



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs Highlights Key Accomplishments in Strengthening Global Partnerships and Advancing Social Impact

New York, NY—Over the past year, the New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs (IA) has made significant strides in supporting New Yorkers, fostering global collaboration, driving economic growth, and advancing social impact. From facilitating partnerships with international organizations to launching innovative programs that support New Yorkers and enhance NYC's global influence, the Mayor's Office for International Affairs positions New York City as a leader in addressing critical global challenges.

“From day one, our administration has focused on creating a safer, more affordable New York City. In 2024, we continued to deliver on that vision and ‘Get Stuff Done’ for working-class New Yorkers,” said **New York City Mayor Eric Adams**. “Thanks to our extraordinary public servants, America's safest big city got even safer this year, with overall crime down and thousands of illegal guns, mopeds, and ghost cars taken off city streets. We passed historic legislation to turn New York into a ‘City of Yes,’ shattered affordable housing records once again, and put billions of dollars back into New Yorkers’ pockets. We broke records for the most jobs and small businesses in city history and moved millions of trash bags off our sidewalks and into containers. But we know that there is even more we can do to continue to uplift working-class families. As we look to the future, our administration remains committed to keeping New Yorkers safe and making our city more affordable for the millions of New Yorkers who call our city home.

“This past year, we expanded our focus on sustainable urban development, launched targeted initiatives to address the challenges of migration and displacement, and strengthened our diplomatic engagement during key global events, including the UN General Assembly and the Urban 20 Summit,” said **Edward Mermelstein, Commissioner of the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs**. “Our efforts in promoting AI-driven

city innovation, amplifying cultural exchanges, and advancing human rights underscore New York City's leadership on the global stage.”

“Our team is proud of our impact in support of New Yorkers, the diplomatic and consular communities in NYC, and our global counterparts.” **said Aissata Camara, Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff.** “Each day, we work collaboratively with our sister agencies and global counterparts to deliver for New Yorkers across a range of areas including economic development, education, and operations. We look forward to building on these successes in 2025.”

Education and Youth Engagement:

IA worked to develop initiatives that benefitted New Yorkers and enhanced their engagements with the world. IA provided opportunities for skills development and supported local projects in communities across the five boroughs. Key highlights include:

- ***NYC Junior Ambassadors Program:*** In 2024, the award-winning [NYC Junior Ambassadors program](#) continued to empower young New Yorkers and educators to embrace their role as global citizens. Through dynamic engagements with the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), nearly 800 students and educators explored solutions to pressing global challenges like poverty, climate change, and inequality. Participants incorporated the SDGs into their studies, toured the UN headquarters with a tailored curriculum focus, and hosted senior diplomats in their classrooms, and participated in community service and advocacy projects. Each of the 20 participating classrooms received a \$500 stipend to support their community projects. Since its inception, the program has reached over 5,300 students and educators, fostering a new generation of informed and engaged global leaders. The program is funded by the MSC Foundation and implemented with partners including the NYC Public Schools, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development, United Nations, United Nations Foundation, and Take Action Global.
- ***Mexoxo Leadership Skills Program:*** In partnership with the [Mexoxo Foundation](#), supported by the L'Oréal Foundation, IA launched a program offering 10,000 scholarships to New Yorkers to access an eCornell leadership skills program.
- ***iEarn Virtual Youth Exchange Program:*** Additionally, IA implemented an international virtual youth exchange program in partnership with iEarn benefitting 60 disadvantaged NYC high school students. The program was funded by the J. Christopher Stevens Virtual Exchange Initiative.

Promoting Economic Development and Jobs for New Yorkers:

IA promoted NYC as a global economic hub and supported the expansion of international businesses in NYC. IA also facilitated discussions related to economic development with stakeholders globally.

- ***Business Roundtables:*** IA positioned NYC as a leading destination for international businesses by hosting high-level roundtables with business leaders from across the world to share information about key industries and ignite their interest in expanding in NYC. These high-level gatherings brought together leaders from across the globe, including Europe, Japan, South Korea, Israel, India, Australia, Africa, and the UAE.
- ***Supporting the Expansion and Investment of International Businesses in NYC:*** Through collaborations with the NYC Economic Development Corporation, IA supported the expansion of international businesses such as the Australian Super and OCOLO in NYC resulting in additional jobs for New Yorkers. IA also supported the signing of MOUs with international businesses to support MWBEs and internship opportunities for New Yorkers.

Celebrating and Supporting NYC's Immigrant communities:

IA worked to facilitate foreign born New Yorkers access to NYC services and resources. The Office also collaborated with NYC sister agencies and external partners to host events celebrating the contributions of immigrants to NYC while also providing opportunities for trainings.

- ***Flag-Raising Ceremonies Deepen Connections with the Immigrant Communities:*** New York City's flag-raising ceremonies are vibrant celebrations of the city's rich diversity and the communities that shape it. IA proudly partnered with the NYC Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the NYC Community Affairs Unit, community organizations and the diplomatic and consular community to host over 45 flag-raising ceremonies, each one a tribute to the contributions of immigrants who have made New York their home. These events are powerful reminders of the Administration's commitment to inclusivity and cultural diversity, highlighting the deep connections between New Yorkers and their heritage. Each flag raised tells a story of perseverance, unity, and the enduring spirit of those who enrich the city with their cultures and traditions.
- ***Consular Services:*** Through collaborations with Consulates in New York City, IA continued to support foreign born New Yorkers access to NYC services and resources. The Office also supported New Yorkers access to vital records document (e.g., birth certificates, etc.) from the Consulates.

- **Community Engagements and Trainings:** IA team members supported community engagements across NYC to share resources and services in collaboration with sister agencies, including training on the MWBE and NYC contracts program.
- **Combating Misinformation:** IA led a collaboration with the U.S. State Department to host Latin American and Central American journalists for in-depth engagements regarding NYC's asylum seekers crisis. These engagements provided journalists with direct knowledge of NYC's work and helped fight misinformation.

NYC as a Global Leaders:

Through a network of strategic sister city agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), IA supported New York City's ability to forge impactful global partnerships that bolster economic growth, foster innovation, and enhance cultural ties. The Office also advocated and participated in global engagements that positioned NYC as a leader in addressing pressing global issues. Key highlights include:

- **Global Leadership and International Partnerships:** IA has established several high-profile partnerships to amplify NYC's leadership on the world stage. IA has enhanced the city's presence during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and key global summits, roundtables, and engagements with global leaders across national and local government.
- **Sister Cities Engagements:** IA supported the signing of a Sister Cities Agreement between NYC and Bridgetown, Barbados. This historic partnership between New York City and Barbados is built on the flourishing Barbadian diaspora in New York. It also pays tribute to the late Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, a trailblazing Barbadian American who represented New York's 12th Congressional District from 1969 to 1983.
- **Best Practice Sharing:** IA facilitated best practice sharing between NYC agencies and global counterparts focused on issues such as water and sanitation, climate, youth engagement, and education. The office also supported the signing of MOUs to help advance these engagements. Finally, IA hosted thematic events to share NYC's work with global partners and the diplomatic community. In response to NYC's growing tech sector, IA was pivotal in attracting foreign companies to the city, fostering job recovery in the private sector. The office also hosted an AI event in July 2024, bringing together experts from local and regional governments worldwide to discuss the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in governance.
- **Global Advocacy:** IA successfully represented NYC at global conferences and in global networks to advocate for the needs of New Yorkers, including Urban 20. Additionally, the

Office played a key role in the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments, marking a critical milestone in the inclusion of cities and local governments in United Nations processes.

About the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs

The New York City Mayor's Office for International Affairs fosters positive relations and encourages collaboration between the international community and New York City's agencies and local neighborhoods. The Office is focused on promoting NYC's economic development opportunities, sharing New York City's policies and best practices globally, and responding to foreign governments, the United Nations, and the U.S. Department of State requests. For more information, follow us on [Twitter](#) (now X), [Instagram](#), and [website](#).