



2026 June

IMRF SUMMARY REPORT

Local Governments at the Second Review of the Global Compact for Migration

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I. OVERVIEW

From 4-8 May 2026, United Nations Member States and stakeholders joined together for the second quadrennial [International Migration Review Forum](#) (IMRF) to assess progress toward the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) adopted in 2018 and toward the achievement of the 2022 IMRF Progress Declaration. States and stakeholders participated in five days of programming at the UN General Assembly in New York City to review their progress on the GCM, including a Multi-Stakeholder Hearing hosted by the President of the General Assembly, four Roundtable Thematic Discussions, side events, and the adoption of a Progress Declaration by the UN General Assembly.

A delegation of global mayors and local government leaders joined the IMRF with the goal of turning the GCM from aspiration into action. This delegation was convened and supported by the [Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees](#) (LCMR) – a partnership between [United Cities and Local Governments](#) (UCLG), the [Mayors Migration Council](#) (MMC), in cooperation with the [International Organization for Migration](#) (IOM).

Despite access being significantly more challenging than the 2022 IMRF, the Local Coalition Delegation at the IMRF delivered new local pledges to advance the GCM, secured access through Member State and civil society delegations, were welcomed as speakers across the official UN programme, and successfully maintained critical references in the IMRF Progress Declaration.

This report, prepared by the Local Coalition Secretariat, provides a summary of local and regional governments' (LRGs) engagement at the 2026 IMRF and their road towards greater inclusion.



II. HIGHLIGHTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AT THE IMRF

- LRGs launched the [3rd report from the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#) and **delivered more than 40 actions to the UN Network on Migration** that make a tangible difference to the lives of migrants. This brings the total number of commitments made since 2022 to **181**.
- The IMRF Progress Declaration adopted by the **UN General Assembly recognizes the role of LRGs** in supporting safe, orderly, and regular migration.
- LRGs had **speaking roles in 4 of the 10 official IMRF sessions**, contributing directly alongside national governments, civil society and UN agencies.
- LRGs **participated in 9 IMRF-related side events**, including launching the 3rd Report on Local Action for Migrants and Refugees, a closed-door roundtable on innovative local financing, a conversation on sustainable cities ahead of the WUF 13, a discussion on migrant health and access to basic services, a reception hosted by the Government of Canada, and more.
- **11 LRGs and 2 LRG networks from 5 regions participated in the IMRF to raise the bar on global migration governance**, 4 of which were included in their national government's delegation*.

- **Asocapitales** (Colombian Association of Capital Cities)*
- **Azuay Province**, Ecuador
- **Cartagena de Indias**, Colombia
- **Catalunya**, Spain*
- **Chicago**, United States of America
- **Dagana**, Senegal
- **Dhankuta**, Nepal
- **Fuenlabrada**, Spain*
- **Maicao**, Colombia
- **New York City**, United States of America
- **Nuevo León**, Mexico
- **São Paulo**, Brazil*
- **Union of Associations of Local Elected Officials (UAEL)**, Senegal

III. BACKGROUND

The [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#) (GCM) is the first- ever intergovernmental negotiated UN agreement on a common approach to managing international migration. It is based on a collective realization that no single government can effectively govern migration alone without cooperation. The GCM defines 10 guiding principles and 23 objectives covering all aspects of migration in a “360-degree” approach. Each objective has an array of possible actions, drawn from best practice, that States and stakeholders are encouraged to implement to achieve the objective.

To support the implementation, follow up and review of the GCM, Member States established the [UN Network on Migration](#), and committed to conduct regular Regional GCM Reviews, and an **International Migration Review Forum** (IMRF) every four years, starting in 2022. In addition, the UN Secretary-General is mandated by the General Assembly to provide a biennial report on the status of GCM implementation.

Member States recognized LRGs as key actors in advancing all 23 GCM objectives. Additionally, Member States committed to implement the GCM through the whole-of-government guiding principle, asserting that “all sectors and levels of government” are necessary “to develop and implement effective migration policies and practices.”

In December 2018, Member States officially adopted the GCM at the [Marrakech Intergovernmental Conference](#). At the same time, 150 city leaders met at Loand endorsed the [Marrakech Mayors Declaration](#). With the Declaration, LRGs committed to advance the principles and objectives of the GCM and the GCR in unison, to continue to participate internationally, and to take direct action within their communities to empower and create opportunities for migrants and refugees.



For an overview of LRG achievements since 2018, please consult the [2022](#), [2023](#) and [2026](#) Call to Action Reports.



Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees

Launched in 2022, the [Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#) is the official pathway for cities and regions to pledge and report on actions that advance the goals of the GCM and GCR. The Call elevates local political leadership and innovation – positioning localization as a central driver of the Global Compacts and the 2030 Agenda.

The initiative is led by the Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees, a partnership between United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Mayors Migration Council (MMC) in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Since its Launch in 2022, the Call to Local Action:

- Mobilized **181 local actions from 125 LRGs and their networks, across 51 countries** that make a tangible difference in the lives of migrants and forcibly displaced persons. These have collectively reached **more than 240 million residents** and mobilized **over USD 90 million**.
- Enabled **4 national–local pledges**, showcasing concrete commitments and partnerships between Member States and local governments, in Ghana, Switzerland, Germany and Brazil.
- Provided a **platform for more than 60 LRG leaders to raise their priorities at key international discussions** such as the Global Refugee Forum and the International Migration Review Forum.
- Reached **more than 400 LRGs across the globe** through dedicated **peer learning sessions** on key migration and refugee issues.
- Developed a free **Massive Online Open Course**: “[Localizing the Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees - Territorial Action on Human Mobility](#),” so far taken by over 350 people.
- Earned **recognition from the United Nations Secretary-General** in his [2022](#), [2024](#), and [2026](#) GCM Biennial Reports and was identified as a crucial initiative accelerating the SDGs within the High-Impact Initiative on Localization at the UN SDG Summit in 2023.

IV. THE 2026 IMRF

The [2026 International Migration Review Forum](#) was the second time Member States and stakeholders gathered to assess progress made to implement the GCM. Under the Auspices of the UN General Assembly, Member States and stakeholders gathered together for five days of programming, including a Multi-Stakeholder Hearing hosted by the President of the General Assembly, Roundtable Thematic Discussions, a Policy Debate, a Plenary Debate and side events. In the closing plenary of the IMRF, Member States adopted the [IMRF Progress Declaration](#), which assesses progress made so far as well as areas where further international cooperation is needed.

This Declaration has been drafted through an intergovernmental consultation process led by the Governments of **Kenya and Luxembourg**. The consultation process took place from mid-March 2026 to the end of April through a series of formal and informal consultations in New York.

Figure 1: Official programme of the IMRF

4 May	5 May	6 May	7 May	8 May
Morning – 10:00 to 13:00				
Conference Room 4	Conference Room 2	Conference Room 2	General Assembly Hall	General Assembly Hall
Informal Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing	Roundtables 1 and 2	Roundtable 4	Plenary <i>Opening Segment</i> Statements by PGA, UNSG, IOM DG as UNNM Coordinator, and stakeholders <i>General Debate</i>	Plenary <i>General Debate (cont.)</i>
Afternoon – 15:00 to 18:00				
Conference Room 4	Conference Room 2	Conference Room 2	General Assembly Hall	General Assembly Hall
Informal Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing (cont.)	Roundtables 2 (cont.) and 3	Policy Debate Facilitated by the IOM DG as Coordinator of the UN Network on Migration	Plenary <i>General Debate (cont.)</i>	Plenary <i>General Debate (cont.)</i> <i>Closing Segment</i> Adoption of Progress Declaration and PGA statement

Local governments at the 2026 IMRF

To ensure local governments' representation at the IMRF discussions, the [Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees](#) convened a global delegation of global cities to participate in the IMRF formal programme and LRG self-organized activities and events in New York (see Highlights of Local Government Activities in Figure 2).

Additionally, the Local Coalition actively engaged with the Member State co-facilitators responsible for negotiating the Declaration, including coordinating written feedback throughout the negotiation process. An assessment of the impact of LRG advocacy is provided later in this report.



A Seat at the Policy-Making Table - Progress Since 2022?

Despite significant progress, barriers for local leaders to engage in and influence the conversations remained at the IMRF. LRGs could not secure accreditation to the IMRF under their own authority, instead they needed approval from their national government or access through a civil society partner organization. The Local Coalition advocated for transparent and inclusive avenues for local governments to participate in the IMRF in their own name and made proposals to the IMRF Progress Declaration that would address access difficulties for future IMRFs but these were not supported in the final outcome document.

While [local government engagement at the 2022 IMRF](#) was significant (which local governments speaking as formal panelists in most of the official IMRF programme sessions), the 2026 process was more challenging: short timelines for registration, complicated side event organizing, and delay in formal speaking confirmations, complicated the consolidation of a compelling programme for local governments. Travel restrictions to the United States further jeopardized LRG delegate's participation and travel confirmations. In addition, stakeholder engagement seemed less of a priority - or more politically sensitive - than in 2022, with smaller rooms without sufficient access for stakeholders to observe the IMRF, and absence of interpretation in the IMRF formal sessions.

Figure 2: Highlights of Local Government Activities

Day	Segment	LRG and Coalition Speakers
4 May	Formal Programme: Informal Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maicao - Theme 1 Panelist • New York City - Theme 4 Panelist • Azuay - Intervention from the floor
5 May	Official Side Event: Advancing migrant health and access of migrants to basic services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuenlabrada - Speaker
	Formal Programme: Roundtable 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York City - Keynote Speaker • Azuay and Fuenlabrada - Stakeholder Speakers from the floor
6 May	Unofficial Side Event: Supporting partnerships to enhance inclusion in the context of displacements and sustainable approaches to reintegration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhankuta, Dagana, and UAEL - Participants
	Official Side Event: Safe, inclusive and sustainable cities in the age of migration – Towards WUF 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicago and UCLG - Speakers
	Unofficial Side Event: Civil Society Campaign Day Panel on Resist Reclaim Realise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dhankuta - Speaker
7 May	Unofficial Side Event: Closed Door Roundtable on Unlocking Innovative Investment for Local Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartagena de Indias and MMC - Discussion Starters
	Unofficial Side Event: Closed Door Roundtable on Bridging the Compacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maicao - Speaker
	Evening Reception Hosted by Canada: Celebrating Migrant Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuenlabrada - Speaker
8 May	Official Side Event: From Local Action to Global Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMC, UCLG, IOM, Fuenlabrada, Dagana, Azuay, São Paulo, and Chicago – Speakers

V. IMPACT OF LRGs AT THE IMRF

A. Cities and Regions Deliver Over 40 New Pledges to the GCM Through Call To Local Action For Migrants And Refugees

At the IMRF, 42 local and regional governments (LRGs) and their affiliated partners delivered 43 new pledges to the GCM through the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees. 73% of these pledging entities submitted pledges through the Call to Local Action for the first time.

The 43 new pledges came from across the globe, from small towns such as [Arendal](#), Norway, to large metropolitan areas such as [Bogotá](#), Colombia, to international and regional LRG networks. 43% rely on less than 100,000 USD to localize the GCM, showing impact with limited resources and reinforcing the case for more direct and flexible financing.

National governments were referenced as partners in 51% of pledges, and national governments, such as [Ghana](#), pledged to strengthen their work with cities, joining [Brazil](#), [Germany](#), and [Switzerland](#), who pledged in previous rounds. These patterns highlight the importance of national–local collaboration, while pointing to the need for more systematic engagement.



Delivering local pledges at the official IMRF Side Event | 8 May, UN Headquarters

The local pledges were formally delivered to the UN Network for Migration at a May 8 side event, [From Local Action to Global Impact: Institutionalizing Local Government Leadership in GCM Implementation](#), co-hosted by the Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees, the Ghanaian Ministry of Local Government, Religious Affairs and Chieftaincy

and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This session aimed to demonstrate the impact of local actions, spotlight new commitments, and showcase concrete examples of structured multi-level governance.

The event opened with comments from **Vittoria Zanuso**, Executive Director of the MMC, and **Albert Lladó**, Head of Policy at UCLG. During the session, several participants from the delegation spoke from the local perspective, including **Javier Ayala Ortega**, the Mayor of Fuenlabrada, Spain, who touched on the importance of participatory and proactive approaches and **Juan Cristóbal Lloret Valdivieso**, the Prefect of the Azuay Province, Ecuador, who described Azuay's pact to guarantee the rights of people on the move. In addition, Deputy Mayor **Beatriz Ponce de León** highlighted Chicago's pledge to remain a welcoming city by centering humanitarianism, belonging, and social justice in policymaking. **Ababacar Ndao**, President of the Departmental Council of Dagana, Senegal, also emphasized the importance of uniting border communities by prioritizing participatory consultation with all stakeholders. **Regina Nunes**, the Municipal Secretary of Human Rights and Citizenship, Sao Paulo, Brazil, described the successes of the city's food security programme, which is one of the world's largest.

In addition to local representatives, **Jennifer Acquah**, Principal Planning Officer at Ghana's Ministry of Local Government noted that counties and cities remain at the frontline of integration, underlining the key role of migration governance in Ghana's new development plan. Similarly, **Victor Semple**, the Director of the Department of Migration in Brazil, highlighted the country's new National Policy on Migration, Refuge, and Statelessness, which explicitly recognizes that LRGs are key players in migration management and integration.

The side event closed with **Frantz Celestin**, IOM Regional Director for East, Horn, and Southern Africa, who noted that global agendas must deliver for communities. At the conclusion of the session, the Call to Local Action pledges were formally handed over to the UN Network on Migration.

B. LRGs discuss Localization of Funding and Financing with Civil Society, Foundations, Development Agencies and the UN

Against a backdrop of cuts in international development and humanitarian budgets, placing severe strain on local governments and local grassroots organizations across the globe to serve migrants and refugees, the Local Coalition co-hosted a conversation on the localization of financing, together with the Civil Society Action Committee. This closed-door conversation took place on the sidelines of the IMRF, and provided the space for an informal and solutions-focused conversation between donors, financial institutions, development

agencies, cities and grassroots organizations for a focused exchange on what works, what does not, how to scale existing initiatives, strengthen current frameworks, and identify opportunities for innovation without duplication.

A few key takeaways from this discussion:

Critical hurdles:

1. Cities are increasingly expected to respond to migration and displacement pressures without corresponding fiscal tools, predictable transfers, or long-term financing frameworks.
2. Increasingly restrictive migration policies in several countries are also reshaping the type of support migrants require locally. Demand is rising for legal assistance, psychosocial and mental health support. At the same time, funding for direct migrant services is shrinking, placing significant pressure on local governments and local migrant-led associations.
3. Bilateral agencies, foundations, and multilateral actors acknowledged the critical role of cities, but many noted that legal, fiduciary, and due diligence constraints often prevent them from directly financing them.
4. Even where international financing mechanisms formally recognize the importance of local and community access, operational pathways often remain unclear or slow to materialize (such as e.g. the UNFCCC Loss and Damage Fund). Participants also noted the absence of major multilateral development banks from IMRF discussions, despite their growing relevance for urban financing and migration-related infrastructure needs.

Emerging Opportunities and ways forward:

1. Participants repeatedly highlighted the important role intermediaries can play in bridging the gap between donors and local actors. City networks, national associations of local governments, pooled financing mechanisms, and refugee-led initiatives were identified as examples of structures helping channel resources to the local level. At the same time, several participants emphasized the importance of avoiding extractive intermediary models and ensuring financing systems remain locally driven and responsive to territorial realities.
2. Participants stressed the need to expand financing approaches beyond traditional aid models including financing tools (including national – local fiscal transfers and own source revenues), diaspora investment and remittance-linked financing, endowment funds, parliamentary earmarking systems, climate finance

mechanisms, and city-focused financing windows. Several speakers stressed that migrants and diaspora communities should not only be viewed as beneficiaries, but also as economic actors, investors, and development partners. Existing pilot initiatives were seen as promising examples, though participants noted that the challenge is now less about experimentation and more about scaling and institutionalizing successful approaches.

3. Development agencies and intermediary organizations were identified as important conveners that can support multilevel dialogue, joint planning, local data collection, and long-term institutional partnerships. Discussions highlighted that more sustainable localization approaches require local governments to be involved not only in implementation, but also in programme design, monitoring, and decision-making processes. The role of national associations of municipalities is therefore critical.
4. Participants repeatedly stressed that migration should not be approached as a siloed policy issue, but rather integrated into broader discussions on urbanization, labour markets, resilience, climate adaptation, and inclusive service delivery. Framing migration through wider urban and economic development discussions was seen by several participants as important both for political sustainability and for unlocking broader financing opportunities.
5. Participants noted that many innovative approaches and pilot initiatives already exist, including flexible small-grant mechanisms, city-focused climate financing facilities, and refugee-led funding models. However, there was broad agreement that the current challenge is no longer simply testing new ideas, but ensuring that successful models can be scaled, institutionalized, and embedded into longer-term financing systems.



VI. LRG KEY MESSAGES AT THE IMRF

Across the IMRF programme, local and regional governments joined roundtables with national governments, hearings with civil society leaders and discussions with donors and financial institutions. In preparation for their interventions at the thematic roundtables, the Local Coalition prepared 4 thematic position papers, each one zooming in on local government advocacy within specific clusters of GCM objectives.

The Position Papers are available [here](#) in English, French and Spanish.

Here is an overview of specific messages we heard throughout the IMRF Programme:

São Paulo (Brazil) joined Brazil's national delegation to the IMRF, highlighting strong local-national cooperation on migration.

Victor Semple, Director of the Department of Migration for Brazil, praised cities' leadership on GCM implementation, saying: "*São Paulo was the trailblazer in our country on the GCM,*" remaining committed when the previous national government withdrew.

Now, Brazil is committed to deliver its new National Policy on Migration, Refuge and Statelessness in partnership with cities through mechanisms like the national network of welcoming cities.

Jennifer Acquah, Principal Planning Officer, Ghana Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs, also said that **Ghana** recognizes that *while migration is global, its impacts are inherently local*, requiring strong alignment between national policy and local implementation, as well as close collaboration with development partners to ensure the effective realization of migration localisation efforts.

US cities brought new pledges to the IMRF and reaffirmed their commitment to the GCM, even after the US Government's withdrawal.

Chicago (US) Deputy Mayor for Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights, **Beatriz Ponce de León**, said:

"Cities like Chicago are where commitments such as the Global Compact for Migration become real. They are where policy meets people and where success is ultimately measured. In Chicago, we pledge to remain a Welcoming City grounded in humanitarianism, belonging, and social justice."

New York City (US) Commissioner for Immigrant Affairs, Faiza Ali, stressed the need to invest in cities to meet the GCM.

Speaking with civil society leaders at the Informal Multistakeholder Hearing, she said:

"If we want to invest in the goals of the Global Compact, we should and must invest in cities. Ultimately, the success of migration policy is not measured at the border, it is measured in whether a family can find stability, whether a worker can contribute with dignity, and whether a person can truly belong in a place that they now call home. That work happens in cities."

New York City (US) Commissioner for International Affairs, Ana Maria Archila, reiterated this call and emphasized the shared prosperity of migration, delivering a keynote speech in Roundtable 3. She said:

"In a city where nearly 40% of residents are foreign-born, NYC proves that welcoming immigrants makes communities stronger."

Mayor of Fuenlabrada (Spain), Javier Ayala Ortega, joined **Elma Saiz Delgado, Minister for Inclusion, Social Security and Migration of Spain**, in celebrating Spain's new migrant regularization program. The mayor said:

"Spain is now a leading example of immigration policies thanks to a progressive government which is currently working to provide rights, opportunities, and responsibilities for thousands of migrants who already live among us. Fuenlabrada is also a leading city in terms of policies for welcoming migrants thanks to a strong social policy that leaves no one behind."

The Prefect of Azuay Province (Ecuador), Juan Cristóbal Lloret Valdivieso, shared a model of what comprehensive local governance on migration looks like. He said:

"In 2024, we passed a pioneering ordinance for the promotion and protection of the rights of people on the move and their families. It is not just a regulation; it is a vision: to prevent risky migration, to support the families left behind, to integrate those who arrive; and to create conditions for a dignified return. The case of Azuay demonstrates that when local communities assume their role, it is possible to transform a challenge into an opportunity for cohesion, inclusion, and development."

Ababacar Ndao, President of Dagana Region (Senegal) shared perspectives from a region bordering Mauritania:

"As an important transit region, we face particular challenges in protecting migrants and refugees that are returned from Mauritanie, and that lack identification. In coordination with our local partners, we commit to create professional opportunities both for Senegalese youth and returning migrants as well as provide information hubs to inform migrants about

the dangers of migration up north. The ultimate aim is not to prevent people from travelling, but to prevent deaths and shattered lives.”

Cities also shared that *they are being asked to do more with less.*

Margarita Crespo Habib, Advisor to the Mayor of Maicao (Colombia) spoke in Roundtable 3 about how cities like Maicao have stepped in when international development assistance disappeared overnight. She said:

“When international cooperation declines—as has already happened—services disappear... but people do not. Maicao has decided not to look away. Today, we are promoting the transformation of La Pista—[the largest informal migrant settlement in the Americas]—into Colombia’s first “Barrio de Paz” (Peace Neighborhood): a commitment to move from informality to dignity, from exclusion to real integration.”

Vittoria Zanuso, Executive Director of the Mayors Migration Council, also called to address this local responsibility-resources mismatch. She said:

“If we are serious about delivering on the Global Compact, we need to move from recognition of cities, and representation at these UN tables, to resourcing. We don’t have a leadership gap—we have a financing gap. Mayors have already shown what works. Now it’s on all of us to invest in it.”

Albert Llado, head of Policy at United Cities and Local Governments, recalled:

“Local and regional governments are indeed essential to bridging the Compact implementation gap, making the inclusion of migrants a reality and rebuilding trust through proximity and delivery, and turning global agendas into tangible realities in everyday essentials in people’s lives.”

Frantz Celestin, Regional Director for IOM East, Horn and Southern Africa, upon accepting the local government pledges on behalf of the **UN Network for Migration,** emphasized:

“Local leadership isn’t a ‘nice to have’, it’s essential. Decisions that are made in New York City, Geneva or national capitals must work in communities where people actually live. On behalf of the UN Network on Migration, I am proud to formally accept your local pledges. Our job is now to further enable these pledges because when local leaders are empowered, migration works better, when migration works better, communities thrive.”

VII. LRGs IN THE IMRF PROGRESS DECLARATION

The IMRF Progress Declaration ([document A/80/L.64](#)) is the political outcome document of the IMRF. Even though it was adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly in the closing plenary of the IMRF, it was later on [called for a vote](#) in the General Assembly on 20 May, resulting in 143 states voting in favor, 6 against (Czech Republic, Italy, Israel, Poland, Slovakia and United States) and 23 abstaining. While the Progress Declaration in 2022 passed by consensus, this development shows **increased polarization on migration** since 2022 and greater willingness by states to publicly oppose GCM-related language and consensus building efforts within the UN.

Nevertheless, 143 votes in favour still show a strong commitment to the GCM framework. The Declaration lays out elements of progress, or lack of it, on GCM implementation the past four years. More importantly, the Declaration sets out key recommendations for future GCM implementation.

The 2026 Progress Declaration text is the result of a careful balancing act between national governments wanting to see stronger reference to rights of migrants, and those that want to see a strengthened reference to their sovereign right to set their own migration policies. In that sense it is less ambitious than the 2022 Progress Declaration yet holding the ground to protect core GCM principles.

As described above, LRGs followed the negotiations of the Declaration closely and provided specific recommendations to Member States and the co-facilitators to strengthen the final text.

The IMRF Progress Declaration recognizes the role of LRGs in migration governance.

The text reaffirms the whole-of-government principle, recognizes LRGs as leaders in different policy areas, and considers them as key partners. While significantly weaker than in the 2022 Declaration, local governments are still explicitly or implicitly ('local actors') referenced.

Member States recognize:

- The important **progress made by local governments** to implement the Migration Compact (para 9)
- The **need to factor in local realities** when designing migration pathways (para 13)
- The **critical role of local reintegration efforts** in ensuring safe and sustainable returns (para 24)

- **Efforts to improve the access of migrants to basic services** and greater migrant **inclusion** in national health systems and vaccination programmes, including local initiatives that help operationalize national commitments. (para 30)
- Efforts at the local level that **strengthen participatory governance and migrant representation**, thereby fostering inclusion and social cohesion and combatting racism (para 31)
- The **need to strengthen efforts to remove barriers for migrants to safely access basic services**, including in local healthcare systems, policies and plans. (para 54)

The IMRF Progress Declaration reaffirms key policy areas of concern to LRGs in line with the Marrakech Mayors Declaration.

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For example, Member States:

- Commit to effectively **respect, promote, and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms** of all migrants, regardless of their migration status (para 42).
- **Promote the diversification of available pathways**, and recommend to provide **regularization** for irregular migrants ‘in line with national law’ (para 43).
- Commit to **develop national gender-responsive and child-sensitive migration policies** and legislation in line with relevant obligations under international law to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all migrant women and children (para 50).
- **Reaffirm the importance of safe access to basic services** regardless of migration status and commit to remove barriers for migrants to safely access such services (paras 54)
- **Reaffirm the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination and address systemic racism**, including by reviewing, developing and implementing relevant legislation, policies and practices and **promoting evidence-based public discourse**, in partnership with relevant stakeholders (para 57).

Despite this progress, there remain a number of areas where LRGs called for stronger, more meaningful language that was not adopted by Member States.

For example:

→ **On access and meaningful inclusion of LRGs in future IMRFs:**

Effective implementation and review of the Global Compact requires meaningful participation of stakeholders, including 'local authorities' (GCM para 44). However, **LRGs face barriers to formal accreditation and access to the negotiations**. LRGs proposed specific language that would ensure their participation and registration in the next IMRF, and would aim to mitigate the access challenges encountered at this IMRF. This language was not included in the final text.

→ LRGs proposed specific **language that recognises the efforts of local governments** to contribute to national implementation through the **development of local implementation plans** and **elaboration of joint pledges**, which was not included in the final text.

→ LRGs proposed specific **languages that recognized the need to empower LRGs with mandates and funding** to strengthen local infrastructures of care, including healthcare, housing, education and social protection systems serving migrants and host communities.

About

The [Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees](#) is co-steered by city networks ([United Cities and Local Governments](#) and the [Mayors Migration Council](#)) in cooperation with the [International Organization for Migration](#). Together, we elevate the voice of local governments in migration governance.

It is at the local level where we see pragmatic, principled, and people-centred approaches that meet or exceed global goals, such as the [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration](#) (GCM), the [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR), and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (SDGs).

To raise this political leadership, the Coalition established a [Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees](#) as the official pathway for cities to pledge action and to be recognized for localizing these goals

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The Local Coalition would like to thank the local and regional governments and city networks that joined the IMRF Delegation. Together, we can truly show that local action means global impact.

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Credits

Photos

Cover Photo and Page 10:

© Mayors Migration Council (MMC). UN HQ, New York - May 08, 2026: The Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees formally hands over the 2026 flagship Call to Local Action report to the International Organization for Migration.

Page 3:

© Local Coalition for Migrants and Refugees (LCMR). UN HQ, New York - May 05, 2026: New York City (US) Commissioner for International Affairs, Ana M. Archila delivers keynote remarks at the IMRF Round Table 3.

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© UCLG-CGLU. Marrakech, December 2018. City leaders endorse the Marrakech Mayors Declaration at the 5th Mayoral Forum on Human Mobility, Migration, and Development.

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Left: © Joel Sheakoski. UN HQ, New York, May 2022: The LRG delegation arrives at the First International Migration Review Forum; Right: © UCLG-CGLU. Geneva, January 2024. Bogotá representative Daniela C. Tarud showcases their city initiative in the 2023 Call to Local Action report at the 2024 Global Forum on Migration and Development.

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Left: © MMC. UN HQ, New York - May 6, 2026: Chicago Deputy Mayor for Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights, Beatriz Ponce de León at the IMRF Side Event on Safe, inclusive and sustainable cities in the age of migration – Towards WUF 13. Right: © LCMR. UN HQ, New York - May 4, 2026: Margarita C. Habib, Advisor to the Mayor of Maicao (Colombia) at the IMRF Informal Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing.

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© Mayors Migration Council (MMC). UN HQ, New York - May 07, 2026: Closed Door Roundtable co-organised by LCMR and the Civil Society Action Committee on Unlocking innovative investment for local action towards migrant inclusion.

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