Global Parliament of Mayors

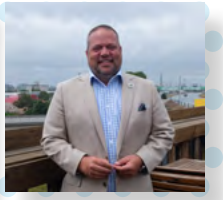
SUMMARY OF GPM ACTIVITIES 2023

19 OCTOBER 2023

The Executive Committee of the Global Parliament of Mayors is proud to present this summary of its key activities from November 2022 until August 2023. The GPM had a successful year advocating for the interests of mayors, organizing meaningful debates both online and in-presence, and making the voice of mayors heard globally. These efforts included the ongoing and continuing intensive leadership in the Urban7 process, projects and declarations spearheaded by a partnership with the US Summit for Democracy, and an in-depth workshop on pandemic preparedness in collaboration with our new partner, the Geneva Cities Hub. 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. We look forward to another productive year ahead!

The Executive Committee*
Chair/Treasurer Mayor Rio *(Braga/Portugal),* ***Vice Chair Mayor Lowe*** *(Banjul/The Gambia),* ***Vice Chair Mayor Barnett*** *(Rochester Hills/USA),* ***Mayor Kurz*** *(Mannheim/Germany),* ***Mayor de Araujo*** *(Quelimane/Mozambique),* ***Mayor Krupa*** *(Katowice/Poland),* ***Mayor Koijee*** *(Monrovia/Liberia), and* ***Mayor de Clercq*** *(Ghent/Belgium).*



** Mayor Peter Kurz stepped down as GPM Chair on August 1st, 2023.*

Roundtable "Cities Leading Implementation – the Essential Ingredients for Success"

COP27, November 2022

In partnership with Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week and Masdar City (UAE), the Global Parliament of Mayors hosted an onsite roundtable for mayors titled "Cities Leading Implementation – the Essential Ingredients for Success" at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

GPM **Mayors Sharon Dijksma** (Utrecht, the Netherlands), **Rohey Malick Lowe** (Banjul, the Gambia), and **Manuel de Araujo** (Quelimane, Mozambique) contributed to the debate. **Mayor Marcin Krupa** (Katowice, Poland) and **Ms. Phyllis Dickerson**, ED African American Mayors Association, commented on the panel discussion. The session focused on talent development, exploring the roles of citizens in reaching the goals of sustainability.

Panel "Rethinking the Decarbonization Role of Cities in Meeting Net Zero Goals"

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, January 2023

The GPM, in partnership with Masdar City, hosted a live panel discussion as part of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) Live 2023. The panel "Rethinking the Decarbonization Role of Cities in Meeting Net Zero Goals" featured **Mayor Ricardo Rio** of Braga, Portugal, **CEO Ahmed Baghoum,** Masdar City, **HE Uros Vajgl,** State Secretary Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Slovenia, and **Gregory Dewerpe,** Founder and CEO of A/O Prop Tech.

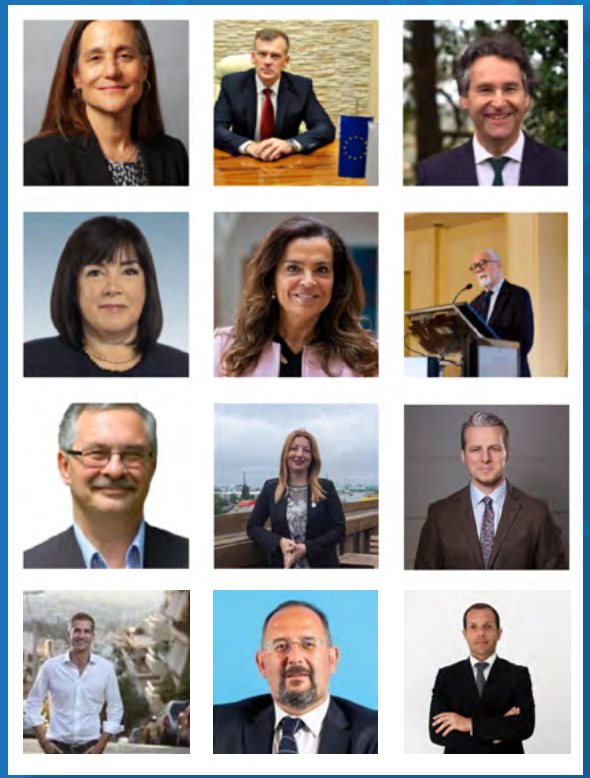
The discussion focused on what lessons new planned cities and older established cities could learn from one another as they work together toward achieving their shared net zero goals. The importance of communication, global cooperation and the sharing of best practices across cities as well as between cities and their national governments was emphasized by the panelists. **Click here for more information.**

The ADSW Summit, themed "United on Climate Action Towards Cop28", served as a vital bridge ensuring momentum between COP27 and COP28. The UAE will assume the COP Presidency and host COP28 from November 30-December 12, 2023.

New Members

Between November 2022 and May 2023, the Global Parliament of Mayors welcomed twelve new members:

Mayor Jeni Arndt, Fort Collins, CO, United States, **Mayor Marek Nazarko,** Michałowo, Poland, **Mayor José Manuel Ribeiro**, Valongo, Portugal, **Mayor Helena Teodósio,** Cantanhede, Portugal, **Mayor Luísa Salgueiro,** Matosinhos, Portugal, **Mayor Mario Bolognari,** Taormina, Italy, **Mayor Giuseppe Monteleone,** Carini, Italy, **Mayor Danela Arsovska,** Skopje, Macedonia, **Mayor Shqiprim Arifi** of Presevo, Serbia, **Mayor Kostas Bakoyannis** of Athens, Greece, **Mayor António Loueiro** of Albergaria-a-Velha, Portugal, and **Mayor Alexandre Gaudenico** of Ribeira Grande, Portugal.



Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy

January – September 2023

The ***Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy,*** an initiative of the GPM in cooperation with the German Marshall Fund and the Pact of Free Cities, has seen extensive success in the months following the last summary of activities. The declaration emanates from the commitments mayors made at the Summit for Democracy in 2021 facilitated by the White House. The Declaration was informed by a democracy-focused dialogue hosted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and GMF Cities, and propelled by the administration Year of Action ahead of the second US Summit for Democracy in March 2023.

During the GPM Annual Summit 2022 in Katowice, Poland, mayors signed the Declaration, committing to rebuild and reinforce democracy, stand up for free and fair elections and democratic movements worldwide, combat human rights abuses, address urban challenges through the lens of democracy and democratic values, share best practices in inclusive governance, engage in dialogue and action, and keep working on fortifying democracy.

The 100th signature was confirmed just as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called on mayors to sign the declaration at the US Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting. This marked the first time that a United States Secretary of State addressed American mayors in this forum, demonstrating the growing recognition of the power of urban diplomacy in Washington.

In March 2023, the Declaration was presented at the side-event of the second Summit for Democracy titled ***"Building Democracy from the Ground Up: The Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy"*** hosted by the Biden administration. A panel of mayors showcased the role of cities and subnational governments in the affirmation of democratic values and renewal of democracy worldwide.

The panel discussion was moderated by **Ambassador Nina Hachigian,** Special Representative for City and State Diplomacy, U.S. Department of State, and included contributions from GPM Vice Chair **Mayor Rohey Malick Lowe** of Banjul, The Gambia, GPM **Mayor Femke Halsema** of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, **Mayor Tishaura Jones** of St. Louis, USA, **Mayor José Rojas Méndez** of Buenos Aires Cantón, Costa Rica, and **Mayor Oh Se-hoon** of Seoul, The Republic of South Korea.

As of August, the Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy has been endorsed by 251 mayors from five continents, showing the far-reaching ambition of cities on the international stage, as well as their extensive and effective network.

Urban7: Making Voices of Cities Heard in the G7 Process

January – July 2023

In 2023, the Global Parliament of Mayors continued its leadership in the Urban7, working to make the voices of cities heard in the G7 process. Since January 2023, the GPM and ICLEI formally serve as the U7 Secretariat. In March, city leaders, including GPM Chair **Mayor Peter Kurz,** gathered in Tokyo for the third annual U7 Mayors Summit. The mayors discussed their vision for the role of cities in the G7 process as Japan took on the G7 presidency. The city leaders presented their 2023 U7 Mayors Declaration, which was drafted collaboratively by the national city networks of the G7 members and the U7 Secretariat.

After the Summit, the mayors handed over their declaration to high-level representatives of Japan's G7 Presidency, who welcomed the mayors' input. In April, G7 ministers for Climate, Energy and Environment announced the first-ever G7 Roundtable on Subnational Climate Actions in collaboration with Urban7. The following month, G7 Heads of State emphasized "the transformative power of cities worldwide as drivers for every aspect of sustainable development," in their final communiqué.

The GPM also played a key role in planning and participating in the G7 Sustainable Urban Development Ministers Meeting and drafting the ministers' final communiqué. Representing the Urban7, **Mayor Kizō Hisamoto** (Kobe, Japan) joined the G7 ministers for Urban Development in Takamatsu, Kagawa to address pressing issues facing cities. In 2024, the GPM will continue to play a leading role in this process.

For more information on the Urban7/G7 process, please refer to ***https://g7u7.org/***

Webinar "Cities Alive – Designing Cities that work for Women: Safety & Security"

March 2023

The Global Parliament of Mayors, together with Arup, organized a unique and insightful webinar titled "Cities Alive – Designing Cities that Work for Women: Safety & Security" on March 8th, International Women's Day. This webinar brought together mayors and local leaders to share experiences and explore solutions and best practices for designing cities that prioritize women's wellbeing, and particularly their safety and security.

The panel included **Mayor Arsovska** of Skopje, North Macedonia, **Mayor Ngiriker** of Nebbi, Uganda, **Mayor Salgueiro,** Matosinhos, Portugal, **Mayor De Clercq**, Ghent, Belgium, and **Councillor Holland** of Bristol, UK.

The panelists presented initiatives developed in their respective cities, highlighting the necessity for a holistic approach to engaging men to make a change, and providing equal opportunities for women, and the use of gender-disaggregated data for the drafting and implementation of new policies.

You can read the full event report ***here***. The findings of this webinar have been synthesized with further research done by Arup in a comprehensive report, which you can access ***here***.

Debate "Empowering Cities: Co-Decision, Capacity, and Capital"

Brussels Urban Summit, June 2023

The Global Parliament of Mayors hosted a debate on the topic of "Empowering Cities: Co-Decision, Capacity and Capital" during the Brussels Urban Summit 2023. This event brought together mayors and representatives of international city networks to discuss the three C´s of Empowering Cities: Co-Decision, Capacity and Capital.

The session was moderated by **Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook** of the Bertelsmann Stiftung, and opened by GPM Chair **Mayor Peter Kurz** of Mannheim, Germany. The panel featured GPM **Mayors Danela Arsovska** of Skopje, North Macedonia, **Marvin Rees** of Bristol, United Kingdom, and **Mathias De Clercq** of Ghent, Belgium. This debate further featured **Lamia Kamal Chaoui** (OECD Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities), **Andras Szorenyi** (Senior Policy Advisor of the Geneva Cities Hub), and **Rafael Tuts** (Director Global Solutions Division at UN-Habitat, United Nations Human Settlements Programme). Over 20 mayors from European and African cities contributed through short interventions, and over 100 guests attended.

In addition to the debate, the GPM, together with Eurocities, hosted a Networking Breakfast on "City Diplomacy in Times of Crisis".

Debate "Responding to Climate, Nature, and Pollution Emergencies through Urbanization and Multilevel Action"

UN Habitat General Assembly, June 2023

The GPM, together ICLEI and UN-Habitat, co-hosted a debate on "Responding to Climate, Nature, and Pollution Emergencies through Urbanization and Multilevel Action" as a side-event at the 2nd UN-Habitat General Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya.

The event highlighted how urbanization and multilevel action have been gaining attraction, recognition and engagement in decision-making and implementation agendas of global intergovernmental processes under the United Nations. The event addressed climate, nature, pollution emergencies along with the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as at non-UN processes, such as the engagement of the Urban 7 in the G7.

The event featured a distinguished line-up of speakers with representatives from UN-Habitat, UN Environment Programme, UNFCC, the Association of German Cities and the German Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building.

Governor **Peter Anyang' Nyong'o** of Kisumu, Kenya, contributed to the discussion on behalf of the Global Parliament of Mayors.

A Selection of Awards and Achievements of GPM Members and their Cities

In July 2023, **Mayors Rio** (Braga, Portugal), **Dijksma** (Utrecht, the Netherlands), **Rees (**Bristol, UK) and **de Araujo** (Quelimane, Mozambique) were shortlisted for the World Mayors Prize 2023.

In June 2023, **Mayor de Araujo** was among the first-ever winners of the Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure to receive support to build innovative cycling infrastructure and sustainable mobility options for their residents.

In February 2023, **Mayors Rio** and **Close** (Brussels, Belgium), together with five other mayors across the globe, joined the OECD Steering Group to guide the Champion Mayors Initiative.

In January 2023, **Mayor Nazarko** of Michalowo, Poland, received the prestigious Mayor Pawel Adamowicz Award 2022 for the exceptional support of the citizens of Michalow to Ukrainian refugees.

In October 2022, **Mayor Oscar Escobar** of Palmira, Colombia, was awarded the UCLG Peace Prize 2022 for Palmira's efforts to tackle urban violence.

Webinar "Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response: Mayors´ Voices Matter"

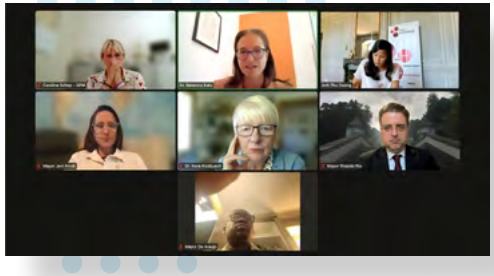
July 2023

In July, the Global Parliament of Mayors and the Geneva Cities Hub joined forces to host an insightful webinar titled "Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response: Mayors' Voices Matter". The webinar aimed to highlight the crucial role of mayors in effectively addressing pandemics within their cities and provided a platform for discussion among mayors and experts.

Esteemed panelists, including GPM **Mayors Ricardo Rio**, Braga, Portugal, **Jeni Arndt,** Fort Collins, USA, and **Manuel De Araujo,** Quelimane, Mozambique, along with global health experts **Rebecca Katz,** Director of the Center for Global Health Science and Security, Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA and **Ilona Kickbusch**, Chair of the Global Health Centre at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, engaged in a thought-provoking conversation moderated by **Anh Thu Duong,** co-director of the Geneva Cities Hub.

The webinar shed light on ongoing intergovernmental negotiations at the World Health Organization, specifically focusing on the revision of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and the development of a new international treaty on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. The panelists discussed technical and political aspects, emphasizing the provisions relevant to local and regional governments.

The online event was attended by around 70 mayors and experts in the field of public health. It provided an opportunity for mayors to contribute to the global discours on effective prevention and respons measures.



Mayors' Declaration for Better Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response

July 2023 - May 2024

The GPM and Geneva Cities Hub hosted a webinar, during which they launched the Mayors' Declaration for Better Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response.

The Declaration has been prepared in consultation with leading global health experts. The Declaration was shared with WHO, Member States as well as with Facilitators (Morocco, Israel) at the UN General Assembly High Level meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response in September 2023.

Geneva Cities Hub, an accredited stakeholder of the process, will also share the mayoral declaration as input in the intergovernmental negotiations on the Pandemic Treaty and the revision of the International Health Regulations to be adopted at the 77th Assembly of the World Health Organization (WHA77) in May 2024, as well as in other relevant processes, ensuring that the voice of city leaders is heard in shaping global pandemic response strategies.

With cities at the forefront of pandemic response, collaboration between local, national, and international stakeholders is essential to build resilient and prepared communities that can effectively address global health crises.

Mayors can sign the Mayor's Declaration for Better Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response until April 2024. To sign and for more information on this ongoing initiative, please refer to the ***GPM website***.

GENEVA CITIES HUB

Mayor Ricardo Rio of Braga, Portugal, New Chair of the Executive Committee

July – August 2023
The Global Parliament of Mayors warmly welcomed **Mayor Ricardo Rio** of Braga, Portugal, as the new Chair of the Executive Committee. On July 1st in Mannheim, the GPM Executive Committee Chair position was ceremoniously handed over by GPM Chair **Mayor Peter Kurz** to his successor. Mayor Rio has officially taken on the role as Chair on August 1st when Mayor Kurz stepped down as mayor of Mannheim and Chair of the GPM.

Mayor Rio said**:** "It is with great pride that I take over the GPM Chair from Mayor Kurz. Since the start in 2016, the GPM has developed a history of uniting mayors to address global issues of the 21st century delivering impact at the global and local level, including advancing the role of cities in relation to the UN and the G7, and urban democracy and local self-governance through the Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy. This declaration has been signed by over 250 mayors worldwide. The GPM will continue to serve as a critical forum to facilitate the collaboration between mayors and their cities, and to advance the interests of cities at the global stage".

Mayor Kurz stated: "Ricardo Rio has proven himself to be a powerful champion for mayors throughout his tenure on the GPM Executive Committee. I am confident that Ricardo will continue to expand the organization and its global impact in his new role."

Rainer Kern appointed GPM Executive Director

In August, Rainer Kern has been appointed Executive Director (ED) of the Global Parliament of Mayors Secretariat. Rainer Kern has taken over the ED position from drs Caroline Schep, who has decided to take her early retirement from the City of The Hague in the fall of this year.
As Special Advisor for Global Affairs to Mayor Peter Kurz of Mannheim, former Chair and co-founder of the GPM, Rainer Kern has been engaged in the establishment and strategic development of the Global Parliament of Mayors from 2016 onwards.

As representative of the mayor of Mannheim, he participated in several United Nations events such as HABITAT III, World Urban Forum and High Level Political Forum (HLPF) at UN Headquarters in New York. Rainer Kern is member of the OECD Expert Group on SDG Investments in Cities.

Rainer Kern is founder of "Enjoy Jazz-International Festival for Jazz and More" in Heidelberg, which is currently the biggest German jazz festival, held annually in the cities of Mannheim, Heidelberg and Ludwigshafen. In 2014, he was responsible for the UNESCO City of Music application of Mannheim. With his work, Rainer Kern has always combined culture and politics.

From 2016 until August 2023, the City of The Hague sponsored the ED position, which was held by drs Caroline Schep. From September 2023 until August 2025, the City of Mannheim will host the Executive Director position, with generous support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, through Engagement Global and their Service Agency Community in One World.

On August 31, the ED position was ceremoniously handed over by Caroline Schep to Rainer Kern in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Ian Klaus, New Chair of the Advisory Committee

July 2023
In July, the Executive Committee appointed Ian Klaus Chair of the Advisory Committee. He took over the Chair position from Ambassador Ivo Daalder, CEO of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, who has taken a step back from his day-to-day responsibilities at the Chicago Council and other obligations, including his role as AdCo Chair.

Ian Klaus is founding director of Carnegie California and a leading scholar on the nexus of urbanization, geopolitics, and global challenges, with extensive experience as a practitioner of subnational diplomacy. Previously, he served as the deputy US negotiator for Habitat 3, as senior adviser for global cities at the US State Department, and as a member of the Policy Planning Staff. More recently, he helped lead the development of both the Urban20 and Urban7, the G20 and G7 urban-focused engagement groups. Until January 2023, he was a senior fellow in global cities and foreign policy at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. In 2021, Ian jointed Advisory Committee of the Global Parliament of Mayors as director of Policy and Research.

Members

Mayors of Tirana (Albania), Brussels and Ghent (Belgium), Jwaneng (Botswana), Afanloum (Cameroon), Palmira (Colombia), Bukavu, Kasumbalesa, Lubumbashi (DRC), Montpellier, Le Port (France), Banjul, Kanifing (the Gambia), Ellembelle, (Ghana), Athens (Greece) , Mannheim (Germany), Carini, Taormina, Palermo (Italy), Amman (Jordan), Kisumu (Kenya), Gjilan (Kosovo), Monrovia (Liberia), Antsirabe (Madagascar), Rabat (Morocco), Beira, Quelimane (Mozambique), Vyas (Nepal), Utrecht, The Hague, Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Nijmegen (the Netherlands), Skopje (North Macedonia), Hebron (Palestine), Katowice, Wroclaw, Michalowo (Poland), Braga, Cascais, Cantanhede, Matosinhos, Valongo, Mafra, Albergaria-a-Velha en Ribeira Grande (Portugal), Dakar (Senegal), Presevo (Serbia), Freetown (Sierra Leone), Cape Town, Durban (South Africa), Bern (Switzerland), Hoima, Nebbi (Uganda), Bristol, Leicester (UK), Fort Collins, Rochester Hills (USA)

Honorary Members

Former Mayors van Aartsen (The Hague, The Netherlands), Wolusmal (Kandahar, Afghanistan), Termont (Ghent, Belgium), Orlando (Palermo, Italy), de Lille (Cape Town, South Africa), Mugasa (Hoima, Uganda), Johnson (Asbury Park, USA)

Engaged Mayors

Africa:
Mayors of Porto-Novo, Pobe (Benin), Andek, Bafut, Bamenda III, Esse, Kumba I Council Limbe, Tiko (Cameroon), Basse, Janjanbureh, Kuntaur Area Council, Brikama (the Gambia), Accra, Manso-Adubea, Ayawaso East (Ghana), Haifa, Jerusalem (Israel), El Qrayeh (Lebanon), Gbarnga, Kakata, Voinjama, Bopulu, Zwedru (Liberia), Dura (Palestina), Mogadishu (Somalia), Buffalo City (South Africa), Carthage (Tunisia), Kampala Kabale, Kampala Kawempe, Iganga, Entebbe, Nansana, Iganga, Kamuli, Masaka, Mityana, Kigali, Koboko (Uganda), Bulawayo (Zimbabwe)

Asia:
Mayors of Kolkata (India), Islamabad (Pakistan), Denpasar, Tranggalek (Indonesia), Kalmunai (Sri Lanka), Taipei (Taiwan)

Europe:
Mayors of Bruges (Belgium), Burgas (Bulgaria) Rijeka (Croatia), Nicosia (Cyprus), Tallinn (Estonia), Helsinki (Finland), Paris, Lyon (France), Dresden, Munich, Heidelberg, Düsseldorf, Cologne (Germany), Budapest (Hungary), Reykjavik (Iceland), Gdansk, Rybnik, Warsaw (Poland), Arezzo, Tarunto, Milan (Italy), Podgorica (Montenegro), Breda, Enschede (the Netherlands), Viana do Castelo, Guimaraes (Portugal), Cluj-Napoca (Romana), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Bilbao, Barbera del Valles, Granollers, Valencia, Madrid, Barcelona, Santiago de Compostela (Spain), Izmir, Konak, Tepebasi (Turkey), Manchester, Newham, Glasgow, Oxford, Sheffield (UK), Kyiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Poltava (Ukraine)

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

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

Global Parliament of Mayors

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