



MEDIA RELEASE

Call for climate action through transformative urban planning is launched by leading organizations at COP28

- Leading organizations committed to fostering sustainable urban development including UN-Habitat, C40 Cities, Urban Partners, and UCLG, issued a Call for Climate Action committing to address climate change through sustainable urban planning, at an event at COP28.
- Partners committed and supported several key initiatives including the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative, and the Secretary-General's High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities.
- Specific commitments involve the creation of tools, programmes, and financing mechanisms to accelerate climate action in cities, with progress set to be reviewed in one year at COP29.

Dubai, 7 December 2023 — At an event at COP28 on 6 December, *Closer to Home: Planning the Cities of the Future*, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), C40 Cities, Urban Partners, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) together with other partners endorsed a Call for Action, committing to address climate change through sustainable urban planning.

Emphasizing the pivotal role of cities in climate action, the call responds to the urgent need for transformative urban planning and to the IPCC report finding that integrated planning could reduce emissions by 23 to 26 per cent by 2050. The call stresses tackling sprawl and low-density urban development, transforming cities into polycentric hubs, and prioritizing pedestrians over cars as key strategies of climate-friendly urban planning.

The initiatives identified in the Call for Action aim to accelerate climate action in cities and contribute to:

- **CHAMP:** Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships
- **SURGe:** Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation Initiative
- **Secretary-General High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities:** Report and Recommendations.

Key initiatives the partners will undertake include:

- **Global Observatory of Sustainable Proximities:** UN-Habitat, C40, Chair ETI/Sorbonne, and UCLG will work on proximity indicators and make tested planning tools widely available, to elevate integrated planning solutions globally.
- **The Healthy Neighbourhoods Explorer:** C40 and Novo Nordisk's Cities Changing Diabetes Programme launches a tool to measure health and GHG emissions impact of "15-minute city/proximity planning."
- **Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods Programme:** C40 and Urban Partners extend their partnership to support more than 40 cities in adopting better urban planning policies and implementing the 15-minute city concept on the ground.
- **Our City Plans Platform:** UN-Habitat will enhance the platform with modules on climate change and infrastructure, targeting intermediate cities in support of CHAMP and SURGe initiatives.
- **Jameel C40 Urban Planning Climate Lab:** Launched to support Middle East and South Asia cities, with a focus on Amman and Chennai, in integrating Climate Action Plans into statutory master planning documents.

Implementation and financing commitments:

- **Integrated Capital Investment Planning tools** being developed by UN-Habitat will help prioritize integrated projects which deliver measurable impact in addressing climate change, in support of the SURGe Initiative.
- **Zero-Carbon Integrated Plans:** Collective commitment to leverage indicators and evidence to implement recommendations of the Secretary-General's High-Level Expert Group on the Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities.
- **Working to unlock finance for integrated plans implementation,** bringing financing mechanisms closer to the needs of cities and to support urban transformation.

Progress will be reviewed in one year, at the next COP, to assess the contributions of urban plans to climate change action and their transformative impact on urban form and management.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Download the [Call for Climate Action Delivering Sustainable Cities](#)

About the Organizations

UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries that support policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action.

www.unhabitat.org

C40 Cities

C40 is a global network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities that are united in action to confront the climate crisis. Mayors of C40 cities are committed to using an inclusive, science-based and collaborative approach to cut their fair share of emissions in half by 2030, help the world limit global heating to 1.5°C, and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities.

www.c40.org

Urban Partners

Urban Partners is a platform of vision-aligned, differentiated, investment verticals shaped around urban problem solving. We exist to power the progress of cities and citizens by investing to help solve the most pressing urban problems. We do this by uniting insights, stakeholders and capital within the urban ecosystem. We bring capital that is not only fit for profit, but truly fit for purpose.

www.urban.partners

UCLG

UCLG, as a global network of cities and local, regional, and metropolitan governments and their associations, is committed to representing, defending, and amplifying the voices of local and regional governments to leave no-one and no place behind.

Together we are the sentinels of the hopes, dreams, and aspirations held by individuals in communities around the world — searching for a life in which the ideals of the SDGs are a lived reality.

www.uclg.org

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