



## Enabling local solutions for inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery

CONCEPT NOTE  
GFMD MAYORS MECHANISM NETWORKING MEETING

<b>Date and time:</b>	Friday 22 January 2021, 16:00 - 18:00 CET
<b>Format:</b>	A dynamic dialogue between national government representatives and city leaders
<b>Interpretation:</b>	Simultaneous interpretation to English, French, Spanish and Arabic

### *Description*

- Alongside the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in December 2018, 150 city leaders endorsed the [Marrakesh Mayors Declaration](#) calling for the **full and formal recognition** of the role of local and regional governments (LRGs) in the implementation, follow-up and review of both Compacts. They also committed to **accelerate their own efforts** to advance the Compacts.
- National governments have increasingly recognized LRGs as key actors in migration governance since the New York Declaration in 2017 and welcomed LRGs at the international policy-making table, including at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019, in the GCM Regional Reviews and in the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), where the [GFMD Mayors Mechanism](#), co-steered by [United Cities and Local Governments](#) (UCLG), [the Mayors Migration Council](#) (MMC) and [the International Organization for Migration](#) (IOM), ensures and coordinates city engagement.
- While a seat at the table is an important first step, LRGs now ask to be viewed not only as key implementers, but foremost as **key partners** in shaping and evaluating migration policy.
- This session will discuss how such partnerships currently take shape and should take shape in future, in service of the achievement of global migration goals. It will facilitate a dynamic conversation between national and local government actors to share their **priorities for joint action, barriers to success and solutions for greater collaboration** on migration policymaking going forward.
- The session takes place against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, a global shockwave with LRGs at its the epicentre: LRGs have been at the forefront of responding to the pandemic and have stepped up pragmatically and ethically to drive local and inclusive



response and recovery efforts. Session speakers will **bring this expertise to the table**, with the aim to learn and build back better and ultimately work so that migration becomes ‘a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development in our globalized world’<sup>1</sup>.

#### *Expected outcomes*

- National governments and LRGs identify challenges and opportunities they face in ensuring inclusive response to COVID-19 and explore how to work together towards inclusive recovery efforts.
- National governments and LRGs gain insights about existing and ongoing local-to-national partnerships that ensure more agile and effective migration policies, legal frameworks, and funding/financing mechanisms.
- National governments and LRGs discuss concrete ways to bring such partnerships to the upcoming 2021 Regional Migration Review Fora (RMRFs) and 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and strategize how the international governance space may enable new partnerships and solutions.

#### *Participants*

- The session is open to all GFMD registered delegates from national governments and LRGs.
- The GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office, the GFMD Business Mechanism and the GFMD Youth Forum organisers will be invited to nominate one representative to participate as observers.

---

<sup>1</sup> GCM, article 8.



Agenda (all times in CET)

**16:00 – 16:05 Brief introduction and mechanics of the session**

Ms. Sophie van Haasen, Coordinator, GFMD Mayors Mechanism

**16:05 – 16:10 Welcoming remarks**

Mr. António Vitorino, Director General of International Organization for Migration

**16:10 – 16:30 Round 1: How can policy coordination between local and national governments enable inclusive response and recovery?**

Guiding question: In your own response and recovery efforts at local or national level, are there challenges you encounter that hamper effective local – national coordination? What recommendations can you make to overcome these, and are there promising examples you would like to highlight?

Moderator: Ms. Cecile Riallant, Head of the Migration and Sustainable Development Unit, International Organization for Migration

Discussant 1: Ms. Carola Gunnarsson, Lord Mayor of Sala, Sweden

Discussant 2: Ms. Alexandra Young, Director, International Migration Policy, International and Intergovernmental Relations, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, Government of Canada

**16:30 – 16:50 Round 2: How can national-local legal frameworks enable inclusive response and recovery?**

Guiding question: in your local or national context, does the national legal framework that governs the competencies of local governments, sufficiently enable them to implement bold and inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery efforts? If yes, can you share why? If no, how have you mitigated this, and how would you see this improved in the future?

Moderator: Ms. Emilia Sáiz, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments

Discussant 1: Hon. Salvatore Martello, Mayor of Lampedusa and Linosa, Italy

Discussant 2: Mr. Ahmed Skim, Director of Migration Affairs, Ministry Delegate to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Morocco



*16.50 – 17.10* **Round 3: How can municipal access to international funding and financing mechanisms enable inclusive response and recovery?**

Guiding question: How can the GFMD community work together to channel financing directly to cities to enable inclusive COVID-19 response? What has worked in support of cities' access to international funds and financing, what hasn't worked, and what have we been too scared to try in the past?

Moderator: Ms. Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director of the Mayors Migration Council

Discussant 1: Ms. Jeniffer Villarreal de Hoyos, Secretary of Government of the District of Barranquilla, Colombia, Colombia

Discussant 2: Mr. Felipe Muñoz, Chief of the Migration Unit, Inter-American Development Bank

*17.10 – 17.55* **Open Discussion**

Moderator: Ms. Sophie van Haasen, Coordinator, GFMD Mayors Mechanism

Respondent: Ms. Bettina Etter, Senior Advisor, Global Migration Governance, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

Respondent: Ambassador Diego Morejón, Representative of Ecuador to the GFMD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility, Government of Ecuador

Open dialogue

*17.55 – 18.00* **Closing remarks**