

ANNUAL REPORT

Global Parliament of Mayors 2017



Dear Fellow Mayors
around the globe,

As the Chair, I am delighted to present you with this second Annual Report of the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM). Over the past year, the GPM has gone from strength to strength, successfully setting up its foundations and business plan with a robust financial forecast.

The second Annual Convening took place in Stavanger, Norway in September 2017 and was characterised by the will to collaborate around the themes of creating resilient, safe, inclusive and empowered cities. Attended by over 45 of our fellow mayors from more than 20 countries, the Annual Convening also provided the opportunity to announce the establishment of the GPM as an Association (i.e. a legal body). The new Executive and Advisory committees were also elected.

Sadly, in April 2017, the GPM lost our founding visionary and one of the finest academic minds, Dr. Benjamin Barber. To commemorate his inspiring and unwavering commitment, the GPM awarded the inaugural Dr. Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award to Mayor Leoluca Orlando of Palermo, Italy for being vocal in encouraging the unhindered freedom of movement of migrants and determinedly advocating on behalf of those most vulnerable in society.

This year, too, promises to manifest itself as a key year for the GPM. Looking forward, I am excited to highlight some planned focal points. We plan to utilise a virtual platform to offer increased interactivity for members, finalise our recruitment plan to add even more members to the GPM and retain current members. Our marketing and communication strategies will also be finalised and will contribute to making our collective voices that much more prominent. Furthermore, our Action Plan highlights specific activities as related to our focal points, namely global representation; global voice and action; enhancing cooperation; and mobilisation.

The third Annual Summit is planned for October 2018 in Bristol in the United Kingdom and will focus on solidifying the GPM's governance structure in order to convene as a functioning parliament during the course of this year.

We live in an uncertain, unstable world. However, I firmly believe that cities are the drivers of change. Strong mayors drive solutions in their cities in ways that are more progressive, faster, and more targeted than those put forward at a national level – where mayors often come under fire for their enlightened approach, as we have unfortunately seen during 2017.

However, there is hope. The GPM aims to build an active, impactful and structured network of, by, and for mayors and by extension their cities and citizens. It offers local knowledge and participates actively in global strategy debates, underscoring the need for practical, action-oriented solutions.

Finally, the GPM cannot function without you as member mayors, and I would therefore like to personally thank you all for your continued support thus far. I look forward to continue working closely with you and wish everyone a prosperous and productive 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Patricia de Lille
Executive Mayor City of Cape Town
Chairperson GPM Executive Committee

Annual Convening in Stavanger on 24-26 September 2017

Over 45 mayors and deputy mayors from various cities around the globe took part in the second Annual Convening of the GPM in Stavanger, Norway. The mayors emphasised the need to move from policy discussions to tangible and effective actions that can be shared between cities or even carried out in cooperation with one another.



The main discussion point was the importance of local and tailored solutions to globally-shared societal challenges. Involving local leaders and communities when planning and implementing global policies is imperative, and many examples were given of the effectiveness of such an approach when compared to national-level solutions. Strong local leadership means faster and targeted solutions that truly serve and benefit citizens, thereby creating resilient, safe, inclusive, and empowered cities.

Empowering cities

Cities have an obligation and a right to act in the interest of its citizens. The GPM is committed to promoting self-governance and the involvement of local governments in the national and international urban development agendas. The GPM stands in solidarity with mayors who defend the rights of their citizens, and condemn the political persecution of these mayors.

Actions

- Develop a charter outlining the minimal competencies and resources required, such as direct channels to engage citizens, for cities to be able to develop and implement policies.
- Leverage the GPM network to establish city-to-city partnerships and encourage the deployment of GPM delegates to cities that require assistance.

Inclusive cities

Maintaining social and territorial cohesion in a globalised world requires a concerted effort to protect human rights, integrate newcomers, and mobilise local populations in an inclusive local democracy. The GPM is committed to resisting gentrification and exclusion, and recognise that mayors have a responsibility in standing against intolerance and xenophobia.

Actions

- Set up a global inclusion fund to help cities with fewer resources, and create city-to-city partnerships.
- Promote policies and practices that enhance intercultural cohesion and understanding, change the narrative around refugees and migrants, and develop an inclusive labour market with economic opportunities for all.



Safe cities

The urban security threats faced by cities are vast, ranging from environmental factors such as floods and heat waves to cyber-attacks, organised crime, and terrorism. The GPM is committed to developing inclusive, participatory, and responsive approaches to city safety that are not limited to law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

Actions

- Improve social cohesion through strong community outreach and engagement programs that create channels to excluded groups.
- Advocate for the use of environmental and urban design thinking to make neighbourhoods safer, more open, and ultimately, inclusive.

Resilient cities

Resilient cities are able to survive, adapt, and grow in the face of chronic stresses and acute shocks. The GPM is committed to improving resilience by enacting urban climate policies through a holistic and proactive approach that involves the city's communities. By harnessing the efforts of other networks and creating partnerships between GPM cities, a common purpose is ensured.

Actions

- Implement low-tech solutions that utilise natural urban features in order to improve green infrastructure, transportation and energy utilisation, and waste management.
- Promote a change in the perception of water - instead of it being a resource we actively combat, we must find a way to live with it in harmony.



Mayor Sagen Helgø of Stavanger, Norway, member of the GPM Executive Committee and host of the GPM Annual Convening 2017:

"It was an honour to host the GPM convening 2017 in Stavanger. We debated issues with global importance and presented the Benjamin Barber Award for the first time. I look forward to continuing the work with all politically engaged mayors. Together we can contribute to, and influence global politics. Through GPM, we can learn from each other and lead our cities in a positive direction. Hope to see many of you at the 2018 event in Bristol!"

IN MEMORIAM – Dr. Benjamin Barber

Dr. Barber, Founder of the Global Parliament of Mayors passed away on April 24th 2017. 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 and I am very pleased to have that knowledge as I move into the next stage of my care."



An internationally renowned author, political theorist and intellectual, Dr. Barber brought an abiding concern for democracy and citizenship to issues of politics, globalisation, culture, and education in America and around the world. From his long and prestigious career, he is best known for his books: Strong Democracy (1984, 20th anniversary edition, 2004), the international best-seller Jihad vs. McWorld (1995) and If Mayors Ruled the World (2014) which gave birth to the concept of the Global Parliament of Mayors. Before he died, he saw the publication of his last book, Cool Cities: Urban Sovereignty and the Fix for Global Warming.

As Founder of the GPM, Dr. Barber will be honoured by annually rewarding the 'Dr. Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award' to an individual or organisation with an outstanding contribution to furthering global urban governance.

The Dr. Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award

During the Annual Convening 2017 Mayor Leoluca Orlando of Palermo, Italy, was the first recipient of the Dr. Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award. He was rewarded for his outstanding actions in advancing citizen rights through his work with refugees arriving in his city.



Criteria:

- Candidates should offer a progressive voice on urban issues, including in relation to issues of global governance, climate action, migration, and urban safety and security.
- Candidates should have a strong action-oriented record of empowering and engaging city leaders and residents to take action from the global to the metropolitan scale.
- Candidates should be recognised as leaders in their particular area, though the award is open to young professionals in the early stages of their career.
- Candidates ideally will have made some meaningful theoretical contribution to the global cities agenda, preferably with a track record of publications.



Mayor Orlando: "Benjamin Barber, with his prophetic intuition and his book 'Jihad vs McWorld' foresaw the stress that all national identities now suffer in a globalized world. When, together with professor Barber, we launched the first Interdependence Day on the 4th of July 2002 in Philadelphia, we sent a prophetic message about a world in which we all are interdependent. In this world, according to the vision of Benjamin Barber, local communities and mayors play a decisive role.

I have had the privilege of representing Palermo since 1985. By taking inspiration from the values of professor Barber, Palermo is now considered the city that has made the deepest cultural change in the last 40 years. Similar changes are seen in other cities due to international and institutional changes.

Palermo, once the capital of mafia, today is even more clearly the Capital of Culture of Rights, welcoming migrants (Charter of Palermo 2015) as human beings. Welcoming without distinction between who was born here and who, for a myriad reasons, has just arrived.

It was a great privilege to receive the first Benjamin Barber Global Cities award. This confirms my appreciation and shared belief for the prophetic ideas and vision of the unforgettable professor Benjamin Barber."

Leah Barber, Patron GPM Advisory Committee:

"I was deeply honoured to join you in Stavanger to help present this award given in my husband's name and memory; the "Benjamin". The GPM is the culmination of Ben's lifetime of work, and the award is a profound tribute to his vision of interdependence, democracy, and citizenship - a vision that is defined by hope and grounded in a very basic, primal, understanding of the unique value of every human being. It is also beautiful, a work of art that symbolises what he has left to us - inspiration, empowerment, imagination, discipline, dedication, and, of course, humour and a sense of fun. It keeps him with us in our minds, our voices, and in our hearts - and I, on behalf of my whole family, am very grateful that he is remembered in this way."



EVENTS

GPM Participation in events 2017

Mayoral Round Table GPM Strategy Meeting at the Chicago Forum on Global Cities, June 7

About 30 mayors and members of the GPM Advisory Committee participated in a Round Table meeting on June 7 underlining the importance of the further development of the GPM profile and the role of the knowledge institutes and the research capacities for the GPM.

GPM at the Chicago Forum on Global Cities, June 9

Mayor de Lille represented the GPM as a panel member in a plenary session on 'Globalization 4.0', and made the following statement underlining the importance of involving mayors in decision-making: "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." (Logo Chicago Forum on Global Cities opnemen)

GPM at the MUFPP, Valencia, Spain, October 19-21

The GPM attended the MUFPP conference (Pact of Milan Urban Food Policy Pact) to explore how to connect both mayoral networks, strengthen initiatives and share the enormous potential of mayors around the world.

GPM statements 2017

GPM published several statements in 2017:

3 June	GPM committed to meeting targets COP21
22 September	GPM stands in solidarity with the Mayor of El Hatillo Caracas, Venezuela
14 November	GPM stands in solidarity with targets COP23
27 November	GPM calls for moratorium on death penalty in cities
4 December	GPM calls for protection and empowerment of migrant children (published together with UNICEF)
6 December	GPM supports cities advocating for the UN Global Compact on climate change and migration

In the media:

- **Cities Are Stepping up on Climate Action as Nation States Fall to the Wayside** (graag in de titel de link plaatsen naar <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/cities-stepping-climate-action-nation-states-fall-wayside/>); by Sheila Foster, professor of law at Georgetown University, and Robert Muggah, co-founder of the Igarapé Institute and SecDev Group, both members of the GPM Advisory Committee. Article published on the website of Chicago Forum for Global Cities, November 7, 2017
- **Time for Cities to Step Up to the Challenge of Climate Change** (link opnemen: <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/time-cities-step-challenge-climate-change/>), by Robert Muggah. Article published on the website of the World Economic Forum, November 12, 2017
- **Technology will aid cities fight climate change** (link opnemen <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/technology-will-aid-cities-fight-climate-change/>), by Robert Muggah, November 12, 2017
- **Heat map published with movement of millions of migrants across Europe of the past 15 years** (link naar <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/heat-map-published-movement-millions-migrants-across-europe-past-15-years/>), developed by Igarapé Institute and SecDev Group. Article 'Astonishing map shows the movement of millions of migrants across Europe in past 15 years amid 'unprecedented' refugee crisis fueled by terror and conflict in the Middle East' published in Daily Mail, UK, November 4, 2017

For more articles: <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/>

GPM ORGANISATION

From the very beginning, Dr. Benjamin Barber envisioned an organisation by mayors and for mayors. The final step in bringing this dream to fruition was taken on 26 September 2017, when the GPM officially initiated the association during the General Meeting in Stavanger.

The association is registered in the Netherlands and works differently from other organisations as the power for decision-making lies with its members. As a member, mayors carry certain rights and responsibilities, which have been summarised below. The full articles of association and rules of operation can be found here <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/documents/>

- The GPM Association has two official bodies for decision-making: the Executive Committee and the General Meeting for all members.
- The Executive Committee is responsible for the day-to-day management of the GPM and directs the Secretariat.
- The General Meeting approves the annual work plan and annual budget, and deliberates and votes on any recommendation put forward by the General Meeting or Executive Committee.
- The Association consists of Members and Honorary Members. All members support agreed upon calls and actions set out by the General Meeting and actively support the GPM.
- The membership is determined on the basis of the Gross National Income and the population of the city.
- Honorary Members are not obliged to pay an annual contribution and have no voting rights in the General Meeting.



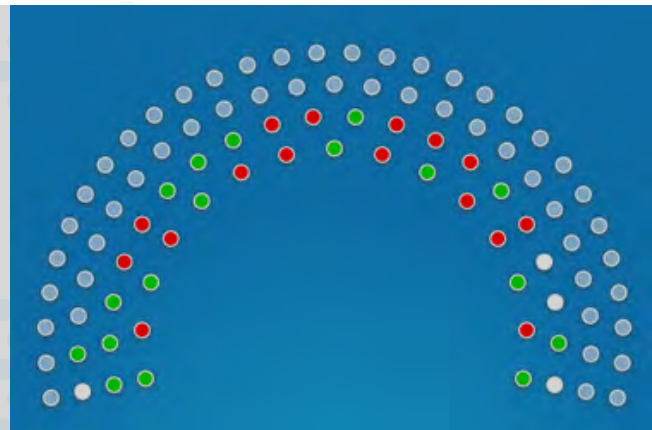
The GPM Executive Committee

from left to right:

Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz (Warsaw, Poland), Mayor Marvin Rees (Bristol, UK), Mayor Christine Sagen Helgø (Stavanger, Norway), Mayor Patricia de Lille (Cape Town, South Africa), Mayor Kurz (Mannheim, Germany), Mayor Orlando (Palermo, Italy), Mayor Roshan Wolusmal (Kandahar, Afghanistan), Mayor Mugasa (Hoima, Uganda) and Mayor Mitch Landrieu (New Orleans, USA (*not present on the photo*)).

GPM Virtual Platform

GPM members benefit from exclusive access to the Virtual Platform with a parliamentary voting tool that gives all mayors an equal vote. Through the platform, mayors will be able to vote on all GPM matters, including statements and resolutions. The online platform not only gives us a visual representation of our members, but also allows members to vote anonymously if they wish to.



Gjilan, Kosovo - Mayor Lutfi Haziri

"Becoming a member of the Global Parliament of Mayors is more than a privilege; it is a duty for me! As Mayor of Gjilan, Kosovo, I believe that the GPM provides a great forum for experiences of many other cities around the globe from which my own city could learn, and at the same time, we believe that others could learn from us, too. In today's globalized world, interconnectedness between countries and societies, corporations and NGOs, but also between cities and local governments is something to be cherished and further nourished. I stand ready to do my part and I look forward to it!"