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2nd Forum of Mayors Geneva Cities Hub speech

Dear Mayors,
Dear Madam Chair,
Dear co-moderators,

The Geneva Cities Hub is very pleased to take part today in the 2nd Forum of Mayors. Allow me here to congratulate UNECE and its member States and of course all the Mayors for organizing such an interesting meeting focusing on actors and issues that will increasingly determine the future of our urbanized world. Our President Sami Kanaan already said it this morning at the opening, but the Geneva Cities Hub is very proud to support the 2nd Forum of Mayors.

Geneva is home to an incredible number of State delegations, international organizations, NGOs, academic institutions and private companies. Together, these actors talk, argue and negotiate about key challenges that affect us all. However, this ecosystem would be incomplete, if it did not include cities, which are often the most affected by these global challenges, but also where the most innovative solutions are often coming from.

Be it climate change, conflicts, inequalities or mass migration, all relevant stakeholders, need to gather around the table to develop common language and shared solutions. The Forum of Mayors contributes to that kind of inclusive multilateralism that UN SG Guterres has been referring to. The Forum of Mayors is unique within the UN and we hope that it is only the beginning of a stronger relationship between the UN and cities and their Mayors, in favour of a more effective multilateralism.



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Dear Mayors,
Dear colleagues,

We are particularly glad that this edition enables Mayors from the UNECE region to exchange with Mayors from other regions thanks to the support of the four other UN regional commissions. A public side-event organized by the Geneva Cities Hub will actually look into the work of all UN Regional Economic Commissions with Mayors, right after the Forum, on 6 April. We are very grateful to all of them for having accepted our invitation and look forward to reflecting on how the UNECE Forum of Mayors could inspire other regions to increase engagement with Mayors and LRGs.

We hope that in the future, the Declaration of Mayors adopted during the 1st edition of the Forum will continue to be implemented, that the FoM will continue to take place in Geneva and offer this vital space for multilevel dialogue between mayors themselves, but also with States and the UN, a space for dialogue that is so dearly needed to address today's numerous and immense challenges.

Thank you