



# 4<sup>th</sup> GLOBAL MAYORAL FORUM

On Human Mobility, Migration and Development  
26 - 27 June 2017 | Berlin, Germany

*"MAYORS AS HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ACTORS –  
PREPARING, WELCOMING, AND INTEGRATING"*

**BERLIN GERMANY  
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## BACKGROUND NOTE

### I. INTRODUCTION

For the first time in history, more people are living in urban areas than in rural ones. It comes as no surprise that cities are the main entry points for migrants, since they provide the necessary economic opportunities and the desired social networks. Cities are the closest level of government to citizens, and migrants often identify with their new city over any other reference point. Cities are at the forefront of integrating newcomers, and they often do so without the support and resources needed. As a group of mayors assembled on this topic conceded: "We receive migrants but often act beyond our powers; we need more tools."<sup>1</sup>

The key role of cities and other local and regional authorities as first responders to migration and displacement is duly recognised in the [New Urban Agenda](#) adopted at the UN Habitat III Conference in Quito last October 2016. Moreover, the positive contributions of migration to development are now enshrined in the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda and [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), in which cities are at the centre of securing safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable living spaces.

What is more, progressively, local and regional authorities are deemed strategic actors within inter-governmental deliberations on migration policy. This is true for the annual [Global Forum on Migration and Development \(GFMD\)](#), whose 10<sup>th</sup> edition will take place in Berlin, Germany on 28 June - 1 July 2017. It is also the case for the consultative process underway to define a new agreement between States, known as

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<sup>1</sup> First Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development, 19-20 June 2014, Barcelona, Spain

the [“Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration”](#). After the adoption of the [“New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants”](#) at the UN on 19 September 2016, States have agreed to develop this Global Compact on Migration by December 2018, in consultation with relevant parties including local authorities. The New York Declaration makes explicit reference to the role of local actors in relation to migration policy. It officially acknowledges the need to build up cooperation and partnerships with local authorities, recognizing “the particular needs of local authorities, who are the first receivers of migrants”.

## II. THE MAYORAL FORUM ON HUMAN MOBILITY, MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development (“Mayoral Forum”) is the annual City-led dialogue on migration and development, supported by local, regional and international partners. Launched at the UN General Assembly’s Second High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (HLD) in 2013, it provides an incubating space where local leaders can share practical and inventive solutions for governing migration, protecting rights and promoting inclusive urban economic growth.

The Mayoral Forum offers an opportunity to explore how good practices can be replicated in other cities, and to identify the resources required for implementation. What is more, the Mayoral Forum acts as a bridge, opening access for cities and regional governments to policy circles where they can inform, and be informed by, national and international policy-making. In so doing, it fosters local adaptation and implementation of common principles, based on international standards.

The Mayoral Forum is supported by UNITAR, the UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), IOM and the World Bank, with financial contributions from the Government of Switzerland, the KNOMAD-World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and its hosting cities.

## III. PREVIOUS MAYORAL FORUMS

- The First Mayoral Forum in Barcelona (June 2014): endorsed the “Call of Barcelona” that emphasizes the need to amplify the voice of cities in global discussions.
- The Second Mayoral Forum in Quito (November 2015): resulted in the [“Quito Local Agenda on Migration and Development”](#), which outlines how cities can and are contributing to the SDGs, and where additional resources are required.
- The Third Mayoral Forum in Quezon City (September 2016): led to the [“Quezon City Commitment to Action”](#), and the establishment of the Informal Working Group co-chaired by the Mayors of Quezon City and Legazpi City (Philippines) to develop the Local “Migrants in Countries in Crisis” (MICIC) Guidelines for Asian Cities is being developed by Cities and to be presented at the ASEAN Ministerial Summit in August 2017.

## IV. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Mayoral Forum are to:

- Promote a globally relevant policy dialogue for mayors and municipal leadership to strategise on how to work collectively, stay engaged, and gain support for their policies and activities relating to promoting economic development in a context of diversity;

- Support new and innovative approaches to urban governance in contexts of greater diversity, and to showcase city leadership in the implementation of migration policies for inclusive growth including through the implementation of the new 2030 UN Sustainable Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as espoused in the Quito Local Agenda endorsed by the 2nd Mayoral Forum on 13 November 2015;
- Share experiences and concrete recommendations on how to progress in leveraging the development outcomes of greater migration and mobility, and successfully managing diversity;
- Launch new initiatives with on the ground impact within and between cities, and report on existing initiatives i.e. Local MICIC Guidelines for Asian Cities drafting process and submission to the ASEAN Ministerial Summit in Manila in August 2017, as initiated at the 3rd Mayoral Forum on 30 September 2016;
- Bridge macro and micro levels of governance by sharing information and insights on inter-governmental processes from the preparatory process through 2018 resulting from the “New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants” adopted by consensus by States at the UN Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (19 September 2016); the annual Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD); the UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development (taking place before 2019); the follow-up process to the New Urban Agenda adopted at the UN-Habitat III Conference in Quito, in addition to supporting in the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the work of Regional Consultative Processes on migration;
- Supplement existing regional and international initiatives by connecting with the inroads being made at the sub-national level, including the work of EuroCities, Cities of Migration, Cities Alliance and the UCLG.

## V. 4TH MAYORAL FORUM IN BERLIN

It is within this context that the 4th Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration and Development, hosted by the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Mayor Michael Müller and entitled “**Mayors as Humanitarian and Development Actors – Preparing, Welcoming, and Integrating**”, will take place at the Rotes Rathaus (City Hall) of the City of Berlin on 26-27 June 2017.

Mayors from around the world are invited to share their experiences in straddling the humanitarian imperatives of reception of large numbers of new arrivals whether from conflict, natural disaster or other phenomena. Mayors will also be invited to speak on the subject of longer-term challenges of governing integration: fostering pluralism, by which recognition of the value of diversity also implies acknowledging its complexities and struggles. In this connection, they will discuss whether and if so how, migration has fostered economic growth and human development in their communities. Lastly, Mayors will be invited to explain progress through city-to-city partnerships, and the value of networks amongst cities within their countries, regions and beyond to learn about new and promising policies and practices.

The Berlin Forum is planned to dovetail the [Global Forum on Migration and Development \(GFMD\)](#) that is taking place also in Berlin on 28 June – 1 July 2017. The Mayoral Forum sessions are configured in such a

way as to have cities provide their views on the topics that will be discussed amongst the national delegations during the GFMD [See *Mayoral Forum Programme, enclosed*].

- **Session I** will focus on: responding to displacement and the relationship with longer-term development solutions at the local level. Mayors are invited to share their experiences in straddling the humanitarian imperatives of preparation and reception of large numbers of new arrivals whether from conflict, natural disaster or other phenomena.
- **Session II** will focus on: efforts to ensure policy coherence and coordination within government (national and local) with a view to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and additional migration priorities, and the role of cities in this regard. Mayors are invited to speak on the subject of the longer-term challenges and opportunities of welcoming and integrating newcomers; how to govern diversity by buttressing the development potential of migration and displacement, while also acknowledging migration's complexities and struggles.
- **Session III** will focus on: how cities are best placed to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships and harness the potential of civil society, the private sector and decentralised cooperation dynamics with other cities in order to make migration work for development. Mayors are invited to share progress in the context of inter-city partnerships, and explore the value of city networks, within their country, between regions and beyond, to learn about new and promising policies and practices.

Detailed leading questions will be shared for consideration, for each Session, in due course.

## **VI. PARTICIPATION IN THE MAYORAL FORUM**

Participation must be confirmed by **ONLINE REGISTRATION by 1 May 2017**, or by filling in the enclosed registration form and emailing it the Mayoral Forum Secretariat at [globalmayoralforum2017@gmail.com](mailto:globalmayoralforum2017@gmail.com).

A limited number of scholarships covering travel and accommodation costs are available for eligible Mayors from developing cities. In order to apply for such a scholarship, please complete online the following **APPLICATION FORM**, or fill out the enclosed scholarship application form and email it the Mayoral Forum Secretariat **by 1 May 2017**.

For more information, please visit the event website or email the Mayoral Forum Secretariat at [globalmayoralforum2017@gmail.com](mailto:globalmayoralforum2017@gmail.com).

## **VII. EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE MAYORAL FORUM**

At the conclusion of the Berlin Mayoral Forum, a declaration will be endorsed by participating Mayors that will subsequently be officially presented during the GFMD. Reflecting the subjects covered by the Berlin Mayoral Forum, and other areas of concern, the Mayors' Declaration will offer a set of priorities for consideration during the 10<sup>th</sup> GFMD, and for inclusion in the forthcoming Global Migration Compact consultative process.

Draft elements of the Mayors' Declaration will be shared with confirmed participants well before the Berlin Mayoral Forum.

## **VIII. PARTICIPATION IN THE GFMD**

Mayors who participate in the Mayoral Forum are encouraged to take part in an optional one-day training session on Migration and Local Development that will be delivered by the JMDI on 26 June. This training will provide capacity building in the areas of migration governance according to participants' needs and serves to promote networking and knowledge sharing among cities. To register for the training session, please click [here](#) or email [jmdi.pmu@undp.org](mailto:jmdi.pmu@undp.org).

Furthermore, mayors who participate in the Mayoral Forum and who wish to stay on for the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) are encouraged to do so through their national delegation, or by inquiring with the GFMD Secretariat directly at [coordinator@gfmd.info](mailto:coordinator@gfmd.info). Note that the GFMD takes place from 28-30 June, followed by the GFMD Civil Society Days (CSD) from 29 June – 1 July 2017.

## **IX. WORKING MODALITIES**

A reception will take place hosted by Governing Mayor of Berlin, Mr. Michael Müller, on the evening of 26 June at the City Hall of Berlin. All Forum Mayors will be invited to attend, and to informally discuss amongst themselves. Official statements will be made by the Mayors of Quezon City (2016), Quito (2015), Barcelona (2014) and Montreal – subject to confirmation. On 27 June, a full day of structured conversations will take place also at the City Hall of Berlin. Discussions will be moderated by experts, who will act as rapporteurs collecting relevant key recommendations and findings from participants. The Mayors' Declaration will be presented at the conclusion of 27 June.

Mayoral representation is expected from at least 50 countries around the world. In addition, select national and regional governments, international and regional organizations, networks of local and regional authorities and civil society representatives will be invited as observers. Amongst these will be IOM, the World Bank, the UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI), UNITAR, OECD, UNHCR, UNDP, UNESCO, EuroCities, Cities Alliance, ECCAR Network, Solidarity Network, Global Mayors Alliance, and UCLG.

Although the main working language of the Forum will be English, simultaneous interpretation will be provided in German, French and in Spanish. Chatham House rules will apply, allowing Mayors to share their experiences, challenges and concerns.