

Localising Global Migration Goals to Accelerate the 2030 Agenda: Partnering with Local Governments Towards the Summit of the Future?

CONCEPT NOTE NETWORKING MEETING

Date and time:	Thursday 25 January 2023 (13.30 – 15 hrs CET)
Location:	Geneva Room, Varembé Conference Center (VCC) - across the CICG.
Format:	A dynamic round-table dialogue between local government leaders, national government representatives and other critical stakeholders.
Interpretation:	Simultaneous interpretation to English, French and Spanish
Room seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard rectangular style seating, allowing 50 people to sit around the table. • A second row is added with 30 chairs for participants interested to listen in. • Seating priority will be given to local government representatives, invited national governments and invited mechanism + youth delegates.

Background

- Today, 55 percent of the world’s population lives in urban areas, which is expected to increase to 68% by 2050¹. 60% of refugees and 80% of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) turn to cities in search of safety² and one in five international migrants live in the worlds’ biggest cities. Migrants, both internal and international, increasingly turn to cities in search of safety, housing, education and work, and in many cases drive the increase in urbanisation³.
- The impacts of climate change will also increase urbanisation trends: by 2050, climate impacts could force more than 200 million people to move within their countries across six regions⁴ and many of these people will end up in cities, with most climate-induced human mobility being internal, short distance, and rural-to-urban⁵.
- This combination leaves cities facing multiple pressures, as in-migration increases demand on services and infrastructure, while climate impacts – from extreme heat and fires, droughts, to flooding and landslides – may displace people within city boundaries. Cities themselves are often also acutely vulnerable to climate hazards, meaning that new arrivals may end up swapping one set of climate risks for another⁶.
- In the past year, UN leaders have sounded the alarm of a humanitarian system on the verge of collapse and called for a global plan to rescue the SDGs and foster sustainable development. Crises are multiplying — from new or continuing conflicts to global health crises, climate emergency and worsening inequalities. Meanwhile, solutions go unfunded⁷.
- Local and regional governments are stepping up in response and remain committed to the UN’s global goals by taking concrete actions for and with refugees and migrants in their cities.
- They are taking bold and innovative action for and with migrants and refugees and remain committed to the UN’s global goals. Through the [Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#), local and regional governments have delivered over 120 pledges to implement the UN's Global Migration and Refugees Compacts, each Action makes a tangible difference in the lives of migrants and refugees⁸.
- In practice however, they are asked to do more with less, often **lacking adequate local-national coordination, mandates, access to data, and direct access to funding**⁹.

¹ UN DESA (2018), [News](#).

² UNHCR (2016), [The Power of Cities](#).

³ IOM (2015). [World Migration Report](#).

⁴ World Bank (2021), [Groundswell Report Part 2: Acting on Internal Migration](#).

⁵ IOM (2008). [Migration and Climate Change](#).

⁶ C40 and MMC (2021), [Global Mayors Action Agenda on Climate and Migration](#)

⁷ Mayors Mechanism (2023), [Second Report on Local Action for Migrants and Refugees - 2023](#).

⁸ The Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees is a collaborative effort of the Mayors Mechanism steering committee members, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Mayors Migration Council (MMC) and the UN Migration Agency (IOM)—in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

⁹ Mayors Mechanism (2021), [Cities as Key Partners to Achieve Migration Goals](#).

- The 2023 HLPF and SDG Summit showed the world is lagging to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, but also that localising the agenda by partnering with local governments can be a crucial **accelerator for implementation**¹⁰. The upcoming [Summit of the Future](#) in 2024, provides an unprecedented opportunity to bring about a more networked, efficient and inclusive multilateral system.

Description of the session:

- The session is hosted by the [GFMD Mayors Mechanism](#) partners ([United Cities and Local Governments](#), [Mayors Migration Council](#) and the [International Organization for Migration](#)) and will build upon the discussions on multi-level governance (GFMD Roundtable 6) and on climate change and migration, which is the topic of GFMD Roundtable 1 and the cross-cutting topic of the French 2022 - 2023 Chairmanship.
- It will offer the opportunity to deepen the conversation between national, regional and local government actors as well as other critical stakeholders to share their priorities for joint action, barriers to success and concrete, scalable solutions for greater collaboration on migration policymaking going forward.

Expected outcomes:

- National, regional and local governments, and other critical stakeholders share challenges and opportunities they face in enabling inclusive migration and forced displacement governance.
- National, regional and local governments, and other critical stakeholders discuss concrete ways to bring successful partnerships to the upcoming [Summit of the Future](#) and strategize how the multi-level governance of migration may enable new partnerships and solutions.

Participants:

- The participants seated at the roundtable (limited seating capacity) will be invited by the organisers.
- Others will be welcome to join – if room capacity allows - on a first come, first serve basis.

¹⁰ SDG Local Action (2023), [Local Governments use the SDGs to Rethink Cities](#).

Draft Agenda

<i>5min</i>	<p>Introduction and mechanics of the session Sophie van Haasen, Coordinator, GFMD Mayors Mechanism</p>
<i>10min</i>	<p>Welcoming remarks Amy Pope, Director General, International Organization for Migration (IOM)</p>
<i>35min</i>	<p>Discussion round 1: Guiding question: Local governments often establish ecosystems that protect migrants in vulnerable situations, offer services regardless of status, ensure long-term inclusion, and shape models that foster broader social cohesion in communities. How can innovative partnerships offer scalable solutions and impact?</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) <p>Pair 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moussa Fadera, Mayor of Djinani, Senegal - Alejandro Dávalos, Viceminister of Human Mobility, Government of Ecuador <p>Pair 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Djohanna Delia Ravelo, Head of Quezon City Migrants Resource Center, Quezon City, Philippines - Government of Colombia (speaker to be confirmed) <p>Q&A with the room</p>
<i>35min</i>	<p>Discussion round 2: Guiding question: Are there challenges you encounter that hamper effective local – national coordination in addressing increasing global shocks, such as the climate emergency, growing conflict at the national level or unprecedented levels of inequality between and within societies? What recommendations can you make to overcome these, and are there promising examples you would like to highlight?</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maggie Powers, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Mayors Migration Council (MMC) <p>Pair 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - François Croquette, Director for Ecological Transition and Climate, City of Paris, France - Marta Youth, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, USA <p>Pair 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victor Hugo Mena Hernández, Director of the General Coordination of the Civil Registry, State of Tlaxcala, Mexico - Şafak Pavey, Senior Adviser, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) <p>Q&A with the room</p>

5min

Closing reflections

- Ambassador Caroline Dumas, Representative of the French Presidency of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD)

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