
GLOBAL DECLARATION *of* MAYORS *for* DEMOCRACY

PREAMBLE

In recognition of the critical role cities play in strengthening, advancing, and adapting democracy on-the-ground every day;

Inspired by the robust initiative and cooperation of the mayors of Budapest, Bratislava, Prague, and Warsaw, who saw the growth of illiberal forces eroding democracy in their respective countries, and came together to develop and sign the Pact of Free Cities in 2019, committing themselves to govern in steady alignment with the values of democracy;

In solidarity with cities around the world, including in Ukraine, who are defending the rights of individuals, communities, cities, and nations to determine their own democratic futures;

In recognition of the essential role of democratic transformation to encourage sustainable development, address the climate emergency and deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals; and

In appreciation for the global Summit for Democracy (December 2021) and emanating from the commitments of mayors at its Mayors Delivering Democracy Daily event, and to propel this year-of-action forward to the next Summit for Democracy;

In a collaborative effort with the Global Parliament of Mayors, GMF Cities, and the Pact of Free Cities;

Today, we mayors join together to advance the following Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy.

DECLARATION

Drawing from our cities' shared history and identity as champions and centers of enfranchisement and democratic development;

Respecting our cities' diverse histories, geographies, economies, and cultural heritage;

Reaffirming the need for protection of any individual or social, ethnic, racial, or other groups from discrimination;

Taking note of our cities' regional role in driving innovation, economic growth, sustainable development, and welfare;

Acknowledging the challenges our cities face, especially the climate crisis, poverty, growing inequality, an aging population, housing and health crises, migration, social stratification, and political tribalism;

Recognizing the growing role and added value of our cities and its residents in tackling these global challenges;

Recognizing the importance of subsidiarity and self-governance as guarantees for local communities to best serve their population;

Reflecting on mounting concerns over the resilience of democratic systems worldwide and the rise of authoritarianism; and

Recognizing the responsibility of cities in protecting and promoting our common values of freedom, human dignity, democracy, equality, human and civil rights, rule of law, freedom of the media, social justice, tolerance, and cultural diversity;

We, the mayors of the undersigned cities hereby declare our commitment to:

Rebuild and reinforce democracy, stand as a bulwark against the erosion of the rule of law, and fight corruption, state capture, racism, and populist nationalism;

Stand up for free and fair elections and democratic movements worldwide, push back against electoral fraud, unfair electoral practices, attacks on free expression and civic space, malicious cyber activity, and dis- and misinformation campaigns aimed to undermine electoral processes;

Facilitate the democratic participation of all residents, especially marginalized communities;

Combat human rights abuses, xenophobia, antisemitism, anti-feminism, racism, islamophobia, anti-LGBTQI+ rhetoric and action, attacks on civil society organizations, and any other discriminatory practices designed to alienate and exclude from the democratic process;

Address urban challenges through the lens of democracy and democratic values, share our best practices in inclusive governance, transparency, and smart, evidence-based, participatory, and socially aware city management, for example in the fields of sustainable city planning, climate protection, education, social inclusion, housing, transportation, the media, the digital agenda, and any other field of common interest;

Engage in dialogue and action to help bridge the growing geographic, generational, social, economic, and political divides that have the potential to undermine democratic societies; and

Keep our cooperation informal, open, and on a voluntary basis, and our work at home steadfastly focused on fortifying democracy.