



Empowering Cities Strategy Session 25 September 2017

Chair(s): *Mayor Patricia de Lille of Cape Town, Mayor Peter Kurz of Mannheim, Mayor Peter Soulsby of Leicester*

Experts: *Alaina Harkness of Brookings Institute, Juliana Kerr of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Joop Kluft of PricewaterhouseCoopers, Claudia Baranzelli of the European Commission and Sheila Foster of Georgetown University*

Guiding Principles

- The GPM believes that cities have an obligation and right to act in the interest of their citizens and therefore advocates for the right to cities to self-governance and to act on critical issues impacting humankind.
- As a governance body of, by and for mayors, the GPM believes that it can provide standing and a platform for a unified front of mayors and their cities to participate in setting and implementing global urban development strategies.

Prioritised Actions

- We advocate for the right of cities to self-governance and to act on critical issues impacting humankind.
- We aim to maximize the voice and vote of local governments in the national and international institutions setting and implementing urban development agendas.
- We commit to understand, support and participate in the development of devolution agendas, including advocating for greater fiscal powers and a fair share of revenues, by helping to build capacity of cities in transition and sharing best practices to strengthen the city empowerment movement.
- We call for the development of a charter outlining the minimal competencies and means for cities to be able to develop and implement policies (for example, the European Charter for Local Self-Governance for the Council of Europe).
- We commit to creating meaningful and direct channels to engage civil society and the public in urban governance and city building.
- We will maximize the distinctive network power of the GPM by establishing new city-to-city connections, actively participating in existing city networks and subnational diplomacy initiatives on critical issues (currently climate change, migration, and urban security), and adding value by focusing on the distinctive action, governance, and empowerment agendas of the GPM; and encouraging and inviting concurrent convenings with the GPM whenever possible.



- We support and encourage deployment of GPM delegates to cities who require assistance on specific GPM-related issues.
- We stand in solidarity with mayors who defend the rights of their citizens and condemn the political persecution of mayors and suppression of civil rights in all parts of the world.