



From Marrakech to New York:

Localizing the Global Compacts with a Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees

Side Event at the IMRF

Wednesday 18 May 2022
1.30 – 2.30 pm EDT
United Nations Headquarters
Room 8
[Live Streaming](#)

Organized by:



In partnership with:



Background

Local and regional governments are at the forefront when it comes to responding to migration and forced displacement and many work to ensure their policies reach everyone, regardless of status, despite their often-limited political mandates and resources. COVID-19 has shown that community-oriented approaches can lead to innovative solutions that can inspire action on a larger scale. This becomes particularly important when the international community faces challenges such as future pandemics and the climate crisis.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) recognize this key role of local governments in their implementation and review. In addition, the Secretary-General's [2022 Report on the GCM](#), acknowledges that local and regional government 'policies have a direct impact on the well-being of migrants' and 'often, only local action can fulfil policies and programmes that are developed at the national, regional, and international levels.'

Local and regional governments actively engaged in the negotiations of the Compacts and **politically committed** to implement them **in unison** with the adoption of the [Marrakesh Mayors Declaration](#) in 2018. Since that date, local leaders have been spearheading **innovative responses** to migration governance.

On the occasion of first global review of the GCM, the GFMD [Mayors Mechanism](#), co-steered by [United Cities and Local Governments](#), the [Mayors Migration Council](#) and the [International Organisation for Migration](#), in partnership with the [UN Refugee Agency](#), will launch a **Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees**, as a collective effort to leverage, support and replicate local actions that implement the commitments made in Marrakech. As part of this effort, so far over 70 local actions have been collected ahead of the IMRF.

This IMRF Side-Event will formally launch the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, and will be co-hosted by the GFMD Mayors Mechanism partners, together with the [German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development](#) and UNHCR.

Objectives

The co-organisers have set out the following key objectives for this event:

1. To give voice to local and regional governments regarding GCM and GCR implementation and review, and to support the achievement of the whole-of-government principle.
2. To take stock of local and regional government engagement since the adoption of the GCM and GCR in 2018 and showcase how local and regional governments contribute to the localization of the GCM and GCR. It will spotlight concrete commitments ('pledges') and actions shared by local governments ahead of the IMRF.

3. To motivate scaling in locally-led solutions and encourage enhanced partnerships with local governments for more coherent and effective migration and displacement governance.
4. To formally launch the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, establishing a public platform for local and regional governments to show their commitment and progress and presenting a first cohort of more than 70 local actions towards the Global Compacts.
5. To elevate the need to invest in city-led solutions through mechanisms such as the Global Cities Fund for Migrants and Refugees established by Mayors Mechanism partners to address the unmet needs of cities as they support migrants and displaced people in the face of pressing challenges, from global pandemics to the climate crisis.

Logistical details

Interpretation will be provided in English and French.
The session will be livestreamed [here](#).

Agenda

1.30 - 1.40pm	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Emilia Sáiz, Secretary General of UCLG ● Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Coordinator of the UN Network and Director General of IOM ● Ms. Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director of the MMC
1.40 - 2.20pm	<p>Panel conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moderator: Ms. Fabiana Goyenche, Director of International Affairs, City of Montevideo, Uruguay ● Mr. Erias Lukwago, Lord Mayor, Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda ● Mr. Philippe Rio, Mayor of 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
2.20 - 2.30pm	<p>Handing over of Call to Local Action pledges to the UN Network on Migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Antonio Vitorino, Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration and Director General of IOM ● Mr. Erias Lukwago, Lord Mayor, Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda

Communications

- Follow us on Twitter [@GFMDMayors](#), as well as Mayors Mechanism partners: [@uclg_org](#), [@MayorsMigration](#), [@UNmigration](#), [@Refugees](#)
- and/or follow the hashtags:
 - **#CitiesIMRF**, to follow local and regional government activities throughout the IMRF
 - **#Call2Action**, to see updates regarding the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees