



PRESS RELEASE: Mayors Launch Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, bringing 70 local actions to the UN International Migration Review Forum

National governments and mayors meet in New York to assess progress towards the UN Global Compact for Migration at the first-ever [International Migration Review Forum \(IMRF\)](#). Mayors launch the [Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#) and present 70 local actions to support migrants and refugees and contribute to the 2030 Agenda.

New York, 16 May 2022 - Today, at the start of the first global review of the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (GCM), a delegation of mayors and city representatives from 18 cities across the globe joins Member States and others to discuss progress to achieve the GCM's 23 objectives.

In 2018, with the adoption of the [Marrakech Mayors Declaration](#), cities pledged to implement the GCM as well as the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) in unison. Today, they arrive in New York to deliver **70 local actions** to the President of the UN General Assembly and the Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration, showcasing how local governments lead **ambitious, people-centered, and inclusive action on migration and forced displacement**.

These actions have been collected through a [Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#), which will be publicly launched at the IMRF in a side-event on Wednesday 18 May.

Recognizing that harnessing migration's impact requires all levels of government to come together, the Call to Local Action offers a **concrete and on-going avenue** for local governments and city networks to follow-up on their commitment in Marrakech. It is led by the [GFMD Mayors Mechanism](#), co-steered by [United Cities and Local Governments](#) (UCLG), the [Mayors Migration Council](#) (MMC) and the [UN Migration Agency](#) (IOM) and executed in partnership with the [UN Refugee Agency](#) (UNHCR). So far, the Call has already been joined by 47 mayors and city networks, jointly submitting 70 actions and commitments.

At the Launch, Mayors will join Member States and international donors to showcase how local governments meet – and exceed – global commitments.

The Launch will also mark the release of the first edition the Mayors Mechanism [Report on Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#). This report seeks to inspire cities, national governments and partners by highlighting local governments' progress in implementing the Migration and Refugee Compacts to date, spotlighting the local actions that have been collected so far. This Report will be issued annually, adding new submissions collected through the Call to Local Action. The next iteration will be issued ahead of the [Global Refugee Forum](#) in 2023.

What's next for Local Action for Migrants and Refugees?

Local governments can join the Call to Local Action through a new [website](#), which provides them with a **one-stop shop** to:

1. *endorse* the Marrakech Mayors Declaration
2. *submit* their local actions
3. receive peer *learning* and capacity building support to enhance local governance efforts.

Through this platform, actions are automatically elevated to the two official stocktaking and pledging websites of the Migration and Refugee Compacts, adding local actions to those of national governments, UN Agencies, CSOs and global networks.

City leaders are bringing immense political and pragmatic capital to the IMRF. Indeed, local leaders are ready to deliver and bear enormous **potential to achieve global goals**. But they cannot do this alone. In the face of increasing urbanization of migration and forced displacement, local and regional governments call on national governments and the UN system to **include, fund and partner** with local governments as the only way forward to ensure global prosperity for all in pursuit of sustainable development.

QUOTES

- *"The Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees is one more demonstration of the relevance of local solutions for the achievement of the Global Goals, triggering the localization of SDGs."*
Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments
- *"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."* **Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director, Mayors Migration Council**
- *Antonio Vitorino, Director General, International Organization for Migration: "Local and regional governments play an undeniable role in meeting the Global Compact for Migration. Connecting*

the Call to Local Action to our GCM review and pledging systems is win-win for States to show success and the UN system to show impact.”

- *Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner, UN Refugee Agency: “From implementing local housing projects to sheltering those displaced and ensuring their access to schools and other critical social services, cities are at the helm in creating open, inclusive, and supportive environments for refugees and IDPs. The Call to Local Action builds on this momentum, and we hope more cities will join this movement as we prepare for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.”*

For more information:

For general background and inquiries, visit www.mayorsmechanism.org or email info@mayorsmechanism.org

About the GFMD Mayors Mechanism:

Established in 2018, the Mayors Mechanism – co-steered by [United Cities and Local Governments \(UCLG\)](#), the [Mayors Migration Council \(MMC\)](#), and the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) – aims at including local and regional governments in the GFMD process, bringing their voices and expertise into state-led deliberations, and intensifying the dialogue between different levels of government and stakeholder groups. Since 2021, it has increasingly engaged with other processes on migration and displacement, in particular the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).

About the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees:

The Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees is an effort of the GFMD Mayors Mechanism and its Steering Committee members –United Cities and Local Governments, the Mayors Migration Council, and the UN Migration Agency (IOM), and it is implemented in partnership with the [UN Refugee Agency \(UNHCR\)](#).



The Call to Local Action is implemented in partnership with:

