



A CALL TO ACTION FOR TALENT LEADERSHIP

CITY LEADERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE JOIN THE ASU-GSV SUMMIT TO DISCUSS THE OPPORTUNITY OF TALENT AND THE RISE OF “CITIES OF THE FUTURE”

30 September 2020 - City leaders from Afghanistan, the UAE, Portugal and the US joined a high-level panel, [Talent Readiness: Urban Innovation from Leading International Cities](#), at the annual ASU-GSV Summit to share their views on the future of talent. Our thanks to Deborah Quazzo, Managing Principal of Global Silicon Valley, for inviting this new and important discussion of talent from global city leaders to the Summit. The [ASU-GSV Summit](#) is a pre-eminent thought leadership event on global education and talent innovation. This year, virtual for the first time, the Summit addressed 27,000 registrants from 135 countries. Per Ms. Quazzo, *“We are honored to welcome this panel of global dignitaries to the Summit. Cities, of course, lead at the intersection of education, talent and growth. Our cities are the true points of destination on the global talent and innovation landscape.”*

Representing eight cities and nearly 38 million citizens, these leaders underscored the importance of talent to their cities as a lever to change, growth, and the promise of “talent cities of the future”. Honorable Ricardo Rio, Mayor of [Braga](#) and Executive Committee Member and Treasurer of the [Global Parliament of Mayors](#), Honorable Roshan Wolusmal, Deputy Minister of Urban Affairs for Afghanistan, former Mayor of Kandahar and Global Ambassador for the Global Parliament of Mayors, Mr. Stephen Severance, Head of Program Management and Marketing, [Masdar City](#), and Mr. Peter Callstrom, Chief Employment Officer, [San Diego Workforce Partnership](#), joined moderator Ms. Gerri Burton, Lead of the Global Parliament of Mayors Talent Cities™ initiative who introduced the panel by quoting Mayor Rio, *“talent is too important an issue for one city alone”*.

Mayor Rio defined for us “cities of the future” as *“a layer of cities which may not be so known but provide quality of life, best access to innovation and education, and more reasonable cost structure. These talent cities of the future, are as good or a better way to strengthen and collaborate on opportunities at a global level.”* Mayor Rio offered Braga as an example of a city which has made a remarkable transition to a design, innovation and start-up hub featuring the Iberian International Nanotechnology Laboratory, University of Minho, Bosch, Fujitsu, InvestBraga, StartUp Braga – all relying on the crucial ingredient of talent. *“Talent is an opportunity in and of itself. A wide range of talent is the crucial element to attract investment, development and growth. Other aspects can be added, but talent is the most important.”* Mayor Rio spoke about *“the emergent role of cities as change-agents for education so that education can be tailored to reflect city economic growth plans, culture and quality of life enabling cities to create and execute their own talent strategies.”*

The Global Parliament of Mayors Talent Cities™ initiative takes a unique perspective on talent from the point-of-view of city leadership. Cities in the EU, Middle East, Africa, the US and southeast Asia are now engaging in discussions about joining the initiative. This is a call to action for all ‘talent cities of the future’ to join the Global Parliament of Mayors Talent Cities™ initiative. In 2021, work will begin on the transformation of Braga into the world’s first smart talent city and hub of an international smart talent ecosystem.

For more information, please contact [Nuno Gouveia](#), Advisor to Mayor Rio, or [Gerri Burton](#), Lead, Global Parliament of Mayors Talent Cities™.

GPM Talent Cities™ is a project of the Global Parliament of Mayors. Through city leadership and self-governance mayors take responsibility to ensure equity, sustainability and inclusion in their cities, including optimizing talent opportunities for all citizens efficiently and effectively. The Global Parliament of Mayors is a governance body of, by and for mayors from all continents with a vision to the world in which mayors, their cities and networks are equal partners in building global governance for an inclusive and sustainable world.