



PRESS RELEASE

Joint C40 and Mayors Migration Council Task Force Release Action Agenda on Climate and Migration with new \$1M USD investment from Robert Bosch Stiftung

Mayors outline bold steps to accelerate global responses to the climate crisis and human mobility and call for governments and international donors to support city-led efforts.

Funding commitment will support a new Global Cities Fund for Inclusive Climate Action in Africa.

Glasgow, 9 November 2021 — Today, at the [Bloomberg Green Summit](#) on the sidelines of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in Glasgow, C40 Cities and the Mayors Migration Council (MMC) released the **Global Mayors Action Agenda on Climate and Migration** outlining bold steps to accelerate global responses to the climate crisis and human mobility. The mayor-led agenda includes specific measures, already being delivered in many cities around the world, which must become the ‘new normal’ to deliver inclusive climate action that protects people most affected by climate displacement and intentionally includes them in the green and just transition.

The Action Agenda was released by the [C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration](#), co-led by the Mayor Mohammad Atiqul Islam of Dhaka North, Bangladesh, and Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyers of Freetown, Sierra Leone. The C40-MMC Task Force was guided by a [Statement of Principles](#), endorsed by mayors of Barcelona, Spain; Bristol, UK; Dakar, Senegal; Dhaka North, Bangladesh; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Houston, US; Lima, Peru; Los Angeles, US; and Milan, Italy.

The measures championed by mayors include investments to better adapt in place and reduce displacement; approaches to facilitate the dignified movement of those who live in risk-prone areas, preserving their assets, rights, and agency; increasing

access for newcomers to urban infrastructure and services, regardless of migration status; and green and decent job creation programmes for urban migrants and displaced people.

Recognizing that putting people at the centre of climate action requires a global effort, C40-MMC mayors and their allies have also invited national governments and international donors to support their vision. Mayors call for commitments to “significantly increase planning for — and public and private investment in — urban climate adaptation, especially in low-income countries.” C40-MMC mayors are clear: nations must seize this moment to ensure that adaptation accounts for at least 50 percent of global climate flows and that these investments directly benefit frontline, vulnerable or marginalized urban communities.

This vision was immediately welcomed by leaders and donors around the world, including the Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH (RBSG) which today announced a new \$1,000,000 USD contribution in support of key priorities elevated by the C40-MMC Task Force. Specifically, this investment will launch a new chapter of the [Global Cities Fund](#) (GCF), originally established by the MMC to respond to the unmet needs of cities as they support migrants and displaced people during Covid-19.

At the Robert Bosch Stiftung, we recognize the growing urgency to address the intersection between climate change and human mobility and have made this a core strategic priority,” **said Sandra Breka, CEO of the Robert Bosch Stiftung.** “In response to the C40-MMC Task Force’s compelling advocacy, we are proud to partner with the Mayors Migration Council and C40 Cities to open a new chapter of the Global Cities Fund to support city-led initiatives on inclusive climate action in Africa.”

“Guided by the expertise of the C40-MMC Task Force, this next iteration shows once again that the best solutions are developed when we support the leaders of the places where some of the most creative and inspiring innovations are taking place: cities,” **said Mark Watts, Executive Director of C40 Cities.** “Today, we are sending a strong message to the world: mayors are at the frontline of climate and migration, and innovative funders are ready to support this important work.”

“We’re grateful to Robert Bosch Stiftung for betting on this cutting-edge work and helping us launch this new chapter for the Global Cities Fund,” **said Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director of the Mayors Migration Council.** “We are excited to deepen our partnership with C40 Cities and continue to advocate for more funders to join the course, in order to expand the number of cities supported, as well as to other regions of the world.”

Today's announcement comes at a critical inflection point for global action on climate migration as global leaders gather at COP26 and after US President Joe Biden issued a [Report on the Impact of Climate Change on Migration](#), marking the first time the US government officially recognises the impact of climate breakdown on migration. The Report comes after C40-MMC Task Force Mayors Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles, Sylvester Turner of Houston, and other US mayors sent a [joint letter to President Biden](#) calling on his Administration to partner with cities to proactively plan for the impact of the climate crisis on migration at home and abroad. The Report responds to this call by committing to “scaling up support to urban areas to help localities plan for, accommodate, and integrate migrants and those displaced” and “build resilient urban systems.” The C40-MMC Task Force stands ready to continue to advise on the local dimension of U.S. climate migration policy and applauds this leadership on the global stage.

Report available at: [Mayors Migration Council's Climate Migration Hub](#) and [C40 Cities' Knowledge Hub](#).

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact media@c40.org and Anne McPherson, Mayors Migration Council, at mcpherson.anne@gmail.com.

Visit the [MMC Climate Migration Hub](#) and follow #C40MMCTaskForce on social media for more information. For general background and inquiries, email Giovanni Pagani at gpagani@c40.org.

Mayoral Quotes:

“Our cities are deeply committed to promoting inclusive climate action that takes into account the needs of vulnerable groups, including migrants. The C40-MMC Action Agenda calls on national governments to join us in protecting the rights of those moving for climate-related reasons and fostering an inclusive green transition.” — **Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona**

“To address climate and ecological breakdown and related migration, cities need sustainable and predictable resources for retrofitting our homes, for creating green jobs, and for investing in long-term sustainability. We are inviting donors and the private sector to work with us pro-actively to implement the principles of the C40-MMC Task Force, to make funding directly available to the cities now rather than tie up funds in bureaucracy.” — **Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol and MMC Leadership Board Founding Member.**

“Extreme rainfall events are a significant hazard for our region, where thousands of people have been displaced due to rain flooding and where 60 percent of internal migrants in Senegal settle, often in risk-prone areas. The C40-MMC Action Agenda's

call for better municipal access to climate adaptation finance is critical for Dakar and other African cities at the forefront of the climate crisis and human mobility.” — **Soham El Wardini, Mayor of Dakar**

“In Bangladesh, an estimated 2,000 people arrive in Dhaka daily, having migrated from other cities along a coastline that is increasingly affected by storms and rising sea levels. To manage this urban growth, the C40-MMC Action Agenda calls for better policy coordination across levels of governance and better access to international funding.” — **Mohammad Atiqul Islam, Mayor of Dhaka North, C40 Vice Chair, and Co-lead of the C40-MMC Task Force**

“85% of climate finance targets global north countries. If we want to address climate and migration, the majority of which occurs in Africa, Latin America and Asia, it is critical we focus on equity - not just within countries but across countries.” — **Yvonne Aki-Sawyers, Mayor of Freetown, MMC Leadership Board Founding Member, and Co-lead of the C40-MMC Task Force**

“We need to secure national and local government investment to better adapt in place and reduce displacement. But we must also facilitate the dignified movement of those who live in risk-prone areas, preserving their assets, rights, and agency. Through the C40-MMC Action Agenda, we will share, scale, and replicate successful approaches in Houston and other contexts.” — **Sylvester Turner, Mayor of Houston**

“To address climate migration, we need a new global commitment to build local resilience and adaptation capacity, while including all regardless of their status. With our endorsement of the C40-MMC Action Agenda we call on national and international partners to work with us and create a new scenario for the future together.” — **Jorge Muñoz Wells, Mayor of Lima**

“The climate crisis is a threat our residents confront on a daily basis, and our decisions as Mayors must account for the changing circumstances that can uproot people's lives. As we continue to forge ahead in this make-or-break decade of climate action, we have to ensure that nobody is left behind — and this pledge reinforces our commitment to ensure that our cities are ready to welcome people displaced by climate impacts with open arms.” — **Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, Chair of C40 Cities and MMC Leadership Board Founding Member**

“To promote a just transition to a greener and more inclusive economy, we need to acknowledge the intersection between climate change and migration, leveraging the power of city diplomacy to unlock resources, both for cities of origin, to avert displacement in the first place, and for cities of destination, to facilitate the inclusion of migrants in our local economy through green and just job creation.”— **Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan and MMC Leadership Board Founding Member.**

Background:

About the 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.

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.

For more information on the C40-MMC Task Force visit our [webpage](#) or contact Giovanni Pagani, Senior Manager for Climate Migration, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, gpagani@c40.org.

About the Global Cities Fund

The [Global Cities Fund](#) (GCF), an initiative launched by the [Mayors Migration Council](#) (MMC) to respond to the unmet needs of cities as they support migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people. By directly channeling international resources to city-led projects of their own design, the GCF builds precedents of fiscal feasibility in city governments that are often disregarded by donors with low-risk tolerance. With nine city grantees and an [active pipeline](#) of 20 city government-led projects, the GCF has proven to be an effective mechanism for international donors to channel their resources in support of city-level projects that address the needs of migrants and displaced people impacted by global crises.

The MMC [launched](#) the GCF in January 2021 with seed investment from the Open Society Foundations and the strategic partnership of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the UN Migration Agency (IOM), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) providing technical advice and support to selected city grantees. The MMC [announced](#) the second round of funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and selected the additional city recipients in June 2021.

Visit www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/gcf and follow **@MayorsMigration** **#GlobalCitiesFund** on social media for more information. For background and inquiries, email fund@mayorsmigrationcouncil.org.

About the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

C40 is a network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities who are working to deliver the urgent action needed right now to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone, everywhere can thrive. Mayors of C40 cities are committed to using a science-based and people-focused approach to help the world limit global heating to 1.5°C and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities. Through a Global Green New Deal, mayors are working alongside a broad coalition of representatives from labor, business, the youth climate movement and civil society to go further and faster than ever before. The current Chair of C40 is Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti; and three-term Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg serves as President of the Board. C40's work is made possible by three strategic funders: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), and Realdania.

To learn more about the work of C40 and our cities, please visit [our website](#) and [C40 Knowledge Hub](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About the Mayors Migration Council

The Mayors Migration Council (MMC) is a mayor-led advisory and advocacy organization that helps cities shape national and international policy on migration and displacement. Our mission is to ensure that global responses to pressing challenges—from pandemics to climate change—both reflect and address realities on the ground for the benefit of migrants, displaced persons, and the communities that receive them.

Member of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, we also sit on the Advisory Committee of the Platform on Disaster Displacement and the Steering Committee of the UN Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund and the Mayors Mechanism of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

We are led by a Leadership Board composed of the mayors of Amman, Bristol, Freetown, Kampala, Los Angeles, Milan, Montreal, and Zürich, as well as the former mayor of Athens. We operate with the financial support of Open Society Foundations, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Robert Bosch Stiftung, and we are managed as a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

To learn more, please visit our [website](#) and [Climate Migration Resource Hub](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About the Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH

The Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH is one of Europe's largest foundations associated with a private company. It works in the areas of health, education, and global issues. With its charitable activities, it contributes to the development of viable solutions to social challenges. For this purpose, the Foundation implements its own projects, enters into alliances with partners, and supports third-party initiatives. Since it was established in 1964, the Robert Bosch Stiftung has invested around 1.9 billion euros in charitable work.

For further information, please visit the [website](#).