IMRF SUMMARY REPORT 2022

Local Governments at the First Review of the Global Compact for Migration













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> 1. OVERVIEW

From 16-20 May 2022, United Nations Member States and stakeholders joined together for the first-ever quadrennial International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) to assess progressvtoward the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) adopted in 2018. States and stakeholders participated in five days of programming at the UN General Assembly in New York City to review their progress on the GCM, including a Multi-Stakeholder Hearing hosted by the President of the General Assembly, four Roundtable Thematic Discussions, side events, and the adoption of a Progress Declaration by the UN General Assembly.

A delegation of global mayors and local government leaders joined the IMRF with the goal of turning the GCM from aspiration into action. This delegation was convened and supported by the <u>Mayors Mechanism</u> – a partnership between <u>United Cities and</u> <u>Local Governments</u> (UCLG), the <u>Mayors</u> <u>Migration Council</u> (MMC), and the <u>UN</u> <u>Migration Agency</u> (IOM) in coordination with the <u>Global Task Force of Local and Regional</u> <u>Governments</u>. The Mayors Mechanism's delegation to the IMRF marked a historic advancement for local governments. While local governments were largely excluded from the 2018 conference to adopt the GCM, at the 2022 IMRF local governments delivered the largest number of pledges to advance the GCM, secured access through more Member State delegations than ever before, were welcomed as speakers across the official UN programme, and successfully influenced the IMRF Progress Declaration.

This report, prepared by the Mayors Mechanism, provides a summary of local and regional governments' (LRGs) engagement at the 2022 IMRF and their road towards greater inclusion. It also serves as a learning tool for the <u>Massive Open Online Course</u> (MOOC) on the local governance of migration developed by UCLG in partnership with the Mayors Mechanism and the <u>Mediterranean City to City Migration</u> (MC2CM) project for an audience of LRGs and other relevant stakeholders.







HIGHLIGHTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AT THE IMRF

LRGs launched the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees and delivered 70 actions to the UN that make a tangible difference to the lives of migrants and refugees.

The IMRF Progress Declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly recognises the role of LRGs, particularly on migrant health in response to Covid-19.

LRGs had speaking roles in 6 of the 7 official IMRF sessions, contributing directly alongside national governments, civil society and UN agencies.

LRGs participated in 20 IMRF-related events, including launching the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees and Lampedusa Charter, organizing a UCLG-Local and Regional Governments Day, convening the MMC's Annual Leadership Board Meeting, meeting the UN Deputy Secretary-General and President of the General Assembly and more.



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND PARTNER ASSOCIATIONS

16 LRGs from 5 regions participated in the IMRF to raise the bar on global migration governance, 5 of which were included in their national government's delegation*:

Accra, Ghana* Braga, Portugal* Dhaka North, Bangladesh Entebbe, Uganda eThekwini (Durban), South Africa* Montréal, Canada* Freetown, Sierra Leone Grigny, France Kampala, Uganda Kanifing, The Gambia

8 local government associations participated, supporting and amplifying mayor and city leaders' voices:





UCLG

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Mechelen, Belgium* Milan, Italy Monrovia, Liberia Montevideo, Uruguay São Paulo, Brazil San Jose, United States of America





2. BACKGROUND

THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, 2.1 ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) is the firstever intergovernmental negotiated UN agreement on a common approach to managing international migration. It is based on a collective realization that no single government can effectively govern migration alone without cooperation.

The GCM defines 10 guiding principles and 23 objectives covering all aspects of migration in a "360-degree" approach. Each objective has an array of possible actions, drawn from best practice, that States and stakeholders are encouraged to implement to achieve the objective.

The GCM - and its sister agreement the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) – are rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable **Development** and complement global efforts to promote sustainable development and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To support the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM, Member States established the UN Network on Migration, and committed to conduct regular Regional GCM Reviews, and an International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) every four years beginning in May 2022. In addition, the UN Secretary-General is mandated by the General Assembly to provide a biennial report on the status of GCM implementation.



GCM OBJECTIVES



GCM GUIDING PRINCIPLES



2.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE GCM

Member States recognised LRGs as key actors in advancing all 23 GCM objectives, particularly related to reducing vulnerabilities (objective 7), providing safe access to basic services regardless of migration status (objective 15), facilitating inclusion and social cohesion (objective 16) and eliminating discrimination (objective 17). Additionally, Member States committed to implement the GCM through the whole-of-government guiding principle, asserting that "all sectors and levels of government" are necessary "to develop and implement effective migration policies and practices."

In December 2018, Member States officially adopted the GCM at the <u>Marrakech</u> <u>Intergovernmental Conference</u>. At the same time, 150 city leaders met at the 5th Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration, and Development and endorsed the <u>Marrakech Mayors Declaration</u>. With the Declaration, LRGs commit to advance the principles and objectives of the GCM and the GCR in unison, to continue to participate internationally, and to take direct action within their communities to empower and create opportunities for migrants and refugees.

Since then, LRGs have consistently renewed their commitment to international migration processes. UCLG's Africa Section adopted the 2018 Charter of Local and Subnational Governments of Africa on Migration, recognising the role of African LRGs in the governance of migration flows and displacement on the continent. The 2019 Gaziantep Declaration draws on the experiences of municipalities in Turkey and worldwide and recognises good practices and local solutions to migration and displacement aligned with global and regional agendas. In 2020, UCLG and Lampedusa Mayor Totò Martello launched the Lampedusa Charter process in an effort to renew the narrative on human mobility by placing cities, migrants and host communities at its core. The Charter was endorsed and officially launched at the UCLG World Congress in October 2022.

The leadership and commitment of LRGs to improve international migration governance has been recognised by global leaders. In February 2022, the <u>UN Secretary-General's</u> <u>Report on the Status of Implementation of</u> <u>the GCM</u> affirmed the "instrumental role" of LRGs and asserted they "must be seen as allies in efforts to promote and implement the Compact." In addition, the Secretary-General's report makes explicit reference to a series of LRG initiatives, including the C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate Migration and the Mayors Mechanism's Call to Local Action and the "It Takes A Community" Campaign.

Recognizing the key role of LRGs, the MMC's Executive Director, Vittoria Zanuso, was invited to moderate a session at the UN General Assembly to launch the Secretary-Genearl's Report to Member States. In that role, she promoted the Call to Local Action and a <u>Mayors Mechanism-led joint statement</u> in response to the Report.

Additionally, LRGs and their networks were invited to actively engage in the preparations of the IMRF, whether through the <u>UN</u> <u>Network on Migration's</u> activities or through their participation in the <u>Regional Reviews of</u> <u>the GCM</u>.





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2.3 THE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION REVIEW FORUM

The 2022 United Nations International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) marked the first ever global review of progress towards the GCM. From 16-20 May 2022 at the UN General Assembly, Member States and stakeholders gathered together for five days of programming, including a Multi-Stakeholder Hearing hosted by the President of the General Assembly, Roundtable Thematic Discussions, a Policy Debate, and a Plenary Debate and side events. In the closing plenary of the IMRF, Member States adopted the <u>IMRF Progress</u> <u>Declaration</u>, which assesses progress made so far as well as areas where further international cooperation is needed. This Declaration has been drafted through an intergovernmental consultation process led by the Governments of Bangladesh and Luxembourg. The consultation process took place from mid-March 2022 to early May through a series of formal and informal consultations in New York.

	IMRF Day 1	IMRF Day 2		IMRF Day 3	IMRF Day 4		
16 MAY	17 MAY	18 MAY		19 MAY	20 MAY		
MORNING 10AM TO 1PM							
Conference room 4	Conference room 4	Trusteeship Council Chamber	Conference room 4	General Assembly Hall	General Assembly Hall		
Informal Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing	Roundtable 1	Roundtable 3	Roundtable 4	Plenary Opening segment Statements by PGA, UNSG, IOM DG, as Coordinator of the Network-, migrant community, civil society General debate	Plenary General debate (cont.)		
AFTERNOON 3PM TO 6PM							
Informal Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing (cont.)	Roundtable 2	Trusteeship Council C Policy debate Facilitated by IOM, Di the UN Network on N	G, as Coordinator of	Plenary General debate (cont.)	Plenary General debate (cont.) Closing segment - Adoption of Progress Declaration - PGA remarks		

2.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE IMRF PROCESS

Since 2018, LRGs and their networks have achieved outstanding progress to secure a seat at the table of global migration and forced displacement governance discussions. Mayors and LRGs are increasingly recognised for delivering solutions, driving progress, and asserting political will in support of migrants and refugees. LRG participation in UN discussions on migration is supported by a growing group of <u>Member State Champions of the GCM</u>.

To ensure local governments' representation at the IMRF discussions, the Mayors Mechanism — with financial assistance from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) convened a global delegation of global cities to participate in the IMRF formal programme and LRG self-organised activities and events in New York (see Highlights of Local Government Activities at the IMRF section of this report).

Additionally, the Mayors Mechanism mobilised LRGs and city network partners to ensure recognition of LRGs and their priorities in the IMRF Progress Declaration adopted by the UN General Assembly. The Mayors Mechanism actively engaged with the Member State co-facilitators responsible for negotiating the Declaration, including coordinating written feedback throughout the negotiation process, organising two virtual dialogues between LRGs and Member States, and participating in open Townhall Meetings to review the draft text. An assessment of the impact of LRG advocacy is provided later in this report.

A Seat at the Policy-Making Table?

Despite significant progress, barriers for local leaders to engage in and influence the conversations remained at the IMRF. LRGs were not able to secure accreditation to the IMRF under their own authority, instead needed approval from their national government or access through a partner organization. The Mayors Mechanism partners – in collaboration with the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, LRGs, and a growing number of UN Member States — advocated for transparent and inclusive avenues for local governments to participate in the IMRF in their own name and made proposals to the IMRF Progress Declaration that would address access difficulties for future IMRFs.

3. IMPACT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AT THE IMRF

3.1 LAUNCH OF CALL TO LOCAL ACTION FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

At the first IMRF, LRGs delivered 70 local actions to the President of the UN General Assembly and Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, showcasing locally led, ambitious, people-centred, and inclusive actions on migration and forced displacement.

These actions were collected through a <u>Call</u> to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, launched by the Mayors Mechanism at the IMRF. Recognizing that harnessing migration's impact requires all levels of government to come together, the Call to Local Action offers a concrete avenue for LRGs and city networks to follow-up on their commitment to support migrants and refugees. Recognised by the UN Secretary-General, the Call to Local Action aims to capture the political commitment and vast practical experience of LRGs. It aims to:

- Expand the number of LRGs publicly endorsing the GCM and GCR through the Marrakech Mayors Declaration.
- Collect and showcase LRGs' actions that achieve or exceed the Compacts' goals, submitting those actions and pledges to the official UN online platforms and reviews.
- Create a cohort of LRG leaders engaged in robust GCM and GCR implementation to motivate scaling and investment in local practices by States, and form new partnerships with international actors.

The Call to Local Action is a collaborative effort between the Mayors Mechanism steering committee members — UCLG, the MMC, and the IOM — and is executed in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency. It is supported by additional affiliated partners and city networks. The Call to Local Action is a collaborative effort between the Mayors Mechanism steering com



Local action is national success: while nations develop policies, people are welcomed by mayors as they arrive at sea or slums. Mayors are the only ones to ensure people have access to water, energy, health, education, It is more than basic services that they offer, it is hope and a future in their localities.

Join the movement of local leaders making a global impact! Submit your city pledge at **localaction.mayorsmechanism.org**



Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr Freetown, Sierra Leone

3.2 LRG KEY MESSAGES AT IMRF

Local governments conveyed a number of critical messages throughout the IMRF week. Further details are available in the Mayors Mechanism thematic <u>IMRF Position Papers</u>.





Local governments are critical actors of global migration governance and need increased access, mandates, and resources

Migrants, like the rest of the population, move to cities to seek refuge and opportunities. LRGs bring forward innovative, grounded, and inclusive actions for migrants and displaced persons — whether it's responding to displacement crises, including climaterelated displacement; or expanding services to all newcomers regardless of status. LRGs, therefore, call on to states and international actors to ensure local governments have increased access to funding opportunities, recognition of their political mandates to act on migration and participation to policy-making platforms.



ocal governments are part of the solution to climate migration.

Cities are the places where the drivers of displacement take shape – including natural hazards, climatic, and seasonal changes. But they are also places where LRGs take concrete action to limit the drivers of displacement and include migrant and displaced persons in local communities. LRGs should be direct interlocutors of national and international efforts to address climate-related migration and displacement, as migrating is a recognised adaptation measure to the territorial losses produced by climate change. Direct financial and operational support from states and international actors to local climate adaptation and disaster preparedness strategies is paramount to minimise the adverse drivers of forced migration, build resilient cities in the face of climate hazards, address the vulnerabilities of affected populations, including migrants and displaced populations and align climate action with local realities.



Local governments spearhead people-centred migration policies and contribute to saving lives

LRGs are critical frontline responders in times of emergencies. LRGs often organise reception and provide immediate assistance. They also contribute to search and rescue operations, including through city-to-city partnerships, information sharing and cooperation with other levels of government and civil society actors. LRGs combat migrant smuggling and trafficking, provide information and forms of identification to people on the move, contribute to saving lives at borders, and to reintegrate returning migrants. LRGs are committed to addressing the challenges of irregular migration and call on states to diversify regular pathways for migration and to safeguard humanitarian life-saving efforts.



Local governments are forerunners of universal access to services

LRGs play a fundamental role in providing safe access to basic services and essential rights to all residents, including migrants regardless of their status. LRGs establish partnerships with civil society, the private sector, and migrants themselves and contribute to fostering opportunities for migrants and building inclusive communities for the benefit of all. LRGs also act as bridges that connect migrant and diaspora communities across borders and contribute to realizing the development potential of migration. LRGs also test innovative models of migrant participation in local policymaking. For LRGs to do this work, states should guarantee universal access to basic services in national policies and introduce firewalls between service provision and immigration enforcement.

Local governments propose a balanced narrative on migration

LRGs are crucial sources of knowledge and data on migration. They base their policies on evidence and continue to seek innovative ways to utilise data to improve their action on migration. They promote a grounded, pragmatic, and balanced narrative on migration that harnesses its opportunities and addresses its challenges. LRGs, therefore, contribute to reducing discrimination and minimizing migrants' vulnerabilities. LRGs call on states to recognise the benefits of migration as they happen at the local level and to collaborate to better communicate on migration.

3.3 LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE IMRF PROGRESS DECLARATION

The IMRF Progress Declaration (UN Resolution A/RES/76/266) is the political outcome document of the IMRF. It was adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly in the closing plenary of the IMRF. The Declaration lays out elements of progress – or lack of it – on GCM implementation the past four years. More importantly, the Declaration sets out key recommendations for future GCM implementation. As described above, LRGs followed the negotiations of the Declaration closely and provided specific recommendations to Member States to strengthen the final text. This assessment is prepared by the Mayors Mechanism in partnership with a number of cities, C40 Cities and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments.

The IMRF Progress Declaration recognises the role of LRGs in migration governance.

The text reaffirms the whole-of-government principle, recognises LRGs as leaders in different policy areas, and considers them as key partners.

For example, Member States recognise:

- The important progress made by LRGS to ensure equal and safe access to basic services, including in response to the Covid-19 pandemic (para 21, para 38).
- The efforts by LRGs to launch awareness-raising initiatives for migrants to access services, particularly health services (para 46).
- The progress made to mainstream migration and development plans at local, national, regional and global levels (para 24).

Further, Member States commit to:

- Incorporate the health needs of migrants in national and local health-care services (para 51).
- Partner with local actors in developing policies to confront xenophobia and disinformation about migration (para 54).
- Work towards the voluntary elaboration of national implementation plans, in line with the whole-of-government principle (para 69).

The IMRF Progress Declaration reaffirms key policy areas of concern to LRGS in line with the the Marrakech Mayors Declaration. For example:

- Reaffirming the importance of safe access to services regardless of migration status (paras 31, 38, 51, 61, 64).
- Promoting the meaningful contribution of migrants to policy development and review (para 51 and 53).
- Reaffirming the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination and addressing systemic racism (para 54).
- Committing to effectively respect,

promote, and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status (para 55).

Promotes the diversification of available pathways, including in response to climate-related migration, and recommends to provide regularisation for irregular migrants (59).

The IMRF Progress Declaration makes governance recommendations in line with LRG advocacy. For example:

- Member States task the UN Network on Migration to develop a limited set of indicators and to include a strategy for improving migration data at local, national, regional, and global levels (para 70).
- Member States encourage the President of the Economic and Social Council to invite the Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration to report on the linkages between the implementation of the Global Compact and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development. This now provides a yearly reporting structure, tightly connected to the review of the Agenda 2030 (para 75).

Despite this progress, there remain a number of areas where LRGs called for stronger, more meaningful language that was not adopted by Member States. For example:

On access and meaningful inclusion of LRGs in future IMRFs:

- LRGs proposed specific language that would ensure the participation and registration in the next IMRF, and would aim to mitigate the access challenges encountered at this IMRF. Despite Member State support, this language was not included in the final text.
- LRGs proposed specific language that recognises the efforts of local governments to contribute to national implementation through the development of local implementation plans, which was not included in the final text.

On recognition of specific drivers of migration and the key role LRGs:

- LRGs proposed stronger language expressing solidarity with those compelled to move in times of crisis, as well as proposing specific recognition of the key role of local governments in providing emergency care.
- LRGs proposed stronger language on climate change and migration, requesting a stronger and more detailed reference to the causality between migration and climate change as well as on the need to recognise local governments as key partners in shaping resilience strategies.
- Both suggestions were also echoed by Member States but were not included in the final version of the declaration.

On the key role of LRGs in localising the 2030 Agenda and enhancing the local connection between the GCM and Agenda 2030.

▶ LRGs proposed to strengthen the recognition of Voluntary Local and Sub-National Reviews as key tools to accelerate bottom-up implementation of the SDGs and the GCM as well as requested recognition of efforts of LRGS to the GCM through the development of local implementation plans and reviews in future IMRFs.

A. HIGHLIGHTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AT THE IMRF

The Mayors Mechanism sponsored a delegation of mayors and city officials in New York City to:

Participate in IMRF official sessions, including a Multi-Stakeholder Hearing hosted by the President of the General Assembly, Roundtable Thematic Discussions, and side events.

Engage in private high-level strategy sessions with fellow mayors, UN leaders, and Member States.

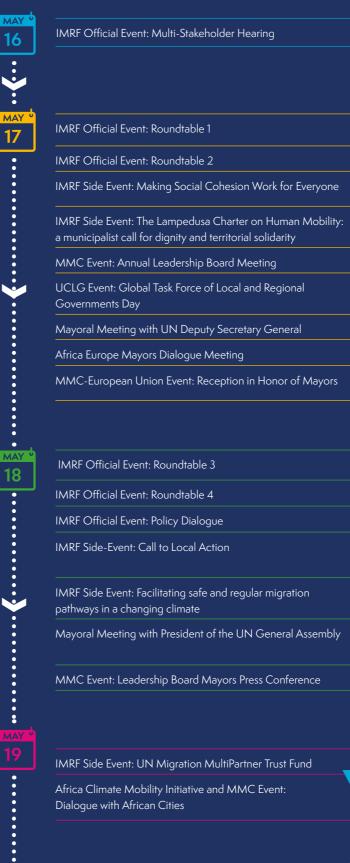
Profile their leadership on migration and displacement issues through global communications and press engagements.

Network with senior leadership from the multilateral system and donor community.

The following section offers a summary of key LRG events and activities during the IMRF.



1.1	ACTIVITIES AT A GLAN



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Dhaka North Speaker

Entebbe_Speaker Mechelen Speaker

Mayoral and city delegates

Mayoral delegates

Mayoral and city delegates

Mayoral delegates

Mayoral and city delegates

Freetown, Milan_Speakers

Accra, UCLG_Speakers

Montevideo_Speaker

Freetown Speaker

Grigny, Kampala, Monrovia, Montevideo Speakers

Dhaka North Speaker

Dhaka North, Freetown, Gringy, Kampala, Montréal, Mayoral delegates

Freetown, Kampala, Milan, Montréal Speakers

MMC_Speaker

Mayoral Delegates

IMRF Official Event: Multi-Stakeholder Hearing

Concept note <u>here</u>. Report from the UN <u>here</u>.

Prior to the opening of the official IMRF, the President of the General Assembly hosted an informal interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing with all stakeholder groups (LRgs, civil society, media, private sector, etc.) to precede the official Member State IMRF events. A summary of the discussion was presented by Mr. Colin Rajah, Coordinator of the Civil Society Action Committee, during the Opening Plenary of the IMRF on May 18.

Speaking at the Hearing, **Ms. Marta Suplicy**, Secretary of International Affairs of the City of **São Paulo**, Brazil, stressed the role of cities as first responders. She referred to practices and policies of São Paulo to foster inclusive communities through the prevention of systemic racism and other forms of discrimination, the economic inclusion of migrants and their protection from harm, and their participation through notably the Municipal Council of Immigrants. Ms. Suplicy asked Member States and international partners to (1) foster meaningful local-led participation in the GCM processes; (2) unlock resources directly to local realities to push actions delivered faster and at scale; and (3) coordinate new partnerships both nationally, regionally, and internationally.

4.3 MAY 17 ACTIVITIES

мау 17

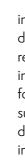
IMRF Official Event: Roundtable 1

Background Paper and agenda <u>here</u>. Mayors Mechanism Position Paper <u>here</u>.

The IMRF organised four thematic roundtable discussions, led by Member States, to review progress on the GCM. Roundtable 1, co-chaired by the Governments of Germany and Egypt, focused on progress made in the implementation of the following GCM objectives:



Mayor Md. Atiqul Islam of Dhaka North, Bangladesh joined the Roundtable to elevate the issue of climate migration for cities, speaking as a Leadership Board member of the Mayors Migration Council and co-chair of the C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration. He called on governments to (1) involve cities and local authorities





Local and regional governments are the first respondents to promote the social and economic inclusion of migrants and refugees, reducing their vulnerabilities and protecting them from exploitation and harm.

> Marta Suplicy Secretary of International Affairs, City of São Paulo



We come to the IMRF asking Member States to create or invest in financing mechanisms that city governments can directly access, such as the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees

in national planning on migration and displacement, (2) provide financial resources that cities can access directly, including through the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees, and (3) make sure that half of the climate funding is directed to climate adaptation, particularly in cities.

> Mayor Md. Atiqul Islam Dhaka North, Bangladesh

IMRF Official Event: Roundtable 2

Background paper and agenda <u>here</u>. Mayors Mechanism Position Paper <u>here</u>.

Roundtable 2, co-chaired by the Governments of Ecuador and Tajikistan, focused on progress made in the implementation of the following GCM objectives:



Mayor Fabrice Brad Rulinda of Entebbe,

Uganda, spoke as a panellist on the realities of human trafficking and migrant smuggling and their impact on cities. Entebbe pledged to identify at-risk Ugandans and migrants to provide them with job opportunities and decrease the chances of them ending up in vulnerable and exploitative situations of trafficking. Mayor Rulinda also stressed the role of financing tools such as the MMC's Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees to elevate and replicate successful practices. He called on national and international institutions to increase the participation of cities in the governance of migration to reflect the local realities and needs in public action.

Other roundtable participants included Uruguay which lauded the participation of LRGs and their role in the achievement of the GCM; he International Detention Coalition which stressed the need to increase whole-of-government and communitybased alternatives to detention to facilitate migrants' integration into local communities and their access to essential services; and the Migration Policy Institute which mentioned the need to increase the localization of migrant reintegration strategies through LRGs and other local stakeholders, especially in rural areas.



Human trafficking may be a cross-border issue, but it has its roots in cities. While city governments are willing partners in protecting human rights abuses, we are not always provided with the opportunity for partnerships, even in our own cities and even with our own national governments.

> Mayor Fabrice Brad Rulinda Entebbe, Uganda

IMRF Side-Event: Making Social Cohesion Work for Everyone

Concept note <u>here</u>.

This side event hosted by the Belgian Development Agency and partners aimed to spark a practical dialogue around "what works" to promote trust, cohesion and overcome prejudices within communities. Speaking as a panellist, Mayor Alexander Vandersmissen of Mechelen, Belgium



presented the work of his municipality to foster a welcoming and cohesive culture in the city, how these local investments improved the city's attractiveness for immigrants, and ultimately benefited the local life and economy.



"We invested hugely in... everything that makes a city liveable. That attracted people. Today, in Mechelen, half of our youngsters have a migration background.," said Mayor Vandersmissen

мау 17

IMRF Side-Event: The Lampedusa Charter on Human Mobility: a municipalist call for dignity and territorial solidarity

This session gathered mayors, partners and stakeholders around the co-creation process of the <u>Lampedusa Charter</u> and its connections with the UCLG Pact for the Future. The following LRG representatives participated in the discussion, besides youth, civil society and international organizations representatives:

- Mr. Mouhamadou Bamba Ka, First Deputy Mayor, Commune Keur Maba, Sénégal
- Ms. Fabiana Goyeneche, Director of International Affairs, Montevideo, Uruguay
- Mr. Totò Martello, Mayor of Lampedusa and Linosa, Italy (via video)
- Mr. Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny, France
- Mr. Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga, Portugal

Following the proposal of Mayor Toto Martello of Lampedusa and Linosa, UCLG launched a consultative process toward the Lampedusa Charter in 2020. The Charter finds its roots in the municipalist movement on human mobility and calls for a peoplecentered approach to migration. With the Lampedusa Charter, LRGs take the responsibility to put dignity, memory and peace at the forefront of a discussion that needs to be tackled by involving the whole society and all spheres of government, in a meaningful way, with a renewed vision centred on the power of communities and the value of diversity in our societies. Local and regional governments have a key role to play in raising awareness among the communities.

MMC Event: Annual Leadership Board Meeting

Mayors Migration Council (MMC) Leadership Board mayors met in advance of the IMRF to set the MMC's strategy for the year ahead and agree on common messages to deliver across their IMRF engagements. Broadly centered around the tagline "Local Actions are National Successes", the mayors set a common narrative of:

- Cities matter: Most migrants and 70% of displaced people are urban).
- Cities lead: From housing to healthcare to jobs, cities make the GCM a reality on the ground, as evidenced by the 70 pledges submitted by mayors to the IMRF.
- Cities ask: With cities' offer to the IMRF comes as ask for more funding, lower policy barriers, and greater access to decision-making.
- Cities aim: Cities' vision/goal is to catalyze more inclusive and equitable crisis responses that leave no migrant behind.





We all have a duty to help build a world of peace. By peace, I refer not only to the absence of war, but more a general condition in which each human being can be truly free to live his or her life.

> Salvatore Martello Former Mayor of Lampedusa, Italy

At the meeting, the MMC also celebrated two new mayors joining the Leadership Board Board — Mayor Carolina Cosse of Montevideo and Mayor Md. Atiqul Islam of Dhaka North — who strengthen the Board's regional and gender diversity.

Participants included Leadership Board Mayors of Dhaka North, Bangladesh; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Milan, Italy; Montréal, Canada; and special guest Mayor of Accra, Ghana.

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"Economics are a critical component of the narrative we're trying to build. We must work with the private sector to show that migrants are part of the solution to our recovery," Mayor Giuseppe Sala of Milan, Italy

"Accra and other city grantees of the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees can be an example of the success of direct access to financing," said Mayor Elizabeth Sackey of Accra, Ghana

> "With Covid and Ukraine we saw it's possible to lower red tape for migrants and refugees. It's now time to push the world to do the same for those crises that are not receiving the same level of global solidarity and national political backing, including climate migration," said Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director of the Mayors Migration Council



UCLG Event: Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments Day

The meeting gathered the LRG constituency to discuss territorial priorities regarding the GCM and its connections with the 2030 Agenda and was followed by an exchange between mayors and the UN Deputy Secretary General. The following mayors and municipal representatives spoke:

- Ms. Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone
- Mr. Nkosenhle Madlala, Councilor of eThekwini (Durban), South Africa
- Mr. Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny, France
- Mr. Ricardo Rio, Mayor of Braga, Portugal
- Ms. Marta Suplicy, Secretary of International Affairs of the City of f São Paulo, Brazil
- Mr. Alexander Vandersmissen, Mayor of Mechelen, Belgium

"Cities, because of the exchanges, proximity, and humanity they represent, have another message to convey on migration. They are places of humanity," said Mayor Philippe Rio of Grigny, France



"In our city, we see displacement resulting from the effects of hazards and climate change, but also from the failure of the national government to address these issues,"

They recalled that migration is not only about borders, but also about neighborhoods. They shared the diverse realities of migration in their cities, from emigration, irregular migration, disaster and climate-related displacement, and rural-urban migration. But they also recognised that cities face similar challenges in accessing funding, shaping national responses to migration and development, and influencing international conversations. They stressed the need for cities to convey another message about migration that centers on people, while recognizing their responsibility to communicate with host and local communities about migration in ways that address misconceptions and frustrations.



said Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr of Freetown, Sierra Leone

Mayoral Meeting with UN Deputy Secretary-General

In the framework of the Global Task Force for Local and Regional Governments Day at the IMRF, a global delegation of mayors met the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, to discuss territorial priorities regarding the GCM and its connections with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, mayors and city delegates discussed how the localization agenda can become instrumental to the implementation of the GCM and how these combined efforts will feed into the Secretary-General's 'Our Common Agenda'.

Participants included mayors and city delegates from **Braga**, Portugal; **Dhaka North**, Bangladesh; **eThewikini (Durban)**, South Africa; **Freetown**, Sierra Leone; **Gringy**, France; **Mechelen**, Belgium; and **Sao Paulo**, Brazil; as well as the Secretary General of UCLG, Executive Director of the MMC, and Deputy Director General of IOM.



Africa Europe Mayors Dialogue Event: Mayoral Meeting

The Mayors of Freetown and Milan held the first in person meeting of the Africa Europe Mayors' Dialogue, platform of African and European mayors working together to deliver innovative and practical solutions for inclusive growth and sustainable urban development in and between their cities. After almost two years of the Mayors' Dialogue being a virtual platform, the mayors from **Freetown**, Sierra Leone; **Milan**, Italy; **Accra**, Ghana; **Entebbe**, Uganda; **eThekwini** (Durban), South Africa; **Kampala**, Uganda; and **Kanifing**, The Gambia met to discuss the important work underway through city-to-city knowledge sharing and partnership between African and European mayors.



Africa Europe Mayors Dialogue Event: Mayoral Meeting



MMC and European Union Event: Reception in Honor of Mayors

The European Commissioner for Home Affairs and the Mayors Migration Council held a reception in honor of mayors during the IMRF. Bringing together mayors, ambassadors and ministers, and principals from donors and partner organizations, this reception offered an opportunity for local leaders to build relationships with UN Member States and deepen their interaction with UN and philanthropic actors.

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Remarks were delivered by:

- UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed
- European Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson
- Head of the European Delegation to the UN, Ambassador Olof Skoog
- Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone and MMC Leadership Board Member, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr
- Mayor of Milan, Italy and MMC Leadership Board Member, Guiseppe Sala

MAY 18 ACTIVITIES

IMRF Official Program: Roundtable 3

🗹 Background Note and agenda <u>here</u>; Mayors Mechanism Position Paper <u>here</u>.

Roundtable 3, co-chaired by the Governments of Portugal and Thailand, focused on progress made in the implementation of the following GCM objectives:



Ms. Emilia Sáiz, Secretary General of

UCLG, delivered the keynote speech for this Roundtable. Ms. Sáiz spoke about the need to foster universal access to services regardless of migratory status to achieve the inclusion of migrants. "To talk about migration, is to talk about inequality, informality, dignity, but also multilateralism. This is not something that one level of government can achieve. We need to work together". Newcomers depend on local governments for inclusion, therefore both LRGs and migrants need a space in policy decision-making.

Mayor Elizabeth Sackey of Accra, Ghana

spoke as a panellist. Accra, she explained, hosts the largest share of domestic and international migrants in Ghana, which creates new pressures on public infrastructure and service delivery. Accra works on two priorities: First, the city recognises the vulnerability of migrants and empowers them as actors of change, especially during Covid-19. The city opened a new dialogue with informal workers to facilitate their access to health care, child care and protection. Second, the city aims, with the support of C40, to align its policies with global climate and green objectives. To achieve these objectives and contribute to global migration goals, Mayor Sackey said cities like Accra need increased financing and access to national and international platforms, including the coming Global Refugee Forum and the next editions of the IMRF.



A shift in the narrative is essential. A transformation of legal frameworks is imperative. We need decentralisation, policy coherence and renewed multilateralism

> **Emilia Sáiz** Secretary General of UCLG



The Marrakech Mayors Declaration highlighted the crucial role of local governments on migration. Accra recognizes the vulnerability of migrants and empowers them as actors of change - working with C40 and the MMC Global Cities Fund to address climate-induced rural-urban migration

IMRF Official Program: Roundtable 4

Background note and agenda <u>here</u>. Mayors Mechanism Position Paper <u>here</u>.

Roundtable 4, co-chaired by the Governments of Azerbaijan and Morocco, focused on progress made in the implementation of the following GCM objectives:



Ms. Fabiana Goyeneche, Director of International Affairs, Montevideo, Uruquay spoke from the floor. On the reduction of vulnerabilities, Ms. Goyeneche referred to the extraordinary efforts deployed during the covid-19 pandemic by LRGs around the world to meet the needs of their communities, migrants included. The Basic Support Citizenship Plan of Montevideo, through which the city distributed financial and in-kind support to migrants regardless of status, is one example. "LRGs are essential partners to make sure no one is left behind", she said. Speaking of eliminating discrimination, Ms. Goyeneche spoke of the role of public spaces as vectors of social cohesion but also as the spaces where violence, racism and xenophobia occur. As the competent authorities, LRGs have therefore a key role to foster policies that promote integration and combat structural discrimination at all levels. These efforts need to be recognised and elevated at the international level, through platforms such as the IMRF and call for a greater inclusion of LRGs in the conversations.



Local governments don't turn their backs at the residents in their cities that suffer discrimination and xenophobia, and they do this regardless of origin or immigration status.

Mayor Elizabeth Sackey Accra, Ghana

Fabiana Goyeneche Director of International Relations,

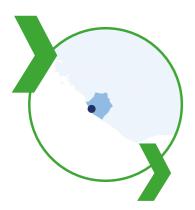
Montevideo, Uruguay

IMRF Official Program: Policy Debate

Concept note and agenda here.

The Director General of IOM facilitated a policy debate on challenges in the implementation of the GCM, including links to the SDGs, and emerging issues related to migration. Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr of Freetown, Sierra Leone spoke as a panellist as a Leadership Board member of the Mayors Migration Council. She recalled that, while policies are decided at the national level, migration takes place at the local level. Today, she said, LRGs want to play a larger role, not only in welcoming migration but in addressing migration.

Other panellists also highlighted the role of LRGs. Professor Dr. Ronald Skeldon of the University of Sussex referred to migration as a local phenomenon that "originates and directs to specific locations". As such, the responsibility for migration falls onto local governments. It is in the city, he said, that we find a fertile environment and ideas for the protection of migrants. Mr Florencio Venté, Latin America Focal Point of the Migration Youth & Children Platform, mentioned that the local level is best suited to consider how aspects of race, gender, and age interact with migration.



"We appreciate that the success that we want of the SDGs and GCM can only be truly effective if cities are on board. We have political will on our side, what we want from your side is a seat at the table and financing. States make policies, but when people arrive in cities, it is Mayors that they find. Our role is not just to welcome, but to give hope. We need a space at the table to leave no one behind," said Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr of Freetown, Sierra Leone.



We do not have the mandate to act on migration, but it is our duty. It takes political courage to grant those, men, women and children, access to essential services. The support of international organizations that support our values is paramount, especially when we see sometimes LRG retreat in the world from such important issues. For the future IMRF I have 3 wishes: action, action, action. Cities have the power to act, but they need the means to act," said Mayor Philippe Rio of Grigny, France



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"At the next IMRF I would like to see more efforts to address the structural challenges (social, economic) that force people to leave. We externalise our labor force, and with IOM we aim to do so safely. But could we reverse this trend and make it that these people want to remain? These people should find employment in their locality," said Lord Mayor Erias Lukwagao



"Cities are catalysts for innovation that we need for the GCM implementation. We all need to learn from experiences and experiments made at the local level," and migration, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and

"Let us not forget that migration is not our competency.





IMRF Side-Event: Localizing the Global Compacts with a Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees

Concept note <u>here</u>. UN Web TV Recording <u>here</u>.

The event publicly launched the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees in the presence of partners, supporters and LRG representatives. The event was organised by the Mayors Mechanism (UCLG, MMC, IOM) in partnership with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and UNHCR.

Ms. Emilia Sáiz, Secretary General of UCLG, Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director General of IOM and the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, and Ms. Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director of the MMC opened the event. A panel discussion followed, featuring:

- Ms. Fabiana Goyenche, Director of International Affairs, City of Montevideo, Uruguay (moderator)
- Lord Mayor Erias Lukwago, Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda
- Mayor Philippe Rio, Grigny, France
- Ms. Stefanie Scharf, Head of the Division for Policy Issues of Displacement and Migration, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- Ms. Ottilie Bälz. Senior Vice President, Robert Bosch Stiftung

During the event, LRGs officially delivered 70 local pledges to Global Compacts to Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director General of IOM and guardian of the GCM implementation. UCLLG United Cities and Local Governments "Local governments are actors accountable for progress on migration governance, responsible for all neighbours and will make sure no one is left behind," said Ms. Emilia Sáiz, Secretary General of UCLG

"The Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees is more than a repository of city actions to deliver the Global Compacts. It's also a marketplace of solutions ready to be scaled by donors through the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees," said Ms. Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director of the Mayors Migration Council

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IMRF Side Event: Facilitating safe and regular migration pathways in a changing climate: lessons from GCM implementation

Concept note and agenda <u>here</u>. UN Web TV recording <u>here</u>.

Co-hosted by the C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration, the Platform on Disaster Displacement, and IOM. This multi-stakeholder side event focuses on the role and progress made in implementing GCM commitments related to migration governance and addressing human mobility in disaster and climate change contexts.

Mayor Md. Atiqul Islam of Dhaka North,

Bangladesh spoke at the event as co-chair of the C40-MMC Task Force. He said that 2,000 people move to Dhaka every day, increasingly due to climate events impacting other regions of Bangladesh - particularly cyclones and sea-level rise in coastal areas. He stressed that Dhaka is also itself highly vulnerable to climate hazards - especially flooding and heat, that have severe cascading effects on people's health. As a city of over 20 million, where 40% of residents live in informal settlements, and where 70% of informal settlers already experienced environmental shocks in their life, everyone is potentially exposed to climate impacts. Mayor Islam said that cities are taking leadership, but they cannot face these challenges alone. He called on national governments to:

- Direct more national and international investment in climate adaptation - to get at least to 50 percent of total climate finance
 directed both in climate vulnerable regions and in fast-growing cities like Dhaka.
- Recognise migration as a form of adaptation to climate change, facilitating movement away from risk-prone areas, while protecting the rights and dignity of those who move.
- Invest in job creation and skills-matching - especially in green sectors - to include migrants and leverage their key contribution to our economies.

"It is essential that cities and mayors become more involved and consulted in relevant policy development processes on climate and migration, including National Adaptation Plans and NDCs, as well as national strategies to manage migration and displacement, making sure that local needs are aligned with national development trajectories," said Mayor Md. Atiqul Islam of Dhaka North, Bangladesh



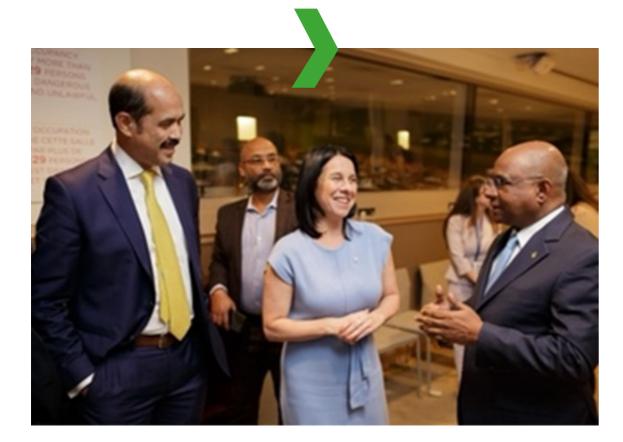


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"The pledges received today are far from symbolic. They reveal 70 concrete, measurable solutions at the community level, led by and called for by local leaders, putting migrants and refugees at the heart of our quest for equality, prosperity and justice that leaves no one behind. While this is a staggering display of joint commitment to locally driven innovative responses to migration governance, I am not at all surprised. Indeed, local governments have been central players in the development of the GCM and are essential partners in migration management, making the global compact a real reality on the ground," said Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Director General of IOM





MMC Event: Mayoral Meeting with President of the UN General Assembly

In this private meeting moderated by Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director of the MMC, a delegation of global mayors representing different geographies and migration contexts engaged in a dynamic dialogue with the President of the UN General Assembly H.E. Mr. Abdullah Shahid to discuss the role of cities in refugee and migrant inclusion and opportunities to strengthen the collaboration between local governments and UN Member States and the UN System for the delivery of the Global Compact for Migration.

At the meeting, mayors delivered 70 pledges to the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees to President Shahid in his role as convenor of the IMRF. These local actions make a tangible difference in the lives of

migrants, while keeping the world on track to meet commitments set out in the GCM as well as the Global Compact on Refugees.

Participants included the mayors of Accra, Ghana; Dhaka North, Bangladesh; Freetown, Sierra Leone Gringy, France; Kampala, Uganda; Montréal, Canada; and executive leadership from UCLG and

"I could not be prouder of what mayors have accomplished over the past four years. We went from being an outsider to having a seat at the table at global migration negotiations as the world is realizing that local solutions are national successes," Mayor Valérie Plante of Montréal, Canada



"While national governments deal with borders and visa regimes, it is at the city-level that the most important needs of migrants and refugees are met, from housing to healthcare to employment. With our leadership and commitment, comes our clarion call to the international community: consult cities, partner with cities and invest in cities," said Lord Mayor Erias Lukwago of Kampala, Uganda.

"As a Steering Committee Member of the Migration MPTF, I'm proud to say we successfully actualized the whole-of-government approach in the fund's operations and selected programs, including by ensuring that cities benefit from the \$28 million dollars we have raised during my term. Already, 50% of the funded joint programs directly engage city governments as implementing partners, going far beyond the Fund's 2021 target of 20%," said Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director of the Mayors Migration Council







MMC Event: Mayoral Press Conference

MMC Leadership Board Mayors held a press conference with the United Nations Correspondents Association to discuss the progress and promise of city diplomacy on migration and share their key advocacy asks for Member States and the international community. The mayors of Freetown, Sierra Leone; Kampala, Uganda; Milan, Italy; and Montréal, Canada spoke to the media about how they attended the IMRF, actions they pledge to take in their cities, and calls for support from national governments.



4.5 MAY 19 ACTIVITES

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IMRF Side Event: UN Migration MultiPartner Trust Fund

Concept note and agenda <u>here</u>. UN Web TV recording <u>here</u>.

MMC's Executive Director Vittoria Zanuso moderated a high-level side event at the IMRF entitled 'The Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund: Turning Commitments into Reality.' The session focused on elevating Migration MPTF joint programmes focused on climate change and migration, as well as irregular migration and trafficking. This offered the opportunity for the MMC Executive Director to elevate how most climate-related journeys are internal, short-distance, and rural-to-urban, and that complex issues of human trafficking are rooted in poor governance, youth unemployment, and human rights abuses that require a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. As a result of the session, Member States announced new financial pledges to the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Africa Climate Mobility Initiative and MMC Event: Dialogue with African Cities

The Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) and the MMC held a Dialogue with African cities on the sidelines of the IMRF. The goals of the meeting were to: Present the ACMI and its findings on urban climate mobility for feedback from African city leaders; discuss city concerns and priorities for addressing climate mobility in Africa; garner city leaders' interest and input for shaping the ACMI Cities Forum. The discussion outcomes contributed to the development of ACMI's Agenda for Action on Climate Mobility delivered at COP27.



Speakers included:

- H.E. Ambassador Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th Session United Nations General Assembly
- IOM Director General Mr António Vitorino, Coordinator of the United Nations Network on Migration & Chair of the Migration MPTF Steering Committee
- H.E. Minister Erlyne Antonella Ndembet, Minister of Justice of Gabon
- H.E. Dr Satyendra Prasad, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations
- H.E Ambassador Thomas Zahneisen, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations
- Ms Pefi Kingi, Pacific Island Association of NGOs
- Ms Savina Ammassari, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Gabon

5. ABOUT

The Mayors Mechanism – Co-Steered by UCLG, MMC, and IOM

In December 2018, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Mayors Migration Council (MMC), and the UN Migration Agency (IOM) came together to establish a formal entry point to bring the voices, experiences and policy asks of local and regional governments (LRGs) to the State-led Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). Together, they created the Mayors Mechanism of the GFMD with the aim to catalyze smarter, bolder global action to make migration work for all.

In its first three years, the Mayors Mechanism built a robust partnership which piloted new methods to mobilise local action to meet global goals and secured more direct and equal access for LRGs to the GFMD than ever before. This effort was made in partnership with the Global Taskforce for Local and Regional Governments to ensure that the voices of the constituency were duly represented before the international community.

The partnership is now scaling its proven model to other State-led migration and forced displacement fora and launching a Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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