RESET: CITIES LEADING IN A NEW ERA

GPM Summit 2021, Palermo, Italy
The Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM)

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1. Introduction

This year's Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) Annual Summit addressed how cities are rebuilding in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The event explored the role of mayors in advocating for and implementing policies with the objective of improving the living conditions of city residents, as well as ensuring that recovery from the pandemic is inclusive, just, and green. This summit highlighted the importance of cooperation between cities in the Global South and the Global North in tackling key challenges. The theme built on the work the GPM has done over the last fifteen months on the post-Covid city.

The Summit brought mayors, city networks, and international experts together to discuss city leadership and key global challenges at the local level. The future is now. Global challenges, such as the burden of recovery, transition, and renewal must be addressed, and led by city leaders as the drivers of change. The Summit highlighted the role of cities as a prerequisite to success in addressing global issues, new forms of city leadership, and multilateral governance. Mayors were at the heart of all of the debates, and were invited to participate actively in every session. The summit included five mayoral debates on the following topics: governance, climate migration, public health policies, culture and re-imagining urban environments, and local economies. Each debate began with a brief intervention from an expert, followed by a mayoral debate.

The Global Parliament of Mayors 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 create opportunities to achieve policy change on a global scale. 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 international institutions and organizations, the GPM promotes mayors' proposals and demands, draws on policies and activities successfully implemented by mayors 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 city 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 took place this year for the first time in Italy, hosted by Mayor Leoluca Orlando of Palermo, co-founding member of the GPM. Mayor Orlando called the summit "An extraordinary opportunity 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 traditionally brings together more than 150 mayors from all over the world. Due to the public health situation, the event was organized in 2021 in an interactive hybrid form and brought together mayors, city networks and international experts to discuss city leadership and major global challenges at the local level.

GPM Executive Committee Chair Peter Kurz, Mayor of Mannheim, was present in Palermo along with the Mayors of Katowice, Montpellier and Palermo, a small delegation of mayors from Uganda, and honorary member former Mayor Ed Johnson, Asbury Park, USA. Around 75 mayors participated in the debates online.

This year, the Global Parliament of Mayors awarded the prestigious Dr. Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award to Mayors Muriel Bowser of Washington DC (USA) and Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr of Freetown (Sierra Leone). The award ceremony was part of the summit's opening session. The award recognizes mayors for their outstanding contribution to further global urban governance and inspire city leadership.

Mayor Kurz, Mayor Orlando and moderator Ivo Daalder, Chair of the GPM Advisory Committee, closed the GPM Summit 2021 by concluding that it is indispensable to stress the local within the global debate. They especially highlighted the importance of local self-government as prerequisite for development. Cities will be decisive in the future, because only cities can provide the necessary social-, economic-, educational-, and cultural-capacities. The upcoming challenge is to approach national governments and international institutions and make them understand the value of cities. Insofar, the GPM is not an alternative to the existing system. It rather needs to be seen as an implementer, partner, and essential component towards success.

2. Keynote

**H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, 24th President of Liberia,
Nobel Peace Prize Winner 2011**
Nobel laureate H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf delivered a powerful
keynote address at the Summit. She noted that the GPM is
proof of the progress made in global cooperation. Looking at
the 17 SDGs, there is no escape from the fact that mayors will
have to play a critical role. Many reasons illustrate that
necessity: a clear record that our world is urbanising; education, technology and improved
infrastructures have made cities the focal point of development; the world economy of
yesterday is fading away; and migration to cities and urban centres, which in many cases
results in overcrowding and strain on infrastructures and resources.

In 2015, cities constituted an average of 53.9 percent of the population worldwide.
This is a number that is projected to grow to 62.5 percent by 2050. This will require a reset
of urban planning that takes into account how people live, work and play.
For many mayors, especially those in the Global South, this will represent immense
challenges as budgets from central governments will shrink. At the same time, mayors will
be challenged to meet the needs of crowded cities for the supply of clean water,
electricity, transportation, waste management, sanitation, and shelter. This will call for new
laws and policies on national and local levels to make cities self-reliant. It will also require the
possibility of imposing an autonomous tax system for cities that lack the resources.

Mayors will also face the growing demands of a young population. There are approximately
1.1 billion young people between the ages of 15 and 24, making up around 18 percent of
the global population. Youth and children together (age 24 or younger) account for nearly
40 percent of the world's population. The population of Africa is expected to double to 2.5
billion by the year 2050, with 60 percent being below 25 years of age. Moreover, data shows
that 19 of the 20 youngest countries of the world are in Africa. Education and training in a
variety of professions will be a key policy.
Cities need to respond to the needs of the youth to improve their quality of life.
That response will need to include social media as a dominant communication platform.
With transmissions of new variants, the pandemic is still active. The pandemic was the
greatest shock to the global economy since World War II, contracting the economy by
5.2 percent. Countries in the Global South are especially vulnerable and face increasing
debts due to declining economic revenues. The effects of climate change and Covid-19
take place at a time when multilateral and global cooperation and coordination probably
is at its lowest.

Mayors have to encourage partnerships with local and national governments as well as
stakeholders from the private sector. These partnerships will require learning from each
other as well as shifting methodologies and policies from the exclusive delivery of social
goods into investments of potentially viable small businesses and entrepreneurs.
Insofar, the provision of jobs at a higher level of performance can secure a higher per
capita income.

Mayors and cities are taking on increasing responsibilities with often strained and limited resources. It is not enough that cities of the Global North can cope with the circumstances while the Global South is struggling to endure. We all must find partnerships and stand together. It is this attitude of the interconnectedness of our humanity that can open up new opportunities to meet the challenges of the cities and the people who live in them.

3. Programme

Each of the sessions commenced with presentations from esteemed experts, who framed the issues and provoked thought, discussion, and debate, followed by mayoral interventions. During the sessions, mayors, city leaders, and well-respected experts[1] debated and shared, first hand, how they are rebuilding their cities in light of the shifts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ivo Daalder, President of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and Chair of the GPM Advisory Committee, led the sessions: Rethinking Global Governance and Cities as Global Leaders on Climate Migration. Rachel Launay, Country Director of the British Council Italy, led the sessions: Urban Pandemic Response: Global Vaccination, Re-imagining Urban Environments, and Resetting Our Local Economies.

3.1. Cities Leading: Rethinking Global Governance
Governance is at the heart of the work of the GPM. The debate on governance focused on empowering cities globally through one message: enough talking and more action. Although many acknowledge the importance of cities in addressing global challenges, cities are too often marginalized in global policy agendas. This session showcased the significance of cities by highlighting the changing role of urban governance in confronting global problems and crises. The session examined key priority areas such as reinforcing national-local collaboration, building global multi-stakeholder partnerships, and engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to unlock an inclusive recovery and build resilience. The session also shaped the GPM's internal discourses and its positioning towards organizations like the United Nations (UN), UN-Habitat, and Global Taskforce, as well as key events including the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP), Global Taskforce, and World Urban Forum (WUF).

3.1.1. Framing Dossier of the Debate
Overview
As identified in the New Urban Agenda, effective urban governance is a critical driver of sustainable development. Given the globalized nature of the planet's most pressing challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and migration, local leaders must not only work within their own cities, but also build partnerships with governmental and non-governmental actors at national, regional, and international levels. Managing these multilevel and multisectoral partnerships can strain municipal resources that are already stretched. However, these partnerships also offer new avenues for mayors to drive global initiatives and implement transformative change.

[1] See Annex for full list of registered mayors and participating experts.

COVID-19 has demonstrated that mayors have unique expertise in developing and implementing local solutions with diverse stakeholders, as well as articulating the needs of their communities at national, regional, and international levels. There are, however, many barriers to effective urban governance. Local authorities often have limited legal or policy authorities to design and implement substantive change. Additionally, even prior to the pandemic, the budgets of many cities were in decline. This has been exacerbated by reduced tax revenue and additional expenditure during COVID-19, which has especially affected cities in the Global South[2]. Cities have made significant progress in elevating their voice internationally, often through transnational city networks and initiatives such as the GPM. Yet, a 2019 global survey of 47 cities found that 78% of city officials saw inadequate funding as a barrier to city diplomacy[3]. This issue is also affecting city networks. According to a 2020 survey of 200 networks[4], 24% saw budgetary decreases in the last few years.

Powered in large part by transnational city initiatives, cities have strengthened their multilateral governance processes. Through initiatives such as the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and the Mayors Mechanism of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, cities are moving from outside advocates to institutional participants in major multilateral forums. They are no longer mere implementers of top-down policy decisions, but also leaders in global policy. Despite this progress, more needs to be done to advance the role of cities in global governance.

With the increasing role of urban governance in confronting global problems and crises, three key priority areas emerge for mayors: (i) reinforcing national-local collaboration, (ii) building global multi-stakeholder partnerships, and (iii) engaging with diverse stakeholders to enable an inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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First, cities should seek to reinforce national-local collaboration to more effectively deliver public services, allow for more local autonomy, and identify local solutions to achieve national goals. The 2019 GPM "Resolution Empowering Cities to Cope with Global Challenges" noted forcefully that democratic governments should "allow cities and urban areas more freedom to act on systemic challenges." UN-Habitat and the African Centre for Cities have jointly noted the need for better interinstitutional hierarchy and coordination between national and local governments to optimize the delivery of public services while simultaneously recognizing a need for greater autonomy of local governments to allow the provision of decentralized services[5]. During the pandemic, dialogue between national governments and cities was crucial in early-stage national responses, and later in allowing decision-makers to integrate cities' needs in the design of legal and financial instruments at the national level.

[2] The OECD conducted a joint survey with the European Committee of the Regions about the impact of COVID-19 on subnational governments. They found 65% of respondents from large cities forecast a highly negative impact of the crisis on subnational finance.

[3] https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/research/report/conducting-city-diplomacy-survey-international-engagement-47-cities.

[4] https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0042098020929261.

[5] https://issuu.com/unhabitat/docs/towards_an_africa_urban_agenda_with.

Secondly, cities should build on their progress in establishing global partnerships to better coordinate the efforts of transnational city networks, and enhance direct engagement with the private sector and international organizations. The GPM has previously observed that as more mayors and urban leaders participate in city networks, they increase their influence on global governance. Nevertheless, in the context of stretched resources at the municipal level, there is a need to maximize the impact of city efforts through coordination among networks. Furthermore, the GPM Durban Declaration pledged a closer partnership with elected city leaders and city networks in making, implementing, and enforcing global frameworks. Additionally, cities have an opportunity for closer collaboration with the private sector and institutions, which remain an underutilized partner in global multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Lastly, COVID-19 has highlighted global interconnectedness and the need for global governance mechanisms that reinforce preparedness, resiliency, and crisis management. The pandemic has also underscored the need for mayors to ensure that the needs of vulnerable groups are prioritized in this planning. The economic and social crisis has often hit the most vulnerable the hardest. This highlights a need to adopt a more place-based and people-centered approach to urban governance and community engagement to ensure an inclusive recovery. In previous resolutions, the GPM has suggested that equity should be at the forefront of efforts to achieve the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. More should be done to close the gap in equity.

Recommended Local, National and International Policy Actions
The GPM is well equipped to advance, coordinate, and scale up the collective action of mayors and local leaders. Recommended policy actions, which target the international community, national governments, and local leaders and communities, include:
Enhancing national-local collaboration:
- Mayors agree to seek opportunities to further utilize national city networks to advocate for enhanced local decision making in national policy and more effective multi-level governance.
- Mayors agree to lead by example through proactive adoption of agreements underpinning the 2030 Agenda and tools such as Voluntary Local Reviews.

Building global multi-stakeholder partnerships:
- Building on examples such as the Mayors Migration Council's role on the UN Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, mayors will seek opportunities through city networks for greater institutional involvement in intergovernmental forums, particularly those with a role in the distribution of municipal finance.

- Recognizing the interlinked nature of current major global challenges, mayors agree to advocate for greater collaboration between transnational city networks and for opportunities to pool resources and share expertise across networks.

Advancing inclusive urban governance:
- Mayors commit to an inclusive recovery from COVID-19, adopting the principles and strategies advanced by the C40 Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force, Mayors Migration Council Leadership Board and OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth. In pursuing these goals mayors will seek opportunities to promote inclusive growth and address inequality at local, national and international levels.
- Learning from COVID-19 response strategies, mayors will coordinate efforts to enhance access to services and safe public spaces, address affordability issues within local housing markets, increase local employment opportunities and work supports, and seek ways to engage residents who have borne the most severe socio economic impacts.

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3.1.2. Speakers
List of Speakers – Mayors
1. Mayor Peter Kurz of Mannheim, Germany - GPM Chair
2. Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe of Banjul, The Gambia - GPM ExCo Member
3. Mayor Marcin Krupa of Katowice, Poland, GPM ExCo Member
4. Mayor Alec von Graffenried of Bern, Switzerland - GPM member
5. Former Mayor David Balaba of Iganga, Uganda, spokesman on behalf of the Ugandan delegation

List of Speakers – Special Guests and experts
1. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
2. Grace Mary Mugasa, Minister of State for Public Service in Uganda, former mayor of Hoima, Uganda, former GPM ExCo Member
3. Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Local Divisions on Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, OECD

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
Maimunah Mohd Sharif described four current intersecting and interrelated crises:
(1) COVID-19 health crisis, (2) economic crisis, (3) social crisis, (4) climate crisis.
Cities represent the epicentre of that intersection. That is why the role of cities has never been more important. Therefore, it is crucial to embrace the crises with the realisation of the New Urban Agenda. Maimunah Mohd Sharif highlighted her hope that multi-level governance can be used as a crucial part of solving the crises. Clear definitions of urban actions and stronger national and international commitments are needed. The voices of cities must be heard.

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Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Local Divisions on Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, OECD
Aziza Akhmouch emphasised three interrelated aspects. First, she highlighted the fundamental interdependent relationship between cities and national governments. shared responsibility of multi-level governance. For instance, the OECD estimates that one third of urban greenhouse gas emission can be reduced by cities. Similarly, two thirds of SDGs cannot be achieved without local and regional cooperation. Seventy percent of cities are not yet on track to achieve these goals. Hence, it is indispensable that cities and national governments collaborate. City networks play an instrumental role in that collaboration.

Secondly, mayors need to leverage their power within a global multi-stakeholder approach. Problems do not stop at local and national boundaries. The G20 recently endorsed high-level principles on city-to-city cooperation with two new messages: (1) intermediary cities play an important role in city-to-city dynamics. (2) It is necessary to go beyond the traditional approach (based on official development assistance) and appraise the broader peer-to-peer experiences, such as learning exchanges and capacity development.

Thirdly, urban governance has to be inclusive. Covid-19 has magnified many forms of inequality as well as the digital divide. To prevent these divisions from being felt for generations to come, equity has to be at the forefront of policy-making.

Mayor Peter Kurz of Mannheim, Germany
Mayor Kurz was asked about the European Charter of Local Self Government and the impact it has in Mannheim and other European Cities. Mayor Kurz responded that local self-government is a prerequisite for cohesive, comprehensive, and coordinated multilevel governance.
In Germany, that independence and self-government is guaranteed by the law and the constitution. Self-government always entails certain rights within jointly accepted laws. That is why the GPM understands itself also as a city rights movement. Accordingly, the European Charter of Local Self Government must be understood as a charter of rights. The compliance towards the charter is monitored by the Council of Europe. At the same time, the mechanisms of European self-government is still an ongoing process.

Looking at Europe from the perspective of economic prosperity, quality of life and the satisfaction of citizens, it is possible to recognise a correlation between success in these categories and strong local self-government. Besides being a promising field of future research, the connection of self-government as facilitator of development is obvious. Another example is the African Union. Our colleagues in the African Union report that a lack of the right to self-government and competences hinders their progress. Europe and Africa are unique continents, but the approach of self-government seems to be universally applicable. The African Union already developed the African Charter on the

Values and Principles of Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development in 2014. However, only 17 national governments have signed the charter and six have ratified it. Finally, Mayor Kurz underlined his wish to welcome a stronger collaboration between Europe and Africa to strengthen self-government.

Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe of Banjul, The Gambia
Mayor Lowe concurred with Mayor Kurz on the need for more clearly defined and protected rights of cities and local governments in Africa. At the moment, African countries embrace the policy of decentralisation and try to reform existing policies to fight poverty and bring more services to the population. The African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development is supposed to serve as a guide for drafting decentralisation laws. However, The Gambia, for example adopted decentralisation measures in 2002. This means that the charter came after several countries started that process themselves. The Charter can also only complete what is not considered in the country's constitution. If there is a need for a better definition and protection of rights for local governments, then it is necessary to revise the Charter. Since the rights are not operational yet, that revision has to be done now and the local government has to advise that process. The European model is not a ready-made solution for Africa, since the two continents have very different types of cities and structures. Lastly, Mayor Lowe pointed out the risk that member states might have to recognise the right of local governments in ordinary national legislation as opposed to the national constitution. As long as the charter is not operational, local governments are powerless against national governments.

Another significant aspect Mayor Lowe highlighted is the review of resources. In the pandemic, Banjul's revenue stream was heavily affected, especially due to the restrictions and their negative impact on small businesses. The question of how to maintain and deliver public services under these circumstances has to be addressed.

Grace Mary Mugasa, Minister of State for Public Service Uganda, former mayor of Hoima, Uganda
Minister Mugasa explained that Uganda has operationalised a policy of decentralisation through the Local Government Act by the parliament. That shows how local leaders, including many women in leadership positions, successfully approached the national government leadership. They broke the glass ceiling to bring public services closer to the people and to change existing authority structures.

Minister Mugasa also underlined that the resources of cities do not correlate with the work they are expected to do. However, Covid-19 opened up possibilities to rethink strategies, services, and policy formulations. That even includes considerations that local governments might collaborate directly with international institutions. As an honorary GPM member, Minister Mugasa will push the agenda to allow urban governments to have urban partnerships. Ultimately, she urged the GPM to forge connections between the Global North and Global South to help each other.

Mayor Marcin Krupa of Katowice, Poland
Important challenges like the impact of the pandemic on social equality and changing working patterns have to be translated into opportunities. To do that, it is important to identify cities that have the right tools and to share that knowledge. For Katowice, the biggest challenge is the regional transformation shaped by its heavy industry.
The pandemic slowed down that transformation process. Now it is important to illustrate, especially to the investors, what other sectors and technologies Katowice has to offer. That is why the transformation of a modern business centre for new businesses and start-up was initiated.

Mayor Krupa also put forward, in the spirit of Benjamin Barber, that the summit is an inspiration and motivation for all participants to contribute to a sustainable development policy. Lastly, he extended a warm invitation to all to join the World Urban Forum, which will be held in connection with the GPM Annual Summit, next year.

Mayor Peter Kurz of Mannheim, Germany
Mayor Kurz stressed that the support for African cities is first and foremost based on their needs. He also explained his conviction that self-government is now a global label for a democratic and free vision of society. Hence, a Global Charter of Local Self Government is desirable and conceivable. A few excerpts from the European Charter of Local Self Government illustrate that potentially universal application:

- *Article 2 – Constitutional and legal foundation for local self-government: "The principle of local self-government shall be recognised in domestic legislation, and where practicable in the constitution."*
- *Article 4 – Scope of local self-government: "The basic powers and responsibilities of local authorities shall be prescribed by the constitution or by statute. However, this provision shall not prevent the attribution to local authorities of powers and responsibilities for specific purposes in accordance with the law."*
- *Article 8 – Administrative supervision of local authorities' activities: "Local authorities' financial resources shall be commensurate with the responsibilities provided for by the constitution and the law."*
- *Article 9 – Financial resources of local authorities: "The protection of financially weaker local authorities calls for the institution of financial equalisation procedures or equivalent measures which are designed to correct the effects of the unequal distribution of potential sources of finance...".*

The charter addresses the governance model within nation states and how power might be organised. This is why Mayor Kurz called for a global movement to ensure self-government as a basic prerequisite for development.

Mayor Alec von Graffenried of Bern, Switzerland
Mayor von Graffenried was asked how the cooperation between national and local governments in Switzerland changed as a result of the pandemic and how other countries could learn from that. He explained that Switzerland, as a direct democracy

and nation-state, follows a participatory approach to governance. The model consists of three levels of governance: the nation state level, the regions (so-called cantons), and the city level. Normally, the national level communicates with the citizens through the cantons. However, during the pandemic, all measures were coordinated between the nation and the canton level. The cities were left out. As a consequence, cities tried to engage in the discussions through city associations. In this way, the pandemic revealed that a direct link between cities and the national as well as international level is vital. Cities have to organise themselves in associations to be heard and make sure that the local needs are well understood.

Grace Mary Mugasa, Minister of State for Public Service, Uganda
Minister Mugasa expressed her gratitude to the leadership of Uganda. Based on effective standard operating procedures, the pandemic could be controlled. However, the negative economic impact is severe. Therefore, the central government tries to inject liquidity into the markets, especially through the agricultural bank. Addressing a wide range of companies, the government tries to revive the economy. Lastly, she also expressed her thanks to all the partners who made the provision of vaccinations possible.

Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe of Banjul, The Gambia
Mayor Lowe elaborated further on the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development and pointed out that local governments have to raise a significant part of their revenues on their own. That, in turn, requires the decentralisation of power in taxation. However, the type or rate of the taxes are not mentioned in the charter. That vagueness has an effect on the amount of taxes cities can raise. At the same time, revenue streams of cities are transferred to the central government. Mayor Lowe sees the solution in conditionalities given by the financiers such as the Europeans. Furthermore, the charter needs a more detailed elaboration. It specifically requires that the central government enacts legislation to give local governments full responsibility to manage their resources. Existing control mechanisms by the central government are a burden and contradict the idea of local autonomy.

Former Mayor David Balaba of Iganga, Uganda
Former Mayor Balaba framed inequality (social, gender, economic, digital, etc.) as the greatest challenge of our time. Consequently, violence and crimes are on the rise, education and health services deteriorate, and the SDGs are out of sight. He called for mayors' prudence to protect their communities. In particular, goal eleven "Sustainable Cities and Communities" can only be reached if city leaders are able to see the challenges ahead. Based on the different city contexts, some flourish and others perish, so partnerships are needed now more than ever.

3.1.3. Reflections
Aziza Akhmouch, Head of Local Divisions on Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, OECD
The discussion showed meaningful examples of multilevel-, global-, and urban governance, but also the magnitude of work that has to be done. Considering multi-level

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governance, the Global North and South face similar problems and learning processes. However, a one-size-fits-all solution does not exist. Asymmetrical circumstances require a polycentric approach that combines the context of different cities and regions. Inclusive governance is not only within the boundaries of the administrative city, but it is also about connecting the hinterland. Aligning the Global North and South necessitates a shift away from the paradigm of a donor-recipient relationship towards a more triangular approach of reciprocal global relations. Therefore, it will be crucial to formulate overarching and guiding principles. In that sense, the OECD developed a handbook showing that decentralisation is a learning process itself.

3.2. Cities as Global Leaders on Climate Migration

In an urbanizing world, cities are the main sanctuaries for the growing number of people affected by climate and environmental change. Cities, as hosts to many migrants, have a mandate and a responsibility to provide for the needs of their residents, including migrants, and to support newcomers' integration. In the absence of global leadership and locally identified protection programs, some cities and nations are facing complete destruction, with developing countries and vulnerable communities being hardest hit by the environmental crises. This session recognizes that climate change is reality and can be slowed but not stopped by the international community's commitments to reducing emissions and transitioning toward renewable energy. As such, we must build resilience and advocate for inclusive adaptation programs by linking local knowledge and global resources through local leaders. This includes seeking out and integrating their local knowledge, expertise and needs into national policy actions, and providing the tools and resources cities need to provide direct services to migrants in their community, regardless of legal status.

3.2.1. Framing Dossier of the Debate

Overview

In a warming, urbanizing world, cities are the main sanctuaries for the growing number of people affected by climate and environmental change. Cities, as hosts to many migrants, have a mandate and a responsibility to provide for the needs of their residents, including migrants, and to support newcomers' long-run integration. At the same time, by adapting their infrastructures and institutions to growing service demands, cities can benefit from the cultural diversity, economic prosperity, and social dynamism that newcomers offer. As cities play an increasingly central role in addressing the environ-mental crisis and in welcoming the growing number of migrants, national leaders and the international community must enable cities to seek solutions that deliver on this responsibility. We urge governments and international organizations to recognize that migration is increasingly an urban phenomenon, notably, by empowering cities to plan for manageable migration and relocation of those at risk due to climate disasters.

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Migration induced by conflict or disaster is neither recent nor fixed. The number of displaced persons has substantially grown in the past three decades with 82.4 million people, or more than 1% of the world population, forcibly displaced by 2021. In the face

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of these unprecedented circumstances, many governments have increased border enforcement, encampment, and criminalization of migrant populations. Although population displacement is often the result of a multicausal relationship between environmental, political, economic, and sociocultural drivers, the climate crisis has proven to be an ever more pressing factor. Storms, floods, wildfires, droughts, and other extreme weather events forced 55 million people out of their homes in 2020[6]. In the absence of global leadership and locally identified protection programs, some cities and nations are facing complete destruction, with developing countries and vulnerable communities being hardest hit by the environmental crises. Many of our cities are in the most affected regions, such as coastal and dry areas of Africa, coasts of Mexico and the Caribbean, river systems of Asia and low-lying islands in the Indian and Pacific oceans, regions collectively home to hundreds of millions and are already experiencing extreme weather conditions. As a result, movements within, to, and from urban areas are producing a demographic dynamic with implications for all facets of urban planning and governance. As we move forward, we must recognize that the climate will continue to change even as the international community commits to reduce emissions and use renewable energy on a greater scale. As such, we must build resilience and advocate for inclusive adaptation programs by linking local knowledge and global resources through locally-situated leaders.

Thanks to the advocacy of the IOM, MMC, C40, and the GPM, it is now widely recognized that people at risk of climate disasters will find their way to and through cities. The Mayoral Roundtable on Migration is now included in the official forum where international migration policies are debated and discussed. As a result of the ongoing efforts of local leaders, at an official side event of the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (UN HLPF 2021) held in July 2021, mayors from around the world came together with representatives of national governments and UN officials to discuss the pressing challenges related to these population movements in the context of environmental change. The discussion also focused on the interrelated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). However, there is significant progress yet to be made to elevate local voices and enable local actions.

Recommended Local, National, and International Policy Actions
As we work together to address the climate emergency and its impacts on human mobility, the role of local leaders in responding to the challenge must be harnessed and supported. This includes seeking out and integrating their local knowledge, expertise, and needs into national policy actions, and providing the tools and resources cities need to allocate direct services to migrants in their community, regardless of legal status. The GPM is well equipped to give a unified voice to this cause, and more significantly, to coordinate, and scale up the collective action of mayors and local leaders. Our call to action, which targets the international community, national governments, local leaders and communities, proposes five interrelated ways forward:

[6] https://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2021/

- The international community and governments at all levels must act upon the climate crisis itself, particularly in climate "hotspots" to prevent further forced migration, while simultaneously allocating resources for local leaders to provide more sustainable and resilient infrastructure and build a culture of hospitality in their cities.
- Climate migration should be addressed as an urban phenomenon, allowing access to funds and grants assigned for climate action and disaster risk management. Migration-related resilience and adaptation projects must be financed at the urban level and investments should be made available for urban solutions and inclusive development. In addition, the international community should extend its technical support and assistance for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCSA) in climate risk areas as well as to migrants' destination cities.
- Mayors and local leaders are well equipped to address local challenges and obstacles associated with climate migration and to push forward a community-centered approach. To that end, they must develop plans for adaptation and resilience by involving local knowledge resources and working with indigenous communities, while at the same time engaging in environmental and demographic evidence-based urban planning and local data collection. Those plans should also incorporate and address human mobility dimensions.
- Mayors and local leaders must raise awareness among local host communities regarding the value of cultural heritage, social assets, and economic prosperity that newcomers offer. Using participatory planning and budgeting, involving neighborhood level leaders, and creating spaces for neighborly interactions can help reduce undesirable tension between the host communities and the migrants.
- Local leaders must help strengthen sustainable regional economies, while reducing the impacts of climate migration on urban infrastructure. Such local economic efforts should define climate migration within broader migration considerations and should be based on a development coalition between the local authorities, the market, and the commons.

Authors Position Paper Climate Migration: Foroogh Farhang, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs; Christopher Richter, Regional Migration, Environment and Climate Change Specialist, the International Organization for Migration.

3.2.2. Speakers
List of Speakers - Mayors
1. Mayor Ricardo Rio of Braga, Portugal, GPM treasurer and ExCo member
2. Mayor Fabrice Brad Rulinda of Entebbe, Uganda
3. Mayor Michaël Delafosse of Montpellier, France, GPM Member
4. Mayor Leoluca Orlando of Palermo, Italy, GPM ExCo Member
5. Mayor Bill Peduto of Pittsburgh, USA
6. Mayor Landing B. Sanneh of the Mansakonko Council, The Gambia, GPM Member
7. Mayor Manuel de Araújo of Quelimane, Mozambique
8. Former Mayor Ed Johnson of Asbury Park (USA), GPM Honorary Member

List of Speakers - Special guests and experts
1. Michele Klein Solomon, Regional Director for Central and North America and the Caribbean, IOM
2. Kathy Baughman McLeod, Senior Vice President and Director, Adrienne Arsht Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center

Michele Klein Solomon, Regional Director for Central and North America and the Caribbean, IOM

Climate migration is a defining feature of our times. For instance, last year, Hurricane Laura caused 2.7 million new displaced people in 14 countries of the Americas. Based on the pressure on their livelihoods, people also migrated as an adaptation strategy to the effects of climate change. Cities, receiving migrants and displaced persons, are at the forefront of these challenges. This calls for energetic and forward-looking urban planning strategies. It also requires a culture of hospitality and the transformation of public spaces for the integration of newcomers. Mayors and local leaders must raise awareness among the local host community regarding the value of incoming migrants offer, such as cultural heritage, social assets and the potential for economic prosperity.

At the same time, cities themselves are exposed to environmental hazards. Additionally, growing cities need more resources, which can be limited (e.g. water scarcity in cities like Lima and Cairo). The projections of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in the recent Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) left little space for optimism. Under these circumstances, disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation must be at the heart of city development strategies.

Lastly, Ms Solomon pushed forward a community-centred approach. Sustainable urban economies and coalitions between local authorities, markets and the public are crucial to facilitate the integration of climate migrants and reduce environmental risk. The support of the international community and funding actors should facilitate the pursuit of those objectives.

Ricardo Rio - Mayor of Braga, Portugal

The GPM's Call to Action highlights two dimensions. First, it emphasizes the importance of acting sustainably and speeding up the decarbonisation process (in terms of mobility, biodiversity, efficient use of energy etc.). Secondly, it addresses the response to climate migration. Considering geographic threats and the competition for (young) talents, the receiving cities have to see migration also as an opportunity. Most of the migrants are young people who need support and crave opportunities. That is why Braga initiated the "talent project". It is especially designed to speed up the resources for companies invested in the city. Furthermore, it helps to strengthen the resources of the wider territories. National and international institutions should realise the value of such projects and support them.

Mayor Fabrice Brad Rulinda of Entebbe, Uganda

Entebbe experienced the climate crisis in several ways. As a city situated on a peninsula, it has faced challenges with rising sea levels and their severe effect on transportation. With a growing population and limited land, it is necessary to cut down trees. However, too often, trees are cut down illegally, and only few trees are replanted. Another problem is that lakes are in danger due to illegal and harmful fishing practices. Mayor Rulinda depicted (environmental) education as the biggest challenge and opportunity.

The citizens have to understand that the environment is the basis of their livelihoods. However, climate change has to be addressed in Africa holistically. It is not a priority yet and the African countries have to understand the importance of environmental protection and that it is not reversable.

Mayor Michaël Delafosse of Montpellier, France

Cities have to tackle climate change and migration at the same time. To tackle climate change, Montpellier made decisions regarding public transportation systems and the education of citizens (topics like environmentally friendly farming). To embrace climate migration, it is crucial to help our citizens to show solidarity. In that spirit, cities have to, symbolically and financially, support organisations which protect climate migrants in the Mediterranean.

The knowledge exchange regarding practises of how to welcome migrants is paramount. How can we educate our communities to accept those migrants? How can we work with local authorities to provide linguistic services? That knowledge sharing and collaboration has to include different stakeholders, such as NGOs, civil society organisations, and scientific institutions. Ultimately, it is necessary to develop new models of inclusive cities.

Mayor Leoluca Orlando of Palermo, Italy

Climate problems affect everyone and sometimes in paradoxical, almost ironic, ways. Cities do pollute and those in the countryside have to run to the cities to survive. Europe is polluting the environment and the victims of that pollution have to go to Europe to survive. The result is a vicious circle. To break that circle, mobility needs to be reconceptualised with its different facets and relationships: climate changes and mobility, peace and mobility, security and mobility. The management of those complex relations requires mayors to leave traditional bilateral diplomacy behind and to construct new networks like the GPM. Mayor Orlando sees a new role of city diplomacy emerging.

Furthermore, Mayor Orlando stressed that migrants in Palermo receive a permanent address. Through that address, the invisible migrant becomes visible. Visibility enables them to be part of the society. While participating through citizenship and work, the migrants are also manageable for the city. Finally, migrants enrich societies through language, cultural assets and much more. Mayor Orlando also referred to a new initiative called "From the Sea to the City" which aims to save lives and to join forces to reimagine the European stance on migration with cities and human rights at the centre. The future will hold a 'trial' judging our actions in the Mediterranean. Therefore, mayors must use their freedom and power to change the minds of national leaders.

Mayor Bill Peduto of Pittsburgh, USA
Climate change and migration have to be addressed holistically. The role of mayors is to recognise the impact on the local level, like the carbon footprint through transportation and business. Within that local ecosystem, cities can have a direct impact.
In post-industrial cities like Pittsburgh, and the United States overall, we perceive a changing narrative from the negative into the positive and from challenges to possibilities. Places like the Rust Belt or the Ohio Valley see opportunities to rebuild America through tools like renewable energy. For instance, cities join hands with institutions of higher learning to create the Marshall Plan for Middle America.

The plan outlines the risk of doing nothing and losing 100,000 jobs, but also the chance to create 400,000 jobs if the plan succeeds. It incorporates the idea of a new economy based on clean energy. Areas that were based purely upon fossil fuels align with that notion. Only a shared responsibility and commitment makes it possible to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Mayor Landing B. Sanneh of the Mansakonko Council, The Gambia
The rural areas of The Gambia experience the severe impacts of climate change. Phenomena such as erratic rains affect agriculture, a sector that employs many people. Employment opportunities for young people have dropped considerably. Consequently, people migrate and leave a lack of manpower behind. Only the elderly and women are left behind and struggle to survive. That is why considering the pull and push factors is decisive. What can be offered so that people remain and find employment? To find solutions, national governments have to review policies and create an environment in which people want to and can stay in rural areas.

Mayor Manuel de Araújo of Quelimane, Mozambique
The region of Quelimane experienced extreme weather events such as cyclones (90% of Beira's infrastructure was destroyed) in the last few years. Such occurrences put a lot of pressure on interdependent resources like water, food, employment, land, housing, infrastructure, and health facilities. Covid-19 also augmented those pressures. Hence, the main questions to address are: How do you manage incoming people and how do you prepare the environment?

Mayor Araújo highlighted the GPM as a platform to find answers to those questions. He also mentioned that capacity-building programmes were put in place to help the Global South to understand the challenges of the modern world in terms of climate change.

Former Mayor Ed Johnson of Asbury Park (USA)
Former Mayor Johnson crystallised three important and interrelated aspects. (1) The first aspect is climate change education. Due to the pandemic, the human element was separated from nature. As a result of that action, the air and water got clearer and the trash on the beaches disappeared. It is important to learn from those insights.

(2) Climate migration creates a loop of negative effects. Individuals are moving to cities because they cannot make a living in agriculture. Coming into the cities, those people were put into a circle that makes it even worse (e.g. giving them jobs in the oil industry).
(3) The need of a climate-based economic transition is clear. However, it is not clear if governments are ready to push hard enough to change existing structures.
That push must not be insensitive as it is necessary to recognise the immense change for many people.

Kathy Baughman McLeod, Senior Vice President and Director, Adrienne Arsht Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center
The Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center works closely with cities to increase the resilience of 1 billion people by 2030 who are affected by climate change. Ms McLeod mentioned, for example, a partnership with the National Federation of the Red Cross around its humanitarian service points programme. Migrants are more vulnerable because of precarious living conditions and a lack of basic resources. In dense urban areas, they are especially impacted by extreme heat. Heat waves can be deadly, especially for people living in informal settlements. In fact, heat is killing more people around the world than any other climate related hazard. That is why the Center launched an extreme heat resilience alliance with over 40 public and private organisations.
In collaboration with the partner institutions, the first world chief heat officers were appointed. Mayors supported by chief heat officers are seen to be best positioned to take effective action. Funding by the international community and governments at all levels will be essential to ensure that these efforts will be successful.

3.2.3. Reflections
Michele Klein Solomon, Regional Director for Central and North America and the Caribbean, IOM
Ms Solomon summarised three essential aspects. (1) The call to action on environmental migration at the local level has to be reinforced. To do so, mayors at the frontline must have a voice and provoke action. (2) There is much that can be done by cities to achieve sustainability and to reduce pressures on cities. Insofar, the strategic focus must be about opportunities and not challenges. It is necessary to understand the human richness (artistic, workforce, etc.) as an asset. (3) There are particular key points of action. First, the need to provide evidence-based research and to educate citizens. Secondly, the implementation of concrete knowledge-sharing mechanisms and mutual collaboration (including capacity building). Thirdly, it is crucial to realise the importance and the potential of diplomacy, solidarity and responsibility.

Mayor Leoluca Orlando of Palermo, Italy
Mayor Orlando stated that decision makers are very emphatic about migration, but that they don't fully grasp the richness of the term mobility. Migration is not solely a movement of people because of conflict and chaos. It is also shaped by mobility with its expertise and knowledge.

Mayor Peter Kurz of Mannheim, Germany
We heard African Mayors who asked for more cooperation to address the urgent needs of the cities. Most migrants and climate refugees won't make it to Mannheim or to Pittsburgh, rather to Beira and Freetown. That is why the City of Mannheim is helping the City of Kilis in Turkey, a city that doubled its size because of the arrival of Syrian refugees. At first sight, those refugees seem to flee from civil war. Having a closer look, it is clear that many people came from informal settlements around Damascus and were part of a rural exodus. In some respect, the Syrian refugees are also climate refugees. Mannheim helps Kilis to cope with the situation. Such initiatives must be implemented on a larger scale.

Moderator Ivo Daalder, President of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs
The overall aim must be a world where migration is a choice and that people move because they want to, not because they have to. If they move, cities have to make them visible. Several questions must be addressed. What can be done more to address national governments and ensure that migrants are contributing elements to the society? How do cities act to enhance not only the rights and prosperity of their own citizens, but also of other citizens around the globe? How do cities in the Global North and Global South help each other to achieve their goals? How do cities in the Global North represent useful resources for the Global South? Ultimately, the question is how to organise the solidarity between the Global North and South.

3.3. Urban Pandemic Response: Global Vaccination
Focusing on global health vaccine distribution, this session explored urban health policies regarding accessibility and affordability of Covid-19 vaccines. The Global Parliament of Mayors believes cities have a powerful role to play in making vaccines and other public health interventions – in particular those which aim to foster broader health and socioeconomic well-being – inclusive, equitable, and rooted in the needs of their communities.

3.3.1. Framing Dossier of the Debate
Overview
The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role that cities play in protecting public health, not just of their citizens, but of national and global populations. Every city is unique, but their resilience to pandemics and other health threats depends on a well-prepared healthcare system. In this age of pandemics, public health institutions must be designed, managed, and equipped to address urbanization in the twenty-first century.

Cities are on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic, and mayors are working tirelessly to protect their populations. Urban residents are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 due to a number of factors including crowded living conditions, reliance upon public transport, economic participation, types of employment, and exposure to national and international travel. In cities, there are significant disparities in access to health services,

risk communication, and community engagement that result in unequal health and economic outcomes

To best protect their populations, city leaders must promote equitable access to vaccines once available. While vaccination is important, the efficacy of other proactive measures should not be discounted, and those must also be driven by an equitable approach. The virus and lockdown measures have disproportionately affected those who were already vulnerable, particularly people with existing health conditions, poorer communities, and those with precarious employment or living conditions. These risks and vulnerabilities should be reflected in local policies for health protection and promotion. Vulnerable groups should be placed at the heart of plans for pandemic response and recovery, and mayors are uniquely positioned to lead these efforts.

The GPM believes that cities have a vital role in making vaccines and other public health interventions inclusive, equitable, and rooted in the needs of their communities.

Policy Brief
While cities often cannot negotiate their own vaccine access agreements, they can support national efforts with efficient and equitable vaccine delivery. Cities must ensure that vaccine distribution prioritizes the most vulnerable, including health workers and sociodemographic groups at higher risk of disease or death. Their voices and platforms are crucial for advocating at national and international levels to ensure the equitable vaccine distribution in countries that are under-resourced. Moreover, city networks play an important role in sharing experiences, providing technical support, and communicating local needs to the global community, through vaccine equity statements, grants and technical assistance, and network commitments.

Public health measures - such as wearing masks, practicing physical distancing, and adequate indoor ventilation - are extremely effective at protecting people in the absence of or in conjunction with vaccines. Some local authorities may use their legislative powers to introduce and enforce such public health measures. Cities can also support one another by sharing success stories and lessons learned to encourage the adoption of good practices between peers.

Local government officials are often trusted more than officials at higher levels of government. Mayors are thus well-positioned to address misinformation, as well as the global 'infodemic' of damaging vaccine myths. In a pandemic, accurate information saves lives. It is especially important to understand if there are specific population groups that are negatively affected by COVID-19 myths and are discouraged from receiving their vaccine. Community engagement should also be a priority in the pandemic response. City leaders and health officials must listen to their communities to understand and address fears around vaccination and other concerns about following COVID-19 advice.

Finally, city leaders must ensure that the influence of social determinants on health is reflected in pandemic response strategies. Inadequate housing, lack of water and

sanitation, food insecurity, economic instability, and the inability to produce medical records all undermine people's opportunities for better health. Poorer communities have already been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, from both health and socioeconomic perspectives. The impact of entrenched social inequalities undermines the success of public health programs.

In the absence of a vaccine, recognizing and addressing some of these social determinants of health will strengthen citizens' protection against COVID-19. It will also contribute to a stronger recovery from the environmental, economic and social consequences of the pandemic, and foster resilience against future threats.
The pandemic has underscored the importance of cities in responding to national and global public health challenges. At the same time, it has also highlighted opportunities to build back better at the local level, ensuring that citizens remain at the heart of urban design and decision-making. The GPM will continue to prioritize equitable urban health planning for pandemic preparedness and response.

Recommended Local, National and International Policy Actions
The GPM is well equipped to advance, coordinate, and scale up the collective action of mayors and local leaders. Recommended policy actions, which target the international community, national governments, local leaders and communities, include:

- <u>Prioritizing the most vulnerable resident</u>s, for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and improving their access to other health-related services;
- <u>Tackling the spread of misinformation</u> on COVID-19 and vaccination, especially through community engagement to understand and address the fears and concerns of residents;
- <u>Strengthening mechanisms for knowledge-sharing</u> between cities, including experiences, lessons learned, and successful strategies for COVID-19 prevention, management, and vaccination;
- <u>Calling on national government</u>s to enhance vaccine access and provide subnational funding for urban health initiatives focusing on urban health preparedness, response, and resilience;
- <u>Calling on international organizations</u> to provide financial and technical assistance for urban pandemic preparedness and response, and to address other social determinants that affect public health and wellbeing.

Authors Position Paper Urban Pandemic Response: Dr. Nathalie Laure Roebbel, Head, Urban Health, Social Determinants of Health and Susannah Robinson, Technical Officer, World Health Organization; Dr. Rebecca Katz, Director, and Matthew Boyce, Senior Researcher, Georgetown Center for Global Health Science and Security.

3.3.2. Speakers
List of Speaker – Mayors:
1. Mayor Solomon Mguni of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
2. Mayor Geoffrey Ngiriker of Nebbi, Uganda, GPM member

3. Mayor Hubert Bruls of Nijmegen, The Netherlands, Chairman of the Dutch Security Council, GPM member
4. Mayor Baikuntha Neupane of Vyas, Nepal - GPM ExCo Member
5. Councillor Zahid Badroodien of Cape Town, South Africa, GPM member
6. Deputy Mayor Fleur Hassan-Nahoum of Jerusalem, Israel
7. Deputy Mayor Elodie Brun-Mandonof Montpellier, France
8. Mayor Peter Kurz of Mannheim, Germany, GPM Chair
9. Mayor Leoluca Orlando of Palermo, Italy, GPM ExCo Member
10. Mayor Angele Meyanga of Afanloum, Cameroon, represented by Mr Daniel Bial, GPM Member

List of Speakers – Special guests and experts
1. H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, 24th President of Liberia, Nobel Peace Prize 2011
2. Dr Graham Alabaster, Head of UN-Habitat Office, Geneva, former UN-Habitat liaison with WHO
3. Dr Nathalie Laure Roebbel, Head, Urban Health, Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization
4. Matt Boyce, Senior Research Associate, Center for Global Health Science and Security, Georgetown University, USA.

Dr Graham Alabaster, Head of UN-Habitat Office, Geneva, former UN-Habitat liaison with WHO
The diverse factors influencing urbanisation patterns is one of the biggest challenges cities face. In designing health interventions, one-size-fits-all does not work. It is also not only large cities that have low-income contexts and vulnerable communities. Climate and conflict are exacerbating natural trends of urbanisation by putting excessive pressure on infrastructure services.

The numbers of urban centres are growing. Especially the smaller urban centres are expanding rapidly. Keeping up the services with such expansion rates is almost not possible. Furthermore, many of the cities of the near future have yet to be built. Hence, there are great opportunities to influence the ways urbanisation will be formed. That will happen in a fast-changing world in which increased interactions at the human-animal-environmental interface will be more important.

The impacts of the current pandemic have been governed by: overcrowding (e.g. housing, access to services) and not density; comorbidities (in the Global South this means communicable diseases. In the Global North this is mainly non-communicable disease); treatment-seeking behaviour; demographics (age profile, mobility); cities' ability to respond (triage, isolating the vulnerable); socio-economic situation of the most vulnerable (slums in the Global South, migrant communities in global north).

The performance of city governments in managing the pandemic is critical in support of national governments plans. In that sense, many of the interventions need local-level data, which are only available at a city level.

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He concluded that:
- New approaches to understanding the urban landscape are available and at low cost. These tools can assist local-level data collection and decision making.
- Many of the new urban areas are yet to be built. The design of urban space is critical in light of rapid unplanned urbanisation. Efficient urban planning needs "density" to reduce infrastructure costs, but must make provision for open space.
- Improved urban design (housing and infrastructure) and access to services can help prevent disease and also strengthen the resilience to disease outbreaks. This must be led by mayors and city leaders.
- Multi-sectoral approaches to the prevention and management of diseases will mean that, increasingly, those outside the "formal" health sector will play an important role. Local level is where multi-sectorality comes alive.
- New partnerships with financing institutions and, in particular, development banks must include components for environmental management of diseases in major infrastructure projects.

Dr Nathalie Laure Roebbel, Head, Urban Health, Social Determinants of Health, WHO

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role that cities have been playing in protecting health, not only for their own citizens, but also for national and global populations. Based on different factors, urban residents are particularly vulnerable to Covid-19. Cities also have diverse population groups (e.g. migrants and people in informal settlements) with significant disparities in access to health services. That risk also extends to matters of communication and community engagement. The best protection for a population is that city leaders enable equitable access to vaccines, when available. That is important because city leaders are the ones that know the vulnerable communities best. Hence, city leaders must use their knowledge and voice to advocate their position not only on the national, but also international level.

That presence is particularly important because local government officials are often more trusted than officials at higher levels of government. While vaccination is essential, the value of other Covid-19 control measures should not be discounted. Resilience in the field of health depends on having a well prepared healthcare system, but also requires that cities have a strategic plan, management and coordination in place to address urbanisation. Public health measures to reduce Covid-19 transmission have proven to be extremely effective in protecting people's health in absence or in conjunction with the vaccine. These actions have to go hand in hand with a large range of urban policies that address the broad social development of the local level.

Dr Roebbel concluded with practical recommendations for local leaders.

(1) It is crucial to prioritise the most vulnerable populations within a city (for receiving vaccines but also in supporting access to other related health services). (2) The spread of (mis-)information on Covid-19 and vaccination must be actively managed. That management has to rely on strong community engagement. (3) It is necessary to strengthen mechanisms of knowledge sharing between cities including experiences on

good practices for Covid-19 prevention, management, and vaccination. (4) Local governments must call upon national governments to provide vaccination access and subnational funding (focused on initiatives on urban health preparedness, response and resilience). (5) Similarly, it is paramount to urge international organisations to provide financial and technical support.

Mayor Solomon Mguni of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
There was not a single city with sufficient budget to fight the pandemic. At the same time, the pandemic affected the businesses and the sources of revenue and the taxes that were collected. However, cities still needed to procure effective equipment. Without the private sector and NGOs, who helped to procure equipment and vaccines, Zimbabwe could not have coped with the rising numbers of infected people. The main challenge still remains, which is the decentralisation of the vaccine procurement. So far, cities play just a minimal role in administering those vaccines.

Mayor Geoffrey Ngiriker of Nebbi, Uganda
Covid-19 provided a lot of insights to prepare for the future. Thanks to the government of Uganda, the pandemic was controlled. Mayors have to mobilise communities wherever they can to get people vaccinated.
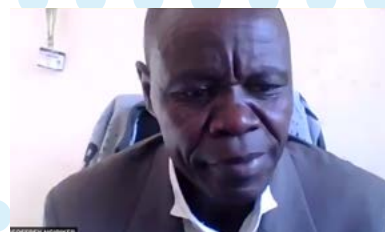
Mr Daniel Bial, Cabinet Director on behalf of the Mayor of Afanloum, Cameroon
The general population was reluctant to get vaccinated. However, local authorities are constantly raising awareness and pushing the vaccination agenda. That is mainly done by illustrating the benefits of vaccines. Thanks to the central government, local communities were empowered to cope with the emergency. The City of Afanloum is confident that the efforts will be rewarded.

Mayor Hubert Bruls of Nijmegen, The Netherlands
The vaccination strategy in a small country like the Netherlands is not an urban, but rather national vaccination strategy. Instead of setting new urban health challenges, it was for local governments more about prioritising the challenges and shifting the focus towards aspects like healthy lifestyle and mental health. It is not about focusing purely on health issues, it is about considering the strong correlations between the social, economic and health (psychological) aspects, especially in poorer parts of society.

Mayor Baikuntha Nath Neupane of Vyas, Nepal
Vyas, with a population of around 90,000 people, mainly followed the guidelines of Nepal's government, including lockdowns and health protocols. Independent government lockdowns and restrictions were also applied in accordance to the specific situations in the municipality. Right from the beginning, the strategic plans focussed on prevention. Over the course of the pandemic the focus switched towards vaccination (e.g. isolation centres were implemented). However, it was not possible to provide PCR tests from the beginning to local citizens on time. Because the government was not fully equipped, local authorities were forced to buy expensive services from private

hospitals. Mayor Neupane concluded with best-practice examples: establishment of one PCR test-centre; provision of self-tests to citizens; designated Covid-19 beds in hospitals; integration of ambulance services; medical presence in each ward; distribution of relief material to families in need; and intense communication with stakeholders to revive the economy, especially targeting farmers and the poor.

Councillor Zahid Badroodien of Cape Town, South Africa
The City of Cape Town has about 4.4 million residents, with 16.3 percent living under the poverty line. Many people face diseases, such as HIV. Covid-19 especially highlighted the need to utilise effective data to guide and inform our approach.
Only in that way it is possible to coordinate and measure initiatives across communities (especially with informal populations). That is why the City of Cape Town developed the 'vulnerability viewer', a dashboard helping to identify socially vulnerable areas.
The 'vulnerability viewer' is an effective approach for localising information on the ground (e.g. in Covid-19 cases or law enforcement in terms of humanitarian relief).

Deputy Mayor Fleur Hassan-Nahoum of Jerusalem, Israel
Jerusalem has a very diverse population, with the majority being from the ultra-orthodox Jewish or the Arab community. During the pandemic, these two communities were particularly vulnerable. That is because both communities enjoy very large families and live in smaller and more crowded households. Furthermore, the pandemic made them struggle with their traditional lifestyle.
The most important lesson learned was to build bridges and to work with the local spiritual leadership. (1) It was possible to create a consensus among the spiritual leaderships of these communities and thereby find a way to penetrate the communities in terms of knowledge sharing and encouraging vaccination. (2) Additionally, volunteer task forces within and across both communities were created. As a result, an army of volunteers helped the vulnerable. (3) Another measure was the creation of specific public relations campaigns to share knowledge in culturally sensitive ways. (4) Finally, Corona hotels were established to prevent infections within large families. Covid-19, as the first common enemy, helped to bring those communities much closer to each other. The relationship to and between the communities is now better than before the pandemic. Those bridges help now in various ways.

Deputy Mayor Elodie Brun-Mandon of Montpellier, France
In response to Covid-19, the local government continued to work in a dedicated room of the municipality. To work inside of the municipality was a conscious decision because it was a sign that the mayor and his team protect the citizens and provide necessary services. Residents understood this and felt that somebody was helping. The local government also worked in disadvantaged areas to distribute vaccines directly.

Matt Boyce, Senior Research Associate, Center for Global Health Science & Security, Georgetown University
Matt Boyce asked the mayors to discuss the role they can and have played in addressing the infodemic – both as it relates to vaccine hesitancy (which was a focus of the Durban Declaration in 2019), but also the pandemic response more broadly.

Mayor Peter Kurz of Mannheim, Germany
The City of Mannheim used the local expertise of medical doctors from different communities. Video clips with recognisable doctors were made and they explained how the vaccines work. The idea was to use trusted community leaders as ambassadors.

Mayor Leoluca Orlando of Palermo, Italy
It is a question of how to build trust. Trust is built upon a shared and common language. That is why the City of Palermo relied on local expertise and on civil society with associations like the Caritas. Mayor Orlando also emphasised his effort of being constantly present and consistent in the communication process.

Mayor Hubert Bruls of Nijmegen, The Netherlands
The most trusted people in the Netherlands are not the politicians or the journalists. In fact, the medical people themselves are trusted and it was very effective to position them in the media. Especially those who knew how to present themselves on social media.

3.3.3. Reflections
Dr Nathalie Laure Roebbel, Head, Urban Health, Social Determinants of Health, WHO
Dr Roebbel summarised several points in her reflection: (1) the aspect of preparedness has to be further strengthened at the local level. (2) The need for collaboration on various levels has to be emphasised. This includes national and local governments, community engagement, the private sector, and collaboration between cities. (3) The role of communicating information and raising awareness is crucial. (4) Information and data is indispensable and must be available. Innovative approaches to provide data already exist. (5) The link to Covid-19 has shown the connection to the broader social determinants of health. Hence, it is necessary to consider broader urban issues of health. An investment in health is a key investment in development.

3.4. Re-Imagining Urban Environments
This session of the Summit developed a compelling narrative that highlights the necessary steps to be taken by cities in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. Mayors discussed the need for new mobilizing projects, including the use of arts and culture, festivals, as well as developing an environment for digital events in the post-pandemic era. With lessons learnt from the pandemic with regards to inequalities, the reconfiguration of public spaces is needed. These efforts should be shaped through participatory processes.

3.4.1. Framing Dossier of the Debate
Overview
International, national, and local leaders, as well as organizations, cities, and nations are discovering that culture is of substantial importance. Culture generates a stable sense of belonging and also a dynamic platform for change. There is a vast but under-acknowledged bank of evidence speaking to culture's power and potential, including a

literature review by the WHO of 3,000 studies, an evidence base created by the European Union, as well as hundreds of studies in specific cities. Culture matters, in other words, for the economic and social recovery of our cities.

Policy Brief

Culture is a necessary and renewable resource, the fourth pillar of sustainable development. It is often, however, overlooked. The obstacle, in part, has been the word itself. Culture means two opposite things. One meaning is a heritage of shared beliefs, practices, and places, something to be protected rather than tampered with. This is the sense used by most decision makers who are trained in the social sciences, which privilege patterns over disruptions. The other sense is dynamic and familiar to artists and humanists who disrupt patterns and generate new relationships. One understanding is fixed, making culture either an obstacle to development or a fringe area for decoration and leisure, vulnerable to budget cuts. The other is edgy, experimental, and jealous of personal freedom. This difference in meaning causes a blind spot for both mayors and creatives who see past one another when collaborations are urgently needed to adjust outdated attitudes and behaviors that currently block development toward the SDGs. Today, in a post-pandemic world, we have an extraordinary opportunity to bring these visions together into bifocal projects. Shared beliefs and practices need to be refreshed and updated, as mayors know; and artistic interventions need to take stock of their practical effects, beyond personal satisfaction. Otherwise, we waste the creative resources that make us human. Collaborations will make us better citizens who foster security, physical and mental health, economic equity, and care in both senses of loving and taking responsibility for society. In sum, the power of art can energize cities across all dimensions.

When the general population is engaged in collective and creative activities, it builds human and social capital, new personal skills, and admiration for fellow citizens. A few examples among many highlight the potential. In 1995, newly elected Mayor Antanas Mockus of Bogota, Colombia, intentionally provoked his city, driven by despair, violence, and corruption. "Time to bring out the clowns," he said, adding that it's a "good idea." Twenty pantomime artists replaced twenty corrupt traffic police to shame irresponsible pedestrians and drivers. The shared laughter broke an apparently solid pattern of lawlessness. In the first year, there were 51% fewer traffic deaths. Many participatory arts initiatives followed, along with tax reform, transparency, and infrastructural development. But art was the icebreaker. Within two administrations, homicides were reduced by almost 70%, while tax revenues increased by 300%. This was "cultural acupuncture," an approach developed from Jaime Lerner's "urban acupuncture" for Curitiba, Brazil. Mayor Mockus added participatory art making and accomplished astounding results. Edi Rama became World Mayor of the Year in 2004, mostly for painting the grey city of Tirana in bright colours. It did not solve all of the city's entrenched problems, but art did act as a catalyst to rediscover a pride of place and greater respect among citizens. An artist himself, Rama saw colour as more than decoration. It is a structural element to revive the civic spirit. "Beauty was acting like our guardsman...where municipal police, or the state itself, were missing." This was his

winning message in a campaign to become prime minister of Albania. Over the last few years, Tirana has made astonishing progress in its urban development, creating an urban forest belt of 2 million trees around the city core, where children can plant a tree on their birthday. In 56 months, the city created 56 playgrounds in dilapidated parts of the city that act as gathering places and social connection points for all ages. Another example is found in Caracas, Venezuela. Broad-based music education has proved to be a problem solver ever since *El Sistema* was established in Caracas over 50 years ago.

By now, almost five million young people in Venezuela have benefitted from classical music training. It won't make them all professional musicians, but it does teach discipline, focus, collaboration, and dedication to beauty. Music making, crucially, keeps vulnerable youth off dangerous streets. Many international projects have imitated this program with notable success. Much of Mayor Peter Kurz's long-term work in the City of Mannheim, Germany, has involved using the arts to foster intercultural understanding and to regenerate troubled neighborhoods such as Jungbusch. In Mannheim, immigrants make up half of the population and former industries are giving way to new business models, often focused on the creative economy. Mayor Kurz supports the School for Oriental Music, a unique initiative that a Turkish musician initiated to gather disaffected youth for rigorous, time-consuming and community-building music lessons. This is one of many orchestrated 'cultural acupuncture' initiatives through which Mannheim addresses security and education by stimulating creative activities that foster diversity and belonging.

As part of a mayor's toolbox, participatory arts can play a significant role in addressing the global challenges of the SDGs. "Had I understood the power of arts to change behavior and to drive prosperity," observed Jose Molinas of Paraguay, "I would have made very different decisions as Minister of Development."

Recommended Local, National, and International Policy Actions
The GPM is well equipped to give a unified voice to this cause, and more significantly, to coordinate, and scale up the collective action of mayors and local leaders. Recommended policy actions that target the international community, national governments, local leaders, and communities include:

• Establish transversal Committees of Arts advisors, represented in city government cabinets. Advisors can craft calls for proposals and evaluate cost-effective participatory interventions in the range of municipal challenges.
• Budget for sustained investment in participatory arts.
• Collaborate with local universities to harness the creativity of humanists and the technical expertise of engineers, entrepreneurs, and social scientists to craft "Cases for Culture," a hybrid study of artistic interventions that document outcomes to guide investments.
• Establish project-based education programs in public schools, public libraries, museums, theaters, and music institutions. Citizens who are raised to think beyond what exists and to collaborate will contribute to cities that experience constant dynamics of change.

- Issue a "Culture Passport" to children and adults who can accumulate stamps from participatory artistic activities and achieve recognition as Cultural Citizens. A modest material stimulus could be a bus pass, a celebratory collective lunch at City Hall, or a tax break.
- Support the UCLG's #Culture2030goal to advocate an overall understanding that culture is the fourth pillar of sustainability, for the reasons mentioned in this policy brief.

Authors Position Paper Culture: Doris Sommer, Director of the Cultural Agents Initiative, Ira and Jewell Williams Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures and of African and African American Studies, Harvard University; Charles Landry, Member Advisory Committee GPM.

3.4.2. Speakers
Speakers - Mayors
1. Mayor Leoluca Orlando of Palermo, Italy, ExCo Member GPM
2. Deputy Mayor Annekatrin Klepsch of Dresden, Germany
3. Mayor Erion Veliaj of Tirana, Albania
4. Mayor Michaël Delafosse of Montpellier, France, GPM Member
5. Deputy Mayor Gonzalo Olabarria Villota of Bilbao, Spain

Speakers - Experts
1. Professor Doris Sommer, Director of the Cultural Agents Initiative at Harvard University.
2. Dr Ege Yildirim, urban planner and heritage conservation, ICOMOS, OurWorldHeritage

Professor Doris Sommer, director of the Cultural Agents Initiative at Harvard University
Professor Sommer introduced her project, 'RENAISSANCE NOW'. The project is based on the idea to learn from the Italian renaissance that risk-taking is necessary now.
"Who would have taken the risk on a young architect at the beginning of the Italian Renaissance? Only the Medici. Taking that artistic risk meant that the Medici family grew in its political and economic influence." It is necessary to take educational and creative risks. Cultural work is shaped by trial and error. If one project does not work, another project will be initiated. Similarly, entrepreneurs know that 9 of 10 businesses will probably fail. That attitude is needed in art, in which art is a process, not a product. The work of art is the result of art, not the 'thing' itself, rather the activity. Because it is an activity, many people can engage with it. It is a human condition and everyone can do art. Every human being has imagination and that is the quality that can multiply our resources. This is the consciousness of the Renaissance that can be revived today. What is needed is collaboration between people who can multiply their resources and people who can measure the effects to engage more decision makers. Lastly, Professor Sommer concluded with concrete recommendations: (1) It is necessary to engage artists in the mayor's cabinet. They are able to use their networks and to outsource problems.

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(2) A modest but sustainable budget for art is crucial. Art must be understood as a vehicle of change, not an extra. (3) Executive programmes are necessary to engage decision makers in thinking like an artist. Decision makers are often trained as social scientists, who understand that culture recreates and sustains itself in bonding with structures. But decision makers might also see art as disruptive and new – so that social capital can be generated through bonding and bridging. To do real integrating work in a multicultural city is to have participatory arts as a structural component of the city.

Mayor Leoluca Orlando of Palermo, Italy
Mayor Orlando explained that understanding the concept of culture is crucial: it means knowing oneself, not the other. Through that knowledge identities are built. In 2018, Palermo was the Italian capital of culture and hosted 'Manifesta 12'. Because art is by definition movable and rejects common places, Palermo placed contemporary art not in museums, but in various places in the city. It was a way to regenerate the identity of the city and to help people understand how art cannot be enclosed in a narrow space.

Mayor Orlando also highlighted that Palermo introduced a new way of marketing, creating a narrative that everyone is an artist. Everyone can be provocative and cause change. The pandemic has forced societies to use that kind of new language. At the same time, Palermo embraced digital solutions and promoted arts through digital technology (e.g. Teatro Massimo). In a sense, the pandemic deliberated the thinking from closed spaces. His message is clear: "we don't want to be like the monks who fought against the printing machine and we cannot ignore the possibilities of the new languages available."

Deputy Mayor Gonzalo Olabarria Villota of Bilbao, Spain
Culture has an enormous power for change. In order to empower citizens, two aspects are fundamental. First, citizens with a critical approach towards their leaders are needed. Secondly, culture strengthens the sense of belonging to the city, the state or the region. It is possible to provide citizens with the instruments to be more demanding and ready to take on future included in all public policies. Bilbao experienced such a reinvention through culture and arts in the past when it was hit by a financial crisis ("Guggenheim effect"). The City of Bilbao knows first-hand that culture is an engine of social regeneration. Strengthening culture is at the heart of many SDGs, referring to democratic citizens, sustainable cities and appropriate environmental policies.

Deputy Mayor Annekatrin Klepsch of Dresden, Germany
It is necessary to differentiate the cultural government institutions and the situation of the free artists. Hence, several questions must be answered: What is the role of culture for the people of Dresden and what helps the artists in this situation? Deputy Mayor Klepsch offered concrete examples: digital projects, grants to free artists, projects like 'stay at home and be creative', delivery services with books, and 1-1 concerts with one musician and one listener. The basic idea was to bring culture to homes and to give visibility to the artists. In the cultural institutions themselves, the production of culture and how to reach old and new audiences had to be discussed. Therefore, the City of Dresden had a lot of insightful experiences within the digital revolution.

Mayor Erion Veliaj of Tirana, Albania

The first thing Tirana did in the pandemic was to triple the cultural budget. In every neighbourhood, the internal plazas were used for events so that people could join from their balconies. The private sector also joined hands to support such events. The budget decision was mainly based on the following reasons: artists are humans and need a paycheck; the citizens need culture as part of their life; and the city wanted to fight against mental health issues. Once the culture went to the people, they started to want more of it. Every crisis is an opportunity and Tirana wanted to take that chance. Lastly, the City of Tirana also integrated artists as advisors into decision-making bodies who can help connect communities.

Mayor Michaël Delafosse of Montpellier, France

Culture is an essential part of our humanity. That is why cities have to protect their artists. We see the tremendous losses in Afghanistan where artists are persecuted. Hence, it is necessary to provide the financial needs, support and meaningful opportunities. The City of Montpellier also recognised that artists need to get closer to the people through digital means. They must be able to use public places and become local leaders in all neighbourhoods. As mayors, we have to convey the message that cities are a source of inspiration and only through utilising that inspiration can we speak about the heritage of tomorrow.

3.4.3. Reflections

Dr Ege Yildirim, urban planner and heritage conservation, ICOMOS, OurWorldHeritage

Going through multiple crises also provides multiple opportunities. Culture is probably the biggest opportunity. During or after the pandemic the budgets for culture will increase. The question has to be raised: why didn't that happen before? Visionary leadership of mayors who understand the holistic picture and who are excited about the potential is needed. As local governments are realising what resources the arts can offer (heritage, bridges bonding, cohesion, equity, resilience etc.) the powerful instrument of culture is spreading. Utilising that opportunity, we will make cities stronger than before the crisis.

Professor Doris Sommer, director of the Cultural Agents Initiative at Harvard University

The discussion illustrated an overwhelming agreement regarding the power of art and culture. Now it is necessary to expand and multiply the group of like-minded people. It is necessary to integrate all citizens as responsible artists capable of being creative. The necessity of being creative collectively obliges us to act and engage more allies to understand the power of arts. Otherwise, we will be complicit in the reproduction of environments and cultures we are opposed to (characterised as exclusive, hierarchical zero-sum-games). Arts can address all these issues.

3.5. Resetting our Local Economies

In this session, the discussion explored the resetting of our local economies. It investigated how the pandemic has affected the global economy by mandating a revitalization of more local/localized forms of economic prosperity. Following this line of thought, the session juxtaposed universal services and further addressed the short supply chains and circularity orientation regarding basic needs. It explored a new basis for post-Covid redevelopment and social inclusion; development of local enterprises at the neighbourhood level; and rooting for local public service partners.

3.5.1. Framing Dossier of the Debate

Overview

An urban economy has always been dependent on interaction with its surroundings. It offers a marketplace of exchange and concentrates production and surplus-value from the hinterland. Cities are also sites of collective consumption. That concentration of means allows for a labor market, infrastructures and logistics, services, and administrations of a bigger size than the sole carrying capacity of the city's population. That central function for a wider environment is essential for urban dynamics. Relocalizing the urban economy must be part of the post-COVID agenda.

The hinterland of most cities is confined to its immediate (rural) periphery. That interaction with the city center extends to where the next city becomes more effective. In that way, space is organized in more or less extended urban territories, determining the core of the city's economic reach and installing a certain hierarchy between cities. That "space of places" is complemented with a "space of flows," of inter-urban networking, where cities become nodes of distant interaction. Certain cities in greater networks work to structure these flows. In that way, the expansion of markets, from national to continental to worldwide, has positioned some cities as continental or global cities.

This international component of the local economy is very competitive. Its quality is an attractor for multinational companies and services. The globalization process of the last half century, creating a worldwide division of labor and thus radically restructuring the labor market, has increased the space of flows over the space of spaces and created a worldwide competition to attract investments and uphold positions in certain global networks, be it financial, logistical, political, industrial, or services. Cities have invested in restructuring their economies to adapt to the process of globalization, be it - in the global north - to adapt to deindustrialization and transition to a service-based economy, and - in the global south - to participate in the growth models related to industrialization, global production chains, and cheap labor. We have seen a rebalancing in the global urban structure, with growing and shrinking cities, relocation of activities, migration patterns, and changing relations with cities' hinterlands. The interdependence of these processes is considerable.

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The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the face of the world. After four decades of global economic integration and attempts for supernational modes of regulation, governments suddenly looked for ways to reassert domestic control. The global pandemic has not been managed by global governance. Indeed, the persistent inequality between continents has been highlighted. Health policies have been "nationalized," all while cities and local governments received limited resources to manage a crisis that was unevenly distributed and concentrated in the most densely populated areas.

At the economic level, the most striking feature was the uneven access to resources and the incapacity of the world market to provide for needs in the right place and time. Medical resources, like masks and vaccines, and medical providers, like hospitals and specialized doctors, did not reflect global economies, but rather local means and resources. The confinement of populations also led to a new thinking on localizing basic needs, provisions, and production capacities. This agenda has only been strengthened by ecological challenges and the climate crisis. These problems, and their related policy solutions, have helped reorient economies around shortened production and distribution chains, and the use of local resources, re-use, and recycling. The restrictions during the crisis have also increased the attention to what is deemed "essential" versus "luxury," what had to be maintained and safeguarded and what was at risk, and what would be the focus of recovery plans. A new attention was drawn on a "local economy," relatively autonomous from global competition. But what can we truly do with our own means? What is the realm of local agency?

Two shifts can be seen within the field of urban economic analysis. On the one hand, there is the insight that only a part of the urban economy is involved in continental or global competition. Our hospitals or schools are not directly "competing" with hospitals and schools worldwide. Our butchers and bakers might be competing with global value chains in their respective sectors, but are mainly confronted with local purchasing power. Research indicates that in most cities surplus value production in reproducing and servicing local daily lives accounted for almost half or more of local GDP. Growth models should concentrate more on that segment.

What are the basic needs of our population and how do we build a sustainable economic model to match them? In fact, the "foundational economy" research turns this question upside down. Instead of asking how the city's economy and its population can adapt to a competitive global market, the question becomes how the economy and the market can serve local needs and development. The "foundational economy" is not only concerned with governance and ways of functioning, it also seeks to match existing local resources and talents with local needs and incorporate that "matching" and development model with a vision for the future. It therefore requires documentation of ecosystemic services (resources) in the metropolitan area, and how that relates to economic entrepreneurial capacities and specific social needs. Of course, it focuses on the essentials not under threat of being delocalized: basic education, local health services, housing, clean air and water supply, good food, and culture. However, it must incorporate cultural and social

knowledge to complement the dominance of technology and engineering with sociocultural planning. With approximately half of the economy operating in this foundational capacity, this sector can more easily be used in spillovers to the rest of the economy than external competition with other cities, which in most cases are "captured" or escape local regulation for supralocal functions.

The new urban economy must be rightly "placed" in the city. Most cities are looking for the right combination between the "productive city," the "consumption city," and the "livable city." Major industries have left city centers, all while modern urban planning remains based on "zoning" and concentrating productive activities in specified industrial areas. This, coupled with deindustrialization causing unemployment mainly among unskilled labor, has complicated the transition to tertiary economies and increased the tension between productive activities and urban living conditions.

With a return to economic production and reproduction in local contexts, a new emphasis on integral urban planning has arisen, making a clear view on the local urban ecosystem necessary. Such an approach supersedes the classic divide between urban and rural, as a new symbiotic relationship and contract can be made. Sustainable planning needs a clear-cut analysis of spatial and territorial characteristics and opportunities. Mapping the economic activities within a territorial urban development plan allows for locating the foundational economies near residential zones, just as local economic activities require the mobility of commuters and goods and local urban planning.

The new urban economy must be carried by a development coalition. The dynamics of the global economy have delocalized various economic actors. Multinational companies, financialization, and virtual platforms are in search of places, producers, and customers without necessarily being integrated in local economic circuits. They are sometimes closer to an extractive economy than of a development model. A local economic policy needs to integrate entrepreneurial energy in synergy with other urban development plans and ambitions: movement of goods, healthy food, strong education, clean air, inclusive health policies, energy-friendly housing, and a focus on closing social opportunity gaps.

The market economy remains the main engine in producing wealth and capital accumulation. This private-driven activity is an important part of the urban economy, especially in distribution, service, and the commercial sectors. Yet public services and public investment are another important agent in the urban economy. Furthermore, cities provide for the important sector of informal and voluntary activities vital to the living conditions (and sometimes, survival) of large parts of the population. Urban economic policies would benefit from a better coordination of these three important actors: private industry, the public sector, and civil society. They should become partners in a development coalition situated in a mixed economy as driving forces in multiscalar and multipolar development plans.

These different economic sectors and dynamics need to be integrated in an urban development model, but an important part of them is to escape local governance. Economic and financial activities often exceed the reach of local and even national governance. At the same time, cities need to attract such activities. Even if they do not fall under local competences, and are governed by national regulations and international conditions, good urban governance must seek to have a contractual understanding with industry so that their influences do not contradict urban development planning. Sometimes the relationship is not without tension in employment, working conditions, pollution, taxation, or redistribution. The success of a good combination of local foundational economies with the overall economic market will depend on a strong democratic base to support a transparent local development model. This includes a lively and energetic local sector oriented towards local resources, reuse, and circularity, and the fulfilment of basic needs of the population. Local procurement competencies can be developed and used rather than relying on big global players. Several "foundational economies" in cities with similar visions can collaborate in joining investment in energy, transport, or other vital procurement. Such conditions can only be obtained in the framework of better national and global regulations allowing for the urban foundational economy to survive at the benefit of local populations and their social needs. In the end, empowering cities is necessary for a sound economic transition to a more sustainable world system.

Recommended Local, National, and International Policy Actions
The GPM is well equipped to advance, coordinate, and scale up the collective action of mayors and local leaders. Recommended policy actions, which target the international community, national governments, local leaders, and communities, include:

- Develop analysis and policies focused on foundational economies.
- The new urban economy must be rightly "placed" in the city. The foundational economy has proximity as an asset and must be organized alongside urban planning, localized in adapted urban development poles, and integrated in sustainable neighborhood development.
- The new urban economy must be carried by a development coalition. Foundational economies are at the crossroads of economic, social, and cultural policies. They must install specific collaborations between the private sector, the public sector, and civil society. That collaboration needs adapted forms of mediation and organization.
- Economic development is part of an integrated urban development vision. The urban project combines a vital economic activity with city marketing and imaging, and mobilization of both international and local actors. Corporate actors and the market need to take part in the welfare of citizens, inhabitants, and users.
- Focus on the necessary foundational economies and economic transition needs empowering cities. To develop the necessary policies and integrate the local economy in an urban development plan together with other actors in the social and the cultural sector, mayors and city councils need extended competences and better collaboration with regional and national authorities.

Professor Dr Eric Corijn, Urban Studies, Vrije University Brussels, member Advisory Board GPM, has prepared the position paper on Local Economies.

3.5.2. Speakers

List of Speakers – Mayors
1. Mayor Bryan Barnett of Rochester Hills, USA, GPM ExCo member, former president of the US Conference of Mayors
2. Former Mayor David Balaba of Iganga, Uganda, spokesman on behalf of the Ugandan Delegation
3. Mayor Hélder Sousa Silva of Mafra, Portugal, GPM member
4. Deputy Mayor Jakub Mazurof Wroclaw, Poland, GPM member
5. Mayor Oscar Escobar of Palmira, Colombia

List of Speakers - Experts
1. John Austin, Director, Michigan Economic Center. Nonresident Fellow Brookings Institution & Chicago Council on Global Affairs
2. Professor Eric Corijn, Urban Studies, Vrije University Brussels, member Advisory Board GPM

John Austin, Director, Michigan Economic Center. Nonresident Fellow Brookings Institution & Chicago Council on Global Affairs
The pandemic revealed the systematic fragility due to tremendous interdependencies. Reimagining local economies challenges the assumption that the dictate of globalisations drives all. Instead of asking how cities might locally adapt to a global market, cities need to start with the local needs and ask how the broader economy can serve them. Can we create our own green energy? Can we provide our own healthy food and healthcare? Can we relocate some of what was assumed to have to come from the outside? Can we use this approach to make the economy more equitable and sustainable?

Many changes, from new infrastructures to different lifestyles, have to be considered. The ultimate goal is to build communities that are more just, equitable, sustainable and democratic. The pandemic has revealed the needs and opportunities to localise, but it has also emphasised the very nature of interconnectivities and interdependencies among our societies. While reimagining the foundational economy, interdependencies must be reshaped continuously to achieve the very same goals of justice, equity, sustainability and democracy. Lastly, Mr Austin sees mayors leading on two fronts: (1) to build a more just, equitable, sustainable foundation economy at home. (2) But also to remain global in forging international protocols that allow them to do the former.

Mayor Bryan Barnett of Rochester Hills, USA, GPM member, member of the Executive Committee, former president of the US Conference of Mayors
Considering the pandemic, economic recession, and social unrest local governments have never seen the confluence of so many challenges at once. However, communities can be proud of how the mayors led through the crisis. More importantly, how they

addressed the question of how cities and local economies will look after the crisis.

The mayors, in a bipartisan fashion, argued with the US federal government about the need for direct assistance. It was possible to secure a historic level of funding to help and shape the local economies.

Suburban communities like Rochester Hills mainly focused on attracting new companies and jobs. In the course of the pandemic, cities had to adapt towards a retention strategy as well. To help those companies in a very practical and tangible way, the local government had to change its own business: e.g. personal inspections to online-inspections, automatically allocating parking spots. In focusing on keeping up with regulations, it was possible to allow businesses to operate and to react to local needs.

Mayor Óscar Escobar of Palmira, Colombia

The pandemic unleashed the worst economic crisis the country experienced for more than 30 years. It has almost doubled unemployment and poverty. That, in turn, led to security problems. Palmira also struggled with an exceptional national strike. For instance, a total roadblock made it impossible to transport trash outside the city and food shortages occurred. In the context of the economic crisis, a vicious circle emerged. To break that circle, local authorities tried to support people financially with different measures like taxation adaptation (different due dates, incentives and discounts) and a fund to support entrepreneurs.

Former Mayor David Balaba of Iganga, Uganda

Leaders have to approach all stakeholders and fight existing disparities. Former Mayor Balaba suggested that decision makers should prepare comparative studies and analyse how different cities recover. The insights could be spread and solutions scaled.

While ensuring the urban agenda, mayors have to encourage businesses to innovate. Therefore, mayors need to be prepared and know where (financial) support is most effective. To reach that effectiveness, short-, mid-, and long-term plans need to be in place.

Mayor Hélder Sousa Silva of Mafra, Portugal, GPM member

Mafra is a city located 40 km north of Lisbon and is heavily focused on tourism. Surfing is especially popular among international tourists, but also for locals from the region. During the pandemic, many people from Lisbon moved to Mafra, leading to an increase from 85,000 to 100,000 inhabitants. Water consumption rose by 20% (a decrease was originally expected) and many small-sized companies flourished. The changes were especially visible in increasing prices of real estate. Respectively, the tax income increased by 12%. In the context of Mafra, the pandemic was also a huge opportunity. However, as certain businesses struggled, a local card and an application to give discounts in local businesses (e.g. tickets for restaurants) was implemented.

Jakub Mazur, deputy mayor of Wroclaw, Poland, GPM member

Deputy Mayor Mazur highlighted the GPM Summit as a chance to see beyond the local context of particular cities. It is not only about sharing knowledge, but also about inspiring each other.

Cities often represent larger regions and provinces and are responsible for the balance between the rural and the urban. That responsibility leverages the strong local impact of cities. Covid-19 revealed how important it is to know what is happening in the region and to show solidarity. Since Wroclaw established these relationships a long time ago, we could harness these connections and collaborate to find bigger solutions.
Of course, it is about efficiency on a regional level, but it is also about strong overall (resilience) capacities of cities and regions. In fact, Wroclaw benefited from Covid-19 in various ways because the collaboration and synergy in the region was so positive.

3.5.3. Reflections
Professor Eric Corijn, Free University of Brussels, GPM Advisory Committee member
The research shows that the pandemic is not over yet. Hence, it is difficult to assess the actual economic impact. What is clear now is that the health crisis is, in large, the result of an eco-systemic and social crisis. Many measures have been put into practice to maintain the structure of the economy. Resetting the economy after the pandemic will probably open up new ways of doing things. After a period of around 40 years of globalising the economy, cities were mainly oriented to be part of that globalisation. Due to the health situation, it was necessary to survive with local means. Cities experienced a laboratory situation in which communities had to survive with local means of proximity.

Relations with the global economies are very extractive. In cities between 40 and 60 percent of the wealth production is local and not in competition with other cities (e.g. local hospitals and schools are not competing with each other). To reset the economy after the pandemic, it is important to look at the local resources. The needed eco-systemic changes have to focus on local resources and circular economies towards what the literature calls a foundational economy. Interestingly, a foundational economy is associated with specialised planning, because it is localised and situated among neighbours as well as city-wide activities. Linking the economy with the place of the economy and the people themselves to procure basic needs is very important. Another aspect is that the economy is not purely a sector or a market. What we need is the conceptualisation of the relation between civil society, the state and the market operators to procure basic needs.

That does not mean that interdependency is irrelevant now. Nevertheless, a foundational economy must be conceptualised as part of the economic thinking, which necessitates the global competitive framework. Those who think we can go back to normal are mistaken. The new normal has to be constructed and is in transition. We need to think of the new economy as a product of transition but we don't know the final product yet.

Former Mayor David Balaba of Iganga, Uganda
In resetting cities, the most important priority should be given to the people, meaning people who make money, which in turn makes the economy. What the pandemic has done is to wdisorganise people. Everything decision makers should consider now is to reorganise and get people back to work. That includes especially attracting people and their diversity.

John Austin, Director, Michigan Economic Center. Nonresident Fellow Brookings Institution & Chicago Council on Global Affairs
The need for diverse perspectives and local economies is clear. Mayors need to lead and shape economies from within but also outside in the form of global dialogues.

4. Annexes
Annex 1
Registered Mayors (alphabetically by city)

1. Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe — Banjul, The Gambia, GPM member
2. Mayor Alec von Graffenried — Bern, Switzerland, GPM member
3. Deputy Mayor Gonzalo Olabarrio Villota — Bilbao, Spain
4. Mayor Ricardo Rio — Braga, GPM Treasurer
5. Mayor Solomon Mguni — Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
6. Councillor Zahid Badroodien — Cape Town, South Africa, GPM member
7. Deputy mayor Annekatrin Klepsch — Dresden, Germany
8. Mayor Fabrice Brad Rulinda — Entebbe, Uganda
9. Former Mayor David Balaba — Iganga, Uganda
10. Deputy Mayor Fleur Hassan-Nahoum — Jerusalem, Israel
11. Mayor Marcin Krupa — Katowice, Poland, GPM ExCo Member
12. Mayor Hélder Sousa Silva — Mafra, Portugal, GPM member
13. Mayor Peter Kurz — Mannheim, Germany, GPM Chair
14. Mayor Landing B Sanneh — Mansakonko Council, The Gambia, GPM member
15. Mayor Michaël Delafosse — Montpellier, France, GPM member
16. Deputy Mayor Elodie Macron — Montpellier, France
17. Vice President Clare Hart — Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole, France
18. Mayor Geoffrey Ngiriker — Nebbi, Uganda, GPM member
19. Mayor Hubert Brulsof — Nijmegen, The Netherlands, GPM member
20. Mayor Leoluca Orlando — Palermo, Italy, GPM member
21. Mayor Oscar Escobar — Palmira, Colombia
22. Mayor Bill Peduto — Pittsburgh, USA
23. Mayor Manuel de Araújo — Quelimane, Mozambique
24. Mayor Bryan Barnett — Rochester Hills, USA, GPM ExCo member
25. Mayor Erion Veliaj — Tirana, Albania
26. Former Mayor Ed Johnson — Asbury Park (USA), GPM Honorary member
27. Mayor Baikuntha Nath Neupan — Vyas, Nepal, GPM ExCo member
28. Deputy Mayor Jakub Mazur — Wroclaw, Poland, GPM member

Participating experts (alphabetically by name)

1. Aziza Akhmouch — Head of Local Divisions on Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development, OECD
2. Dr Graham Alabaster — Head of UN-Habitat Office, Geneva, former UN-Habitat liaison with WHO
3. John Austin — Director, Michigan Economic Center. Non-resident Fellow Brookings Institution & Chicago Council on Global Affairs
4. Matt Boyce — Senior Research Associate, Center for Global Health Science & Security, Georgetown University
5. Professor Eric Corijn — Vrije University Brussels, GPM Advisory Committee member
6. H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf — 24th President of Liberia, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner
7. Dr Nathalie Laure Roebbel — Head, Urban Health, Social Determinants of Health, World Health Organization
8. Kathy Baughman McLeod — Senior Vice President and Director, Adrienne Arsht Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center
9. Maimunah Mohd Sharif — Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
10. Grace Mary Mugasa — Minister of State for Public Service in Uganda, former mayor of Hoima, Uganda, GPM Honorary Member
11. Michele Klein Solomon — Regional Director for Central and North America and the Caribbean, IOM
12. Professor Doris Sommer — Director of the Cultural Agents Initiative at Harvard University
13. Dr Ege Yildirim — Urban Planner and heritage conservation specialist, ICOMOS, OurWorldHeritage, Istanbul, Turkey

Welcome to the GPM Summit 2022

Mayor Krupa of Katowice, Poland: "Over the last two decades, Katowice has undergone a spectacular transformation, from an industrial city to a modern urban center, where our main focus is on modern technologies and culture. That is why I am pleased to invite all members of the GPM to Katowice on June 24-25, 2022, to the GPM Annual Summit, which we will host in connection with the World Urban Forum (June 26-30). I strongly encourage you, GPM mayors and non-member mayors alike, to participate in the event! I hope you will enjoy Katowice and all that southern Poland has to offer!"

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Global Parliament of Mayors

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