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CONFERENCE :

« **REVIEWING THE STATE OF SAFETY IN WORLD CITIES : SAFER CITIES +20** »

7 and 8 July 2016, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

Based on what I have heard during these last three days in our broad exchanges, I would like focus on poverty and inequality in relation with safety.

I just to recall the Amartya Sen's poverty definition as the impossibility to exercise freedom fully; freedom of time, freedom of energy, freedom of food; it means a freedom of choice and a freedom of conscience. In others words the poverty is the gap between the *willingness* to do and the *capacity* to do.

Urban poverty – facing inaccessible urban wealth - which drives frustration and violence must be understood - first: as impossibility of accessing to the rights and justice; two: as impossibility of accessing to good quality of urban environment (quality of public spaces and quality of basic services); three: as impossibility of accessing information and communication (to know and to assert its own rights).

We saw in these three days many interesting solutions to fight urban insecurity. We know that these solutions are *de facto* contextual and it's important to understand.

But how can we do to replicate elsewhere? All we know, there is no one-fit-all solution. If we want to replicate these good solutions to influence the policies, we have to know why they work:

In other words:

- We have to analyze context;
- We have to analyze what are the causal factors selected;
- We have to know why this solution has been chosen among a lot of potential solutions;
- We have to know at what scale the solution has been implemented and why at this scale;
- We have to know what are the stakeholders involved: what community associations, what investors, who was leader, and so on;
- We have to know what were negotiation processes, on what negotiation bases the solution was built.
- We have to know what is **the cost of implementation**;

- And finally we have to **evaluate fully and rigorously the success in terms of decline of violence an in terms of improvement of human development, and in terms of cost-effectiveness.**

We collect quite easily the statistics of decline of crimes, robberies, sexual assaults, and so on.

Statistics of decline means we treat only the symptom – the violence by example – but we have to know if the causes are treated. The efficient evaluation means to measure the improvement of the symptom, but it's not enough. Efficient evaluation means to measure the improvement of the causes.

So a rigorous conception, implementation and evaluation, need expertise, knowledge and important financial resources. Resources that elected officials recognize are currently greatly missing.

In others words, we have to answer to several questions:

- WHO collects, stocks and analyse data?
- HOW to implement efficient solutions?
- WHAT is the cost of solution design?

In fact the cities have resources – free resources – expertise and knowledge of their local universities.

We – with RESAUD network – University of Montreal and UN Habitat – we defend the idea that universities should be natural partners for cities. We advocate for strong contractual partnerships agreements between universities and municipal governments to find pragmatic and efficient solutions to their specific problems of insecure human settlements and to evaluate the effectiveness of results, to train administrations in the mechanics and tools of project management and negotiation; and to disseminate the results to national and international policy-makers and civil society.

We are driven by the conviction that local solutions implemented at middle scale with proven effectiveness carried by responsible local governments are a powerful lever for improving urban poverty reduction policies and urban inequality reduction policies for safer cities.

Note read in Plenary July 8th