

STRENGTHENING OF COOPERATION IN THE POST-CORONAVIRUS ERA AND PROMOTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES

JOINT POLITICAL DECLARATION WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE VIRTUAL MAYORS' SUMMIT IN MANNHEIM

We, the political representatives of the cities of Mannheim, Berlin Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf, Beyoğlu, Bydgoszcz, Chişinău, Klaipėda, Riesa, Swansea, Toulon, Windsor and Zhenjiang, allied through partnerships and friendships between cities,

who have met on 9 September 2020,

in the 75th year after the founding of the United Nations,

for a virtual conference,

recognise

that the United Nations was founded as the world community's reaction to the devastation of two world wars and with the aim of maintaining world peace and the economic and social progress of all peoples;

and

that the United Nations, like no other organisation, stands for the concept of a multilateral, rule-based world order;

determine

that the aims of the United Nations, especially the creation of a peaceful world, respect for human dignity, the equality of genders and a good standard of living for all people, are still of unchanging relevance and have not been achieved to the required extent in the 75 years of the existence of the United Nations;

that armed conflicts and political oppression as a reason for flight and expulsion represent major obstacles to sustainable development and that the community of nations, in adopting the Sustainable Development Goals, has committed itself to creating and permanently protecting peace and justice;

that today the majority of people live and work in cities and that the growth of the urban population will persist steadily in the coming decades;

that the achievement of the objectives that the community of nations has adopted in the area of sustainable development, especially the Paris Agreement to combat climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals, will only be successful if implementation is at local level;

that we must undertake efforts to pursue green, low-emission development;

that many cities have already initiated ambitious transformation processes to facilitate the protection of natural resources, a responsible economic system and socially just development with the desire to ensure in this way that no-one is left behind;

that the coronavirus pandemic has hit all cities hard worldwide, led to the severest levels of death and illness, involves severe cutbacks for many businesses and their employees and has caused considerable losses of revenues for many cities, made public life and the exercise of the most diverse forms of culture more difficult and presented financially weaker cities in developing countries with sometimes insurmountable problems;

that people form a community with a common goal and that we can only tackle the various global risks and challenges facing us through our concerted efforts;

that the City of Mannheim and its partnership and twin cities have shown and experienced solidarity in the coronavirus pandemic and that worldwide there are countless examples of how cities have helped each other across the borders of countries and continents in times of crisis and thus made a real contribution towards overcoming the crisis;

and declare herewith

that it is the urgent wish of the citizens of our cities and their legitimate political representatives that the national governments that are the sole representatives on the Security Council of the United Nations and that have the power to make decisions about war and peace should increase their efforts to end armed conflicts and to combat all causes of flight and expulsion, including human-made climate change, to an extent leading to an actual improvement in the living situation of all people in crisis areas;

that the institutions and bodies of the United Nations should be equipped by the national governments with all necessary financial and personnel resources to fulfil their important tasks;

that the provision of financial aid programmes for the cities to overcome the coronavirus crisis by the national states and international organisations is correct and important, but that what counts, when these are implemented, is that the transformational processes that have started should be speeded up rather than slowed down;

that the cities within the system of the United Nations are important partners for the maintenance of a multilateral, rule-based world order and therefore must be permanently integrated into the processes and structures for the further development of multilateralism;

that the achievement of the goals of the community of nations, especially in the area of sustainable development, can only succeed through a redefinition of the role of the cities within the United Nations system and there is therefore a need for an institutional reform of the United Nations which will lead in the end result to a formalised participation of the cities in the decision-making processes of the United Nations;

and that it is our common will, especially as a consequence of the coronavirus crisis, to continue and further intensify our international collaboration within the framework of city networks and partnerships, project cooperations and the shaping and implementation of global political agendas with the close integration of the citizens of our cities and using the technical progress made in digitisation with the aim of achieving a peaceful, fair, sustainable world.

Dr. Peter Kurz
Mayor of Mannheim
Germany

STADTMANNHEIM²

Haydar Ali Yıldız
Mayor of Beyoğlu
Turkey



Rafał Bruski
Mayor of Bydgoszcz
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Mayor of Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf
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Iob Ceban
Mayor of Chişinău,
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Vytautas Grubliauskas
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Marco Müller
Mayor of Riesa
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Deputy Leader of Swansea
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Magali Turbatte
Deputy Mayor of Toulon
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Fred Francis
City Councillor of Windsor
Canada



Jian GUO
First Deputy Mayor of Zhenjiang
China



IN SUPPORT OF THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION
HONOURING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

