

Joint Declaration

German–U.S. Cities United for Democracy and Shared Progress

Today, we, Mayors from Germany and the United States, come together to acknowledge our long-standing transatlantic friendship, built on shared values and common interests and inspired in the solidarity and vision of shared prosperity exemplified by the Marshall Plan that helped rebuild cities across Germany. City-to-city cooperation is at the heart of bilateral relationship, connecting people and stakeholders, serving as a reliable and resilient bridge for bilateral relationships.

We, Mayors from Germany and the United States of America, emphasize that cities are at the forefront of today's most pressing challenges: from strengthening social cohesion, to coping with the impacts of climate change, ensuring affordable housing, driving innovation and sustainable growth for prosperity, to safeguarding democracy. Local governments as self-governing bodies bear direct responsibility for delivering solutions that shape daily life, and cities are a source of resilience in the transatlantic partnership especially when this is under pressure and strain.

We, Mayors from Germany and the United States of America, know that local governments and cities stand at the very core of democracy. In an era when democratic institutions worldwide are under increasing pressure civic space is shrinking and peace can no longer be taken for granted, our shared leadership matters more than ever. The decisions we make locally ripple globally. As Mayors, we carry the responsibility to uphold the values of freedom, justice, and cooperation - not only for our own communities, but as stewards of peace and democracy worldwide. This declaration is a reaffirmation and a call to action.

We, Mayors from Germany and the United States of America, stand united in our commitment for Democracy and shared progress. We see the urgent need to:

- reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism and collective solutions to global challenges;
- safeguard democracy, not only within our own nations, but throughout the world;
- support innovation and growth to ensure long-term prosperity;
- and increase efforts for transatlantic city cooperation between the U.S. and Germany.

In this spirit of partnership, and with determination to advance the well-being of our communities, we, the undersigned, affirm this declaration.