policy and forward-looking urban planning can help to meet this challenge:

- As places that draw people of different origins, cities face the challenge of integrating newcomers and giving them prospects for the future.
- Far-sighted urban development policy takes work, homes, and leisure into account and aims at lively, socially balanced neighborhoods.
- Transportation infrastructure is an important basis for well-functioning metropolises. Public transportation cuts down on private vehicle traffic and reduces both congestion on the streets and environmental pollution.
- Metropolises are distinguished by diverse communities and cultures. This diversity is an important location factor and offers special opportunities for the cultural and creative sectors in particular.
- Cities worldwide are becoming more and more popular with tourists. As a result, the tourism industry is a potential source of jobs and economic growth for metropolises.

III. Good governance – Participation – Transparency

Cities act for the benefit of the population. Municipal administrations take a responsible approach to ensuring that cities are able to meet the demands of the future and provide important services to city residents:

- A modern municipal administration takes the needs of the various groups of residents into account and is organized to be as resident-oriented as possible.
- E-government solutions make an important contribution to an efficient and effective municipal administration.
- Involving residents in municipal decision-making processes can help to produce good outcomes.
- Good governance means weighing different goals and interests fairly and ensuring that the administration's procedures and decisions are comprehensible and transparent.
- A process in which residents help to develop visions for the future can further strategic approaches to municipal policymaking and enhance residents' identification with their city.

The Governors and Mayors advocate continuing the dialogue between the ASEM metropolises. These cities in Asia and Europe are very interested in contributing their experience and learning from each other in an exchange with partners on various levels (regional, national, and international).

The ASEM Governors and Mayors recommend that the conclusions of the 2nd ASEM Meeting for Mayors and Governors be taken into account at the 9th ASEM Summit to be held in Vientiane, Laos, from 5 to 6 November 2012.

The Governors and Mayors intend to hold their next meeting in 2014.

Berlin, 19 October 2012