Introducing the GFMD Mayors Mechanism

GFMD Friends of the Forum

21 February 2019
Mayors Mechanism Mission

• Facilitate substantive engagement of local and regional governments in the activities and deliberations of the GFMD with a view to ensuring that the knowledge and experiences of local leaders – from different geographical contexts and administrative systems – inform the GFMD’s outcomes and recommendations.
Context

- Rapid urbanization puts cities at the forefront of solving global challenges locally.
- Most migrants and displaced persons settle in urban areas.
- Local reception and inclusion policies and practices are critical in determining outcomes for migrants and societies.
- Increasingly, cities cooperate across borders to share experiences, represent their interests and practically support each other.
- In December 2018, in Marrakesh, cities pledged support to realizing commitments made in the GCM and GCR.
The Mayoral Forum on Migration, Human Mobility and Development (MF)

- **Launched after 2nd HLD in 2013 with support from then SRSG Peter Sutherland**

- **Annual gathering of municipal and regional leaders for policy dialogue, exchange of knowledge, and joint strategizing on how to govern migration, promote social inclusion and equitable local development**

- **4th and 5th MF held in conjunction with the GFMD Summits in Berlin (2017) and Marrakesh (2018)**

- **MF Outcomes – “Mayors Declaration” – presented at the GFMD**

- **In 2019, the MF will take place for the 2nd time in Quito, Ecuador (tbc)**
5th Mayoral Forum in Marrakesh, 2018

• Over 150 mayors and senior city executives, representatives of national governments, international organisations and civil society

• Theme: *City Leadership in Implementing the UN Global Compacts*

• Cities discussed:
  a) what they are doing
  b) what they further commit to
  c) what support they need (resources, tools, partnerships)
Marrakesh Mayors’ Declaration

• Spells out commitments towards realizing both, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)

• Calls for inclusion of local and regional governments in the implementation and follow up of the GCM and GCR.

• Overarching commitments to:
  • Advance the principles and objectives of both Global Compacts in unison
  • Stand in solidarity and increase collaboration amongst cities
  • Take action and play a critical role in shaping a more positive narrative on migration, including by providing evidence of ‘what works’

→ In line with 2019 GFMD Chair priorities.
City priorities

For GCM implementation:
• Minimize adverse and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin (Objective 2)
• Address and reduce vulnerabilities (Objective 7)
• Provide migrants with safe access to essential services (Objective 15)
• Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion (Objective 16)
• Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration (Objective 17)

For GCR implementation:
• Support appropriate reception of refugees and asylum-seekers, as appropriate (paragraph 37)
• Meet refugees’ needs and support communities (paragraph 66)
• Encourage initiatives that favour inclusion and refugee self-reliance (paragraphs 97-100)
• Engage in regional and global partnerships (paragraph 38)
Plans for 2019

Establish the GFMD Mayors’ Mechanism:

• Incorporate the MF into the Mayors Mechanism as its main annual event, to be organized in conjunction with the GFMD Summit meeting;

• Increase the number and geographic representation of mayors and local officials participating in the MF;

• Create opportunities for local and regional governments to participate in GFMD events and discussions and contribute to its agenda.
Plans for 2019 (cont’d)

Develop Programme of Action for the MMD:
• City-led initiative to identify concrete actions and partnerships to implement the MMD
• PoA to be endorsed by MF participants in Quito in Nov. 2019 (tbc)

Contribute to the priorities of the Chair, as requested:
• Responses to mixed migration: social and economic inclusion (RT 1.2)
• Public narratives and communication with migrants (RT 2)
• Arrival cities & local development in rural areas (RT 3)