

Summary Call to Action

Climate change, cities and forced migration: Advancing knowledge, action and collaboration

Forced migration is the human face of the climate crisis, and cities are often sanctuaries for many migrants. Cities and urban areas can be sites of freedom, equality and solidarity. Many cities take up responsibility for all humans on their territory, guaranteeing basic human rights of shelter, health care, food and education. This Call to Action calls upon all mayors to work together to enable cities to be sustainable, social and democratic homes for both residents and new arrivals alike.

Local Action

Building awareness to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate changes, build better data and knowledge about the intersection of climate change and migration, protect cultural assets and heritage, help vulnerable groups

Global Advocacy and partnership

Advancing cooperation at all levels of the international community, national governments and international organisations, and sure that nations facing existential threats as a result of climate crises maintain their sovereignty, collective identity and cultural heritage, building up funding from different sources to empower local leaders to prepare for climate displacement and migration with a specific scope on parts of Africa and Asia to develop financial facilities.

COP26

Mayors will discuss their plans to expand the Call to Action to leaders at all levels of government at the GPM Annual Summit in Palermo, Italy, on 21-23 October 2021. The Mayoral Call to Action will be a uniting front to accelerate action on climate migration by promoting, guiding, monitoring and sharing experiences on climate resilience amongst mayors. It establishes an integral framework, bringing together mayors to present their plans and push for climate-resilient action. On the occasion of COP26, GPM mayors will share key points that resonate within cities, crucial actions that mayors are committed to taking, and further steps needed to enable robust action at the local level.

Multi-Level Call to Action

Mayors will lead in building awareness and knowledge. Climate–forced displacement and migration are not yet under serious discussion in our cities. Mayors are all undertaking significant steps to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change. And mayors are undertaking mitigation actions, some of which are focused on the reduction of carbon and other greenhouse gases, as well as on green and just job creation. Yet awareness must be raised on the intersection of these challenges. Migrants, especially women and youth, can play an important role in making efforts inclusive, as can intergenerational dialogue.