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Mayors for Democracy

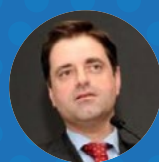
Over 250 mayors from five continents endorse the Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy promoted collaboratively by the Global Parliament of Mayors, GMF Cities, and the Pact of Free Cities

The [Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy](#) emanates from the 2019 Pact of Free Cities. Cities are on the front lines of the fight to preserve liberal democracy and defend against attacks on free expression. Drawing from their cities' shared identity as champions and centers of democratic development, the mayors reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to rebuilding and reinforcing democracy, standing up for free and fair elections at home and abroad, defending the rule of law at all levels of government, and addressing urban challenges through the lens of democracy and democratic values.



Mayors sign at the GPM Annual Summit 2022

The Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy had a central role at the [GPM Annual Summit 2022](#) "Transforming Together: How Cities Must Lead Democratic, Inclusive and Innovative Global Change" in Katowice, Poland. Many participating mayors signed the declaration in person while its contents were discussed in the plenary session on democratic processes that also highlighted how democracy around the world is under attack from within and from without, and the ways populist nationalist movements are taking and holding power.



Mayor Ricardo Rio

Braga (Portugal)

Mayors and local leaders are committed to the cause of democracy and it is important to support the efforts of Secretary Blinken promoting democracy all across the globe. At a time of war in Europe and the Russian unacceptable invasion of Ukraine, democrats must stand firm and spread the word of liberty, freedom and democracy

GLOBAL DECLARATION *of* MAYORS *for* DEMOCRACY



Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe

Banjul (The Gambia)

Democracy, its institutions, and processes are in high demand. This is especially clear as they recede around the world. It is critical to deepen and sustain democratic principles, while encouraging political leaders to offer ways for people to get engaged in pushing back against growing authoritarianism and strengthening democratic institutions and processes.

Declaration acknowledged by the G7

[The G7 Communiqué of the Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Urban Development](#) in September 2022 highlighted the Declaration of Mayors for Democracy as an important example of cities taking responsibility for addressing global challenges and playing a critical role in “democratic innovation”.

Endorsement by the US government

After reaching the milestone of 100 signatures the declaration was endorsed by [U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken](#), who invited American mayors to sign the declaration at the 2023 Winter Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. This marked the first time that a United States Secretary of State addressed American mayors in this forum, demonstrating the growing recognition in Washington of the importance of cities in addressing global issues.



Mayor Danela Arsovska

Skopje (North Macedonia)

With a majority of the world's population living in cities, mayors have a key role in making a difference, increasing local democracy, and enabling cities to develop based on the principles of good governance, rule of law, transparency and inclusiveness.



GPM Chair Mayor Peter Kurz

Mannheim (Germany)

The GPM applauds Secretary Blinken's recognition of the Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy and calls on other national governments and international institutions to recognize the power of local action and urban diplomacy. The GPM is committed to supporting the Declaration's 100 [now +250] signatories as they endeavor to strengthen democracy and stand up to illiberal forces locally and around the world.



Mayor Gergely Karácsony

Budapest (Hungary)

In the age of rising authoritarianism, cities stand as a bulwark against the erosion of freedom and the rule of law. We are thrilled to see that the Pact of Free Cities inspired the global movement of city leaders rising above the partisanship to rebuild and reinforce our increasingly fragile democracies.



Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb

Rotterdam (The Netherlands), World Mayor 2022

A democracy, like freedom for instance, requires a constant attention and care. It's a set of values that requires permanent maintenance, especially on the local level. We are the level of government closest to our citizens, and maintaining democratic values is always a work in progress.



U.S. Summit for Democracy

In 2021 and 2023, U.S. President Biden convened two Summits for Democracy to coalesce goals and actions into a 'common agenda' for the renewal of democracy to tackle the greatest threats faced by democracies today through collective action. National leaders were encouraged to announce specific actions and commitments to meaningful internal reforms and international initiatives. The summits were part of a larger partnership with governments and organizations that are actively engaging democratic innovations and networks of mayors to amplify the impact on democratic renewal.

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Joe Biden

President of the United States of America

Democracy doesn't happen by accident. We have to defend it, fight for it, strengthen it, and renew it”

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U.S. Summit City Events

As part of the U.S. Summit for Democracy 2021, together with the governments of the U.S, Germany, and The Netherlands, the GPM and GMF Cities hosted the city-focused side-event “[Mayors Delivering Democracy Daily](#)”. 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 Mayor Aboutaleb of Rotterdam. Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyers of Freetown, Sierra Leone, was invited to address the

topic of democracy in cities on the U.S. Summit's official program for national governments.

At the U.S. Summit for Democracy 2023, mayors were also represented and actively shaped the debates during the city-focused debate “[Building Democracy from the Ground Up](#)”. Mayors showcased the role of cities and states in the affirmation of democratic values and renewal of democracy worldwide. At this event, the GPM, GMF Cities, and Pact of Free Cities presented the Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy, which as of May 2023 has more than [250 signatories](#) from more than 50 countries on five continents.

The [Global Parliament of Mayors](#) (GPM) is a unique governance body of, by and for mayors that functions as a parliament and brings cities to the world fore.

The [Pact of Free Cities](#), founded by the mayors of Visegrad Four Capitals (Warsaw, Prague, Bratislava and Budapest) in 2019, is a global network of cities determined to stand up for

progressive values and fight against nationalistic populism. The [German Marshall Fund](#) of the United States (GMF) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, transatlantic organization headquartered in Washington DC, with offices in Ankara, Berlin, Brussels, Bucharest, Paris, and Warsaw.

globalparliamentofmayors.org

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