

Alliance of European Cities against Violent Extremism Summit of Mayors

15 November 2017 – City Hall of Barcelona, Spain

Barcelona Declaration

We, mayors and representatives of cities and regions from 18 European countries, meeting in Barcelona, Spain, at the initiative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the European Forum for Urban Security and the City of Barcelona, in co-operation with the Generalitat of Catalonia,

Building on our experiences with the Alliance of European cities against violent extremism in our meetings in Aarhus (Denmark) in 2015 and in Rotterdam (Netherlands) in 2016;

Determined to tackle all forms of violent extremism, while reaffirming and reasserting the basic principles of democracy: dialogue, protection of fundamental rights, respect for the opinions of others and rejection of all forms of violence;

Reaffirming our resolve to strengthen our communities, working with civil society, to foster inclusive cities and to promote narratives that reject violence and uphold democratic values;

- **Note that it is now time to take stock:** the attacks on our citizens in our cities are continuing and there is no apparent sign that they will diminish. The threat of violent extremism is a phenomenon that demand from local authorities long-term and transversal approaches that minimise the risks to our citizens by creating a culture of diversity without violence;
- **Recognise the need to broaden the scope of local authority strategies to counter all forms of extremism:** violent extremism is much broader than terrorism, and it is not primarily a religious matter. It is fundamentally an acceptance of violence as means and a rejection of the democratic values and roots upon which rely the foundation of our societies;
- **Commit to making our cities safe and inclusive environments** for all our residents, in all neighbourhoods, at all times, free from all forms of violence.
- **Redouble our efforts at prevention,** building resilient societies that cherish the values of diversity and living together and oppose to violence, making more inclusive societies, promoting intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and combatting all forms of marginalisation;
- **Develop the North-South dimension of dialogue** with our neighbouring countries and territories in combating violent extremism, recognising that we share the same concerns and that cooperation with our neighbouring countries is part of the solution. Inter-city co-operation is an important vector that needs to be developed as we have much to learn from each other and much to gain by working more closely together;
- **Reaffirm our resolve to bring all actors together,** from all levels of government and from civil society to make our cities safe for all citizens regardless of their age, social, cultural or confessional backgrounds.