

Local and Regional Governments Day

14 December, 15:30 – 18:30, Room L

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89911149668>

With 70 percent of the world's displaced seeking refuge in urban areas, local and regional governments are crucial partners to help advance durable solutions. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) recognizes the essential role that local and regional governments play in supporting refugee reception and socio-economic inclusion, and High Commissioner Filippo Grandi has acknowledged 'the leading role of cities in the push towards a new approach to hosting refugees, based on openness and inclusion'.

The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF) is the coordination and consultation mechanism bringing together the major international networks of local governments to undertake joint advocacy work relating to global policy processes. The Mayors Mechanism is a partnership between United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Mayors Migration Council (MMC), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in partnership with UNHCR.

The Global Refugee Forum is the world's largest international gathering on refugees aimed at supporting the practical implementation of the objectives set out in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), promoting the protection of refugees' rights and their long-term inclusion through multi-stakeholder engagement and multilevel cooperation.

In the framework of the second review of the Global Compact for Refugees, local and regional leaders join forces in Geneva around the GTF, facilitated by UCLG, together with the Mayors Mechanism and in partnership with Local2030, Cities Alliance, Civil Society Action Committee, Migration Youth and Children Platform, and the Global Cities Hub, in the Local and Regional Governments Day in a context of increasing emphasis on the need for more solidarity-based responsibility sharing, and long-term and sustainable solutions to displacement.

In the first LRG Day ever taking place within the context of a UN conference in Geneva, and already recognized as an official side-event of the GRF, the organized constituency of local governments will come together to share their concrete contributions to the implementation of the Compact on Refugees through a people-centered approach, reinforced local action and enhanced cooperation, fostering its connections with the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda and with the renewal of the multilateral system through the lens of the protection and inclusion of refugees and other forced displaced persons.

Objective 1: Promote Local and Regional Governments' Contributions:

Showcase and celebrate concrete contributions of local and regional governments to the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) through people-centered approaches, strengthened local action, and enhanced cooperation.

Objective 2: Foster Multi-level and Multi-stakeholder Action:

Explore and emphasize the importance of partnerships as a critical means for implementing the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) and the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). Encourage multi-level and multi-stakeholder collaboration to enhance global cooperation and accelerate the implementation of both compacts in harmony.

Objective 3: Highlight the Role of Cities in a Renewed Multilateral System:

Examine the role of cities in the push towards a new approach to hosting refugees, emphasizing openness and inclusion. Connect the local and regional government agenda with the Secretary-General's call for a renewed multilateral system that is inclusive, networked, and efficient.

Objective 4: Human Rights-Centric Approach to Multilateralism:

Place particular emphasis on adopting a human rights approach not only to human mobility but also to the renewal of multilateralism. Explore the intersectionality of the human mobility agenda and the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, highlighting the need for a renewed multilateral system fit for purpose.

Profiles of Speakers

Opening

Emilia Saiz, Facilitator of the opening

UCLG

Wen Li, keynote speaker

IOM

Uğur İbrahim Altay, keynote speaker¹

Konya (Mayor)

Yousef Al Shawarbeh, keynote speaker²

Amman (Mayor)

Vincent Cochetel, keynote speaker

UNHCR

Panel 1

Samer Saliba, Moderator

MMC

Filippo Mannino, Panelist³

Lampedusa (Mayor)

Sanya Wilson, Panelist

Koboko (Mayor)

¹ The speaker will provide remarks in Turkish. Interpreters will receive the speech in English before the event to transmit it in their respective languages of interpretation in real time during the session.

² The speaker will provide remarks in Arabic. Interpreters will receive the speech in English before the event to transmit it in their respective languages of interpretation in real time during the session.

³ The speaker will provide remarks in Italian. Interpreters will receive the speech in English before the event to transmit it in their respective languages of interpretation in real time during the session.

Marvin Rees, Panelist

Bristol (Mayor)

Rachel Perić, Panelist

Welcoming America

Silsila Mahbuob, Panelist

Refugee activist (New Women Connector)

TBC, Panelist (TBC)

Member State

Panel 2

Sophie van Haasen, Moderator

Mayors Mechanism

Pere Aragonès, Panelist

Catalonia (President)

Eirini Papadaki, Panelist

Herakleion (Vice Mayor)

Aryan Sanghrajka

MYCP

Sami Kanaan, Panelist

Global Cities Hub

Carolina Gottardo

International Detention Coalition (IDC)

Luana Medeiros, General Coordinator of Refugee Protection

Brazil

Panel 3

Fabrizio Rossi, Moderator

CEMR

Hildebrand Niyomwungeri, Panelist

Nyamagabe (Mayor)

Keti Luarasi, Panelist

Tirana (Vice Mayor)

Fabiana Goyeneche, Panelist

Montevideo

Caroline Horne, Panelist

Initiative for Child Rights in the Global Compacts

Lucy Earle, Panelist

IIED

TBC, Panelist

Member State

Closing

Greg Munro, Facilitator

Cities Alliance

Robert Piper, Keynote speaker

UN SG Special Adviser

Erfan Ali, Keynote speaker

UN-Habitat

Safak Pavey, Keynote speaker

UNHCR