



Enabling local solutions for inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery

CONCEPT NOTE
GFMD MAYORS MECHANISM NETWORKING MEETING

Date and time:	Friday 22 January 2020 - 16:00 - 18:00 CET
Format:	A dynamic dialogue between national government representatives and city leaders
Interpretation:	Simultaneous interpretation to English, French, Spanish and Arabic

Session description

- Alongside the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in December 2018, 150 city leaders endorsed the [Marrakesh Mayors Declaration](#) calling for the **full and formal recognition** of the role of local and regional governments (LRGs) in the implementation, follow-up, and review of both Compacts. They also committed to **accelerate their own efforts** to advance the Compacts.
- National governments have also increasingly recognized LRGs as key actors in migration governance since the New York Declaration in 2017 and recently, LRGs have been invited to the international policy-making table, including at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in 2019, in the GCM Regional Reviews and in the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), where the [GFMD Mayors Mechanism](#), co-steered by [United Cities and Local Governments](#) (UCLG), [the Mayors Migration Council](#) (MMC) and [the International Organization for Migration](#) (IOM), ensures and coordinates city engagement.
- While a seat at the table is an important first step, LRGs now ask to be viewed not only as key implementers, but foremost as **key partners** in shaping and evaluating migration policy.
- This networking session will discuss how such partnerships currently take shape and should take shape in future, in service of the achievement of global migration goals. It will facilitate a dynamic conversation between national and local government actors to share their **priorities for joint action, barriers to success and solutions for greater collaboration** on migration policymaking going forward.
- This session will take place against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, a global shockwave with LRGs at its the epicentre: LRGs have been at the forefront of responding to the pandemic and have stepped up pragmatically and ethically to drive local and inclusive response and recovery efforts. This session will **bring this expertise to the table**, with the aim



to learn and build back better and ultimately work so that migration becomes ‘a source of prosperity, innovation and sustainable development in our globalized world’¹.

Expected outcomes of this session

- National governments and LRGs discuss the specific challenges and opportunities they faced in ensuring inclusive response to COVID-19 and explore how to work together towards inclusive recovery efforts.
- National governments and LRGs gain insights about existing and ongoing local-to-national partnerships that ensure more agile and effective migration policies.
- National governments and LRGs discuss concrete ways to bring such partnerships to the upcoming 2021 Regional Migration Review Fora (RMRFs) and 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and will strategize how the international governance space may enable new partnerships and solutions.

Structure of the session

- The session will start with introductory remarks, which will be followed by three short (35min) rounds of open discussion. Each of these discussion rounds will focus on specific factors that enable local and inclusive response and recovery efforts:
 - Round 1: How can international governance mechanisms on migration enable inclusive response and recovery?
 - Round 2: How can national-local legal frameworks enable inclusive response and recovery?
 - Round 3: What municipal financing mechanisms are needed to enable inclusive response and recovery?
- In each round a moderator will open the floor to 2 discussion starters (3 to 4 min each) to kickstart the conversation, after which a conversation with the audience will be facilitated.
- The session will close with a brief recap and reflection on next steps.

Participants

- The session is open to all GFMD registered delegates from national governments and LRGs.
- The GFMD Civil Society Coordinating Office, the GFMD Business Mechanisms and the GFMD Youth Forum organisers will be invited to nominate 1 representative to participate as observers.

¹ GCM article 8



Preliminary agenda (all times in CET)

- 16:00 – 16:05 **Brief introduction and mechanics of the session**
Ms. Sophie van Haasen, coordinator, GFMD Mayors Mechanism
- 16:05 – 16:10 **Welcoming Remarks**
Mr. António Vitorino, Director General of IOM
- 16:10 – 16:45 **Round 1: How can international governance mechanisms on migration enable inclusive response and recovery?**
Moderator: Ms. Cecile Riallant, Head of the Migration and Sustainable Development Unit, IOM
- 16:45– 17:20 **Round 2: How can national-local legal frameworks enable inclusive response and recovery?**
Moderator: Ms. Emilia Sáiz, Secretary General of UCLG
- 17:20– 17:55 **Round 3: What municipal financing mechanism are needed to enable inclusive response and recovery?**
Moderator: Ms. Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director of MMC
- 17:55 – 18:00 **Closing Remarks**
Ms. Sophie van Haasen, coordinator, GFMD Mayors Mechanism