



International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement

From emergency to resilience and development
26-27 November 2019, Gaziantep, Turkey

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Gaziantep, November 26-27, 2019

The Gaziantep Declaration

A Declaration adopted by participants at the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement.

The Forum was co-hosted by the **United Nations Development Programme**, the **UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)**, and the **UN Migration Agency (IOM)**, together with the **Metropolitan Municipality of Gaziantep**, the **Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT)**, the **World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD)**, and **United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA)**

The Declaration¹ is a reflection of and builds on the recognition of the important role of municipalities and cities confirmed by the **Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)** and the **Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)**.

The Gaziantep Declaration:

We, the Mayors, gathered with stakeholders drawn from United Nations agencies, governments, municipalities, cities, international and local NGOs, the private sector and civil society, have adopted the following declaration at the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement, meeting in Gaziantep on 26-27, November 2019:

¹The Declaration builds on the Regional Meeting of Local Authorities in Turkey and the Western Balkans that took place in Belgrade, Serbia, on 4-5 October 2016, as part of the conference, "Migration, Displacement and Community Resilience."

Recognizing the fundamental importance of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)², the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)³, the New Way of Working⁴ the drive to effectively localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁵, the New Urban Agenda (NUA)⁶, and building on the cooperation in response to the Syria crisis within the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan 2018-2019 (3RP)⁷;

Recognizing the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD)⁸, including: the new GFMD Mayors Mechanism⁹, its annual Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration, and Development; and the conclusion¹⁰ of the GFMD Regional Workshop on Arrival Cities¹⁰;

Building on the Marrakech Mayors Declaration¹¹, as well as the evolving work of the Mayors Mechanism¹² to translate these commitments into action through its Call to Local Action on Migration;¹³

Preparing for the Global Refugee Forum taking place in Geneva 17-18 December 2019 by articulating a critical global voice of Mayors and their experiences in responding to migration and displacement at the local level;

Recognizing the important role of local and regional governments to co-create innovative solutions and mobilize resources among their communities and partners;

Supporting efforts to strengthen the link between national and local level governance actors in pursuing SDGs, including with a view not to leave anyone behind;

Supporting cohesive policy approaches at the local, national and international levels which optimise the mutually reinforcing potential of developmental and humanitarian responses;

and

commending the innovative and forward-looking leadership of the Government of Turkey and the localized action taken by Metropolitan Municipalities such as Gaziantep in the inclusion of refugees in national systems and in pursuing harmonization. Turkey, hosting the largest number of refugees in the world since 2014, has demonstrated how resilience and development approaches can provide a critical added value complementing and building on humanitarian responses.

² <https://www.unhcr.org/the-global-compact-on-refugees.html>

³ https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf

⁴ https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/NWOW%20Booklet%20low%20res.002_0.pdf

⁵ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

⁶ <http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/>

⁷ <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org>

⁸ The GFMD is a state led process functioning as a bridge between countries of origin, transit and destination. The GFMD is outside of the UN, but reports to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) meeting annually at UNHQ, NYC, to review progress towards the SDGs

⁹ <https://gfmd.org/process/gfmd-mayors-mechanism>

¹⁰ Arrival Cities¹⁰ should function as places of opportunity and upward mobility for newcomers, creating conditions conducive to newcomers establishing, connecting and belonging. See: <https://gfmd.org/news/arrival-cities-4th-regional-gfmd-workshop-lima-peru>

¹¹ <http://www.migration4development.org/en/node/47272> - the Declaration is a city-led initiative resulting from the joint effort of an informal coalition of cities to gather the voices of over 60 Mayors.

¹² Mayors Migration Council, UCLG and IOM

¹³ launched at the recent UCLG congress in Durban (11-15 November 2019) and to be propelled at the GFMD in Quito (20-24 January 2020). - <https://www.docdroid.net/enGaoJH/call-to-local-action-on-migration.pdf>

We commit to:

Promoting, deepening and replication at scale of the forward-looking and accelerating efforts in a range of communities globally to transition from emergency to resilience, to solutions and development in responding to complex refugee and migration situations.

Contributing to the development of robust pathways for such transition, informed by good practices in local responses to migration and displacement, which are tailored to the specific local context and to the priorities of different population segments in these contexts

Deepening our collective knowledge of how strong examples of municipal level pragmatic action both build resilience and accelerate the integration of refugees within host communities and migrant cities into a positive socio-economic dynamic.

Advocating for mutually supportive responses, local leadership as well as whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, including at the municipal and local levels.

Emphasizing the benefits of welcoming refugees in our work and to use language of inclusion, welcome and belonging, while condemning discrimination and the use of dehumanizing language in relation to migrants and refugees.

Ensuring that we integrate gender, age, and diversity considerations throughout responses and support provided.

Working with those host communities supporting refugees and migrants and drawing from our deeper collective knowledge accelerate informed collective action to scale and replicate models that work.

Contributing to the on-going and future global, regional and national level discussions on the implementation of the evolving vision, strategies, frameworks, goals and objectives of the GCR and GCM.

Communicating this Declaration, with specific reference to SDGs 11 and 16, to the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019. Building on the refugee and migration focus at the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF), continue during subsequent HLPF annual reviews to promote the principles, goals and objectives of the Declaration as key components in strengthening responses to refugee situations and migration at the municipal level, building on the December 2018 Marrakesh Declaration “Cities working together for Migrants and Refugees.”¹⁴

¹⁴ http://www.migration4development.org/sites/default/files/en_mf_declaration.pdf

We consider the following nine aspects key to a successful pathway of refugee and migration responses at the local level from emergency to resilience and development:

1. Raising awareness on the localization of the SDGs – notably SDG 11 and SDG16 - through governance and inclusive planning at all levels of government;
2. Empowering city networks within existing organizations that enable and support replication and scaling of success stories in local responses.
3. Job creation and partnerships with the private sector at the local level, including public-private job creation initiatives at municipal level, and the potential of refugees and migrants as factors of economic growth.
4. Protection and social protection as a key foundation for successful integration;
5. Multi-level governance, including effective data sharing, and the role of small and intermediary cities as a catalyst for stability;
6. Civil society, gender equality and social cohesion as an anchor for long-term success;
7. Inclusive access to quality services;
8. Smart urbanization to stabilize migration and displacement while maximizing opportunities;
9. The important role of new technologies, innovation, and data management.

Recognizing these key aspects, we **pledge** to:

1. Highlighting the critical importance of cities being at the centre of global efforts to secure safe, inclusive and sustainable living environments;
2. Working with international donors, as well as other sources of public and private finance, to support local municipalities with adequate resources as they create innovative approaches to delivery of tailored services for men, women and children in refugee and migrant communities; Promoting early integration of digital tools for those communities, families and individuals impacted by migration and displacement;
3. Contributing our learning and practical examples of successful approaches into the global agendas and deliberations on migration, displacement and local development;
4. Work with international and local media to highlight and promote examples of successful and harmonised integration of refugee and migrant populations.
5. Conceiving, formulating and implementing city level partnerships and supportive networks of relevant local development partners responding to migration and displacement.

The UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion and its Global Task Force on Migrations will follow up on the outcome of the International Forum and work to deepen exchanges, relationships and technical debates initiated in Gaziantep.

