



Global  
Parliament  
of Mayors

# The voice of Mayors



Today over half of the world's population - more than 4,000,000,000 people - is living in cities. By 2050, this is expected to have risen to two-thirds. Consequently, the critical challenges that face mankind, from migration and pandemic diseases to climate change and social inequality, will largely have to be met in the urban environment. Active involvement of cities and their mayors in national and international policy making is therefore vital. And mayors around the world are, indeed, proactively taking leadership, striving to be valued as equal partners of national and international bodies.

The GPM is a global city rights movement based on local self-governance.



## STRENGTH IN UNITY

The Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) is a unique governance body of, by and for mayors from all corners of the world. The GPM unites, aligns, and amplifies the voices of mayors in global strategy debates with nation states and international organisations, such as the UN.

The Global Parliament of Mayors was established in October 2017, inspired by Dr. Benjamin Barber, the author of *If Mayors Ruled the World* and a renowned international political theorist. Today, its members represent more than 33 million citizens worldwide – a number that is steadily growing as more and more mayors realize there is strength in unity.



### GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

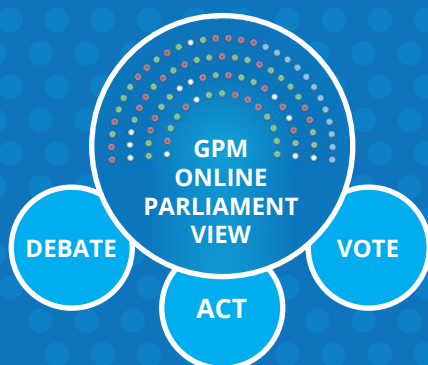
Bristol Declaration  
2018 was included in  
the Marrakech Mayoral  
Declaration "Cities  
Working Together for

Migrants and Refugees" that was adopted  
by 150 mayors and city leaders from across  
the globe during the fifth Mayoral Forum on  
Human Mobility on 8 December 2018.

The GPM functions as a parliament, debating proposals, voting on resolutions and acting on decisions taken by the majority of votes. In the autumn, at the Annual Summit of the GPM, members get together to freely exchange ideas, knowledge, experience and expertise, engaging in an open dialogue in a parliamentary setting. Experts and representatives of city networks and international organisations are invited to join the Annual Summit and provide valuable input for the mayoral debates.

Throughout the rest of the year, debates and (real time) voting take place on the Virtual Parliament, the GPM's online platform, according to a set and structured calendar. This platform is a valuable tool, allowing members to interact and share information.

The Secretariat of the Global Parliament of Mayors is located in The Hague, the international city of peace and justice, in the Netherlands



#### **GPM RESOLUTION 'EMPOWERING CITIES TO COPE WITH GLOBAL CHALLENGES'**

During the General Assembly of UN-Habitat in Nairobi (May, 2019), the GPM presented the GPM Resolution 'Empowering cities to cope with global challenges' to UN-Habitat Executive Director Mrs Sharif. The GPM Resolution was established by two voting rounds on GPM's online platform functioning as a virtual parliament of mayors, offering the opportunity to mayors from around world to vote. The GPM resolution was supported by 43 Mayors from 27 countries, representing 5 continents. *"43 Mayors representing 27 countries and 5 continents supported the GPM Resolution. Let us build synergies to embrace the Sustainable Development Goals to make this world a better place to live in."* GPM Mayor Grace Mary Mugasa, Hoima, Uganda.

#### **BRISTOL DECLARATION 2018**

On 23th of October 2018 the GPM Bristol Declaration was published with GPM members calling for national and international leaders to see cities and international networks as equal partners in shaping global policy.

#### **WHY JOIN?**

The GPM is a city rights movement that brings a different voice to the global political arena. The voice of mayors, cities and citizens. Cities are, and will increasingly be the drivers of change. Their mayors are the crucial link in cascading global decisions to a local level (top-down) and, equally importantly, in presenting progressive, tangible, practice-based solutions to global issues (bottom-up). Mayors have direct access to the GPM Virtual Parliament and existing urban networks that offer research, best practices and city-to-city cooperation. The GPM's goal is to enable the physical and online debate between mayors without political

affiliation and within their competence and to give a common voice to the many distinct and important voices of mayors from around the world. Hence, the GPM's vision:

*A world in which mayors, cities and networks are equal partners in building a global governance structure for an inclusive and sustainable world*

In line with this vision, the GPM is committed to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and partners with international organisations such as the Global Taskforce, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR and UNICEF and city networks such as EUROCITIES, ICLEI, C40 and the US Conference of Mayors.

**For more information about the Global Parliament of Mayors, visit [globalparliamentofmayors.org](http://globalparliamentofmayors.org)**



### **Yousef Al Shawarbeh**

Mayor of Amman, Jordan

*As pioneer city of the GPM we praise the distinguished 'Cities' champion, the late Dr. Barber for his legacy on having*

*an action-oriented platform like the GPM to address challenges, share best practices and opportunities among cities. It is therefore not only our duty but also an honour to continue Amman's membership to the GPM.*



### **Jefferson T. Koijee**

Mayor of Monrovia, Liberia

*"Coming out of a brutal civil crisis and an Ebola pandemic that broke down the social, political, and economic fabric of*

*our city in particular and the nation as a whole, I believe the GPM offers the platform to share our experiences with colleagues and build partnerships and networks for a better and sustainable city.*



### **Nicolás Ducoté**

Mayor of Pilar, Argentina

*"I celebrate the opportunities provided by this platform which gives us the possibility of improving our public administrations.*

*I am grateful for the exchange of many exceptional ideas and experiences from different cities among the world".*



### **Patricia de Lille**

Former Mayor of Cape Town, SA,  
Former GPM Chair

*Solidarity between mayors is especially important in a time when we are seeing*

*a rise of populism, a rise of nationalism and a tendency to really fear xenophobia. Please join the Global Parliament of Mayors and become part of the voices of the empowered cities around the world.*



### **Marvin Rees**

GPM Co-Chair and Treasurer,  
Mayor of Bristol, UK

*Today's global challenges cannot be solved by national governments working*

*alone. The world needs cities, their leaders and networks to collaborate alongside national governments and international organisations to design the next iteration of effective global governance.*



### **Peter Kurz**

GPM Co-Chair,  
Mayor of Mannheim, Germany

*The GPM shared goals unite the many cultures and opportunities around*

*the world, having an equal seat at international decision-making tables and fostering meaningful multi-level governance for the good of all.*



### **Pauline Krikke**

Mayor of The Hague, the Netherlands,  
host of the GPM Secretariat

*Strong cities make strong countries. Cities are embracing an international role. If it is*

*increasingly up to cities to come up with solutions for more major issues, it is very important that mayors can connect with each other quickly.*



### **Ricardo Rio**

Mayor of Braga, Portugal

*The GPM is the association of mayors around the world to share experiences on specific issues that are common for the*

*reality of mayors wherever they are. Topics like migration, security, economic development and fostering creativity are as important to the city of Braga as they are to cities in China, India or the USA.*



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