



# Global Parliament of Mayors Project

Convening September 10-12, 2016 in The Hague

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## Convening the GPM in 2016



## The Hague

The inaugural GPM will convene in September 10-12, 2016 in The Hague to establish its governance legitimacy and address an agenda of cross border issues selected by the mayors.

Background information, policy papers and draft agendas will be issued 4-6 months prior to the convening. The full program will include two days of working sessions, with hospitality and cultural activities showcasing the host city.

Mayors and their key staff will receive invitations to attend and participate fully in person in the GPM process. It is essential mayors attend the inaugural GPM. Our intention is to provide a facility for virtual meetings, document sharing and voting for interim meetings.

Leading urban experts, governance experts and academics will be invited to attend as spectators.

Mayors and accompanying staff will be expected to cover their travel and accommodation costs.

“To make good on the potential of the city in dealing with the challenges of our ever more interdependent planet, the global/local promise of intercity cooperation must be politically realized. What is called for is nothing short of a global governance revolution – a revolution responsive to the constraints of democracy and the law but rooted in the legitimate use of collective urban power. What is called for is an innovative political body that can act ‘glocally’, a “Global Parliament of Mayors.” – Dr. Benjamin Barber

### DELIVERING THE INAUGURAL GPM: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

Engaged mayors have led the way. In 2013 and 2014, three planning sessions were held each attended by increasing numbers of mayors, public officials, governance and urban experts.

The first was held in Seoul, Korea, hosted by Mayor Park Won-Soon and the Asian intercity network "CityNet." The second session was in New York City under the auspices of Michael Bloomberg's CityLab, where Dr. Barber was a featured speaker.

The third and most ambitious session met in Amsterdam in September 2014. Hosted by the G4 mayors of the Netherlands—Mayor Eberhard Van der Laan (Amsterdam), Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb (Rotterdam), Mayor Jan van Zanen (Utrecht) and Mayor Jozias van Aartsen (The Hague) — over thirty cities were represented together with fifty urban and governance experts.

The detailed and action-oriented agenda generated rigorous and constructive debate, and the mayors reached a consensus that the GPM must be realized as a legitimate governance platform for common global action. The Amsterdam Planning Session was followed by an interdisciplinary workshop hosted by Leiden University, and attended by governance and urban experts, artists and architects to progress the detail of the GPM structure.

The outcomes of these sessions, together with presentations by Dr. Barber to relevant conferences around the world and detailed press coverage, produced concrete evidence of support for the realization of the GPM. Dr. Barber and the GPM team have learned a great deal from such organizations as the US Conference of Mayors, the C40 Climate Cities and the Nobel Laureates Climate Symposium and the work of the GPM will reference their achievements.

Since September 2014, the GPM project has progressed rapidly generating formal commitments from leading mayors and intercity associations. Invitations are being issued and accepted, plans for the London and Bristol GPM sessions are being finalized and a press campaign

The team responsible for the delivery of the inaugural GPM through 2015 and immediately beyond, led by Dr. Barber and Executive Director, Eileen Haring Woods, benefits from the guidance of governance experts and intercity associations, but above all from the mayors who will take ownership of the GPM in October and make it their instrument of collaboration and common action.

The aim is to ensure the GPM Secretariat is established as global governance body that is self-sustaining, self-funding, and self-governed. All of the provisional decisions taken by the delivery team concerning city selection, membership, dues, agenda and supporting organizations must and will be re-deliberated and decided by the GPM's working members themselves.

Mayors who have confirmed their support by adding their signatures to the formal GPM invitation (in alphabetical order of city) are:

Mayor Yiorgos Kaminis (Athens); Mayor Xavier Trias (Barcelona); Mayor George Ferguson (Bristol); Mayor Peter Kurz (Mannheim); Mayor Leoluca Orlando (Palermo); Mayor Edward Murray (Seattle); Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz (Warsaw) and Mayor Jorge Astiazarán Orci (Tijuana).

Among our international advisors are Ken Livingstone, former Mayor of London; Jan Peter Balkenende, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands; Jeff Sachs, The Earth Institute; Tom Cochran, CEO & Executive Director of the US Conference of Mayors; Euan Harkness, Director of Barclays Capital; Mark Watts, Executive Director of C40; Vicente Guallart, Chief Architect & Planner of Barcelona; Richard Florida, Director of the Martin Prosperity Institute at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management and Global Research Professor at New York University; Professor Saskia Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology at Columbia University; and Professor Richard Sennett, Centennial Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics and University Professor of the Humanities at New York University, Robert Muggah (Rio).

The GPM is also consulting with a long list of intercity associations to guide the GPM in this complex, interdisciplinary development period.