THE
5TH
MAYORAL
FORUM
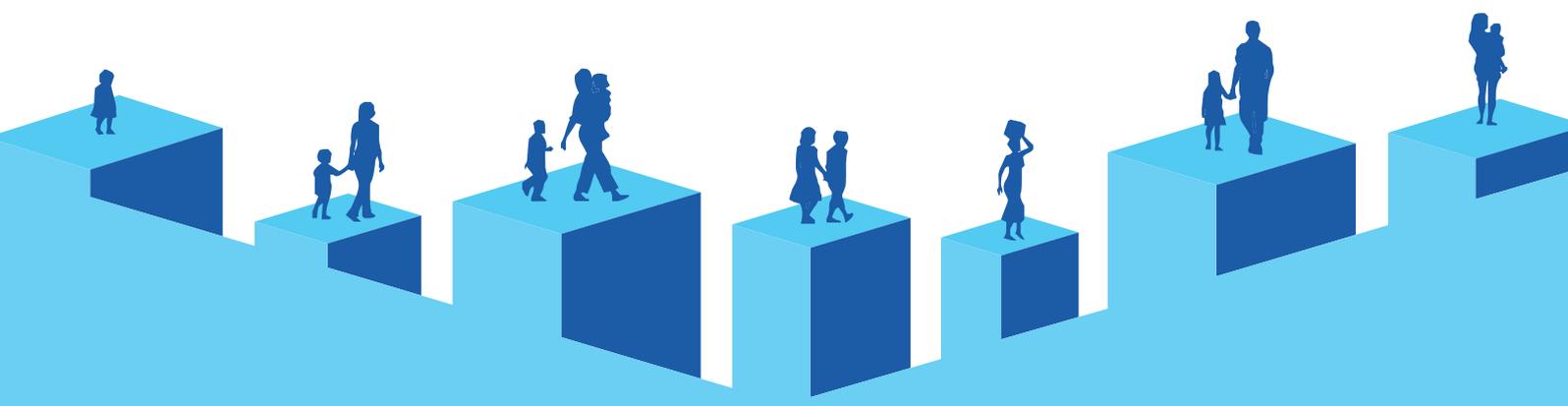ON HUMAN MOBILITY,
MIGRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT

Cities working together for migrants and refugees

Adopted at the
**5th Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility,
Migration and Development**
December 8, 2018

Presented at the
**Intergovernmental Conference to adopt
the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**
December 10-11, 2018

And
**United Nations General Assembly to adopt
the Global Compact on Refugees**
December 17, 2018

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We, Mayors and City leaders from across the globe, gathered at the 5th Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development, seize the opportunity to address national leaders as they convene in Marrakech for the endorsement of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and later in New York for the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), and declare as follows:

We commend

- The historic step that the GCM and GCR represent to address the challenges and opportunities of international migration and forced displacement, and uphold the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees around the world.
- The full and formal recognition of the role of local authorities in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Compacts.

We recall

- The statements and commitments[1] made by Cities and their networks throughout the preparatory processes leading to the GCM and the GCR, as well as our ambition that both Compacts bolster inclusive and coordinated multi-level governance[2] and response for the benefits of migrants and refugees.

We reaffirm

- That migration remains primarily an urban and local phenomenon. While acknowledging that immigration is a state prerogative, Cities of every continent are at the forefront of managing the impact of migration as well as the promotion of inclusive, safe and sustainable societies.
- The increasing role we, Cities and other local authorities, play and the growing array of responsibilities we manage in providing support to migrants and refugees, and

ensuring their successful inclusion in our communities. As first responders, Cities constantly innovate and develop pragmatic solutions that can have a positive impact at the national and international levels.

- That Cities are a force for change, and that our efforts and active participation are essential to achieving the GCM and the GCR objectives.
- That a structured dialogue with local governments on migration issues at national and international levels is fundamental to ensure adequate responses and guarantee the implementation of the GCM and GCR.

We commit to

- Advance the principles and objectives of both Compacts in unison. Their common vision underpins ours as leaders of our Cities—namely, to "leave no one behind" and to make Cities "inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable".[3]
- Stand in solidarity and increase collaboration amongst Cities, acknowledging that the context differs across Cities and requires differentiated approaches.
- Take action, including: implementing local and joint programs; ensuring greater coordination of services offered locally; experimenting with new approaches so that innovative solutions can emerge; mobilizing financial resources to support our efforts; improving data collection and measurement of progress; creating sustainable partnerships between Cities; sharing knowledge and best practices; and pursuing urban diplomacy and joint advocacy.

[1.] The Berlin Declaration of the 4th Mayoral Forum, "Mayoral Declaration on Migrants and Refugees: Meeting Needs, Protecting Rights and Fostering Empowerment" (June 2017); Mechelen Declaration on Cities and Migration (supported by IOM, UN-Habitat and UCLG - November 2017); Metropolis position paper (November 2017, endorsed by 149 Cities) submitted to the GCM; Recommendations to the co-facilitators on the text of the GCM and GCR (May 2018, endorsed by 41 Cities); Global Parliament of Mayors Statement on Migrant Children (December 2017) and Bristol Declaration (October 2018).

[2.] This principle is already taken into consideration in the New Urban Agenda (2016) and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016). Both Compacts support inclusive multi-level governance. In the GCR, it is recognized that local authorities and communities are often the first responders to large-scale refugee movements, and that they are among the actors that experience the most significant impact over the medium term. In the GCM, it is recognized that a whole-of-government approach is needed to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence across all sectors and levels of government, and that actions will need to be taken at the local, national, and regional levels to successfully achieve the Compact's objectives.

[3.] 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Goal 11.

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- Play a critical role in shaping a better informed narrative on migration, through incubating solutions and generating evidence on 'what works' for migrants, families, communities and Cities.

More specifically with respect to the GCM, we commit to

- Endorse the set of cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles identified in the GCM, with an emphasis on a people-centered approach to migration, gender and child-sensitive approaches to migrant rights and protection of the rights of the most vulnerable migrants and refugees, especially children.

- Work alongside the international community to help realize Objective 2, minimizing the adverse and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin and advocating for further exploration of the potential of circular migration as well as support to joint City-to-City partnerships and programs.

- Accelerate our efforts to advance four priority objectives, specifically to:

  1. Address and reduce vulnerabilities (Objective 7): safeguarding migrants' human rights and protection against exploitation—with emphasis on upholding the rights of children—through actions aimed at ensuring legal aid and information; guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children; non-discriminatory access to education and health care; and access to public safety resources including safe zones for reporting crimes and mechanisms to protect migrants from exploitation.

  2. Provide migrants with safe access to essential services (Objective 15): guaranteeing residents' equal access to City services regardless of migration or legal status; supporting information, referral mechanisms and outreach initiatives about available services; and advocating for access to education for all children and adolescents, regardless of migration or legal status.

  3. Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion (Objective 16): ensuring the participation of migrants (e.g. migrant-led advisory bodies and migrant youth councils); increasing our

partnership with a variety of stakeholders to facilitate migrants' spatial, social, economic and cultural integration including through youth focus initiatives; raising awareness of migrants' needs and contributions; and combating rumors, stereotypes, and misinformation.

  4. Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration (Objective 17): including empowering and engaging local community leaders to prevent, denounce and act against incidences of intolerance, racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination against migrants and diasporas; and promoting awareness-raising campaigns targeted at communities of origin, transit and destination in order to inform public perceptions regarding the positive contributions.

More specifically with respect to the GCR, we commit to

- Endorse the guiding principles and objectives of the GCR and its programme of action, with an emphasis on enabling the economic, social and cultural inclusion of refugees, as well as their non-discriminatory access to services and livelihoods.

- Accelerate our efforts to advance the following objectives in collaboration with national governments:

  1. Support appropriate reception of refugees and asylum-seekers, as appropriate (paragraph 37): recognizing the role of local authorities and other local actors as first responders to large-scale refugee situations consistent with national strategies and with the support of relevant stakeholders, to strengthen capacity for reception (including shelter arrangements for new arrivals).

  2. Meet refugees' needs and support communities (paragraph 66): recognizing that Cities and local authorities can experience significant impact in the short and medium term, and with the support of other relevant actors, to deliver assistance through our services in ways that benefit both refugees and our broader communities, where appropriate.

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3. **Encourage initiatives that favour inclusion and refugee self-reliance** (paragraphs 97-100): supporting the development of strategic frameworks for integration; strengthening capacities, with support of the international community, to aid the integration process of removing barriers to inclusion; fostering respect and good relations; and facilitating access to livelihood opportunities for refugees.

4. **Engage in regional and global partnerships** (paragraph 38): sharing knowledge, good practices and innovative approaches to refugee responses in urban settings, including through twinning arrangements, with the support of UNHCR and other relevant stakeholders.

With respect to the follow-up and review mechanisms, we commit to

- Engage in the follow-up and review procedures and contribute to review of the objectives and commitments of the Compacts in close collaboration with existing networks of local governments, including by engaging in the Mayors Mechanism of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and contributing to the UN Migration Network, the UN International Migration Review Forums beginning in 2022 and the Global Refugee Forum beginning in 2019.

- Increase City multilateral cooperation and adopt or develop common tools and indicators to measure our progress and gather and share data with national and international actors.

We call on the international community, national governments as well as the private sector to:

- Consider our expertise and priorities in policy making, learn from our expertise, build on actions and programs supported by Cities, support our efforts and leverage our successes, including through the GCM's capacity building mechanism.

- Support and encourage Cities' engagement in the follow-up and review processes. In particular, include Cities—through ongoing, formal mechanisms—as central stakeholders in the International Migration Review Forum for the GCM and as important contributors to the Global Refugee Forum, high-level mid-term review meetings, and relevant support platforms.[4]

- Work with key international City networks to improve multilateral cooperation, implement local or joint programs, measure progress, and gather and share data with national and international actors.

- Support and engage new initiatives, ensuring links with the organised constituency of local governments, notably: the Mayors Migration Council and its mission to elevate all Cities' ability to inform international migration and refugee policy; the elaboration of Migration Governance Indicators for Cities (IOM-EIU); and the creation of mechanisms to secure funding for Cities and regional governments, including through the European Union's Multi-Donor Trust Fund and in particular to support Cities from developing countries and secondary Cities.

- Implement the commitments made under the New Urban Agenda to support Cities, including through international cooperation, in light of migration's important social, economic, and cultural contributions to urban life.

[4] Within the GCR follow-up and review process, a call is made to local governments to be engaged and consulted on the development of indicators for the GCR (as detailed in paragraph 102, GCR), and to be included as a central stakeholder in the Global Refugee Forum, high-level mid-term review meetings, and relevant Support Platforms. Within the GCM follow-up and review process, States commit to discuss implementation at the local level and engage relevant stakeholders (paragraph 49, GCM).