

WORKSHOP 'UNITING MAYORS: LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CLIMATE CHALLENGES'



23 March 2022

Report on the closing event of the 2021 Project 'Uniting Mayors' to support mayors in their commitments to implement the Call to Action "Climate Change, Cities and Forced Migration: Advancing Knowledge, Action and Collaboration".

In partnership with



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1. Introduction

Over 216 million people will be displaced by 2050 if we do not take steps to address climate change (World Bank). Mayors are optimally placed to address local challenges associated with climate displacement, working in tandem with their national and regional counterparts. In 2021, the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) joined forces with the British Council and organized the project “Uniting Mayors: Local Solutions to Global Climate Challenges” to raise awareness of climate displacement, advance local policies and build better data and knowledge regarding the intersection of climate change and migration. The project also addresses the protection of vulnerable groups in our cities.

Several high-level meetings with mayors, national leaders and representatives of international organizations led to the [Call to Action ‘Climate Change, Cities and Forced Migration: Advancing Knowledge, Action and Collaboration’](#) that the GPM launched towards COP26. By November 2021, the Call to Action was signed by more than 40 mayors together with city networks representing hundreds of cities and metropolitan areas around the world.

During the workshop on 23 March 2022, mayors were, once again, invited to sign the Call to Action. Two new signatories, the mayor of Entebbe, Uganda, and the National Democratic Institute, USA, confirmed their support and signed the Call to Action in March 2022.

The workshop was organized as a closing event for mayors to support their commitments to implementing the Call to Action. Thus, it was designed to strengthen the protection of residents from the climate change and to build up a coalition of mayors from the Global North and South and bring them together to present and discuss concrete projects, programs, issues and policies on the global climate emergency.



Global Parliament of M... · 23-03-2022 ...
"Over 2million people are expected to be displaced by 2050 and mayors are optimally placed to address this challenge"
[@ayseegeyildirim](#) opening the first session of the Workshop 'Uniting Mayors: Local Solutions to Global Climate Challenges'
[#unitingmayors](#) [#theclimatconnection](#)



More than 40 mayors throughout the world participated in the workshop and shared their views and expertise on the preservation of cultural heritage, climate migration, and its data collection.

The event consisted of two sessions. The session “Cultural Heritage and Education” focused on initiatives to raise awareness among local communities regarding the values of cultural assets, to protect cultural heritage and to develop educational programs.

The session “Building Better Data and Resources” highlighted opportunities to advance the exchange of evidence-based data and knowledge, and engage with international institutions, local NGOs and private investors to proactively prepare for climate displacement and migration.



Global Parliament of M... · 22-03-2022

We are pleased to share the participants part of our in-depth workshop w/ @britishcouncil composed by 2 sessions: S1: ‘Cultural Heritage and Education’ S2: ‘Building better data and resources’ For more information globalparliamentofmayors.org/unitingmayors/

#TheClimateConnection #unitingmayors



The outcome of the workshop will contribute to a uniting front to accelerate action on climate-related migration by promoting, guiding, monitoring and sharing experiences on climate resilience amongst mayors, and will be included in the GPM Annual Summit 2022 that will take place on 24-25 June in Katowice, Poland.

The infographic on page 5 highlights the number of speakers, participants and researchers involved in the workshop of 23 March.

Workshop

'Uniting Mayors: Local Solutions to Global Climate Challenges'



235 contacts invited to the workshop

- 235 contacts all over the world were invited to participate in the workshop, including the participants of the 2021 project Uniting Mayors



84 registrations to the workshop

- Including 18 speakers and 66 attendees



26 mayors registered to the workshop

- 13 mayors spoke during the workshop
- 13 attendees mayors.
- 21 mayors represented the Global South



10 female speakers

- Including mayors, moderators, and representatives of organizations
- Five (5) from the Global South



8 Male Mayors engaged

- Including moderators and representatives of organizations
- Five (5) from the Global South



15 countries represented during the workshop

- Including eight (8) different Global South countries and,
- Seven (7) countries from the Global North



66 attendees registered

- Including 13 mayors and representatives of eight (8) international organizations.



5 engaged organizations & networks

- Georgetown University, USA - *moderator*;
- Yildirim Heritage Planner, Turkey - *moderator*;
- Mayors Migration Council, USA;
- British Council, UK;
- Welcoming International, USA



6 researchers involved

- From:
- Arup (UK);
 - Chicago Council on Global Affairs (USA);
 - Clingendael Institute (The Netherlands),
 - India Institute for Human Settlement (IIHS)



2. Cultural Heritage and Education

2.1. Contextualization

The Call to Action emphasizes the importance of raising the awareness of values regarding cultural assets and heritages among local communities. That includes the protection of indigenous and subsistence practices as part of local adaptation strategies. Local leaders who utilize participatory approaches are better equipped to tap into the required knowledge. Efforts to build up such knowledge must be advanced in collaboration with regional and international networks of mayors and cities, as well as national governments.

The [UNESCO report](#) on culture and sustainable development concludes that cultural and creative industries should be part of economic development strategies. Creativity and culture have a significant non-monetary value that contributes to inclusive social development, dialogue and understanding between people. Not all cities are impacted by climate change and migration in the same way: they have unique challenges but also unique assets to address these challenges, not least their cultural diversity, creativity and heritage. It is important to acknowledge this differentiation and employ a tailored solution to each city, with a view to recognizing particular vulnerabilities and harnessing their distinctive potential for locally grounded, effective solutions. The session “Cultural Heritage and Education” focused on specific initiatives to strengthen awareness among local communities regarding the values of cultural assets, to protect cultural heritage and to develop educational programs.

2.2. Speakers

Moderator

Dr. Ege Yildirim, Independent Heritage Planning Consultant and Scholar

Mayors

1. Mayor Ricardo Rio, Braga, Portugal, GPM Daily Board member
2. Mayor Marie Angèle Meyanga, Afanloum, Cameroon, GPM member
3. Mayor Honoré Gabriel Rasamimanana, Antsirabe, Madagascar, GPM member
4. Mayor Hayet Bayoudh, Carthage, Tunisia
5. Mayor Tunç Soyer, Izmir, Turkey
6. Former Mayor David Balaba, Iganga, Uganda
7. Deputy Mayor Anuela Ristani, Tirana, Albania

Organizations

1. Roland Davies, British Council Country Director, Zimbabwe
2. Christina Pope, Director Welcoming International

2.3. Debate

Kick-off: Framing Question to Mayor Ricardo Rio, GPM Champion Climate Mayor

In the Call to Action, mayors urge the international community to ensure that the nations, facing existential threats as a result of the climate crisis, are able to re-establish themselves and maintain their sovereignty, collective identity and cultural heritage in a safe and adequate location. What does that mean for Braga? What tools have been or will be developed to protect the tangible and intangible cultural heritage migrants. Has the Call to Action helped to strengthen Braga's policies?

Mayor Ricardo Rio of Braga, Portugal, member of the Daily Board

Braga is one of the oldest cities in Europe and has been throughout centuries receiving people from different origins. The history of accommodating and integrating migrants is one of the greatest cultural assets of Braga. This historical-cultural context helps to define and develop policies and actions in the present. In that sense, Braga defined a cultural strategy, especially highlighting the importance of heritage. That includes the protection of heritage sites representing cultural assets from the Roman period to the Baroque period to the presence of the Catholic Church.

A lot of investments have been and will be made to safeguard these heritage sites. However, it is not only about protecting and appreciating that habitat, but also about integrating such locations into the activities and daily routines of the citizens. Furthermore, it is critical to educate young people about the historical values. Especially the local community and the schools need to stress the importance of the heritages. What do they mean for us and how do they inform our present? Lastly, the youth has to learn to be responsible for such historical sites. That is the only way to safeguard them in the future.

Another important aspect is the integration of incoming migrants, especially from Africa and Eastern Europe. For instance, Braga has a strong community of Ukrainians. On the basis of an intercultural approach, it is essential to integrate their culture and identity into the city. Especially helpful is the integration of citizens who feel responsible for the migrants. Furthermore, Braga is currently applying for the European Capital of Culture in 2027 and it does so by using precisely the different cultures as defining elements.

Mayor Rio concluded that a comprehensive cultural approach is needed to leverage strong traditions.

First Mayoral Discussion: Framing Questions

- *How does migration, in particular migration induced by climate change, affect the cultural ecosystem of your city, be it cultural infrastructure and facilities, cultural actors and activities, or tangible and intangible heritage?*
- *Who are the key influencers and (local/regional/national) partners in your city that play a key role in protecting the culture within the city?*
- *Would you like to share a specific project or experience that may inspire other mayors or be adapted to other places as a useful solution?*

Mayor Marie Angèle Meyanga of Afanloum, Cameroon, GPM member

Cameroon has an equatorial and a tropical climatic zone. Such conditions foster climatic migration from the most austere areas to the less austere areas. Afanloum, with a humid equatorial climate, is part of the latter. Hence, the land is attractive for climate migrants. That is why the exchange of information and experiences of today's workshop is absolutely crucial. The arrival of climate migrants has happened over time and has transformed the cultural ecosystem of the area. Two major consequences can be depicted. First, a cultural impact based on religious differences. The predominantly Christian population of Afanloum had to learn how to engage with (mainly) Muslim migrants from the North. Second, tensions regarding professional practices. Most climate migrants are pastoralists. Consequently, that leads to potential tensions and conflicts between incoming and receiving pastoralists and farmers. Furthermore, due to the mismanagement of herds there are difficulties with destroyed plantations. These changes have tremendous effects on culture and lifestyles. Ultimately, it is possible to observe a 'mixing-process' between the populations. In that sense, more young people are interested in breeding techniques and the corresponding professional practices.

Mayor Honoré Gabriel Rasamimanana, Antsirabe, Madagascar, GPM member

The history of Madagascar is shaped by migrant influxes. While the capital Antananarivo is influenced by Asian communities, other parts of the island integrate Arabic and African speaking communities. That is why the nation is trying to promote and to showcase cultural diversity. Thus, to encourage harmonious relations between all citizens, it is essential to protect cultural heritages and to promote cultural dialogue. Antsirabe is rich in cultural sites and the local authorities are convinced that these sites play an important role

in the socio-economic development. Different initiatives were launched to promote cultural activities. One instance is the organization of events to promote folklore cultural traditions.

The main reason for the migration influx is mostly due to a lack of employment. Hence, while people have different cultural backgrounds they still have work-related priorities. That is why it is essential to bring cultural exchange to the forefront and strengthen mutual dialogue. Young generations need to be aware of cultural heritages to protect it. Lastly, cultural heritage can be a source of employment and it is an opportunity to develop local expertise and craftsmanship, which would further provide sources of income for local households.

Former Mayor David Balaba, Iganga, Uganda

Uganda is rich in natural, cultural and educational heritages. Reaching from urban and rural sites to the river Nile. Schools are the major influencers of cultural heritage and are essential for preservation. It is paramount that students learn about the sites and how to preserve them. Colleges and universities also play a big role in sensitization issues. Additionally, clan leaders, cultural leaders and politicians are decisive for the conservation, sensitization and preservation of cultural heritage. However, the most important player, concerning the conservation and attraction of cultural sites, are tourist agencies. They do advertise the sites through different channels, such as television, radio, journals, newspapers etc. Insofar, tourist agencies are responsible for the gross income and the inflow of tourists into cities, especially for Iganga.

However, generally speaking, the management of educational and cultural heritages is not sufficient. The interrelation between communities, the educational apparatus and the cultural heritage sites does not function. Hence, citizens simply do not know and appreciate the cultural values. It is crucial to sensitize local communities because there is so much to be lost.



Second Mayoral Discussion: Framing Questions

- *Does your city have a cultural plan or strategy in place that includes measures to address migration and its implications, including mitigating its negative effects, but also capitalizing on new opportunities?*
- *Who are the key influencers and (local/regional/national) partners in your city that play a key role in protecting the culture within the city?*
- *Would you like to share a specific project or experience that may inspire other mayors or be adapted to other places as a useful solution?*

Mayor Hayet Bayouhdh, Carthage, Tunisia

Carthage has problems with the issue of migration, especially with trans-border migration. So far, there is no dedicated strategy in place. However, it might be possible to elaborate on existing projects dedicated to fight climate change. Such projects incorporate social aspects and are implemented in participatory ways with citizens, particularly for and with the most vulnerable citizens. These projects might be a way to help displaced people and provide them with opportunities to improve their socio-economic conditions.

The protection of cultural heritage, particularly of the archaeological sites in Carthage, fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the National Heritage Institute and the national agencies responsible for the development of cultural sites. At the local level, several associations and partners of the municipality foster cultural awareness and carry out projects to strengthen cultural assets of the inhabitants themselves. The municipality even pushes the central authorities to update and re-adapt existing heritage management procedures. This is because the rules appear too restrictive and prevent cultural heritages from being an engine for local development. To remedy this situation, Carthage has developed a project in collaboration with the Edible Cities Network. The main idea is to work on solutions based on urban organic agriculture through accessing unused land areas.

Deputy Mayor Anuela Ristani, Tirana, Albania

Tirana aspires to be a destination for everyone who seeks a better life. In that sense, the city experienced a rapid growth from 200,000 to one million inhabitants. Such an expansion, which is mainly driven by urbanization, entails a high learning curve. Moreover, this enforced process was not mastered through purposeful planning to preserve cultural heritage and identity.

However, Tirana managed to cope with that challenge through cherishing the fact that the city consists of and exists for every citizen. That is only possible through embracing the citizens with all the cultural differences and the understanding that preservation is inclusive. Tirana developed a variety of opportunities to promote this diversity of what and who we are.

Decisive is that cities need to open up their minds to complete different approaches. It is time to renew our understanding of local cultures.

This renewal is based on the knowledge that more people will come to the cities and that they will be an essential part of who we are and what we do.

Hence, it is necessary to be open and to accept the challenges ahead.

The city management is responsible for the preservation of historical and cultural sites that are physical. That is why Tirana has not just preserved, but also expropriated iconic buildings and properties, which would have otherwise been subject to private development. Knowing that diversity of cultures is at the core of Tirana's identity, a program was implemented to foster the harmony between cultures and religions. Through that program citizens had the chance to integrate their own ideas of architecture, their unique expressions of art and of cultural heritage. The program realization takes place on state or city-owned property.

Mayor Tunç Soyer, Izmir, Turkey, represented by Onur Eryüce, cultural diplomacy advisor to Mayor Soyer

Izmir hosted the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Culture Summit in September 2021. At that summit, 65 cities from all around the world with 850 delegates concluded that we are all in the same boat and that no customs or borders can divide that bond. Facing global challenges will require public debates and the active participation of all communities. In that context, we must acknowledge that cultural diversity is a source of knowledge. Another conclusion of the summit was that we all evolve and develop together.

That means we have a shared conscience. Furthermore, culture is freedom. Hence, policies on culture and education must be better connected to support the acquisition of cultural competencies, skills, and knowledge. Cultural life must be recognized as a right in itself. Insofar, cultural policies are essential to promoting a sense of belonging and identity that leaves no one behind.



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Tirana has always been a migration destination. To preserve the cultural heritage and our identity we have adopted an innovative approach we have decided to include new cultures, new traditions, new skills.

Diversity of cultures is a core Albanian identity. @Anuela #unitingmayors



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Especially from a local-level perspective, cultural policies contribute to the way we can imagine and shape the future. Human creativity and cultural diversity are vital aspects of the human experience and a source of progress. All actors concerned should participate in that dialogue and help to define more ambitious agendas on a global level. These agendas need explicit goals and targets regarding culture and its development. The UCLG Culture Summit has shown that humanity can be empowered when local governments, cities and communities acknowledge culture as part of their sustainable development.

Expert Discussion: Framing Question

How do your organizations strengthen the preservation of cultural heritage or/and educational programs through projects and tools?

Roland Davies, British Council Country Director Zimbabwe

The British Council runs a variety of programs in the sphere of cultural preservation. The main one is called the Cultural Protection Fund. It addresses many of the issues that cities face from sustainability and climate change to inequality and how to create opportunities for prosperity. For instance, one program funded by the Cultural Protection Fund examines how climate change impacts Uganda's cultural heritages. Most programs are grounded on a strong research basis and integrate the local communities. This approach includes the documentation of tangible and intangible cultural heritages. Another exemplary program, supported by the Cultural Protection Fund, focusses on the restoration of three iconic libraries in Nairobi. To preserve Kenya's history the program supports the digitization of collections, cultural skills training, story trend telling and the development of resources.

Another major project in East Africa is called Cultural Heritage for Inclusive Growth. Here, the definition of cultural heritage is shaped by architecture, archives, crafts, music, film, traditions, festivals, basically all things that give a sense of place and a sense of pride in those places. Inclusive means that we must work at and for all levels of society, addressing social economic issues, poverty, inequality and increasingly encompassing climate change. Lastly, a program in Kenya, called Culture Grows, focuses on youth participation and the integration of technology. While working with universities, social enterprise groups and local authorities it is crucial that the projects are grounded in and coming from the communities rather than being imported from elsewhere.

Christina Pope, Director Welcoming International

Welcoming Week is a project with importance to all mayors. It helps to preserve and celebrate cultural heritage and any city can participate. The project takes place between the 9th and 18th September. It is also an occasion to celebrate the initiative's ten years anniversary. This annual initiative showcases the local governments and civil society actors that are striving to create more welcoming places for all citizens, including migrants. Welcoming Week gives local communities the opportunity to host events that foster intercultural understanding between migrants and non-migrants to create a deeper sense of belonging. For those cities that are receiving destinations for migrants, Welcoming Week celebrates the cultural heritage of all migrants through the city civic culture. Cities can show appreciation towards incoming migrants and their future contributions. In that way, it can also be an educational effort for non-migrants to learn more about their new neighbors. Welcoming Week can bridge this cultural heritage of those arriving with those who have lived in the cities for many years. The Welcoming International Initiative expanded to Canada in 2021 and this year it will be activated in Mexico, New Zealand and Australia. Plans are in place for mobilization in Italy, Germany, the UK, Spain, Poland and beyond.

Two examples that have this sort of cultural preservation can be given. First, art exhibits and subsequent gallery walks. Cities have developed art exhibits in municipal buildings and city halls featuring artwork by migrant artists. Thus, during Welcoming Week, the local governments host a gallery walk for migrants and non-migrants to visit the exhibit and learn from the artists who can talk about their stories and their cultural traditions. That interaction builds familiarity and trust and ultimately means that the cultural heritage of migrants is part of public spaces, which in turn delivers a sense of belonging. Second, cities in New Zealand organized walks where families can engage in different interactive activities to learn about aspects of different migrant groups living in the cities.

Framing Question

What is the most important strategy or experience from your side about how to partner with others? What are the best partnerships? And especially if any youth partnerships or youth action is within these partnerships? (Short statement per participant).

Mayor Honoré Gabriel Rasamimanana, Antsirabe, Madagascar, GPM member

Cooperation between cities and exchange programs for young people are decisive.

Former Mayor David Balaba, Iganga, Uganda

The cooperation between cities is paramount as best-practice and benchmarking is very effective. It is also a way to see how people value cultural heritage in other places and vice versa.

Mayor Hayet Bayoudh, Carthage, Tunisia

Considering the archaeological context of Carthage the collaboration with the Ministry of Education is key.

Deputy Mayor Anuela Ristani, Tirana, Albania

Collaborations are important but it is also important to start from home with local actions. Tirana is the European Youth Capital in 2022. That was only possible through the collaboration between young people and the administration. Within that collaboration work was shared equally.

Onur Eryüce on behalf of Mayor Soyer, Izmir, Turkey

We need to consolidate the trend of an emerging global policy network and to orchestrate collective actions to deal with the global challenges.

Roland Davies, British Council Country Director Zimbabwe

Considering young people it is important to bear in mind the phrase 'nothing about us without us'. Young people need to design and lead their own programs.

Christina Pope, Director Welcoming International

To include the people most impacted such as migrants and young people, it is necessary to identify the barriers to participation and to create spaces that are accessible. Community events might be one way to identify and interpret such barriers and spaces.

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"On our island we have a mix of Asian and African communities our nation is trying to promote and showcase our cultural diversity. We are trying to showcase our societal values with the intent to promote & protect cultural dialogue" Mayor Honoré Gabriel Rasamimanana #unitingmayors

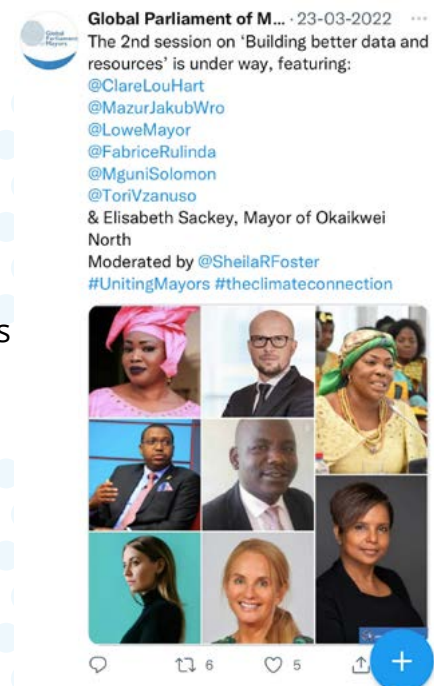


3. Building Better Data and Resources

3.1. Contextualization

The Call to Action highlights the need to generate better data and knowledge regarding the intersection of climate change and migration. Mayors need evidence-based data to make decisions relating to climate-forced migration. Hence, investment in local data collection and engagement in evidence-based urban planning is needed. Furthermore, the need for adaptation and resiliency planning is clear. While cooperation between cities will contribute to better policy measures, it is also essential to recognize the increasing importance of the private and philanthropic sectors in driving mitigation and adaptation efforts. Ultimately, it is crucial to respect and work with local communities in protecting natural resources and building resilience to climate change impacts and advancing community engagement.

That is why this session focused on the opportunities to advance the exchange of evidence-based data and knowledge and to engage with international institutions, local NGOs and private investors to proactively prepare for climate displacement and migration. Ultimately, technical platforms and human capacities for local expertise need to be developed. Cities can only be better prepared when they know how to generate and manage data.



3.2. Speakers

Moderator

Sheila Foster, Professor of Urban Law and Policy at Georgetown University, USA

Mayors

1. Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe, Banjul, The Gambia, GPM Vice Chair
2. Mayor Elizabeth Sackey, Accra, Ghana
3. Mayor Fabrice Brad Rulinda, Entebbe, Uganda
4. Mayor Solomon Mguni, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
5. Deputy Mayor Clare Hart, Montpellier, France, GPM member
6. Deputy Mayor Jakub Mazur, Poland, Wroclaw, GPM member

Organization

Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director, Mayors Migration Council

3.3. Debate

Kick-off: Framing Question to Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe, GPM Champion Climate Mayor

In the Call to Action, mayors commit to investing in local data collection and engaging in evidence-based urban planning that recognizes climate-forced migration and the need for adaptation and resiliency planning. What does that mean for Banjul? What kind of mechanisms do you use to gather data to make decisions on local policy? What kind of data do you miss? Did the Call to Action help you to strengthen Banjul's policy?

Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe, Banjul, The Gambia, GPM Vice Chair

In recent years Gambia developed a comprehensive migration governance. That entails, for instance, a national migration policy and a national coordination mechanism. Furthermore, the government has actively participated in enhancing its migration governance in relation to climate migration through the adoption of critical frameworks at the national, regional, and international level. Unfortunately, the focus on the environment remains weak. Such efforts include the active participation in adopting the Global Compact of Migration (GCM) on a regional level. Furthermore, on a rather continental level, Africa is currently preparing for the International Migration Review Forum in May 2022. The review aims to prioritize the objectives of the GCM. Objective 2 aims to minimize adverse drivers and structural factors that force people to leave their country of origin. It includes a dedicated section to the subject of natural disasters and the effects of climate change. Objective 5 enhances the availability and flexibility of legal pathways for regular migration.

Insofar, the Global Compact on Migration provides a unique opportunity to address migration as a mechanism to cope with climate change. It provides a solid guidance on how to cope with climate change. Lastly, to ensure that natural resources are sustainably managed and conserved, the National Development Plan of Gambia illustrates the commitment to prepare and respond to the adverse effects of environmental degradation and climate change. In that way, it is possible to increase resilience for the benefit of all.

First Mayoral Discussion: Framing Questions

- *What is the main issue related to climate forced migration in your city?*
- *How do you collect data to develop local policy measures?*
- *Do you participate in the data sharing mechanisms on local, regional or national level?*
- *Do you have access to regional or national resources to develop policy measures?*
- *Do you have an example of a project or tool that has been financed in partnership with NGOs, the private sector etc.*

Deputy Mayor Jakub Mazur, Poland, Wroclaw, GPM member

It is important to differentiate between the pre- and post-situation after the Russian aggression in Ukraine. That is because we experienced a massive shift towards war forced migration. For that reason, Wroclaw knows at heart what kind of data is needed – the required knowledge is simply a necessity based on the sheer number of incoming immigrants. Experiencing that situation as kind of ‘living lab’ illustrates the need for urgent solutions. It is necessary to include different dimensions such as spatial planning, economics and demographics. In the process of altering the time horizon of change from years to months and sometimes weeks, it is also possible to learn for the long-term future. To embrace the high number of Ukrainian immigrants in the last four weeks Wroclaw needed a different and more holistic view. However, the insights need to be incorporated in a complex strategy within different levels (cities, region, state, Europe).

Mostly the data from our partners abroad are useless and cannot be utilized. For instance, there is a lack of data regarding the number of incoming people. A more systematic approach is needed which is why Wroclaw attempts to develop solutions to gather, analyse and synthesise data. Consequently, particular tools are needed tomorrow and not in five to ten years. Deputy Mayor Mazur also represented his colleagues from the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas (METREX) and emphasized the attempt of METREX to formulate a metropolitan vision. That development entails the use of rural and urban data to be able to host new incoming Ukrainian refugees who will certainly arrive.

Deputy Mayor Clare Hart, Montpellier, France, GPM member

Southern France also faces the difficulties of receiving hundreds of people fleeing from Ukraine. Even though climate change is not as unpredictable as war, we have to admit that it is not possible to adequately quantify environmental migration. It is so challenging because of its multiple drivers

and simply the lack of data collection standards. Some quantitative data exists on population displacement due to natural hazards within a country and to a lesser extent in cross-border displacement. However, due to slow environmental processes like droughts or rising sea levels, most existing data is of qualitative nature and based on singular case studies. Unfortunately, there are only very few comparative studies. It is not possible to evaluate the extent of impact regarding climate displacement. Hence, even though cities are willing to help, they are not able to prepare themselves.

Another striking aspect is the terminology of climate refugee. It is often used in praxis but it is not a legally valid term and the 1951 Refugee Convention does not recognize environmental factors as criteria to define a refugee. How is that possible when in 2020 about 7,000,000 people in 104 countries and territories were living in displacement as a result of natural disasters? We cannot accept that situation and need to move forward. This shows how important the agenda of the GPM is. Moreover, during the COVID-19 pandemic people stayed in their exposed homes because they feared infections. We have to take that fear into account for the future. Ultimately, the need for better data is clear. Predictive analytics need to inform our practices and policies. Important technical systems exist and need to be utilized. One example is big data and the use of global mobile systems. It is possible to know where people are, to trace displacements and to hear their stories in real time. However, such available tools need to be structured and synthesized. To predict future trends the disconnection between environmental sciences and the social sciences appears as additional barrier.

Second Mayoral Discussion: Framing Questions

- *Have you been working with the private sector or other partners on a local/regional level to develop local policy measures regarding climate migration?*
- *What is the role of data and the capacity to generate insights from that data on climate migration? What do you require to develop more capacity on the local level on this front?*

Mayor Fabrice Brad Rulinda, Entebbe, Uganda

The fact that the term refugee is not related to climate or environment is highly problematic, especially in Africa. For example, Entebbe is 75% surrounded by water. It is a peninsula and it is surrounded by the Lake Victoria, the biggest freshwater lake in the world. The lake feeds into the river Nile, which has about 25 hydroelectric dams. Whenever abnormal rain patterns occur, what happens quite often, water levels rise and leave people homeless. Those people are considered now as homeless people and not as refugees. Hence, such categorization prevents forms of humanitarian relief, because they are not considered as refugees. For instance, in Entebbe we

cannot relocate these people because they are not considered as refugees in the national policy framework. Moreover, displaced people tend to go back to the exact same places because the options given to them are little or non-existent. As a starting point and only humane solution, people displaced by environmental effects need to be considered as refugees. That also includes the consideration of types of lands. Displaced people from wetlands or mountains affected by rising water levels or landslides need to be treated equally to refugees from less affected land types.

Most of the data is verbally collected. Such subjectively laden data leads to biases in the assessment of the situation. For instance, questionnaires do not constitute a serious and valid source. More generally, African countries have not given the adequate seriousness to the matter of climate change.

Mayor Elizabeth Sackey, Accra, Ghana, represented by Rita Agyen, policy advisor to Mayor Sackey

In the context of Accra, migration has to be seen from two perspectives: internal and external factors. Drought and flooding are the major reasons for migration in Accra. The city sees itself in a coordinative role including the collection and analysis of data. Thus, the city focuses on policy formulation and the dissemination of information. One way to collect data is through stakeholder engagements (assembly members, academia, chiefs, communities etc.). To create a constructive environment it is necessary to work with all agencies and departments in Accra.

Existing capacities to generate insights are not sufficient, especially in the area of training. Only through expertise will it be possible to acquire and manage data. City officials need to be empowered to improve decision making on a local level. Thereafter, it is possible to forward and translate that decision making to a regional and national level.

Mayor Solomon Mguni, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Mayor Mguni emphasized the role of mayors and cities as coordinators for disaster management. Data and information are needed to work with relief agencies and with the central government responsible for dealing with the climate disasters arising from cyclones, droughts and flooding. Hence, data knowledge is crucial. On the basis of data, it is possible to measure and to take action in order to improve the quality of life. Data enables to monitor the movements and needs of people.

To collect data for purposeful planning it is paramount to invest in innovative data collection and monitoring tools. Such tools are for instance graphical information systems. Satellite images enable rapid impact assessments immediately after a disaster, but they also allow to track movements of people. Another example is drone mapping. Drone mapping could enable local communities to better understand small scale localized events in areas which are less accessible. Furthermore, dedicated technology could deal with air and noise pollution and its measurements and control. Ultimately, it is necessary to plan proactively and carefully the funding itself.

Expert Discussion: Framing Question

How does your organization contribute to the development of better data and resources to be better prepared for climate forced migration?

Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director, Mayors Migration Council

There is no good data without a good investment beforehand at the local level. Climate migration is a top priority for the Mayors Migration Council. For that reason a global mayor’s task force was initiated including the C40 cities, the GPM and a wider audience from Milan to Los Angeles to Lima and all in between. Climate migration to cities appears to be the new normal, but it does not need to become a permanent crisis. Migration hot-spots can prepare themselves with early planning and local investments. With the right infrastructure and service in place migration can become an immense opportunity for the cities themselves. For example, Bangladesh is proactively trying to position itself as ‘climate heaven’ with economic opportunities to attract displaced migrants.

It is clear that climate-related migration is mostly internal, mostly shaped by short distance movement and a shift from the rural to the urban. The Mayors Migration Council worked with prestigious researchers from the Groundswell Report on the basis of existing data to crystallize migration pattern on a local level. What is the impact of internal migration to cities and which cities will see in- or out- migration? The research initially focused on Mexico and found that



by 2050, if no action is done, more than 10 million people might move into cities. Only Mexico City could see 8,000,000 incoming migrants in the next 30 years. Hence, it is absolute paramount to utilize a resourceful model of looking at existing data sets and to disaggregate information at the local level. Localising data, being resourceful, trying to synthesize, and translating insights into an understandable, usable and accessible format. Data is not only important for planning purposes, but also to make the case for local investments in cities and therefore to address climate migration at the local level.

The developed projections and case studies are rather qualitative and enable a multi-faceted analysis. Consequently, it is possible to advise organizations, such as the Green Climate Fund to be more accessible to cities. Cities should be seen as implementing partners of the national entities receiving the funds, or directly as recipients and beneficiaries. As big funds tend to move slowly, the Mayors Migration Council created its own Global Cities Fund. It is implemented in partnership with UN agencies but is administered by the MMC. The Global Cities Fund is a way to connect international funders with cities that demand new resources. The fund was launched in 2021 and initially focused on inclusive pandemic responses. However, the fund became very popular which is why the Mayors Migration Council decided to integrate the issue of inclusive climate action and climate migration. There is great potential to continuously drive more resources to this work.

Final Mayoral Discussion: Framing Questions

- *How can international/intergovernmental institutions support cities in advancing data?*
- *How can international cooperation (city-to-city alliances, network organizations etc.) contribute to better preparedness for climate forced migration?*
- *Could you give an example of a successful (international) partnership related to climate forced migration?*

Deputy Mayor Jakub Mazur, Poland, Wroclaw, GPM member

From a European perspective it seems necessary to prepare some kind of multi-national cross solution regarding climate adaptation. That includes demographic analyses which are directly connected to migration. We were asked by Elisa Ferreira, European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, to prepare special projects in that context. These projects rely on valid and comprehensive data and are collaborations between metropolitan regions from Lisbon to Athens, Helsinki, Berlin, Paris and to metropolitan regions in Italy as well. The goal is to develop strategic approaches and models which will be funded on a massive scale by the European Union.

Deputy Mayor Clare Hart, Montpellier, France, GPM member

Montpellier is working with the Mediterranean Cities Network (MedCities) on several initiatives. That network is particularly helpful because it considers Africa as a close neighbor and discusses how and in what way Mediterranean cities can receive climate displaced people. Furthermore, it is crucial to ensure that any nation facing existential threats, as a result of climate displacement, is able to re-establish itself and maintain a certain amount of sovereignty. That is something which is obviously important in the Ukrainian crisis, but also for climate displacement.

Mayor Fabrice Brad Rulinda, Entebbe, Uganda

Mayor Rulinda kindly invited all mayors to directly collaborate with Entebbe and to plant a million trees within the next five years. Such a proactive solution will help to restore the wetlands and support the people living there. Furthermore, Mayor Rulinda offered the GPM to have its regional office for Africa in Entebbe. That would be one step toward making the collaboration more tangible and to 'walk the talk'. Finally, Mayor Rulinda invited all participants to join the Kusi Ideas Festival, with the theme of climate and migration, in Entebbe on 8-10 December, 2022.

Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe, Banjul, The Gambia, GPM Vice Chair

To address the challenges of climate migration it is important that we support the GPM and its communication channels. Several things can be done:

- To advocate the mainstreaming of migration into climate adaptation or mitigation activities.
- Integrating displacement considerations into disaster preparedness strategies, including the humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations in emergency situations.
- Promote cooperation, coordination and information sharing between countries and cities.
- Support local migration governance indicators so that migration is adequately budgeted in local government plans.
- To document and share existing practices of local authorities in how to mitigate some of the adverse effects of climate migration.
- Proactive participation in the GCM implementation review process, in preparation for the IMRF 2020, to ensure that milestones and good practices made at the local level are visible.

Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director, Mayors Migration Council

We often refer to horizontal integration or the cooperation between cities. That perspective is useful to share and exchange practitioner perspectives (best-practice, available funds etc.). Equally important is to focus on the vertical cooperation and the exchange between cities and (inter-)national governments. For instance, vertical integration is necessary to change the working definition of climate refugees or to attract more funding for better data at the local level.

Two concrete opportunities for informational engagement in 2022 can be given. First, the UN Global Review of the foundational Global Compact on Migration. Hereby, the Mayors Migration Council will work with partners and their networks to bring mayors to the forefront. Migration more generally will be discussed during the policy discussions. Second, COP 27 is going to happen in November in Egypt. As the venue is in Africa it can be expected that migration will be an area of focus.

4. Implementing the Call to Action

The mayoral Call to Action intends to accelerate action on climate migration by promoting, guiding, monitoring and sharing experiences on climate resilience amongst mayors. It establishes an integral framework, bringing together mayors to present their plans and push for a climate-resilient agenda. The 2022 Workshop 'Uniting Mayors for Local Solutions to Global Climate Challenges' was organized as a closing event for mayors to support their commitments to implement the Call to Action. That is why the report concludes each session by stating the status quo in form of propositions or problems and by providing concrete recommendations for actions.

Cultural Heritage and Education

Propositions: Recognizing Culture

- Human creativity and cultural diversity are vital aspects of the human experience and a source of progress.
- Citizens need to be embraced with all cultural differences.
- The understanding that preservation needs to be inclusive is key.
- Cultural policies are essential to promote a sense of belonging and identity.
- Cities will receive more people. Those people will be a part of what cities are and do. Hence, it is necessary to renew the understanding of local cultures.
- The need to consolidate emerging global policy networks is clear: action needs to be local but also collective.
- Cultural life must be recognized as a right in itself.

Recommendations: Maintaining and Developing Culture

- Cities need to develop a cultural strategy, especially highlighting the importance of heritage.
- Investments are necessary to maintain and develop cultural assets.
- Cultural sites need to be integrated into the activities and daily routines of the citizens.
- To safeguard cultural heritages in the future it is essential to educate young people about historical values.
- To encourage harmonious relations between all citizens it is crucial to promote cultural dialogue.
- Policies on culture and education must be better connected to support the acquisition of cultural competencies, skills, and knowledge.
- Cultural heritage must be seen as source of employment and as an opportunity to develop local expertise and craftsmanship.

Building Better Data and Resources

Problems: Lack of Data

- Based on the lack of data collection standards it is not possible to quantify the effects of environmental migration. Hence, cities struggle to prepare themselves.
- Limited quantitative data exists on population displacement due to natural hazards. Based on slow environmental processes like droughts or rising sea levels, most existing data is of qualitative nature and based on singular case studies. There are only very few comparative studies.
- Data from partners is often unusable.
- There is no good data without a good investment beforehand at the local level. Funding needs to be planned more proactively and carefully.

Recommendations: Data Management

- Data needs to be localized, synthesized and translated into understandable and usable information.
- 'Resourceful' models should analyse existing data sets and disaggregate information at a local level.
- Important technical systems for data collection exist and need to be utilized. Powerful examples are:
 - o Global mobile systems to trace where people are and to hear about their stories
 - o Graphical information systems, such as satellite images or drone mapping, to enable valid and rapid assessments of potentially less accessible areas
 - o Dedicated technology can deal with air and noise pollution and its measurement and control

- To collect data for purposeful planning it is paramount to invest in innovative data collection and monitoring tools.
- Technical data expertise needs to be strengthened. City officials need to be empowered to effectively acquire and manage data.
- Qualitative data should be collected through stakeholder engagements.
- Policies need to be informed by predictive analytics.
- Data sets and tools need to be structured and synthesized towards a more systematic approach. Insofar, it is possible to combine insights from the environmental and social sciences.

5. Annexes

Annex 1

Participating Mayors (alphabetically by city)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mayor Elizabeth Sackey | Accra, Ghana |
| 2. Mayor Marie Angèle Meyanga | Afanloum, Cameroon, GPM member |
| 3. Mayor Honoré Gabriel Rasamimanana | Antsirabe, Madagascar,
GPM member |
| 4. Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe | Banjul, The Gambia, GPM Vice Chair |
| 5. Mayor Ricardo Rio | Braga, Portugal, GPM Daily Board
member |
| 6. Mayor Solomon Mguni | Bulawayo, Zimbabwe |
| 7. Mayor Hayet Bayoudh | Carthage, Tunisia |
| 8. Mayor Fabrice Brad Rulinda | Entebbe, Uganda |
| 9. Former Mayor David Balaba | Iganga, Uganda |
| 10. Mayor Tunç Soyer | Izmir, Turkey |
| 11. Deputy Mayor Jakub Mazur | Wroclaw, Poland, GPM member |
| 12. Deputy Mayor Clare Hart | Montpellier, France, GPM member |
| 13. Deputy Mayor Anuela Ristani | Tirana, Albania |



Annex 2

Participating experts (alphabetically by name)

1. Roland Davies British Council Country Director, Zimbabwe
2. Sheila Foster Professor of Urban Law and Policy at Georgetown University, USA
3. Christina Pope Director Welcoming International, USA
4. Dr. Ege Yildirim Independent Heritage Planning Consultant and Scholar, Turkey
5. Vittoria Zanuso Executive Director Mayors Migration Council, USA

Annex 3

Links

1. British Council

- Cultural Protection Fund

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/culture-development/cultural-protection-fund>

- Cultural Heritage for Inclusive Growth

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/culture-development/cultural-heritage>

2. Welcoming International

- Welcoming Week

<https://welcomingamerica.org/initiatives/welcoming-week/>

3. Mayors Migration Council

- C40/MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration

<https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/c40-mmc-tf>

- Global Cities Fund

<https://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/gcf>

4. Mediterranean Cities Network (MEDCITIES)

<https://medcities.org/>

5. Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas (METREX)

<https://www.eurometrex.org/>

6. GPM Uniting Mayors Project 2021-2022

<https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/unitingmayors/>

7. GPM Call to Action

<https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Pamflet-Call-to-Action-Climate-Migration.pdf>

8. Signatory form to support the Call to Action

<https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Signatory-Form-Call-to-Action-1.pdf>