

suggests that local authorities can be more sensitive to the needs and aptitudes of their constituents, and touch the daily lives of citizens through delivery of services, including those services that may enhance human security.

City governments are also key entry points for disseminating the democratic principles of tolerance, equity, participation, and representation – principles that are conducive to conflict resolution. Representative and inclusive local democratic governments can also help combat alienation that can make slum inhabitants the targets of organized crime, and manage the tensions which can spark urban unrest.

In post-conflict environments, cities should be focal points for **peacebuilding** activities. Following violent conflict, cities can fulfill immediate needs of civilians by providing housing, water, and social assistance. Locally-based and participatory peacebuilding projects in cities can help sow the principles of conflict resolution at the local level, building sustainable peace from the ground up.