



Global
Parliament
of Mayors

SUMMARY OF GPM ACTIVITIES 2022

6 OCTOBER 2022

The Global Parliament of Mayors is proud to present this summary of its key activities since the Annual General Meeting in October 2021. Despite the challenges presented by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the GPM had a successful year advocating for the interests of mayors, organizing meaningful debates, and making the voice of mayors heard. These efforts included projects and statements spearheaded by a partnership with the US Summit for Democracy, an in-depth workshop on climate migration and the work of the U7 Alliance, which has already had an impact on the G7 German Presidency in 2022. In this summary, you will find details about these activities and other highlights from the past year.

Thank you for your support of the GPM and these activities. We look forward to another productive year ahead!

The Executive Committee

GPM Chair Mayor Kurz (Mannheim/Germany), GPM Vice Chair Mayor Lowe (Banjul/The Gambia), GPM Vice Chair Mayor Barnett (Rochester Hills/USA), GPM Treasurer Mayor Rio (Braga/Portugal), Mayor Orlando (Palermo/Italy), Mayor Krupa (Katowice/Poland), Mayor Kojee (Monrovia/Liberia), and Mayor de Clercq (Ghent/Belgium).



GPM Mayors at COP26

November 2021

In Glasgow (UK), GPM Chair Mayor Peter Kurz of Mannheim hosted a panel on the Local Green Deals during the Multilevel Action Pavilion, the home of cities and regions at COP26. By presenting Mannheim's innovative governance approach to achieve climate neutrality by 2023, Mayor Kurz emphasized that cities have the power to unlock the potential for ambitious climate action. The answers to the global impacts of climate change have to come from the local level. [Click here to read more.](#)

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Mayor Yvonne Aki-Saweyerr underscored at COP26 that not enough cities are heard when it comes to addressing climate change. COP, and all international efforts, need to include mayors, local voices, and private stakeholders, and moreover it needs to create a system of accountability of the compromises made by nation-states. The project 'Freetown to Treetown' to plant and grow a million trees served as an example of what communities and leaders can do, and accomplish, together. [For the full interview with Mayor Aki-Saweyerr, click here.](#)

Endorsement of the African and European Mayors Statement on Covid-19 Vaccine Equity

December 2021

The GPM endorsed the African and European Mayors Statement on Covid-19 calling for equal access to vaccines, as well as a coordinated and global response to ensure vaccines reach people faster. The statement emphasizes the urgent action required to improve access to vaccines for all, and more specifically, to accelerate the vaccination process in Africa, where the rates are the lowest in the world. [Read the full statement here.](#)

Cities at the Global Policy Table

Solutions Providers for Violence Reduction and SDG16+ Implementation

January 2022

The joint GPM – Peace in Our Cities (PiOC) Resolution on [Reducing Violence \(2020\)](#) has garnered the support of more than 50 cities and urban networks which represent more than 1,500 cities and metropolitan areas. The resolution outlines 11 principles for addressing urban violence, and was highlighted by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, who observed that “Cities have demonstrated that it is possible to act effectively to prevent and address the root cause of violence and insecurity.”

As part of this project the GPM & PiOC hosted an online event focused on concrete ways to translate the principles outlined in the GPM-PiOC resolution into city-level action.

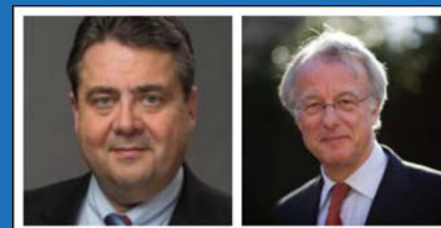
The event brought together mayors already engaged in the work of violence reduction through the Peace in Our Cities network, GPM signatories of the resolution, and a select group of other mayors championing violence prevention and peacebuilding.

Participating Mayors: Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe (Banjul, The Gambia), Mayor Ricardo Rio (Braga, Portugal), Mayor Marvin Rees (Bristol, UK), Mayor Einat Kalisch-Rotem (Haifa, Israel), Mayor Axel Graef (Niteroi, Brazil), former Mayor Clara Luz Flores (Escobedo, Mexico), Governor Claudio Orrego (Chili) and Minister of State Grace Mary Mugasa (Uganda).



Global Ambassadors of the GPM

In January 2022, Sigmar Gabriel, former vice-chancellor Germany and former minister of foreign affairs, and Jozias van Aartsen, former minister of foreign affairs, former mayor of The Hague and former acting mayor of Amsterdam (The Netherlands), were appointed “Global Ambassadors of the GPM”.



Advisory Committee

In January 2022, the Executive Committee appointed the following Advisory Committee members:

- Ulli Sierau, former mayor of Dortmund
- Mauricio Rodas, former mayor of Quito
- Amanda Eichel, former ED Global Covenant of Mayors, Fellow Cities of the Bezos Earth Fund
- Seth Schultz, CEO Resilience Rising
- Debra Greenspan, managing director energy & sustainability team, Finsbury and Glover
- Hazem Galal, global leader for cities & local governments, PwC Middle East

In 2022, Advisory Committee members Ian Klaus, Senior Fellow on global cities and foreign policy at the Chicago Forum on Global Affairs, and Eric Corijn, professor of Urban Studies at the Vrije Universiteit Brussels, were appointed co-directors of research and policy for the GPM.

For a full list of the Advisory Committee members, please refer to <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/consultative-committee/>

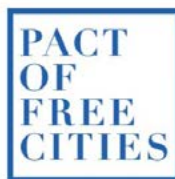
Summit for Democracy

December 2021

Together with the governments of the United States, Germany, and The Netherlands, as well as the German Marshall Fund, the GPM hosted a city-focused side event at the Biden administration's Summit for Democracy.

The debates covered a variety of subjects, including defending democracy against authoritarianism, fighting corruption, as well as promoting diversity, inclusiveness, and human rights. Speakers came from around the world and included GPM Chair Mayor Kurz of Mannheim and GPM Mayor Aboutaleb of Rotterdam.

GPM Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr (Freetown, Sierra Leone) was invited to address the topic of democracy in cities and the role of mayors during Covid-19 on the Summit's official program for national governments.



Summit for Democracy

Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy

June 2022

As part of the focus on democracy, and in collaboration with the German Marshall Fund, the Pact of Free Cities, and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the GPM prepared a Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy. The Declaration underscores the ways that cities are on the front lines of the fight to preserve liberal democracy and defend against attacks on free expression.

GPM Mayor Marcin Krupa of Katowice, Poland, said, "It is mayors and local communities that are most effective in defending the pillars of democracy. We – mayors – are currently observing negative trends and facing limited resources, but we will not be marginalized and we will continue to deliver in this context."



The Declaration emanates from the commitments mayors made at the US Summit for Democracy in December 2021, informed by a democracy-focused dialogue hosted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and GMF Cities, and propels the Summit's year-of-action ahead of the second Summit for Democracy, planned for early 2023.

As of 1 August 2022, the Declaration has been signed by 66 city leaders from 36 countries. Mayors can sign the Declaration until the end of 2022.

For more information, please refer to <https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/mayors-introduce-global-declaration-for-democracy/>

Project Uniting Mayors Workshop on Climate Migration February-March 2022

The GPM, in partnership with the British Council, organized an in-depth workshop for mayors to support them in their commitments to implement the Call to Action on Climate Migration that the GPM launched during COP26 in November 2021.

Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe (Banjul, The Gambia) and Mayor Ricardo Rio (Braga, Portugal) played a leading role in the workshop “Uniting Mayors: Local Solutions to Global Climate Challenges” as GPM Champion Climate Mayors. The workshop connected over 40 mayors from the Global North and South, city networks and international organisations to explore concrete avenues for cooperation on the urgent topic of climate migration, and to share views and expertise on the preservation of cultural heritage as well as the importance of data collection.

[Click here to read the report on the workshop Climate Migration.](#)

As follow-up to the workshop, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the Indian Institute for Human Settlements drafted a research paper entitled “Cities at the Intersection: Climate, Culture, and Migration”.

This report draws on the latest findings from the 6th Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), recent publications from leading international organizations and city networks, including the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the Mayors Migration Council (MMC), as well as previous GPM project publications on cities and migration. Built around four case studies of cities and towns in the Global South and North, the report offers insight into ongoing city-level actions to enable migration that is, what the Global Compact on Migration defines as, “safe and orderly.”

[To read the full study, please click here.](#)



Project Uniting Mayors GPM Call to Action on Climate Migration June 2022

In 2021, towards COP26, the GPM launched the Call to Action “Climate Change, Cities and Forced Migration: Advancing Knowledge, Action and Collaboration” that was signed by more than 40 mayors together with city networks representing hundreds of cities and metropolitan areas around the world. Due to interest from mayors at the workshop Uniting Mayors in March 2022, the Call to Action was re-opened to be signed by mayors, city networks and international organisations until the Summer 2022.

The Call to Action brings together a coalition of city leaders committed to action in support of SDG10 to reduce inequalities within and among countries, and SDG 13 to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

For more information on the Call to Action and its final signatories, [click here.](#)



Statements

February-April 2022

Standing United with Ukrainian Mayors

In February, the GPM published a statement of solidarity with the cities, towns, settlements and villages of Ukraine. The statement condemned the Russian invasion as an attack on democracy and the signatories committed to work to advance democratic practices and to counter the use of disinformation to instrumentalise differences within cities and communities, and across borders. [More details are available here.](#)

Statements to Condemn the Kidnapping of Ukrainian Mayors

In March, a statement was published to condemn the kidnapping of the mayors of Melitopol and Dniprorudn and to demand their immediate and unconditional release. The GPM called the kidnapping an act of barbarism aimed at destroying democratically legitimate structures at the local level and emphasized the seriousness of the act because it is precisely the cities and their mayors that organize civil defense for the suffering population in the current situation. [Click here to read the full statement.](#)

After the release of the mayor of Melitopol on 16 March, the GPM published [a second statement](#) on the kidnapping and detention of Ukrainian Mayor Yevhen Matveyev of Dniprorudne.

Joint Call on Raising Efforts to End the War in Europe

At the initiative of the city of Gdansk, with the support of several organisations of mayors, including the GPM, some 300 mayors from EU and other continents connected together to support Ukraine and ask for immediate ceasefire and peace in a Joint Call to European governments and the European Commission.

In April, the Joint Call was presented to the EU Committee of the Regions and sent to the European Commission, European Council and 27 Prime Ministers of the EU. [Click here to read the Joint Call.](#)

GPM Chair Mayor Kurz said: “The invasion of Ukraine by Vladimir Putin’s military in violation of international law and the war being waged in the most brutal way is causing more and more human suffering every day, affecting the innocent citizens of Ukraine. A sign of hope is the unprecedented solidarity and unity of the world community for Ukraine and the people living there. Together with 300 colleagues, I have signed this declaration, with which we not only want to send a signal, but also make our contribution to ending the war and reducing the suffering with concrete demands and their implementation. Because that is what it is all about. That is also why the Ukrainian cities must receive direct help from the international community, such as the European institutions and the nation states. The cities must be helped on the spot, unbureaucratically and quickly”.



Annual Summit 2022

24-25 June 2022



Over 45 mayors from 20 countries, as well as leaders of city networks and representatives of international organisations came together at the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) Annual Summit. The event, with the title: “Transforming Together: How Cities Must Lead Democratic, Inclusive, and Innovative Global Change” was hosted by Mayor Marcin Krupa of Katowice, Poland. Mayors participated in dynamic panels on issues ranging from democratic processes to migration and social infrastructure in cities. They discussed how they could work together to address some of these global challenges at the local level and push for change in existing governance structures.

GPM Chair Mayor Peter Kurz of Mannheim, Germany, said, “With this Summit, the GPM is putting democratic transformations in the centre of the debate. And democracy must be at the center of all of our conversations now, not only because of Russia’s War in Ukraine, but also because we are seeing worrying trends toward nationalism and authoritarianism around the world”.

Annual Summit 2022 Mayors of Ukraine Awarded

As part of the GPM Annual Summit programme, the GPM has awarded the prestigious Dr. Benjamin Barber Global Cities Award 2022 to all Ukrainian mayors, as a symbol of support for their resistance in the face of hostile attacks against and invasions of their cities. Their determination in safeguarding their citizens and territories, and their tenacious focus on the reconstruction of their communities and cities are an inspiration for local leaders around the world.

The Award was presented to Oleksandr Slobozhan, Executive Director of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC). He said, “The enemy is destroying the infrastructure, housing, and social facilities of Ukrainian communities, but Ukrainian mayors continue to work in these very difficult conditions. Ukrainian city leaders and local government officials work under intense pressure from the occupiers, who threaten, abduct and torture them and their families. During the war, more than 50 local government officials were abducted, of whom 23 were mayors and four of them still remain in captivity. This award is a strong symbol of support from mayors from around the world to the Ukrainian mayors in their struggle for democracy, peace, and sovereignty.”



[More information on the GPM Annual Summit 2022 can be found here.](#)

Urban7 Alliance (U7)

Making Voices of Cities Heard in G7 Process

May-July 2022

The GPM, the Association of German Cities and ICLEI have joined forces to form a strong urban alliance to accompany the German G7 Presidency in 2022. On May 3, mayors came together at the U7 Mayors Summit with high-level representatives of the German G7 Presidency to discuss the decisive role of cities achieving the G7 Presidency's vision of "progress towards an equitable world." The mayors signed a declaration, outlining their vision and their demands, which they presented to national leaders. Highlights from the event can be found here.

In the intervening months, the Urban7 Alliance has made remarkable progress toward the goals outlined in the declaration. The G7's heads of state acknowledged the importance of cities and committed to working together with cities to "decide on joint initiatives for unlocking the full potential of cities" in the [G7 Leaders' Communiqué](#).

The work of the Urban7 Alliance will continue after the German G7 Presidency to ensure that the voices of cities are included centrally in the G7 process. For more information, please visit: <https://g7u7.org/>

In the intervening months, the Urban7 has made remarkable progress toward the goals outlined in the U7 Declaration. References to the important role of cities were made in several ministerial communiqués. [The Development Ministers' Communiqué](#) made explicit reference to the importance of multi-level governance, which is at the heart of the work of the U7. The [Foreign Ministers' Communiqué](#) acknowledged the importance of exchange with subnational governments.

Furthermore, the [Climate, Energy, and Environment Ministers' Communiqué](#) includes powerful references to the important role cities play in addressing climate change, including the acknowledgement of, "the important role of cities, regions and local governments in implementing a just climate and energy transition and in making the transition socially acceptable in the context of local needs and environmental conditions."

2022 G7 Urban7 Group Alliance

Deutscher
Städtetag

Global
Parliament
of Mayors

ICLEI
Local Governments
for Sustainability

In collaboration with

ENGAGEMENT
GLOBAL
Service für Entwicklungspolitik



Supported by

Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Statements

April-July 2022

Statement of Solidarity with the Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone

In April, the GPM expressed its concern about the continued escalation of aggressive tactics used against GPM Mayor Aki-Sawyerr by her opponents during the investigations by the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Public Accounts Committee in Parliament and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development in Sierra Leone. The GPM emphasized that those investigations should not be used as weapons to harass political opponents, which could undermine the efforts of those fighting justly against corruption. The GPM statement underscored that Mayor Aki-Sawyerr should be given a fair investigation and the space to carry out her vision and serve the residents of Freetown. [**Please click here for the full Statement of Solidarity.**](#)

Call to Action to Prevent long-term Global Food Crisis

In July, the GPM published a Call to Action on the global food crisis asking governments, international financial institutions, and other relevant institutions to take urgent action to solve the short-term crisis and prevent long-term catastrophe by providing immediate international humanitarian funding and step up diplomatic actions. Furthermore, the Call to Action pushed for investment in long-term food security, the establishment of an integrated food supply policy, support for mayors to make their food systems more sustainable and support for the [**Milan Urban Food Policy Pact.**](#)

[**More details are available here.**](#)

New Members 2022

Between November 2021 and August 2022, the GPM welcomed the mayors of Antsirabe (Madagascar), Bukavu (DRC), Cascais (Portugal), Ellembelle (Ghana), Jwaneng (Botswana), Kanifing (The Gambia), Kasumbalesa (DRC), Kisumu (Kenya), Lubumbashi (DRC), Montpellier (France), and Quelimane (Mozambique) as members and the mayors of Palmira (Colombia) and Tirana (Albania) as candidate-members.

Associated Partnership

In June 2022, the GPM established a system of associated partnership for associations of mayors and their cities to join the GPM with a delegation of maximum 2 mayors. The Sicilian Chapter of the Association of Italian Cities (ANCI) has signed a Letter of Intent to develop an associated partnership together with the GPM. "This is a tremendous chance for Sicilian mayors to participate in the GPM and to make the voice of Sicilian mayors known at the global level," said Leoluca Orlando, president of the Sicilian Chapter of ANCI.

Appointments and Awards of GPM members and their cities

- In May 2022, GPM Vice Chair Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe of Banjul, The Gambia, was elected President of the Network of Locally Elected Women of South Africa (REFELA).
- In April 2022, the GPM cities of Brussels, Mannheim, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Wroclaw and Bristol have been selected among EU's 100 climate neutral cities by 2030.
- In January 2022, the cities of Amman (Jordan), Freetown (Sierra Leone) and Rotterdam (The Netherlands) were chosen as winners of the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayors Challenge for designing the most ambitious urban innovation to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In November 2021, The Hague (The Netherlands) was awarded the Smart City Award 2021.
- In November 2021, Ghent (Belgium) was awarded the title "European Youth Capital 2024".

Members of the Global Parliament of Mayors October 2022

Mayors of Afanloum (Cameroon), Amman (Jordan), Amsterdam (The Netherlands), Antsirabe (Madagascar), Banjul (The Gambia), Beira (Mozambique), Bern (Switzerland), Braga (Portugal), Bristol (UK), Brussels (Belgium), Bukavu (DRC), Cape Town (South Africa), Cascais (Portugal), Columbia (USA), Dakar (Senegal), Dayton (USA), Durban (South Africa), Ellembelle (Ghana), Freetown (Sierra Leone), Ghent (Belgium), Gjilan (Kosovo), The Hague (The Netherlands), Hebron (Palestine), Hoima (Uganda), Jwaneng (Botswana), Kanifing (The Gambia), Kasumbalesa (DRC), Katowice (Poland), Kisumu (Kenya), Le Port (Reunion Island), Leicester (UK), Lubumbashi (DRC), Mafra (Portugal), Mannheim (Germany), Mansakonko Council (The Gambia), Montpellier (France), Monrovia (Liberia), Nebbi (Uganda), Nijmegen (The Netherlands), Palermo (Italy), Palmira (Colombia), Rabat (Morocco), Rochester Hills (USA), Rotterdam (The Netherlands), Tirana (Albania), Utrecht (The Netherlands), Vyas (Nepal), Wroclaw (Poland) and Quelimane (Mozambique).

Honorary Members of the Global Parliament of Mayors 2022

Former Mayors van Aartsen (The Hague, the Netherlands), De Lille (Cape Town, South Africa), Johnson (Asbury Park, USA), Mugasa (Hoima, Uganda) and Termont (Ghent, Belgium).

Engaged Mayors in the Global Parliament of Mayors 2022

Africa: Mayors of Pobe, Porto Novo (Benin), Andek, Bamenda, Bafut, Esse, Kumba, Limbe, Tiko (Cameroon), Basse, Brikama Town, Janjanbureh, Kuntaur Area Council (The Gambia), Ablemkuma Central Municipal District, Accra, Ayaso East Municipality, Manso-Adubia (Ghana), Bopolu, Gbarnga, Voinjama, Kakata, Zwedru (Liberia), Eunugu, Gbarnga, Ohaji, Isu, Obowo, Orsu, Owerri North (Nigeria), Diourbel, Keur Maba Diakhou (Senegal), Mogadishu (Somalia), Buffalo City, Port Shepstone (South Africa), Carthage (Tunisia), Entebbe, Kabale, Kamuli, Kampala, Kawempe, Masaka, Mityana, Nansana, Iganga (Uganda) and Bulawayo (Zimbabwe).

Asia: Mayors of Islamabad, Kolkata (India), Denpasar, Trenggalek (Indonesia), Haifa, Jerusalem (Israel), El Qrayeh (Lebanon), Dura (Palestine), Kalmunai (Sri Lanka), Taipei (Taiwan) and Izmir, Konak, Tepebasi (Turkey).

Australia and New Zealand: Mayors of Adelaide, Hobart and Wollongong (Australia) and Christchurch (New Zealand).

Europe: Mayors of Bruges (Belgium), Burgas (Bulgaria), Rijeka (Croatia), Tallinn (Estonia), Dresden, Dusseldorf, Heidelberg, Munich (Germany), Nicosia (Greece), Helsinki (Finland), Paris (France), Budapest (Hungary), Reykjavik (Iceland), Milan (Italy), Podgorica (Montenegro), Gdansk, Krakow, Rybnik (Poland), Viana do Castelo (Portugal), Cluj-Napoca (Romania), Glasgow (Scotland), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Barbera del Valles, Bilbao, Granollers, Madrid, Santiago de Compostela (Spain), Breda (The Netherlands), Manchester, Newham, Oxford, Sheffield (UK) and Ivano-Frankivsk and Kyiv (Ukraine)

North and South America: Mayors of Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz (Argentina), Niteroi (Brazil), Victoria (Canada), Santiago (Chile), Bogota (Colombia), Cuenca (Ecuador), Tegucigalpa (Honduras), and Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Wilksburg (USA).



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