The latest international projections foresee that by 2030, 60% of the world population will be living in urban areas. This reality will require a change in the current socioeconomic, cultural and environmental paradigms. Against this backdrop, the role of municipalities as key actors in development and cooperation issues is of the utmost importance to strengthen the three pillars of sustainable development - social, economic and environmental.

Faced with the new local, national and international challenges that shape daily lives of both Portuguese and European cities, such as: high unemployment, financial constraints and strong social and environmental pressures, Local Authorities - key actors in the development process - with strong responsibilities in the promotion of the wellbeing of their communities, have the power to give strong and effective responses to these challenges. However, the answer to local communities cannot be dissociated from global realities, requiring “glocal” strategies and approaches.

In an interdependent world we need to strengthen global partnerships for development. All stakeholders with responsibilities in development policies – including Portuguese Municipalities – have to raise their voices and efforts in the pursuit of international commitments and goals.

Partnerships between civil society and local authorities have clear added value to development processes and are crucial to the convergence of efforts towards poverty eradication, education for all, gender equality, health, economic and environmental sustainability.

10H00 OPENING SESSION

NEW GLOCAL CHALLENGES

Challenges are part of the Humanity’s development DNA. It is not only economic and financial challenges that reflect a desire for a more fair and sustainable world, but also social and environmental challenges that will ensure Human Sustainable Development.
NEW PATHS FOR GLOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

How can Municipalities be on track with the promotion of development values and principles? How to align the promotion of environmental issues, technology, education, equality, inclusive economy and eco-mobility with complex demographic, economic and social challenges?

LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL MUNICIPALITIES :: NEW MODELS, NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Sustainable development requires new strategies, aimed at strengthening the coordination of local actors for the dissemination and expansion of their good practices. Economy, Environment, Education, Integration, Mobility and Inclusion are not just theoretical issues but daily realities for which we cannot turn back. Realities that must be addressed from local to global dimensions. This is the only path to ensure a sustainable future for all. As key actors in the international system, there is a need for Municipalities to develop and promote new models for sustainable development. They have always been an engine for dynamic societies and have, therefore, a crucial role in boosting new partnerships and approaches.

LOCAL ANSWERS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES: WRAP UP

DEVELOPMENT IS A CORE SHARED RESPONSABILITY. WHAT WILL BE YOUR ROLE?