



Global Mayors
Task Force on
Climate and
Migration



Side Event to the 2021 UN High Level Political Forum

Climate and Human Mobility: Working with Mayors to Advance SDGs 10 and 13

6 July 2021 1:00-2:30 pm EDT

Register now: <https://qpm628089.typeform.com/to/cKP584bN>

The British Council, C40 Cities-Mayors Migration Council Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration (C40-MMC Task Force), the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) join together to host a side event of the UN High Level Political Forum on climate change and human mobility.

The 2019 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report reveals that land degradation is already negatively impacting the livelihoods and well-being of at least 3.2 billion people, while rising sea levels could submerge the homeland of 280 million people by the end of this century. These climate change challenges will reflect on internal and international population movements. While it is today widely recognized that environmental migration is complex and multifaceted, we also know that most people's journeys will lead them to cities.

Cities deal with the realities of climate change and human mobility on a daily basis — from protecting residents from extreme heat and fires, flooding, and landslides, to welcoming people displaced by the effects of climate change domestically or abroad, to promoting climate justice and leaving no one behind in the green transition. It is in cities that the local-level implications on planning, service provision, and access to resources and opportunities—or lack thereof—will be felt most acutely.

Migration and climate change issues are core concerns for current and future sustainable development, which cannot be addressed in silos. This event serves as a bridge between the review of SDGs 10 and 13, as well as related goals.

Format

This roundtable discussion will bring together mayors, national government representatives, and multilateral organisations. The event will consist of a high-level roundtable of panelists in a Davos-style session facilitated by a moderator. The event will be fully virtual and accessible to pre-registered participants. Interpretation in English, French and Spanish will be provided.

Guiding questions

- What actions are you taking / planning to take to address climate-related mobility? How will you ensure climate action includes migrants and displaced persons, to meet your commitments to the SDGs and related frameworks?

- What do you need from partners (other levels of government, financial institutions, UN bodies, etc.) to better address the impact of climate change on human mobility? What can you offer?
- How can local authorities and national governments work together to jointly address climate change and its impact on human mobility, to better meet the SDGs at a global scale?

Agenda

<p>13:00– 13:05</p>	<p>Welcome <i>Master of Ceremonies:</i> Shipra Narang Suri, Chief Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat</p>
<p>13:05– 13:10</p>	<p>Opening Remarks Michele Klein Solomon, Regional Director for Central and North America and the Caribbean, International Organization for Migration (IOM)</p>
<p>13:10 – 14:05</p>	<p>Roundtable Discussion <i>Moderator:</i> Shipra Narang Suri, Chief Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat</p> <p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiona Clouder, COP26 Regional Ambassador for Latin America and the Caribbean, Government of the United Kingdom. • Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyers, Freetown, Sierra Leone; Co-Lead of the C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration • Mayor Peter Kurz, Mannheim, Germany; Chair of the Global Parliament of Mayors • Brigid Shea, Commissioner of Travis County, Texas; Chair of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA (ICLEI USA) • Marta Youth, Deputy Assistant Secretary Bureau of Population, Refugees, And Migration, State Department, United States • Anare Leweniqila, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations in Geneva and Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD)
<p>14:05 – 14:25</p>	<p>Questions & Answers Moderator poses questions received from virtual chat room to the panelists</p>
<p>14:25 – 14:30</p>	<p>Closing Remarks Andrew Harper, Special Advisor on Climate Action, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)</p>

Background resources

- British Council, [Cultural Relations Collection - The Importance of the Everyday: Endotic Cultural Relations in Cape Town, Rome and Guangzhou](#), June 2021.
- C40 Cities and Mayors Migration Council, [C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration](#), June 2021.
- C40 Cities and Mayors Migration Council, "[Cities and Migration: The Role of Cities at the Climate-Migration Nexus](#)". March 2021.
- [Global Parliament of Mayors, Executive Summary of the Call-to-Action Resolution](#).
- Global Parliament of Mayors Report, "[Local Responses to Climate-Forced Displacement and Migration](#)". June 2021.
- IOM [Environmental Portal](#).
- IOM [Summary of Conclusions](#) of the First session of the International Dialogue on Migration 2021 "Accelerated integrated action on sustainable development: migration, the environment and climate change", 25-27 May 2021.
- IOM "[World Migration Report 2015 - Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility](#)".
- Mayors Migration Council, Open Letter to President Biden: "[US Local Governments Call for Equitable and Inclusive Action on Climate and Migration](#)".

Organizers

British Council

The [British Council](#) is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body.

The British Council is leading [The Climate Connection](#), a global programme that brings people around the world together to meet the challenges of climate change in the lead up to COP26. Through arts and culture, education and the English language, it is about ideas, innovation and real change. Our partnership with the Global Parliament of Mayors forms part of our policy engagement strand, connecting cities from around the world and sharing local solutions to climate-related challenges.

C40 Cities-Mayors Migration Council Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration (C40-MMC Task Force)

The [C40 Cities](#) (C40) and the [Mayors Migration Council](#) (MMC) [Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration](#) is a mayor-led initiative to address the impact of the climate crisis on migration in cities, inspired by C40's Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force.

Mayors deal with the realities of climate change and migration on a daily basis. This includes protecting residents from extreme heat, wildfires, flooding, or landslides, and welcoming people displaced by climate impacts domestically or internationally. Mayors are also setting the global agenda in promoting climate justice and leaving no one behind in the green transition. To date, their efforts have been delivered with limited resources and fragmented policy and financing regimes.

The C40-MMC Task Force will drive forward an Action Agenda in partnership with migrant and refugee community leaders, business leaders, and experts to be presented at the United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) in November 2021 in dialogue with national and regional counterparts. The C40-MMC Task Force is co-led by the Mayor of Dhaka North, Bangladesh and the Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone and includes as members the Mayors of Barcelona, Spain; Bristol, United Kingdom; Dakar, Senegal; Houston, United States; Lima, Peru; Los Angeles, United States; and Milan, Italy.

Global Parliament of Mayors

The [Global Parliament of Mayors](#) (GPM) is a governance body of, by and for mayors from all continents with a vision of the world in which Mayors, their cities and networks are equal partners in building global governance for an inclusive and sustainable world. The mission of the GPM is to facilitate the debate between mayors, national governments and international organisations, drive systematic action to take on global and national challenges and opportunities to achieve political change on a global scale. Mayors take leadership and ownership of the global challenges that they face on a local level.

In partnership with the British Council the GPM has developed the project [“Uniting Mayors: Local Solutions to Global Climate Challenges”](#). The project brings together mayors and communities worldwide to explore the impact of climate change - particularly on communities in low lying areas in the Global South - and to share ideas and collaborate on city solutions and response strategies. City leaders have a vital role to play in responding to this challenge – both in terms of helping their cities to become carbon neutral and deal with the effects of climate change, and in terms of dealing with climate displacement and migration. The main output of the project is a mayoral ‘Call to Action’ that will be published prior to COP26.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Established in 1951, [IOM](#) is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. It works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration challenges and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people. In the environment and climate change field, IOM has been at the forefront of operational, research, policy and advocacy efforts, seeking to bring environmental migration to the heart of international, regional and national concerns in collaboration with Member States and partners.

UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

[UNHCR](#), the UN Refugee Agency, works in 135 countries to safeguard the rights and well-being of people who have been forced to flee. Together with partners and communities, we work to ensure that everybody has the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another country. UNHCR is providing protection and assistance to many refugees and other people displaced by the effects of climate change, as well as helping them increase their resilience to future disasters and secure lasting solutions.

Uniting Mayors: Local Solutions to Global Climate Challenges



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