



Statement
4th UN Migration Network Annual Meeting
Session 5 – ‘The Way Forward’

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Thank you so much moderator for giving me the floor.

1. Let me also thank the representative from Canada, our fellow co-chair of the GFMD Working Group on narratives, to have presented the valuable work we do there.
2. In my intervention, I want to reflect on ‘the way forward’, and focus on city action: As you know, we have launched our Call to Action at the IMRF, bringing 70 city actions and pledges to the Forum, actions that pledge to the GCM and GCR simultaneously.
We are now hard at work to:
 - a. collect more pledges and move from a core group to a broader movement of cities to join this effort.
 - b. create opportunities for cities to build capacity.
 - c. foster opportunities for direct city partnerships and financing.
 - d. our next big milestones are the Global Refugee Forum and the GFMD in December next year.
3. Few take aways from an in-depth assessment we conducted of the actions received:
 1. 70 actions, of which 62 ongoing and future pledges, from a total of 44 local govts, together covering a population of over **100 million people**. Diversity of cities: including small towns, but also 14 capitals, 16 cities with a population over 1.5 million.
 2. Covering all regions, with a noted underrepresentation of Asian cities: on our radar for further outreach
 3. Most actions don’t distinguish between migrants, IDPs, refugees in their programming
 4. Topics: access to services and economic inclusion, tackling xenophobia, but very prominent as well: climate change and migration and design of local policies with input from migrants / refugees, all of which connect directly to specific sections in the Progress Declaration.
 5. Without exception – high degree of partnership. Local governments are often central conveners and creators of local ecosystems.
 6. **Only three** of the cities indicated to have been invited by their national government to join conversations about GCM implementation (however, half of the cities reported to partner

closely with national governments in their pledge). This is striking, in the least because 13 of the cities are from GCM Champion Countries.

4. Brings me to very concrete suggestions going forward:

1. To the MS in the room: become a **'whole-of-government' champion**

- And consult with cities when discussing migration policies at national level and regional level, as well as - following Belgium, Canada, Ghana, Portugal and South Africa at this IMRF, to include LRGs in your national delegation to attend the regional reviews, the next IMRF and the upcoming GRF. Consider - following the example of Germany – to submit joint pledges with cities.

2. To the Network: City action will help measure local impact of GCM implementation => work of indicators needs to factor this in. MM partners stand ready to contribute and build on what exists already.

Happy to facilitate any connections and will share more information in the chat box!