



## GFMD Friends of the Forum – 18 April 2023

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### Agenda item 6. Open floor for updates of the Friends of the Forum

#### A. Introduction

Thank you Chair for giving us the floor.

- First of all let me thank France for offering direct and unearmarked funding to the mechanisms and youth in addition to in-kind support during the Summit. This support will be crucial for us to organise throughout the chairmanship and is truly appreciated. We hope this may set forward a precedent for future Summits.
- Let me now zoom in on our priorities: as we highlighted in November, our engagement will very much focus on three priorities of the programme:
- Let me start with **Roundtable 6**. We are excited to have been accepted as co-chair of Roundtable 6 and we want to acknowledge the fruitful discussions we have had so far with our fellow co-chairs Kenya and Azerbaijan in preparing the first draft concept note. On our side, we are glad to see a proposed focus:
  - on whole-of-government and whole-of-society implementation of migration policies
  - about challenges and opportunities of the international financing system to support migration multi-level governance.
  - need for greater participation of the general public and migrants and refugees in shaping migration policies.

We're looking forward to hearing your feedback on all of this tomorrow!

- **Roundtable 1: Climate change and migration:**
  - As previously mentioned, this topic is of key interest to us, and we will continue to bring local perspectives to the forefront of the discussions, building on our work with the Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration.
  - We are also preparing a peer learning session on climate change and migration in June and we are discussing how to bring the experience and lessons learned from the City of Paris, understanding the impacts of climate change on migration to and from urban areas, to the thematic workshop in June in Paris.
  - We were also delighted to bring a representative from the city of Accra in Ghana to the Thematic Workshop this March, who highlighted the city's survey to assess the situation of migrants working in the city's informal waste economy and facilitate their access to financial inclusion, healthcare, and childcare, while improving the city's overall waste management practices.
- **Roundtable 5: Narratives and culture:** As co-chairs of the ad hoc working group, we stand ready to connect this roundtable to the work plan of the working group and to the It Takes a



Community Campaign, and we are happy to confirm that MM is financially contributing to ITAC. And of course on the content side, we will be contributing to the discussions zooming in on the opportunities, expertise and challenges faced by local governments in the current political climate.

**B. How will we engage?**

1. As mentioned in November: our engagement in the GFMD fits into our larger strategy to roll out our Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, and the pledges we receive from cities will directly connect to the different thematic discussions. All of the pledges are also included into the GFMD Platform for Partnerships.
2. We also want to establish a learning platform for local govts to connect local action to global agendas. Concretely this will entail:  
Three specific **peer learning sessions** on the following topics:
  - Climate change and migration – first one taking place in the course of June.
  - Narratives and communication
  - Refugee and migrant inclusion in local policy making.The outcomes of these discussions will serve as inputs to the GFMD roundtable discussions.
3. We also want to **mobilize an LRG delegation** to join the GFMD in Geneva and we will be advocating for Member States to bring local governments as part of their national delegation.

Thank you