



Priorities and Roadmap for the GFMD Co-Chairmanship 2022 – 2023

Sophie van Haasen
GFMD Mayors Mechanism
Secretariat
Friends of the Forum, 30th of June
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Dear Chair,

Thank you for hosting the meeting today, wish I could be there with you in person!

Speaking on behalf of the GFMD Mayors Mechanism Steering Committee Members, UCLG, MMC and IOM, we are delighted to be working with you and Senegal in this co-chairmanship.

Let me share a few words on our mission and thematic priorities:

The Mayors Mechanism seeks to engage and bring the voice and expertise of local governments to the GFMD discussions as well as within the Migration and Refugee Compacts.

Its establishment in 2018 by the GFMD Steering Group illustrated the increased recognition by the Int. Community that local governments are critical actors when it comes to global migration governance.

Also in 2018, cities gathered at the Mayoral Forum and adopted the Marrakesh Mayors Declaration. This Declaration is signed by over 150 cities. Its aim is twofold:

1. to welcome the GCM and GCR and their whole of government and whole of society principles as critical to their success.
2. to take action on those priorities where cities have a de facto mandate to act, such as ensuring access to services regardless of status, realizing social inclusion, protecting those most vulnerable and minimizing drivers of forced displacement.

This Declaration is now our guiding star when it comes to global advocacy, and importantly, it connects the Migration and Refugee Compacts, as this matches the realities we face in our

cities. We are indeed happy to hear from UN Network that this will be a stronger focus going forward.

Making the Marrakesh Mayors Declaration a reality:

Taking this commitment to the next level, we launched a Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees this May, which is executed by our Steering Committee members in partnership with UNHCR. As part of this effort, we collected 70 local actions and pledges, which will be simultaneously uploaded to the GCM and GCR repositories and pledging platforms, as well as to the GFMD Platform for Partnerships.

Each of these actions signifies:

1. a political commitment of the mayor to take action at local level
2. an example of local action, showing the real potential of working with cities as well as need to partner with them.

This is an ongoing effort, which we will actively connect to this GFMD Co-Chairmanship.

Reflections on the 2022 – 2023 co-chairmanship:

We are very excited that France and Senegal will co-chair the GFMD together for a full 18 months. We believe this brings important energy to the Forum, provides longer-term vision, as well as puts global south and north cooperation and international partnership at the heart of GFMD.

Thank you for sharing the outlines of your programme. we very much welcome your willingness to seek inputs from the mechanisms and we will stand ready to work with you and our fellow mechanisms the coming months.

The 6 priorities are all so timely and relevant in the current global context. On our side, they all connect to the Marrakech Declaration. Our Call to Local Action will help feed the discussions with actual concrete solutions local governments spearhead at local level.

There is also significant advocacy work and partnership building that we'll be able to bring to the discussions: let me give you 3 examples:

1. *Climate change and migration:*

For local governments the climate change – migration nexus is of central and urgent interest, with most migrants moving due to climate change expected to either leave from or settle in cities. We're therefore delighted to see this topic as crosscutting and will have much to contribute. For example: a global mayoral taskforce on climate and migration, co-led by the mayors of Dhaka North, Bangladesh and Freetown, Sierra Leone, and including the Mayor of

Dakar, Senegal, launched an action agenda at COP last year, and just today, the city of Grenoble is hosting a city dialogue on climate change and human mobility, with the idea to share expertise on effective local action. The idea of the meeting in Dakar in October is super timely and it will be able to offer the necessary space to bridge the IMRF with the COP later this year.

2. *Narratives and culture*

Fostering inclusive communities stands at the heart of our work and there are ample examples we will bring to the table. At the global level there are exciting developments: for example, we co-chair the GFMD working group on narratives, together with Canada and Ecuador, which includes 5 cities alongside States and the other GFMD mechanisms. The working group brings together expertise and existing research as well as will launch a second phase of the It Takes A Community Campaign this autumn. Given this active engagement and expertise already at hand within the GFMD, I therefore propose that the working group takes an active advisory role in the preparation of this roundtable.

3. *Multi-level governance*

It goes without saying that we are delighted to see the topic of multi-level governance as one of the 6 priority areas. We hope the discussions in this roundtable will contribute to our collective understanding of what it means to work across different levels of government, as well as to partner with civil society, the private sector and migrants themselves. At the global level, the GFMD itself is the example of what multi-level governance may look like and is well placed to inspire other national, regional and global spaces.

In terms of next steps, we will closely work on our own roadmap connected to the key milestones you shared today, as well as share an indicative budget for our activities for the full scope of the co-chairmanship in the coming few weeks.

Let me close by saying that, from our perspective, having participated in the IMRF this May, the added value of the GFMD is now clearer than ever. GFMD provides much needed oxygen to the debate, can connect dots between other spaces and fora and – while very much state led – is truly unique in the way it engages with its stakeholders.

Let me echo my civil society colleagues, that we have valued the dedicated support for stakeholder liaison within the Support Structure, and hope this may be continued going forward.

Thank you so much Ambassador.