

# COP26 Summary Report

## C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration



Deputy Group  
**Emmanuelle Pinault**  
Director of City Diplomacy, C40  
Climate Leadership Group  
**Marvin Rees**  
Mayor of Bristol  
**Raphaela Schweiger**  
Program Director  
Robert Bosch



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**Project Leads on behalf of the C40-MMC Task Force:**

Mayors Migration Council - [climate@mayorsmigrationcouncil.org](mailto:climate@mayorsmigrationcouncil.org)

Giovanni Pagani – [gpagani@c40.org](mailto:gpagani@c40.org)

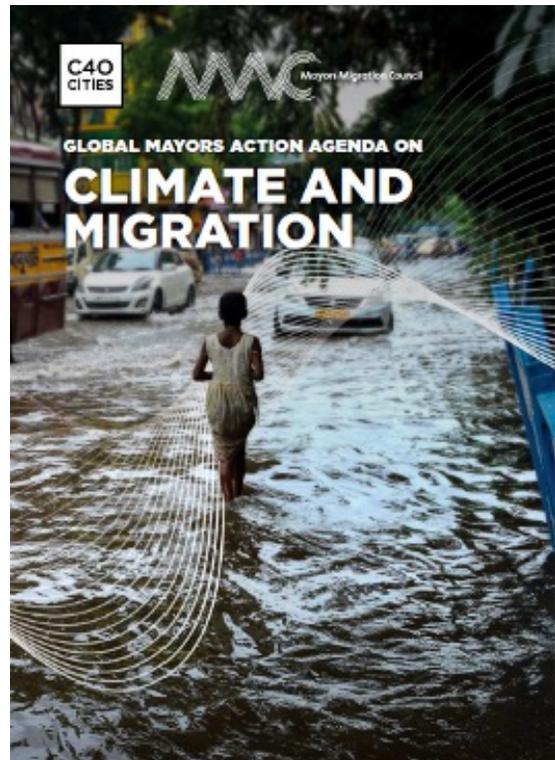
Claudia Huerta – [chuerta@c40.org](mailto:chuerta@c40.org)

# 1. THE C40-MMC TASK FORCE'S ROAD TO COP 26

The [C40-MMC Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration](#) was constituted in [June 2021](#), bringing together a core group of leading mayors from around the world willing to accelerate local, national and international responses to the intersectional challenges of climate and migration in cities. The Task Force unites nine mayors from different urban global contexts - Barcelona, Bristol, Dakar, Dhaka North, Freetown, Houston, Lima, Los Angeles, and Milan - who committed to releasing a mayor-led [Action Agenda on Climate and Migration](#) at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26), under the co-leadership of the Mayor of Freetown, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, and the Mayor of Dhaka North, Mohammed Atiqul Islam.

The C40-MMC Task Force's global advocacy campaign builds on the successful model of the [C40 Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force](#), but also comes at a critical inflection point for global action on climate migration. Most recently, the White House issued a [Report](#) that recognizes for the first time the impact of climate on migration and commits to “scale up support to urban areas to help localities plan for, accommodate, and integrate migrants and those displaced” in response to a [joint letter](#) signed by over a dozen US mayors, including Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner from the C40-MMC Task Force.

Building on C40 and MMC positioning in the climate and migration diplomatic spaces respectively, and in continuity with the scoping work carried out by the two organizations in 2019 on [the role of cities at the climate-migration nexus](#), the C40-MMC Action Agenda was developed over the summer of 2021 in consultation with city officials, external subject matter experts and representatives of affected local communities, to elevate the voice of mayors in the national, regional and international policy debates on climate and migration.



Following the release of the C40-MMC Task Force's 10 Principles for Inclusive Action on Climate and Migration in October 2021, the C40-MMC Action Agenda was presented to national and international partners in November 2021 at the margins of COP 26 in Glasgow across three high-level events:

- The Bloomberg Green Summit.
- The UNFCCC Champions Team's Cities, Regions & Built Environment Day.
- The Africa Climate Mobility Initiative Launch.

Calling on national governments and international organizations to act, the document puts forward concrete recommendations in the key areas of urban resilience, urban inclusion and urban transformation, with the objective of addressing vulnerability in the context of climate hazards and displacement, and the critical role of cities in welcoming newcomers and including them in their green and just transition. In other words, proposing a narrative shift in the way in which climate migration is usually addressed, not only presenting migrants and marginalized communities as disproportionately vulnerable to the climate crisis, but also as active agents of change in the transition to a greener and more inclusive economy.





United Nations  
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The mayors' vision was immediately welcomed by leaders and donors around the world, including the [Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH \(RBSG\) which 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](#), originally established by the MMC to respond to the unmet needs of migrants and displaced people during Covid-19 and recently [selected as a Scale-up Project of the 2021 Paris Peace Forum](#). The Global Cities Fund for Inclusive Climate Action will initially support city-led projects in Africa, but the vision is to expand to other regions. This new GCF chapter will be delivered by MMC in strategic partnership with C40 Cities.

[The Economist](#), [Bloomberg](#), and [Smart Cities World](#) all highlighted the importance of the C40-MMC Action Agenda and direct investment in city governments and urban action on climate migration.

# CITY PRINCIPLES

## for inclusive action on climate and migration

Together, we commit to accelerating global responses to climate and migration and to governing our action and advocacy by the following principles:

- 1. Put people at the center of our climate action** by protecting them from climate hazards and by leveraging our green and just recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic to create opportunities for all, especially the most marginalized.
- 2. Promote inclusive and equitable climate action** recognizing that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts vulnerable and marginalized groups, including migrants and displaced people.
- 3. Help people adapt in place or move away from hazard-prone areas** in a way that preserves the assets, rights, and dignity of those who move, and is ecologically sustainable.
- 4. Endeavor to welcome people moving or displaced into our cities, including for climate-related reasons** ensuring fundamental rights and equitable access to services, regardless of migration or legal status.
- 5. Deliver a just transition that provides good quality jobs to migrants and displaced people** in our cities, including in the informal sector, and recognizes their contributions to greening our local economies and delivering climate action.
- 6. Partner with migrants, displaced, and diaspora communities** listening to and amplifying their voices in our local policy-making and our national and global advocacy on climate and migration.
- 7. Pursue and share data and information** to help our cities and residents assess and reduce climate risks and increase resilience.
- 8. Advocate for supportive national and international policies and direct funding to cities** to meet and exceed the goals set in the Global Compacts for Migration and Refugees, the Paris Agreement, and other global agendas.
- 9. Engage in multi-stakeholder partnerships to address climate and migration challenges** enhancing our efforts to cooperate with national governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector.
- 10. Model behavior by investing our own city resources in inclusive climate action** leading the way in planning, preparing, and responding to the impact of the climate crisis on migration now.

## 2. HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TASK FORCE'S ACTIVITIES

**NOV 2**

**C40 Flagship Event: Our Last Big Chance - Why our future depends on action taken today in the world's cities**

**NOV 3**

**New York Times debates: Urban Urgency and the Future of Global Cities**

**NOV 3**

**New York Times Debates: Is Migration a Sound Adaptation and Reparation Strategy?**

**NOV 9**

**Climate and Migration: Cities at the Forefront**

**NOV 11**

**Cities, Regions and Built Environment Action Event: Decarbonizing and Adapting our Built Environment and Cities**

**NOV 15**

**Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) Virtual Event - Putting People at the Centre of Climate Action**

**NOV 18**

**Uniting Mayors Call to Action on Climate and Migration**

# Nov. 2nd - C40 Flagship Event: Our Last Big Chance - Why our future depends on action taken today in the world's cities

Speaking at the C40 Cities' Flagship Event - held at Glasgow City Hall on November 2nd - Mayor of Dhaka North, Mohammed Atiqul Islam, participated in a panel with the mayors of Bogota, Phoenix, and Paris, focusing on how cities are driving the bold, systemic change we need. As the C40 Vice Chair leading on Migration and co-lead of the C40-MMC Task Force, Mayor Islam explained how, every day, his city is welcoming up to 15,000 internally displaced people affected by climate hazards in other parts of Bangladesh - such as sea level rise, increased water salinity and rain flooding, among others.

**"We need to act upon the principle of leaving no one behind and ensure that newcomers are given access to skills development for green jobs, housing, public health and education", said Mayor Islam.**



# Nov. 3rd - New York Times debates: Urban Urgency and the Future of Global Cities

Recording of the session available at [this link](#)

Speaking at the New York Times Climate Hub, on urgent challenges faced by global cities, Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr of Freetown - C40 Vice Chair, MMC Leadership Board Founding Member and Co-Lead of the C40-MMC Task Force - stressed her priority to address rapid and unplanned urbanization, explaining how climate and economically driven rural-urban migration, coupled with fast demographic growth and increased climate hazards present a significant challenge to the resilience of Freetown, in a context where limited municipal mandates and resources increase and exacerbate exposure to climate hazards.

Counting also on the participation of Kathy Baughman McLeod, Senior Vice President and Director of the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Centre, the session provided an opportunity to discuss challenges related to extreme urban heat and the disproportionate vulnerability of lower-income communities - such as informal settlers. Under Mayor Aki-Sawyerr's mandate, Freetown was also the first city in Africa to appoint a Chief Heat Officer, as part of the Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance (EHRA).

**“City leaders are at the cutting edge of inclusive climate action, and we need this to be reflected by funding streams, with more climate finance going into cities and particularly for adaptation in the Global South,” said Mayor Aki-Sawyerr.**



# Nov. 3rd - New York Times Debates: Is Migration a Sound Adaptation and Reparation Strategy?

Recording of the session available at [this link](#)

Intervening in an Oxford-style debate organized in the New York Times Climate Hub, Vittoria Zanuso - Executive Director of the Mayors Migration Council - added local nuances and perspectives to the discussion on whether migration can be considered as a sound and effective strategy for adapting to climate change. Zanuso highlighted that most of the climate-related human mobility happens within national borders and in short distances, rather internationally, with cities often on the frontline - whether at the origin, transit point or destination of these movements.

In line with the vision put forward in the C40-MMC Global Mayors Action Agenda on Climate and Migration, Ms. Zanuso nuanced also that recognizing migration as a form of adaptation can help making the case for pushing states - especially in the Global North - to repair their debt by welcoming more climate migrants, but also, by converse, to exhort the international community to allocate more climate finance to local adaptation and urban resilience - especially in Global South countries and more climate-vulnerable cities.

**"Because most climate migrants move within national borders & to cities, emitter countries should have a "welcoming quota" but also pay back by investing in cities who are already and will continue to receive most climate migrants," said Ms. Zanuso.**



# Nov. 9th - Climate and Migration: Cities at the Forefront

Recording of the session available at [this link](#)

In the framework of the [Bloomberg Green Summit](#) - taking place in Glasgow between Nov. 8th and Nov. 10th, 2021, and convening corporate leaders, government officials and industry specialists from NGOs, IGOs and academia -, the C40-MMC Task Force and Bloomberg Green co-organized a session focusing on the role of cities at the forefront of climate and migration challenges. The 25-minute panel counted on the participation of Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol and founding member of the C40-MMC Task Force; Emmanuelle Pinault, Director of City Diplomacy at C40 Cities; and Raphaela Schweiger, Programme Director for Migration and Global Issues at Robert Bosch Foundation (RBSG). The discussion was moderated by Mallika Kapur, Deputy Global Editor at Bloomberg Live. The session provided a critical opportunity for the Task Force to both launch the [C40-MMC Global Mayors Action Agenda on Climate and Migration](#) and announce a new chapter of the MMC's Global Cities Fund (GCF), focusing on inclusive climate action and supported by a USD 1 million contribution by [Robert Bosch Stiftung](#).

Outlining the key priorities of the Action Agenda, Mayor Rees of Bristol stressed the critical need for national governments and international organizations to better support and work with cities to **i)** increase urban resilience in the face of climate hazards and climate-related displacement; **ii)** ensure the welcoming and inclusion of people who move into cities, including those displaced by climate hazards and **iii)** deliver a green and just recovery from COVID-19 in partnership with migrants and affected communities.

**“What mayors need is the ability to plan - said Mayor Rees – national governments and finance must organize so we can then think about how the economy of our city will look like in the future and ensure that migrants and vulnerable groups are included in the jobs pipeline.”**

Speaking about the importance of city diplomacy, Emmanuelle Pinault (C40 Cities), referenced the C40-MMC Task Force as a promising example of how mayors can build a common voice to influence national and global policy debates.

**“Mayors have been very vocal on climate change for years and we see them increasingly taking action on specific topics - said Emmanuelle Pinault – we have seen this on green and just recovery from COVID-19, and we see it now on climate and migration”.**

Announcing Robert Bosch Stiftung's contribution to MMC's Global Cities Fund, with a focus on inclusive climate action and in partnership with C40 Cities, Raphaela Schweiger stressed the importance of bridging the urban finance gap, particularly in more vulnerable countries, to both increase climate resilience and create opportunities for newcomers.

**“Foundations like Bosch can give foundational support to new ideas and then bring in other funders and governments to support these initiatives, especially with the need for adaptation finance in light of the upcoming COP27,”** said **Raphaela Schweiger**.



Climate  
at the Forefr

**Mallika Kapur**  
Deputy Global Editor, B

**Emmanuelle Pinault**  
Director of City Diplom  
Climate Leadership Gro

**Marvin Rees**  
Mayor of Bristol

**Raphaela Schweiger**  
Program Direc  
Robert Bosch

Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees, presenting the C40-MMC Global Mayors Action Agenda at the Bloomberg Green Summit, on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

# Nov. 11th - Cities, Regions and Built Environment Action Event: Decarbonizing and Adapting our Built Environment and Cities

Recording of the event available at [this link](#)  
(min 1: 13: 50)

On Cities, Regions and Built Environment Day, Mayor of Bristol and founding member of the C40-MMC Task Force, Marvin Rees, was invited to take part in a fireside chat with Cristina Gamboa - CEO of the World Green Building Council - in the framework of an event organized by the cities, regions and built environment partners of the [Marrakech Partnership](#), with support from High-Level Climate Champions. Focusing on challenges posed by the climate crisis to cities and their population and on the transformational impact that an equitable and green urbanization can have for vulnerable communities, the discussion provided an opportunity for the C40-MMC Task Force's mayoral leadership to elevate some of the key asks put forward in its Action Agenda - launched two days earlier.

Bringing to the COP 26 Blue Zone the announcements of the C40-MMC Global Mayors Agenda on Climate and Migration and the Global Cities Fund on Inclusive Climate Action - supported by Robert Bosch Stiftung -, Mayor Rees stressed the importance to invest in the physical infrastructure that decarbonizes urbanization processes around the world and in strengthening the social resilience of cities through a just and equitable green transition.

**“We need to change our language from funding to investments, with returns and benefits,”** said **Mayor Rees**, who called for a narrative shift in the debate on climate finance flows.

**“I have heard a lot of announcements on finance here at COP 27, but our national leaders and international organizations have not addressed the real challenge, which is how mayors get access to that money - he continued - this is often tied up in bureaucratic and inaccessible places, which means we will not be able to spend it”.**

Mayor Rees's intervention and the announcements he made on the release of the C40-MMC Action Agenda and Global Cities Fund on Inclusive Climate Action will be recorded as an official outcome of COP 26, as part of the Cities, Regions and Built Environment Day.

See the report of the day at [this link](#).



# Nov. 15th - Africa Climate Mobility Initiative (ACMI) Virtual Event - Putting People at the Centre of Climate Action

Recording of the event available at [this link](#)

On the first working day towards a COP 27 in Africa, Mayor of Dakar, Soham El-Wardini - a founding member of the C40-MMC Task Force - was invited to give opening remarks in the High-Level Opening Session of the event, representing the voice of mayors and local governments. Referencing some of the key recommendations put forward in the [C40-MMC Global Mayors Action Agenda on Climate and Migration](#), Mayor El-Wardini called on national and international actors to provide cities with better access to climate finance for adaptation - especially in the Global South - and on central governments to complete the devolution of competencies to localities, particularly when it comes to urban planning and land use. Both these issues were described as critical for a city like Dakar, as for other cities in Africa; where climate-related mobility usually intersects with pre-existing social vulnerabilities, while rapid and unplanned urbanization exponentially increases exposure to climate risk.

The opening session counted also on the participation of Sandra Breka, CEO of Robert Bosch Stiftung - a strategic partner of ACMI and inaugural donor of a new chapter of the MMC's Global Cities Fund (GCF) on Inclusive Climate Action. Echoing the joint announcement made by the C40-MMC Task Force and Robert Bosch Stiftung at COP 26, Ms. Breka reaffirmed the Foundation's commitment to bridge the urban finance gap in African cities, through a [USD 1 million contribution to GCF](#), focusing on five African cities over 2022, in strategic partnership with C40 Cities. Mayor El-Wardini saluted this inaugural commitment by Robert Bosch Stiftung, stressing the critical importance of initiatives like the GCF to support promising city practices - that too often lack predictable resources - both to be escalated or replicated elsewhere.



**“This year, I was honored to form an international group on climate & human mobility with the support of the MMC and C40. When mayors speak with one voice, they can influence the political agenda of their national & international counterparts to follow.”**  
**said Mayor El-Wardini**



**“There is a large gap in adaptation finance for cities and this is why our Foundation will launch a new chapter of the Global Cities Fund in partnership with MMC and C40 Cities. Our hope is that governments and philanthropic funders will join us,”**  
**said Ms. Breka**

# Nov. 18th - Uniting Mayors Coalition Call to Action on Climate Migration

On November 18th, the C40-MMC Task Force joined the Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM)'s [Call to Action "Climate Change, Cities and Forced Migration: Advancing Knowledge, Action and Collaboration"](#) to raise awareness on climate displacement and build better data and knowledge regarding the intersection of climate change and migration to protect vulnerable groups. The Call to Action was signed by more than 40 mayors together with city networks representing hundreds of cities and metropolitan areas around the world. GPM Chair Mayor Peter Kurz (Mannheim, Germany) addressed the urgent issue of climate migration at COP26, emphasizing that cities in the Global North and South must collaborate to address the interlinked problems that force people to leave their homes.

Between February and June 2021 more than 75 mayors from around the world, representatives of city networks such as the Mayors Migration Council (MMC), and international organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UN-Habitat contributed to the dialogue on Climate Related Migration through panels, interviews, and Roundtables under the leadership of GPM Mayors Lowe (Banjul, the Gambia), Orlando (Palermo, Italy) and Rio (Braga, Portugal). The dialogue was part of the project "Uniting Mayors: Local Solutions to Global Climate Challenges" organized by the GPM in partnership with the British Council and led to the mayoral Call to Action on Climate Migration.

**"We welcome the establishment of the C40 Cities – Mayors Migration Council Global Mayors Task Force on Climate and Migration [...] we as the Uniting Mayors Coalition commit to work with the C40-MMC Task Force in partnership to advance these efforts together and harness the power of our joint global advocacy." – Uniting Mayors Coalition**



# 3. 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.

Following its formal constitution in June 2021, the C40-MMC Task Force has driven 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.

On October 7th, the C40-MMC Task Force's mayoral leadership endorsed a vision statement with [10 principles for an inclusive action on climate and migration](#), calling on other mayors to join this commitment and paving the way for the release of a mayor-led Action Agenda on Climate and Migration at COP 26, one month later.

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](mailto:gpagani@c40.org).

## About the Global Cities Fund:

The [Global Cities Fund \(GCF\)](#) is 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 channeing 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. In June 2021, the MMC [announced](#) a second round of funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. In November 2021, the MMC [announced](#) a contribution from the Robert Bosch Stiftung to launch a new chapter of the GCF focused on inclusive climate action in African cities, to be implemented in partnership with C40 Cities.

Visit [www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/gcf](http://www.mayorsmigrationcouncil.org/gcf) and follow [@MayorsMigration](#) [#GlobalCitiesFund](#) on social media for more information. For background and inquires, email [fund@mayorsmigrationcouncil.org](mailto: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](#) [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](#).