



Priorities and Roadmap for the GFMD Co-Chairmanship 2023

Cecilia Cantos
GFMD Mayors Mechanism
Friends of the Forum, 22nd of November 2022

Agenda item 6. Open floor for updates of the Friends of the Forum

A. Introduction

Thank you for sharing the outlines of your programme, as I mentioned in June, the 6 priorities are all so timely and relevant in the current global context. On our side, they all connect to our Marrakech Mayors Declaration, and through our Call to Local Action we will be able to help feed the discussions with tangible and concrete solutions local governments spearhead at local level.

While all topics are of key interest to our work, we will be prioritizing our engagement in the following three roundtables:

1. **Climate change and migration:** For local governments, the impact of the climate crisis on migration is urgent, as most migrants and displaced people moving due to climate change will move to, from or even within cities. There are two elements that will be central to our contributions to this roundtable:
 - a. the MMC – C40 Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration and its [Action Agenda on Climate and Migration](#) which details recommendations for national governments and where cities are ready to lead by example
 - b. the MMC's Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, to which UCLG, C40, IOM and UNHCR are strategic partners. As just announced at COP27, the Global Cities Fund is now supporting **11 African cities with \$2.2 million** to address the needs of migrants and displaced people affected by the climate crisis.
2. **Narratives and culture:** Fostering inclusive communities stands at the heart of our work and there are ample examples we can bring to the table. As co-chairs of the ad hoc working group, we stand ready to connect this roundtable to the work plan of the working group and to the It Takes a Community Campaign.
3. **Multi-level governance:** It goes without saying that we are delighted to see the topic of multi-level governance high on the agenda: we hope to see the discussions centre around policy planning, and how global goals, such as the GCM and the SDGs take root at national and local level. Strengthening dialogue and coordination across levels of government and in collaboration with all stakeholders is the most effective strategy to design policies that are rooted in reality. When it comes to designing local policies, we'll bring inspirational examples to the Forum for scaling and replication.



B. How will we engage?

Our engagement in the GFMD fits into our larger strategy to roll out our Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, very concretely this will entail the following activities in 2023:

1. Collect more pledges and move from a core group to a broader movement of cities to join this effort: we will bring to the GFMD our **second Call to Local Action Annual Report** for 2023. This publication will capture these additional city actions and pledges, as well as will update the international community on existing challenges, gaps and opportunities when it comes to the 'whole-of-government' principle in migration governance.
2. Establish a learning platform for local govts to connect local action to global agendas. Concretely this will entail:
 - a. Three specific **peer learning sessions** on the following topics:
 - Climate change and migration
 - Narratives and communication
 - Refugee and migrant inclusion in local policy making.
 - b. Massive Online Open Course for local governments to learn and build capacity at local level.

Through these activities, we will aim to build common understanding, distil key messages and recommendations, and collect local practices. The outcomes of these discussions will serve as inputs to the GFMD roundtable discussions.

3. Foster opportunities for direct partnerships with LRGs and other stakeholders, and **mobilize an LRG delegation** to join the GFMD in Paris. We will be advocating for Member States to bring local governments as part of their national delegation.

C. Our budget:

We have prepared a budget, amounting to a little over 600.000 USD, of which we have covered almost half.

The budget lines we are still fundraising for are:

- The capacity building track, which includes the 3 peer learning sessions
- The Annual Report
- Travel support for a 20-person local govt. delegation to the GFMD Summit
- Additional support capacity for the Mayors Mechanism Secretariat for preparation of key messages and position papers for the thematic roundtables.

We will ask the GFMD Support Team to circulate our draft budget after this meeting. Should you be interested in supporting our work, please let me know.



D. I would like to close with a bit of substance:

We have just concluded an in-depth assessment of the 70 actions and pledges

1. 70 actions, of which 62 ongoing and future pledges, from a total of 44 local govts, together covering a population of over **100 million people**. Diversity of cities: including small towns, but also 14 capitals, 16 cities with a population over 1.5 million.
2. Covering all regions, with a noted underrepresentation of Asian cities: on our radar for further outreach.
3. Most actions don't distinguish between migrants, IDPs, refugees in their programming
4. Topics: access to services and economic inclusion, tackling xenophobia, but very prominent as well: climate change and migration and design of local policies with input from migrants / refugees, all of which connect directly to the GFMD programme.
5. Without exception – high degree of partnership. Local govt. most often: central convener and creator of local ecosystems.
6. **Only three** of these 44 cities indicated to have been invited by their national govt. to join conversations about GCM or GCR implementation. A clear gap in whole-of-government implementation.

A lot of food for thought and we head into the GFMD preparations!