

The Global Parliament of Mayors is a governance body of, by and for mayors from all continents. It builds on the experience, expertise and leadership of mayors in tackling local challenges resulting from global problems. At the same time, it brings local knowledge to the table and thus participates actively in global strategy debates and underscores the need for practical, action oriented solutions.

The GPM is a global city rights movement. Its members are mayors of cities and their metropolitan regions or agglomerations. Their proximity and pragmatism allow mayors to be true voices on behalf of their cities.

The GPM is about local government, based on the city's right to self-government. The GPM promotes collective city decision-making across national borders, addressing critical challenges that face humankind and creating better outcomes for all.

The GPM can and will draw on successfully implemented policies and activities by mayors around the world. Their track records should serve as guidance for national governments and international organizations, and manifest the decisive force of every individual mayor and of the GPM as a whole.

More than 50 % of the world's population lives in cities. Cities produce more than 80 % of GDP. It is therefore inconceivable that national and international bodies discuss and decide on policy actions without cities and their mayors present at the table. As a political body, the Global Parliament of Mayors claims the right not only to be involved, but to be (with others) agenda setters in supranational organizations. This debate cannot be just about cities and mayors; it needs to engage them actively in decision-making.

The GPM will voice its opinions on global strategy setting through international governance bodies and gatherings including the United Nations Habitat III in Quito, COP 22 in Marrakech and the OECD Inclusive cities in Paris. Intervening in discussions at the UN, OECD, EU, APEC, ASEAN, G77 and other assemblies, it will promote the proposals and demands of mayors and create greater awareness of the crucial role cities play in our interdependent world.

In the GPM, mayors will cooperate on critical issues such as climate change, refugee crises, pandemic disease, inequality and urban security, and will connect with experts in relevant fields and expert organizations around the world.

The GPM will build on the achievements of urban networks like UCLG, the US Conference of Mayors, C40 and others.

Mayors will concentrate on issues and topics other institutions have not always been able to address resolutely or decisively, not mimic or duplicate discussions in those international bodies. However, the GPM will willingly contribute to existing debates or inaugurate new ones if this leads to meaningful change.

Mayors want to be partners for national governments and international institutions in boosting their global agendas. Indeed, they must be partners, because implementing decisive action will mostly be up to city mayors.

The GPM is developing virtual platforms for meetings, that will enable decision making, networking and exchanging practical solutions among member cities without costly travel. Virtual meetings will also allow the GPM to present common, opt-in actions that mayors deliberate and decide globally, and then implement locally. The GPM will also offer knowledge and expertise to cities through trusted information created by cities or network-partners such as scientific institutions, NGOs, foundations or advisors. The GPM secretariat is based in The Hague and assists in all GPM related activities.

INITIAL COMMITTEE

Jozias van Aartsen, The Hague (*Chairman*)

Peter Kurz, Mannheim

Patricia de Lille, Cape Town

Akel Biltaj, Amman

Sanjeev Nayyar, North-Delhi

Mick Cornett, Oklahoma City

Diego Valenzuela, Tres de Febrero/Buenos Aires

CONSULTATIVE BODY

Dr. Benjamin Barber (*Chairman*)

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Yvan Mayeur	Brussels
Nicolas Ducote	Pilar / Buenos Aires
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