

NEWSLETTER

Global Parliament of Mayors - JUNE 2017



Annual Convening: Registration Time!

The 2nd Annual GPM Convening 'A Governance Revolution Empowering Cities' is being hosted by City of Stavanger, Norway from Sunday, September 24 to Tuesday, September 26. The Annual Convening aims to bring together the GPM mayors from all over the world,

with experts and international organisations to share their experiences in addressing critical global issues in cities and to develop common actions. In the Plenary and Strategy Sessions, the Convening will focus on the themes developed by the GPM members in 2016 - Migration, Climate Change, and Governance - as well as Urban Security, added by the Steering Committee as a fourth theme. For more information on these issues see the Critical GPM Issues section below. A detailed itinerary is available online on <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/program/>. Mayors are encouraged to register asap via <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/annual-convening>.

Stavanger Welcomes Mayors

As a former European Capital of Culture, Stavanger has an impressive assortment of cultural events and museums such as the Norwegian Petroleum Museum and the Stavanger Art Museum. Old Stavanger is home to Europe's best preserved wooden house settlement, consisting of more than 170 white wooden houses.



Mayor Christine Sagen Helgø of Stavanger: "We are very proud to host the GPM Annual Convening 2017, and I hope to see many mayors, politicians and other participants in Stavanger in September. More than half of the world's population lives in cities. To reach the UN's sustainability goals, the cities must be in front. I am sure that the Global Parliament of Mayors will have a great importance and influence in the future. For Stavanger, the Global Parliament of Mayors is an important forum to participate in - especially considering our international position as a smart city and as city of refuge for persecuted writers."

Interim Chairwoman Patricia de Lille

Interim Chair de Lille: "As the GPM is a global network of mayors, its intention is to ensure that nation states act and assure sustainability by working where national governments have failed. It is hoped that the GPM will gain more recognition and eventually become recognised as a veritable player on the world stage of international decision-making bodies, such as the United Nations.

I became involved in the Global Parliament of Mayors because I strongly believe that as mayors, we head up cities which are the drivers of change. Mayors have a responsibility and duty to lead cities into a world that solves challenging problems as a collective - all the while learning from one another as cities and as mayors. I am confident that the GPM has evolved from a great idea of the late Dr Benjamin Barber into an upcoming and relevant organisation that advocates for the effectiveness of mayors and cities leading the way in addressing global challenges.



GPM Secretariat

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Critical GPM Issues at the Annual Convening

Empowering Cities: The GPM advocates for the right of cities to self-governance and to act on critical issues impacting humankind. Cities do not need to ask for permission from their national counterparts to engage in global action. Where possible, cooperation is desirable. Where necessary, cities can take action collectively and on their own. Examples of cities taking action include city covenants to commit to Paris Agreement targets and cities of sanctuary to protect and care for undocumented migrants within national borders. At the convening, mayors will decide on strategies that can support and strengthen city decision-making power. Mayors will also discuss measures to maximize global urban priorities in the face of nationalist and protectionist policies.

Resilient Cities: The GPM is committed to taking action to prevent, mitigate and adapt to climate change. It advocates for global collective action. The recent decision of the U.S. President to withdraw from the Paris Agreement (COP21) underlines the imperative for cities to assume the lead on climate change, as many already are. A retreat to geopolitical isolationism and climate change denial will generate devastating consequences in our interdependent world. When nation states default on their sovereign responsibilities, cities have a responsibility to take action. At the convening, mayors from around the world will commit to widening and accelerating action on climate change and related threats to the global commons. They will identify ways to harness ongoing efforts of the C40, 100 Resilient Cities, ECLi and UCLG, among others, to ensure common purpose.

Safe Cities: The GPM believes that achieving safer cities is not just a goal, but rather a fundamental right belonging to all urban residents. Cities must be places that are free from fear and insecurity. Insecurity in cities ranges from organized and petty crime to political and communal violence and terrorism. While there are common risks driving these various forms of urban insecurity, there are also important differences from city to city that must be considered. At a minimum, however, creating safe cities requires the security of people and property. At the convening, mayors will consider the practical strategies being designed and developed to prevent insecurity, and will endeavor to establish priorities across key sectors including urban planning, social services and education, policing and prisons.

Inclusive Cities: The GPM is committed to the principle of sanctuary for the world's most vulnerable populations. Migration is one of the principle drivers of urbanization, with millions moving into cities every week. If well planned, migration can enhance the dynamism and productivity of cities. Unfortunately, many cities struggle and even falter to develop successful approaches to integrating these diverse populations. Precisely because they are open, cosmopolitan and pragmatic, cities must occupy the critical leadership role in shaping global action on social and cultural inclusion. At the convening mayors will commit to set an agenda for creating better integrated, more inclusive cities. The agenda set by the mayors will prioritize action items to take in the short- and long-term.

Organisational Developments

Steering Committee

The GPM would like to welcome its four new Steering Committee members: Christine Sagen Helgø (Stavanger, Norway); Grace Mary Mugasa (Hoima, Uganda); Roshaan Wolusmal (Kandahar, Afghanistan); and Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz (Warsaw, Poland).

GPM's Roundtable at the Chicago Forum on Global Cities

In close cooperation with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs President Ivo Daalder, the GPM organized a Roundtable Strategy Meeting on June 6th for mayors who attended the Chicago Forum on Global Cities (<https://digital.thechicagocouncil.org/ChicagoForum2017>).

The aim of the Roundtable Meeting was to discuss on the leadership of the GPM. Mayors, deputy mayors, former mayors, and representatives that attended include Akel Biltaji (Amman, Jordan), Brendan Carr (Dublin, Ireland), Alvaro Castillo (Ibarra, Ecuador), Mayor Michael Nutter (Philadelphia), Vallop Suwantee (Bangkok, Thailand), Claudio Orrego (Santiago, Chili),

Balazs Szeneczey (Budapest, Hungary), Steve Koch (Chicago), Marvin Rees (Bristol, England), Willem Post (The Hague, the Netherlands) and interim Chair of the GPM Steering Committee, Patricia de Lille (Cape Town, South Africa). Representatives of the Consultative Committee (Sheila Foster, Robert Muggah and Ivo Daalder), Georgetown University and the GPM Secretariat were also present.



GPM's Roundtable Strategy Meeting at the Chicago Forum on Global Cities

Chaired by Mayor de Lille and Ambassador Ivo Daalder, the mayors discussed the benefits of the GPM: Issues such as terrorism, urban security, pollution, inequality and poverty, are most prevalently found in cities. Using a practical approach, mayors have to tackle them. Mayors need to stand united with one voice; Mayor de Lille underlines that the cities are the drivers of change and mayors must become more forceful and be recognized by the UN and others. "Cities are always on the menu but we are not at the table". The Global Parliament of Mayors is meant to be a governance body that influences national governance and international institutes. The discussion was closed by underlining the importance to strengthen the added value of the GPM and to promote the GPM to mayors in all continents and international organisations.

At the Chicago Forum on Global Cities Mayor de Lille participated as a panel member in a plenary session on Globalization 4.0' and made a firm statement to the empowerment of cities: "Nations are good in signing and breaking contracts. In the end the cities have to implement whatever is decided upon. The GPM wants to send out a strong message to all multilateral organisations such as the UN and nation states: 'nothing about us without us'. As mayors we are activists, we are the face of the deliverables on a daily basis. Talk to us first before you sign all those agreements that bind all of us." For the panel interview, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBSI6YoZsP8>

Welcome our new GPM Mayors

Over the last months we have had several new mayors join GPM. Please welcome:

Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, US
Kasim Reed, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
Roshan Wolusmal, Kandahar, Afghanistan
Joan Ribo, Valencia, Spain
Jacob Bundsgaard, Aarhus, Denmark
Niels Borring, Favrskov, Denmark
Kirsten Terkilsen, Hedensted, Denmark
Peter Sørensen, Horsens, Denmark
Jan Petersen, Norddjurs, Denmark
Uffe Jensen, Odder, Denmark
Claus Omann Jensen, Randers, Denmark
Marcel Meijer, Samsø, Denmark
Steen Vindum, Silkeborg, Denmark
Jorgen Gaarde, Skanderborg, Denmark
Claus Wistoft, Syddjurs, Denmark
Torsten Nielsen Viborg, Denmark
Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Warsaw, Poland



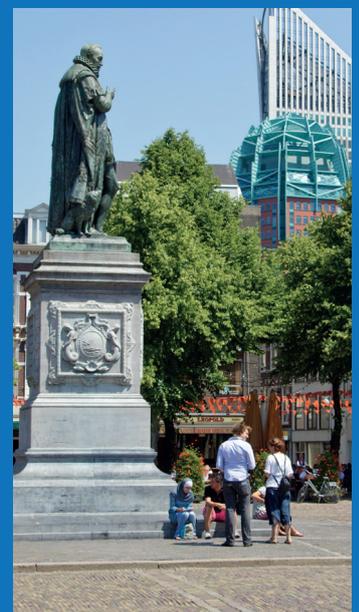
Establishment of the GPM Association

In June the Steering Committee made the decision to establish the GPM Association. Founders of the association itself will be the GPM's interim-chair Patricia de Lille, vice chair Peter Kurz (Mannheim) and SC member Pauline Krikke (The Hague). Peter Kurz: "The establishment of the GPM Association is an important step in the further development of the Global Parliament of Mayors. It will help us to strengthen our common goals and to set up a sustainable organization. Furthermore it will help the GPM to obtain a significant position in the international setting of decision-making policy.

At the Annual Convening taking place in Stavanger from September 24 – 26, 2017, we will be presenting you, members of the GPM, with the statues of the association and its business plan and invite you to reflect on it."

With the current presence of the GPM Secretariat in The Hague, the Steering Committee decided to establish the GPM Association in The Hague, international city of peace and justice. Here, every day, tens of thousands of people jointly pursue a more peaceful, just and secure world. They work in around 200 organisations, hundreds of companies, various knowledge institutes, as well as in the Peace Palace, which has been the symbol of international justice for more than 100 years.

The Hague is the place where conflicts are presented and solved peacefully, the host city for international conferences and a meeting place for dialogue and debate. City diplomacy is high on The Hague's agenda. In the City Hall, the Hague's City Diplomacy Team works to establish contacts with other cities on a daily basis. The Hague is proud to host the GPM Secretariat of the new GPM Association in its international city of peace and justice.



Virtual Platform

As a member of the Global Parliament of Mayors you have access to the Mayors-App, a virtual space connecting the worldwide network of GPM mayors, their staffers, members of the Consultative Committee, (selected) experts/partners and the GPM Secretariat. The Mayors-App provides the participants with an opportunity to discuss and reflect upon practical issues concerning the GPM themes on Governance, Urban Security, Migration and Climate Change. Furthermore, the App is a forum

to propose solutions to the problems you and your fellow mayors are coping with. Additionally it provides you with the opportunity to connect with the experts and partners, with whom the GPM works together with closely. Parties like UNICEF are able to connect with you, as mayors, to get your input and feedback on worldwide campaigns on topics such as child refugees and migrants in cities of arrival.

What does the Mayors-app offer you?

- A platform to share best practices with your fellow mayors;
- To set surveys and/or to contribute to surveys as part of the knowledge sharing and decision-making;
- To work together on action oriented documents/statements;
- To participate in the preparation of the plenary and strategy meetings of the Annual Convening;
- To participate in the preparation of the general meeting in September (part of the program of the Annual Convening in Stavanger).

The Mayors-app is a website which can be used on a computer, a tablet or a telephone. Check it out on www.mayors-app.com! As member of the Global Parliament of Mayors you will receive an email with an invitation to join the Mayors-app on the email address that is registered in the GPM Secretariat's administration.

Tribute to D. Benjamin Barber

Dr. Benjamin Barber, Founder of the Global Parliament of Mayors and Chair of the GPM Consultative Committee, passed away in New York City on Monday April 24th after a four month battle with cancer. Throughout his long and impressive career, Dr. Barber demonstrated his unique ability to be a zeitgeist for global trends. Dr. Barber will be best remembered for four of his 18 books: Strong Democracy (1984), Jihad vs. McWorld (1995), If Mayors Ruled the World (2014) which gave birth to the concept of the Global Parliament of Mayors and his latest book Cool Cities (2017).

The GPM, launched in September 2016 in The Hague, provided a platform for Dr. Barber's theories to be realized through action. In his last weeks, he wrote: "Thank you, dear friends, for your leadership in the Global Parliament of Mayors which I believe stands ready to become a governance organisation of great significance that will

provide alternatives to nationalist populism and to foolish "America First" or "Russia First" approach to global politics. I know the GPM, under the Chairmanship of Mayor de Lille, is now ready to take giant steps forward..." Dr. Barber's leadership and insight will be greatly missed.



Noteworthy articles

Barber, Benjamin, "How to fix climate change: put cities, not countries, in charge", May 7, 2017, The Guardian, as found on the www at

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/may/07/fix-climate-change-put-cities-not-countries-in-charge-oslo-seoul?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

"Cities, not nation states, will determine our future survival. Here's why", June 2, 2017, World Economic Forum, as found on the www at

https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/06/as-nation-states-falter-cities-are-stepping-up?utm_content=buffer7cb64&utm_medium=social&utm_source=linkedin.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Muggah, Robert, "Safe havens: why cities are crucial to the global refugee crisis", June 6, 2017 as found on the www at <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/06/safe-havens-why-cities-are-crucial-to-the-global-refugee-crisis>

Daalder, Ivo, "Why Cities Need Their Own Foreign Policies: Global by nature, they are resisting nationalist policies that don't solve their big problems", June 6, 2017, Politico, as found on the www at

<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/06/06/why-cities-need-their-own-foreign-policies-215234>

Muggah, Robert, "Tackling global problems? Look to cities, not countries", June 17, 2017, as found on the www at

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/tackling-global-problems-look-to-cities-not-countries/article35330858?ref=https://www.theglobeandmail.com&service=mobile>