



## **GPM ANNUAL SUMMIT 2021 “RESET: CITIES LEADING IN A NEW ERA”**

*21- 23 October, 2021, Palazzo Sant’Elia Palermo*

Palermo, 21 October 2021 - An increasing number of tasks are delegated by national governments to municipalities and regions because more than half of the world's population lives in cities and metropolitan regions. Cities contribute more than 85% of their nations' gross national income (GNI). Therefore, they need to be actively engaged in the decision-making process of international organisations.

The Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) promotes the collective decision-making of cities across national boundaries, addressing the critical challenges facing humanity and producing results that are useful to all.

The GPM as an assembly aims to facilitate debate between mayors, national governments and international organisations, to guide systematic action to address global and national challenges and opportunities to achieve policy change on a global scale.

Mayors take leadership and ownership of the global challenges they face at the local level, with clear and defined values

- Local self-governance
- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Open dialogue
- Effectiveness
- Self-Government

The GPM aims to be involved in debates on critical city issues and to participate actively in the decision-making process. By intervening in discussions at the UN, OECD and other assemblies, the CPM promotes mayors' proposals and demands, draws on policies and activities successfully implemented by first citizens around the world and creates greater awareness of the crucial role cities play in our interdependent world.

The GPM's vision is a world in which mayors, their cities and networks are equal partners in building national and global governance for an inclusive and sustainable world.

The annual summit of the Global Parliament of Mayors, GPM, this year takes place for the first time in Italy and is hosted by the City and Metropolitan City of Palermo with Mayor Leoluca Orlando co-founding the GPM. The work will take place from 21-23 October 2021 at the Sala Diana in Palazzo Sant’Elia.

"The city of Palermo has participated in the founding of the Global Parliament of Mayors since its first steps and today hosts the annual meeting after the cities of Amsterdam, Den Haag, Stavanger, Bristol and Durban," says Mayor Leoluca Orlando. "An extraordinary opportunity - he continues - to confirm the interdependence and cooperation between cities from all continents. A stimulus, a call, a contribution to make our cities more lively, attractive and welcoming in a global

village that overcomes borders and walls to create a community of people as different as they are equal".

The event that normally gathers more than 150 mayors from all over the world will be presented for the 2021 edition in an interactive hybrid form and will bring together mayors, city networks and international experts to discuss city leadership and major global challenges at the local level.

GPM President Peter Kurz, Mayor of Mannheim, will be present in Palermo along with a dozen colleagues from Europe and around the world, as well as a delegation of mayors from Nigeria. Around 60 mayors will participate online.

"The GPM was founded in 2016, based on the ideas and leadership of Dr. Benjamin Barber, to establish a representation of cities to address pressing global issues", Kurz says. "Since then, the challenges the GPM was founded to address have only become greater. Coexistence on earth is more at risk than ever. Local government is the level of government closest to the people, so cities and their leaders must be involved in global and national conversations on critical issues and work hand-in-hand with the other levels of government to implement effective solutions - equal and from the beginning. The GPM brings together mayors, united in their commitments to democratic values, local self-governance, open dialogue, and effective leadership. Together, we are working to address pressing global issues at the local level. The GPM is not just another city network, it is the crossroads, the mouthpiece, and the meeting point for joint coordination and action."

The main theme of the summit is post-pandemic recovery: "The future is now, global challenges need to be addressed as the weight of recovery, transition and renewal led by city mayors as a driver for change".

Climate change and the relationship with Africa regarding migration caused by this phenomenon will be central focuses of the meeting.

The summit will highlight the role of cities as a prerequisite for success in tackling global issues, new forms of city leadership and multilateral governance.

As every year, the winner of the prize named after the American political scientist Benjamin Barber, who died in 2017, will be announced and a plaque will be dedicated to him.

