



Event Details

Title of Event

The Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) Virtual Parliament the solution to accelerate digital democracy

Organization Details

Organization: City of Mannheim

Organization Country: Germany

Summary

The UN 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) are the main reference frameworks for a sustainable urban transformation. The NUA presents a vision for a more sustainable urban future. Through SDG 11, the UN 2030 agenda addresses cities and human settlements directly whereas many other SDGs can only be achieved in coordination with local actors. While policy is set at the national level, its effects, ramifications and implementation takes place on the local "urban" level, in cities. As a response, cities and their mayors are creating alliances with international organizations, shaping international agendas, and propelling cities into the centre of the international policy-making process. Many international actors, such as the UN or the EU, consider cities as crucial partners for addressing global challenges. However, cities are still largely excluded, at least formally and structurally, from international policy-making. Against this background, the concept of "urban diplomacy" has gained in importance over the last years. It comprises an ever-growing set of activities, which cities are carrying out today. The Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) defines itself as a global city rights movement, based on local self-governance, which collaborates with city networks and international organisations by amplifying and publicizing their issues of concern and influencing global partners. The focus of this networking event is on highlighting the connecting power of GPM's Virtual Parliament. The Virtual Parliament is a unique digital platform offering Mayors from all over the world the opportunity to exchange views, to debate on political issues, provide direct information and to engage in global policy decision making processes. In 2019, for the first time ever, the GPM's Virtual Parliament has facilitated a virtual debate leading to a resolution on "Empowering cities to cope with global challenges", which was presented at the first UN Habitat Assembly. The Virtual Parliament is a tool in the hands of Mayors, which fosters digital democracy. Furthermore, it accelerates political inclusion by engaging especially Mayors from remote countries and the "global south", often with limited capabilities of attending international political gatherings themselves. The GPM's Virtual Parliament helps cities pooling their resources and acting collectively to make their voices heard. Vice versa, the Global Parliament of Mayors offers international bodies such as UN-Habitat a unique accessible channel for direct communication and coordination with progressive Mayors from all over the world.

Other Organization name

Prospective moderator, speaker(s) or panelist(s)

	First Name	Last Name	Role	Organization
1	Juliana	Kerr	Moderator	Chicago Council on Global Affairs
2	Peter	Kurz	Panelist	Mayor of Mannheim, Germany
3	Emilia	Saiz	Panelist	UCLG Sec General
4	Marcin	Krupa	Panelist	Mayor of Katowice, Poland
5	Ullrich	Sierau	Panelist	Mayor of Dortmund, Germany
6	Yousef	Al-Shawarbeh	Panelist	Mayor of Amman, Jordan
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