



**The Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) 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 needs for practical, action-oriented solutions.**

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.

With over half of the world's population living in the cities and metropolitan regions, an increasing number of tasks are being delegated from national government to municipalities and regions. Cities contribute more than 85% of the Gross National Income (GNI) to their nations. Therefore, they need to be actively engaged in decision-making by international organisations.

The GPM aims to be involved in the debates about critical issues in cities and to participate actively in decision-making. The GPM voices its opinion on global strategy setting through nation states, NGO's, and international gatherings. Intervening in discussions at the UN, OECD and other assemblies, the GPM promotes proposals and demands of mayors, draws on successfully implemented policies and activities by mayors around the world and creates greater awareness of the crucial role cities play in our interdependent world.

***"In our interdependent world, cities have not only the obligation but the right to achieve solutions to global issues."***

Dr. Benjamin Barber

# Why

The mayors of the world want to create a safer, sustainable and inclusive world by strengthening the rights of cities towards national and international governance and giving a global voice to its mayors and their citizens.

## What

In support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations, the GPM chooses to:

1. Build an active, impactful and structured network of, by and for mayors.
2. Offer a common global voice for cities and its citizens all over the world to international organisations.



From 63 members in August 2017, it aims to grow substantially in the coming years and to become a recognized force for the good in the 21st century: independent from national governments and business interests, solely guided by civic demands.

The GPM differentiates itself from the variety of networks available today by its representation of large as well as smaller cities all over the world and by its action program on critical issues around the globe.

Another unique aspect of the GPM is its flexibility in adapting to the rapid shift in global challenges.

At the GPM Convening, which is organised every year in a different city around the globe, mayors will commit to select the central themes from which different projects will be further developed and initiated.

The GPM themes 2017 are empowering cities, resilient cities, safe cities and inclusive cities.



3. Enhance cooperation, connectivity and solidarity between city leaders.
4. Advance global agendas of international organisations by supporting action driven regional or local initiatives and providing services that mobilise such initiatives.

## How

The GPM mayors are the drivers of action in all 4 aforementioned areas. This occurs under the leadership of the Executive Committee and under the guidance of the General Meeting, supported by an Advisory Committee and the Secretariat.

With financial support of members and donors, the GPM has an ambitious growth agenda.



# GPM Organisation

The legal structure of the GPM is an association. The association consists of mayors (members) and former mayors (honorary members). The GPM mayors form the General Meeting and elect, from their midst, the members of the Executive Committee which will formally be the Board of Directors of the association. The Executive Committee is advised by an Advisory Committee consisting of experts from various fields and supported by a Secretariat that is located in the City of The Hague, the Netherlands.

*“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.”* Patricia De Lille, Interim GPM Chairwoman and Mayor of Capetown, South Africa



*“It is a great honor to join the Global Parliament of Mayors and support its valuable mission for the prosperity of our planet. Our cities on this planet require coordinated efforts and one voice.”* Roshan Wolusmal, Mayor of Kandahar, Afghanistan

*“I’m honored to join the Global Parliament of Mayors - which gives local leaders around the world a forum to exchange good ideas, work together on putting them into action, and speak in one voice on issues that matter to the millions living in the cities we are fortunate to lead.”*

Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, USA



*“The establishment of the GPM Association in the fall of 2017 helps us to strengthen our common goals and to set up a sustainable organisation. Furthermore, it will help the GPM to obtain a significant position in the international setting of decision-making policy.”* Peter Kurz, Mayor of Mannheim, Germany

*“The world is more interconnected today than before, thanks to Dr. Benjamin Barber for building a coalition that can make change happen in our cities. Let us build synergies to embrace the Sustainable Development Goals to make this world a better place to live in.”*

Grace Mary Mugasa, Mayor of Hoima, Uganda



# GPM Membership

The GPM encourages all mayors from cities large and small, north and south, developed and emerging to join the Global Parliament of Mayors. Formally, cities, represented by their mayors, are members of the GPM association. Becoming a member of the GPM requires commitment to the basic values of the GPM as defined in the GPM mission statement and to be an ambassador for the GPM and its common action policy. The annual membership fee is based on the GNI and the size of the population of a city.

## “If Mayors Ruled the World”

Dr. Benjamin Barber, international political theorist and author, is founder of the GPM. His book “If Mayors Ruled the World” (2013) set forth a plan for the GPM as a new governance platform to address cross border issues. His commitment to the GPM, together with the support of many mayors and intercity associations, led to the GPM Inaugural Convening in The Hague in September 2016.



Dr. Barber passed away in April 2017. As founder of the GPM, Dr. Barber will be honoured by annually rewarding the ‘Dr. Barber Global Cities Award’ to an individual or organisation with an outstanding contribution to furthering global urban governance.

## Contact the GPM Secretariat

The GPM Secretariat supports all GPM related activities and is located in The Hague.

The Hague is the international city of peace and justice where tens of thousands of people work on building a more peaceful and just world on a daily basis. It is known for its many courts and tribunals, such as the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. The special status of the city draws many government leaders, knowledge institutions, non-profit organisations, businesses and students. With the Peace Palace at the centre of it all, The Hague truly is the international city of peace and justice.



### GPM Secretariat

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