society, and the Internet mean that it is relatively easy to mobilize support or resistance, and to inform or consult people in cities.

The burgeoning field of city diplomacy also points to a growing direct role for cities in conflict management. In conflict situations, cities can use silent diplomacy to foster dialogue between parties in conflict, as well as engage in acts of solidarity which can generate international attention for the problems that the local governments in the conflict area are facing, such as visits by European mayors to urban conflict spaces in Colombia. This city-to-city track can obviate state control, but also complement negotiations at a national level.

In post-conflict situations, what are some examples of strong and vibrant cities leading the way to peace, and what are the factors which build urban resilience in the face of conflict?

Johannesburg played a major role in overcoming apartheid, while the aforementioned Balkan triad signed a *Protocol on the promotion of inter-ethnic tolerance* (http://www.citizenspact.org.yu/protocol.htm), signed by representatives of the city authorities and civil society in all three cities. All were remarkably less convulsed by conflict than other Balkan cities.

In Macedonia, the non-governmental organization (NGO) Search for Common Ground worked with local governments to encourage exchange visits and economic projects between cities with mayors of varied ethnic backgrounds. In Skopje, environmental projects were created which employed multiple ethnic groups. This may have played some role in preventing Macedonia from becoming another Kosovo.

Factors necessary for urban resilience include security and crisis-management capacities; inclusion in democratic processes; fairness and proportionality; building of social capital through economic incentives (active civil society and integration); and, justice and reconciliation mechanisms.

A final factor in urban resilience may come from slums and so-called weak cities. Namely, these settlements or areas are forced to eke out existence and security against all odds, and as a result have an in-built capacity to cope with the grinding obstacles of day-to-day life.

Finally, can cities themselves, because of the wealth or power that they generate, stabilize weak states and prevent conflict from erupting?