Piero Fassino and Ban Ki-Moon close the Third World Forum of Local Economic Development

Turin, 16th October 2015. The Mayor of the City of Turin, Piero Fassino, closes together with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, the Third World Forum of Local Economic Development, held in Turin from the 13th to the 16th October and opened by the letter of the Pope. Also present were the President of the Italian Senate Pietro Grasso, the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Paolo Gentiloni, the President of Piedmont Region Sergio Chiamparino and the representatives of the many international organizations involved.

Significant numbers of the third edition of the Forum:

- 2000 participants
- 130 represented Countries
- 27 panels
- 24 workshops
- 21 meetings in Arena Space
- 23 meetings of the Forum Off
- 320 B2B meetings, attended by 29 Countries of all over the world
- 510 representatives interacted on the Platform Net-to-Work, to share experiences, to create business opportunities and to form networks
- 54 agreements reached by UNDP
- 100 African delegates for the first time at the Forum
- 150 volunteers
- 150 accredited journalists
- 50 University students involved in the documentation of workshop’s and panel’s works

The Forum has discussed and reaffirmed the strong relevance of LED as a people-centred and place-based response to major global trends and challenges, including growing inequalities, widespread unemployment, and increasing pressure on natural resources.

The local level is where people live and express their needs and aspirations. The SDGs become ‘real’ and have an impact on people’s life when they are ‘embodied’ at the local level. The localization of the SDGs constitutes therefore a recognized priority for their effective implementation. This requires in turn

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conducive, well-coordinated policy frameworks and open, inclusive governance systems.

Having regard to these considerations, the participants to the Forum renew their commitment and collectively pledge to carry forward their dialogue and cooperation, thereby taking up the dialogue and the patronage of the local development, with the implementation of SDGs. They also commit themselves to consolidate and institutionalise the Forum as a permanent ‘space’ for continued dialogue and cooperation between its members, promoting and developing further agreements for concrete synergies and cooperation in the territories and between territories, building the capacities and knowledge for the implementation and success of LED.

“It was a great Forum in all respects- says Giovanni Camilleri, UNDP- great because the number of B2B meetings was much higher than in previous editions, and in the specific case of our organization were reached 54 bilateral agreements, involving even Countries, that until now had never undertaken collaborative projects. Two examples are Mauritania and Gabon, Countries completely foreign to international collaborations, which have instead realized, that the future of their territories depends on a new approach to current issues related to the environment, energy and innovation policies. The Forum of Turin was great because the courageous choice, and I have to thank the administration of the City, to open the wonderful Royal Pole to the delegates for their work, has meant that the delegates felt their work more appreciated and I am sure that, thanks to the beauty of these places full of history, the delegates have given the best of themselves.”

DECLARATIONS:

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNITED NATIONS BAN KI-MOON

“Three weeks ago I had the most extraordinary experience as Secretary-General, meeting in New York government representatives from all over the world to define the points of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our goal is eradicate poverty and achieve prosperity for everyone. We therefore have to understand, that local needs are very important, exactly how is emerging in this Forum. The Global Goals locally achieved will have impact on the global system. The Governments and Local Authorities should monitor the situation. Do not let that policies are only words, something that only applies to the others: guide your people by your example. I invite you to listen to your community, to ask citizens how they want their Global Goals are achieved, what form they want to give to the world: it is necessary that citizens and local communities contribute to our common global vision.”
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TURIN PIERO FASSINO

"This Forum takes place a few weeks after the adoption, by the United Nations, of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. An agenda that renews and re-launches the objectives of the Millennium Goals and commits the international community to pursue the path of sustainable development and of livable for the whole of humanity. It takes place in the final weeks of Milan Expo and today the Secretary General will receive from the President of the Republic the Charter of Milan, signed by more than one million citizens. Our Forum ends in the World Food Day. The issue of development and its sustainability is on the agenda of international institutions, governments, local authorities, civil societies. Development and sustainability, words that once were considered “niche concepts”, but now they are in everyday vocabulary, and we are all aware of the need for human development and sustainable development, that is able to maximize the benefits and reduce the risks, and that every man should be recognized in his dignity. We all are more aware of the air we breath, of the water we drink, of the food we eat, of the land where we live and we are all aware of the need, that the development would be able to maximize the benefits and opportunities and reduce risks. We live in a world, where what happens in every region, in every community, in every city every day, influences the destiny of the planet. So the outcome of this globalization takes place on a local level, for this reason was coined the term glocal. This give us a particular responsibility and today in cities and local communities are already practicing experiences of sustainability that, thanks to this forum, will be extended and generalized. Confirming the need to return the attention to detail, to the local, I would like to remind you an Indian saying: when the last tree has been uprooted, the last river poisoned, and the last fish caught, that man will discover that he cannot eat money."

PRESIDENT OF THE PIEDMONT REGION SERGIO CHIAMPARINO

"A community is recognised as such, if it focuses on the person and his needs. And at the center of local economic development there is the person." The challenge is to ensure a sustainable growth, making it socially equitable and correct. More equity and more sustainability are the two major challenges we face. From these days come ideas, that I’m sure will be important."
PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN SENATE PIETRO GRASSO

"Italy, thanks to its ancient, solid and fascinating tradition of municipalities, proud of their identity and traditions, understands very well what could be the added value of the territories to the economic, social and human development of a Country. In the light to the discussions of the Forum seem to have emerged two kinds of stimuli: the first ensure overall a fairer, solidarity and homogenous development; and the second for a system of government of the territories and of the phenomena more democratic and participatory. The key to any democracy, I believe, is in local government, because it is the face of the directors on the territory, that the State presents to citizens to treat that every day the rights, needs and aspirations. From this awareness we know clearly that we have to start together, also to address the major issues of economic development, local and global."

ITALIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PAOLO GENTILONI

"This forum is a great idea expressed by Turin, always involved with the United Nations, which wants to ensure that the small communities will play a central role in the sustainable development. The agenda for sustainable development needs the commitment of states and governments, but must have their feet firmly on the ground and the ground is made of local communities, here represented. So there is still a long way to go, but we are starting to follow it in the right direction with the agenda of the UN and local communities here represented."

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