



MEDIA RELEASE

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COP29: Local and subnational leaders demand urgent multilevel action and urban climate finance

11 November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan. At the opening of COP29, representatives from cities, regions, and subnational governments held a press conference emphasizing their indispensable role in climate action. Led by the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency, the press conference highlighted the importance of inclusive multilevel action, climate finance for sustainable urbanization, and alignment of global climate, nature, and development agendas.

The LGMA Constituency has developed a joint position to support advancing the Constituency's goals within the negotiations at COP29. The position is made up of three clear asks and is supported by guidance documents for the Parties that translate the asks into "outcomes language."

"With 70+ endorsers and counting, the LGMA's Joint Position includes the voices of hundreds of cities and regions, who have three asks: Multilevel action, climate finance to cities and regions, and integrated action," said **Yunus Arikon**, Director of Global Advocacy at ICLEI and LGMA focal point. "Throughout the next two weeks, we will have a Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion and we will also contribute to the negotiations including, for the third year in a row, a Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change on 20 November," he added.

The Position urges Parties to COP29 1) to accelerate inclusive, multilevel, and gender-responsive climate action by incorporating local and subnational governments into new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Adaptation Plans, and other national goals; 2) Finance sustainable urbanization and climate action at all government levels; and 3) Align the climate,

nature, pollution, and sustainable development agendas by building on the COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature, and People.

At the press conference, **Wade Crowfoot**, Secretary of Natural Resources for California, a founding member of the Under2 Coalition, urged nations to act swiftly alongside subnational governments: “We are towns, cities, counties, provinces, states, and regions from around the world taking bold action to reduce pollution, restore nature, and protect our people from intensifying climate impacts. For the lives and livelihoods of our people, and the future of our planet, we must act across borders with unprecedented resolve and urgency. There is absolutely no time to waste.”

Highlighting Brazil’s commitment to multilevel action, **Axel Grae**, Mayor of Niterói, Brazil, and chair of the Climate Action Support Portfolio for the ICLEI Global Executive Committee, remarked, “Brazil has a Council of Federation, which was created to operate multilevel action on many different policies, including climate. We believe in that because our task and our responsibility are very large, and the transition to a climate-responsible reality will not happen only at the national level. If we don't have the society, the local governments, the regional, and the state governments involved, alongside the civil society, we will not make it.”

The conference also showcased Japan’s multilevel collaboration model, with **Hayato Shimizu**, Mayor of Saitama, Japan, sharing, “Last year, Japan chaired the G7 and I have been working as a member of Urban7, composed of cities from G7 countries. I participated in the G7 round table on local climate change [where] the importance of the role cities play in realizing decarbonized society and the importance of multilevel collaboration has been recognized.”

Shipra Narang Suri, Chief of UN-Habitat’s Urban Practices Branch, addressed the financial challenges in urban climate action: “With 74% of NDCs having moderate, low, or no urban content, COP29 presents a key opportunity to enhance NDCs 3.0 to build on the experiences and action of cities to achieve global climate goals. The Ministerial Meeting(s) on Urbanization and Climate Change on 20 November will emphasize that achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs requires multilevel and multisectoral climate action, collaboration, and a significant scaling up of urban climate finance, with cities in developing nations alone needing up to USD 300 billion annually by 2030.”

The Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion: A platform for local to global climate action leadership

LGMA Media Release: *Cities and Regions Demand Accelerated, Multilevel Climate Goals and Action at COP29*

The Pavilion is co-convened by UN-Habitat and ICLEI in its role as the focal point of the LGMA Constituency). The Pavilion is co-hosted by Azerbaijan State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA); the ILBANK, development and investment bank of local authorities in Türkiye, with the support of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change; Zero Waste Foundation; and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Through this pavilion, COP29 is amplifying the voice of subnational actors and providing a collaborative space for local, national, and international leaders to share, learn, and advance climate action for a sustainable urban future. The Pavilion is open from 12–22 November and will feature a robust agenda that you can [see here](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Watch the full press conference: https://unfccc-events.azureedge.net/COP29_104133/agenda

Follow LGMA's roadmap for action and collaboration throughout COP29 in the agenda of our delegation: https://www.cities-and-regions.org/wp-content/uploads/lgma_cop29_agenda.pdf

Full list of LGMA representatives who are shaping inclusive, multilevel climate action: https://www.cities-and-regions.org/wp-content/uploads/lgma_cop29_politicalleaders.pdf

The LGMA COP29 Joint Position: <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/cop29/cop29-lgma-joint-position/>

More information about the Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion (Area E, Pavilion I15): <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/multilevel-action-urbanization-pavilion-at-cop29/>

The LGMA offers COP29 daily mailers for tailored insights specifically for local and subnational leaders: <https://cop.cities-and-regions.org/updates>

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NOTE TO EDITORS

About Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency

Since the Earth Summit in 1992, when nine stakeholder groups – including local authorities – were designated as essential partners in implementing the global sustainability agenda, the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency has represented networks of local and regional governments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The LGMA has served as the voice of cities and regions since the first Conference of Parties (COP) in 1995 and continues to achieve advocacy success for multilevel action in the climate, nature, and desertification processes. The LGMA has grown to more than 45 accredited networks of local and regional governments. The LGMA coordinates inputs to the global climate negotiations all year, influencing and informing outcomes toward meeting the Paris Agreement.

For more information, please visit: www.cities-and-regions.org/

About ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (known as "ICLEI") is a global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

For more information, please visit: www.iclei.org

About the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments is a coordination and consultation mechanism that brings together the major international networks of local governments to undertake joint advocacy work relating to global policy processes. It was set up in 2013 to bring the perspectives of local and regional governments to the SDGs, climate change agenda and New Urban Agenda in particular.

The Global Taskforce convenes elected local and regional leaders from around the world in the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, whose role in the follow-up of the New Urban Agenda is recognized in the Quito Outcome Document.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.global-taskforce.org/about-us>