

Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP28

SUMMARY REPORT



**COP28
UAE**



UN-HABITAT

Marrakech
Partnership



Global
Climate
Action



Plenary - Al Ghafat

Summary Report 2023 Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change

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Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change

Host	COP28 Presidency, UN-Habitat, High-Level Climate Change Champions
Date	Wednesday, 06 December 2023, 09:30 - 12:45 UTC+4, Multilevel Action, Urbanization and Built Environment / Transport Day
Location	UNFCCC COP28 – Expo City, Dubai, UAE, Blue Zone; Plenary 2 – Al Ghafat
Organizers	COP28 Presidency, UN-Habitat, High-Level Climate Change Champion
Invitees	Ministers of Housing, Urban Development, Environment and Climate Change and/or Finance and local government leaders as part of the UNFCCC Local Governments and Municipal Authority (LGMA) Constituency and non-state actors.
Streaming	https://unfccc.int/event/ministerial-meeting-on-urbanisation-and-climate-change

Contents

Forewords by co-hosts	5
Executive Summary	6
Background: why cities, regions and climate change	7
Overview and Statistics of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change	10
Summaries of Statements (in chronological order)	
High-level Opening	14
Segment 1: Multilevel Action and Partnerships	
Welcoming remarks by co-convening countries	18
(T)winning for multilevel climate action	19
Interventions on multilevel climate action and partnerships	22
Segment 2: Localizing Climate Finance	
Welcome Remarks by co-convening countries	29
Setting the Scene – Climate and SDG finance for Cities	29
Bringing together Ministers and financing institutions	30
Interventions on Localizing Climate Finance	31
The role of financing institutions and non-party actors to accelerate urban climate finance	33
Joint Closing Statement	34
Written Statements	35
Annex	
1. Joint Outcomes Statement on Urbanization and Climate Change	36
2. First Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change	37
3. COP28 Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action	37
4. COP27 Presidency Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) Initiative	38



United Nations Climate Change



DUBAI 2023



Forewords by co-hosts



H.E. Ambassador Majid Al Suwaidi, Director-General and Special Representative, COP28 UAE

The work of UN-Habitat and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions was crucial in delivering a successful COP28 and I am happy to endorse this report.

Having been involved in many COPs including COP21 in Paris, I left COP28 with the same levels of excitement and sense of achievement. Something truly momentous was achieved at COP28 and this was demonstrated in the final outcomes. It was thanks to efforts from partners such as UN-Habitat and the High-Level Champions that this was possible.

The UAE Consensus, the final negotiated text, secured a commitment to transition away from fossil fuels, a historic first for the COP process.

A key component of the UAE Consensus was a decision on the first Global Stocktake (GST), a report card on our progress against the goals set in Paris. The GST showed that we are significantly off-track in meeting the goals of Paris, but the Consensus set an ambitious pathway back to keeping 1.5°C within reach.

However our achievements at COP28 were not confined to the negotiated text. We secured agreement from 52 of the world's largest oil and gas companies, who promised to bring methane emissions close to zero. We also secured pledges from 159 countries on food and agriculture, a pledge on renewables and energy efficiency, endorsed by 133 countries, and a declaration on climate and health, endorsed by 144 countries.

Working together, with full inclusivity, was crucial in keeping 1.5°C, our Presidency's North Star, within reach.

Not only did we hold the second Ministerial Meeting, where we brought together over 1,300 public and private sector leaders, but we also launched the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) Pledge. CHAMP, endorsed by more than 70 countries, recognizes that collaboration with cities and subnational governments is vital to unlocking additional emissions reduction and resilience potential. It aims to ensure that the next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) reflect greater ambition and a more inclusive approach.

During COP28, around \$500 million was raised to drive climate action locally. We look forward to continuing this work together, as we begin the hard but necessary work of implementing the UAE Consensus. By doing this we can ensure that what we achieved at COP28 translates into concrete climate actions, that firmly place us on the pathway to a sustainable and prosperous urban future.



Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time. And our cities are key to deliver climate solutions to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, while forging a more sustainable and resilient future for all urban dwellers.

Yet, cities cannot do it alone. It requires all of us to act together, across all levels of government and hand in hand with the private sector, civil society, academia, and communities.

COP28 has put cities and urbanization into the spotlight like never before. At our second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, 60 Ministers, 200+ local leaders and 1000+ participants collectively confirmed the importance of multi-level climate action and the need to increase climate finance to enable local governments to respond to the climate crisis.

Together with the Local Climate Action Summit, the CHAMP pledge, and the Joint Outcomes Statement on Urbanization and Climate Change we have successfully anchored multilevel climate action at a COP and integrated the local voice into the COP process.

UN-Habitat works to put cities and urbanization at the heart of the climate agenda. I am looking forward to working with all partners to build on this momentum and turn it into more resources and opportunities for local climate action – on the road to WUF12, COP29 and beyond.



H. E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28

Reflecting on COP28's success, we commend the dedicated effort behind the second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change. Building on COP27's Ministerial Meeting, this event marks a vital step forward in our collective climate journey. The Marrakech Partnership, coupled with global Race to Resilience and Race to Zero campaigns, emphasizes cities, states, and regions' pivotal role in translating COP outcomes into actionable climate measures.

COP28's Ministerial Meeting showcased subnational leadership and innovative approaches in addressing climate challenges, culminating in the launch of the Coalition for High Ambition Multi-level Partnership for Climate Action (CHAMP). With 70+ countries' support, CHAMP is a robust testament to increasing recognition for subnational climate initiatives vital for Paris Agreement goals.

Looking forward, optimizing multi-level governance structures aligns with governments preparing ambitious NDCs for COP30 in 2025. The Global Stocktake acknowledges subnational and local governments as essential partners in effective climate action. This momentum sets the stage for even greater achievements, emphasizing collaboration across governance levels for an inclusive and effective path to a sustainable, resilient future in line with the Paris Agreement.

Executive Summary

The second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change was held in Dubai during COP28 on 6 December 2023. It reflects a collective commitment to tackling climate change's complexities within urban contexts. Co-hosted by the COP28 Presidency, UN-Habitat and the High-Level Climate Champions, the Ministerial Meeting brought together global leaders and experts for a meeting to be the curtain raiser for the thematic day of Multilevel Action, Urbanization, Built Environment, and Transport.

The Ministerial Meeting convened around 60 Ministerial representatives, more than 200 local leaders and over 1000 attendees. Building on the success of the first-ever Ministerial Meeting held at COP27, the second Ministerial Meeting focused on two key objectives: reinforcing the importance of multi-level climate action to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement, and exploring ways to accelerate local climate finance to facilitate a cross-sector and integrated approach to better equip cities and local governments to respond to the climate crisis.

The meeting achieved these goals by facilitating a dialogue between Ministers of Housing, Urban Development, Environment, and Finance, as well as local and regional governments, multilateral banks, and other non-state actors. The event showcased frontrunner countries with strong urban content in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other policies, as well as cities and other climate actors who have successfully localized net-zero and climate resilience plans. They convened to articulate a suite of multilevel actions for sustainable urbanization across sectors including buildings, waste, transport, water, energy, and nature. This inclusive approach seeks to cultivate a collective response to the intricate challenges posed by the climate crisis in urban settings.

The Ministerial Meeting, additionally, served as a platform for national governments to announce commitments to multilevel climate action, including responding to the call to join the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) initiative launched by the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies along with UN-Habitat and partners, which has since been endorsed by over 70 national governments.

The Minister of Cities from the Federative Republic of Brazil, closed the meeting with an announcement of plans to further integrate local and urban climate action into the climate agenda at COP30.

The findings of the Ministerial Meeting and the Local Climate Action Summit hosted by the COP28 Presidency with Bloomberg Philanthropies, 1-2 Dec were summarized in the 'Joint Outcomes Statement on Urbanization and Climate Change'. The Statement summarizes key conversations, proposing 10 outcomes to support and integrate climate action across every level of government, while accelerating local climate finance. These joint outcomes were carried forward to inform COP28 outcomes.

¹ See Annex 1. Joint Outcomes Statement on Urbanization and Climate Change

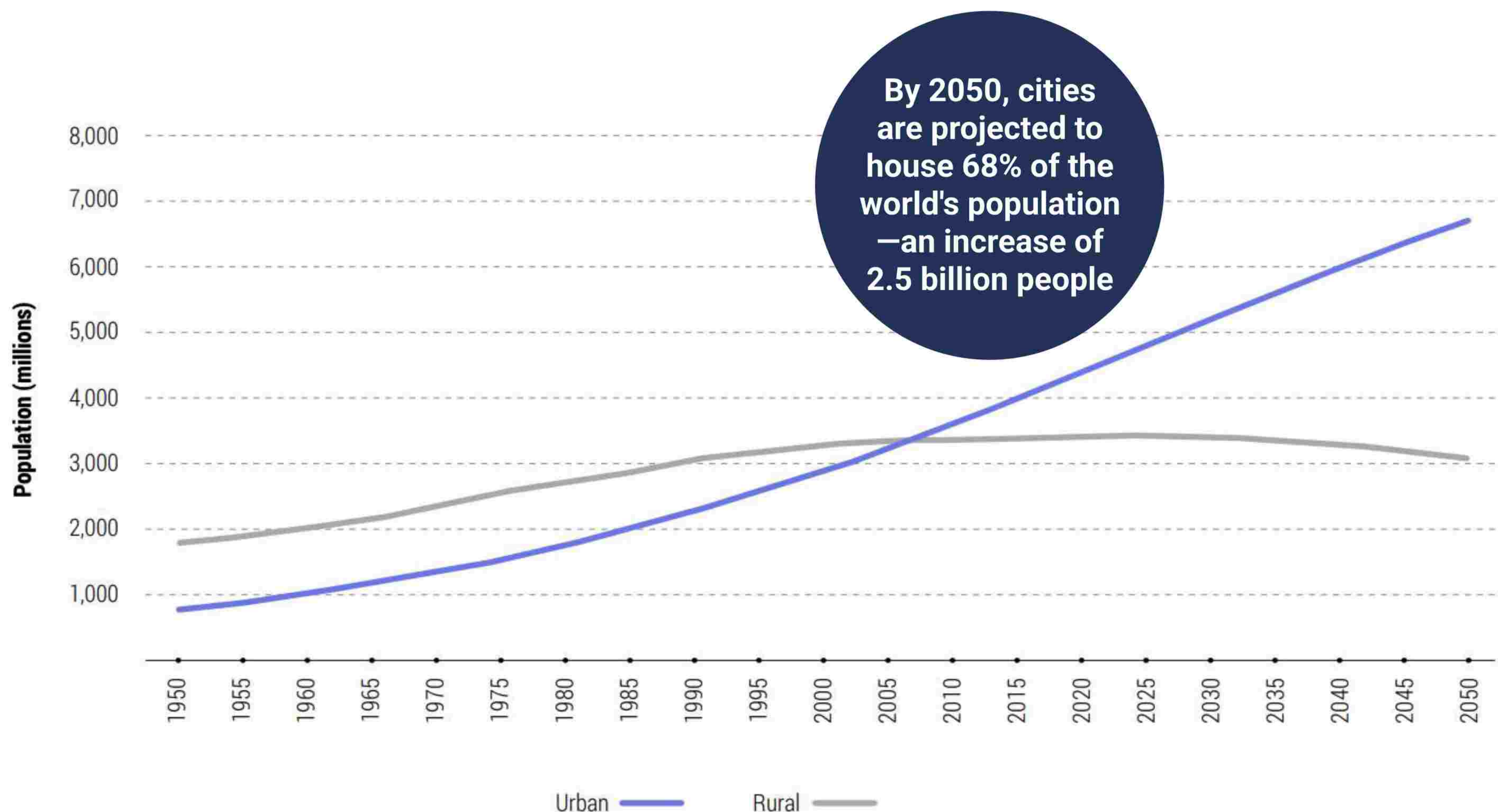
Background: Why cities, regions and climate change

Cities are key actors in the climate crisis. By 2050, towns and cities are expected to grow by 2.5 billion people, raising the urban share to 68% of the global population. Growing urbanization and population growth, coupled with economic development, and rising prosperity are expected to contribute to rising emissions in cities. A stark warning has been issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)– if we do not control emissions, the Earth could breach the 1.5°C pre-industrial warming threshold leading to extreme weather events impacting cities.

With urban populations set to rise by 2.5 billion people, local governments are key to addressing climate change. Credit: Annie Spratt / Unsplash

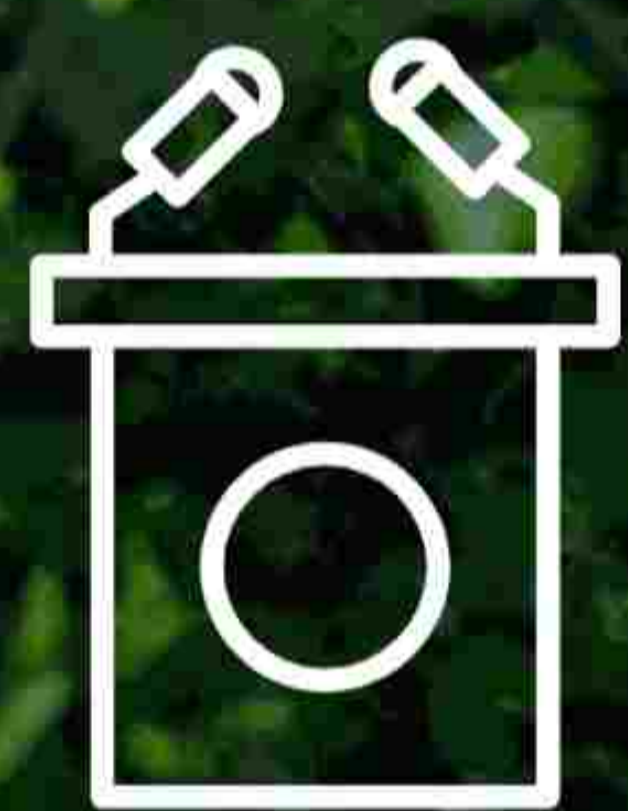


Urban and rural population of the world (1950-2030)



Source: UNDESA (2019) World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision, United Nations, New York

Cities are leading in addressing the climate crisis



13,000

local governments have pledged reduction through the Global Covenant of Mayors



1,000

cities and local governments have joined the Cities Race to Zero initiative

722M

Totalling 722 million individuals for ambitious climate action aligned with the 1.5°C target

Around 65% of the 169 targets of the 17 SDGs cannot be achieved without the engagement of local and regional governments, who are key actors in addressing climate change.

Cities are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. More than 70% of cities worldwide are already experiencing climate impacts. Groundwater depletion, fires, food shortages, sea-level rise, spikes in energy use due to extreme temperatures, and the increased frequency of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and storms affect city infrastructure and the livelihoods and health of residents. Over 90% of cities are along coastlines or bodies of water, where rising sea levels and storms pose a threat to residents. Sea-level rise is already affecting more than 25 megacities. This is hitting over a billion people living in urban slums and informal settlements the hardest, with the effects of climate change disproportionately affecting the livelihoods or vulnerable populations.



Cities are key to delivering climate solutions. Cities are both major contributors to and leaders in addressing the climate crisis. Around 65% of the 169 targets of the 17 SDGs cannot be achieved without the engagement of local and regional governments. Over 13,000 local governments have pledged emissions reduction through the Global Covenant of Mayors. Additionally, more than 1,000 cities and local governments have joined the Cities Race to Zero initiative, uniting 722 million individuals for ambitious climate action aligned with the 1.5°C target.

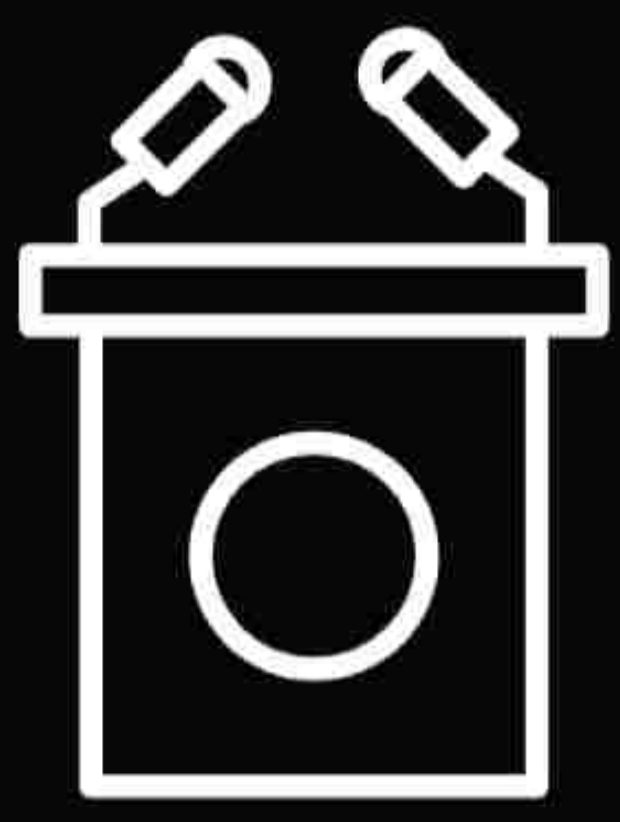


Unlocking urban climate financing is critical. The urgency of addressing climate impacts is underlined by projections from the UN Environment Programme. Developing nations could require up to USD 300 billion annually by 2030 to cope with climate challenges, underscoring the necessity of more investment. According to the IPCC, urban emissions could approach net-zero if radical mitigation efforts are implemented. But despite remarkable strides in urban climate resilience, finance remains a critical bottleneck compounded by limitations in technical and human resources at the local level. Only 29 percent of climate finance is allocated to adaptation and resilience, with a mere 10 percent reaching the local level.



Overview and Statistics of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change





50

Ministerial interventions



200+

Local representatives



1000+

People in attendance





The Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change brought together 61 national representatives, with 46 giving statements, a further 7 sub-national government representatives, and 14 non-party stakeholders also gave statements to an audience of over 1,000 people

Credit: Melanija Tacconi / Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

Overview and Statistics of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change

61
Confirmed ministers or designated country representatives counted by the door that attended the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Argentina | 18. European Union | 36. Lao People's Democratic Republic | 50. Samoa |
| 2. Australia | 19. Fiji | 37. Madagascar | 51. Seychelles |
| 3. Azerbaijan | 20. Finland | 38. Malawi | 52. Slovenia |
| 4. Bahrain | 21. France | 39. Malaysia | 53. Spain |
| 5. Belgium | 22. The Gambia | 40. Mali | 54. Solomon Islands |
| 6. Brazil | 23. Germany | 41. Malta | 55. South Africa |
| 7. Brunei Darussalam | 24. Ghana | 42. Mauritania | 56. Uganda |
| 8. Canada | 25. Greece | 43. Mongolia | 57. United Arab Emirates |
| 9. Chad | 26. Guinea | 44. Nepal | 58. United States of America |
| 10. China | 27. Guinea-Bissau | 45. Nigeria | 59. Yemen |
| 11. Colombia | 28. Hungary | 46. Papua New Guinea | 60. Zambia |
| 12. The Comoros | 29. India | 47. Philippines | 61. Zimbabwe |
| 13. Côte d'Ivoire | 30. Indonesia | 48. Poland | |
| 14. Cuba | 31. Italy | 49. Portugal | |
| 15. Ecuador | 32. Japan | | |
| 16. Egypt | 33. Jordan | | |
| 17. Ethiopia | 34. Kenya | | |
| | 35. Kiribati | | |

Interventions from stage and floor at the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change (by category and in order of participation):

46 Statements from national governments

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The United Arab Emirates | 13. Finland | 25. China | 35. Samoa |
| 2. Kenya | 14. Ghana | 26. France | 36. Egypt |
| 3. Malaysia | 15. Guinea-Bissau | 27. Guinea | 37. Papua New Guinea |
| 4. Canada | 16. Malta | 28. Italy | 38. Côte d'Ivoire |
| 5. Germany | 17. Nepal | 29. Lao People's Democratic Republic | 39. The Comoros |
| 6. European Union | 18. Nigeria | 30. Madagascar | 40. Germany |
| 7. Jordan | 19. The Philippines | 31. Malawi | 41. Fiji |
| 8. Kiribati | 20. Portugal | 32. Mali | 42. Zambia |
| 9. Bahrain | 21. Solomon Islands | 33. South Africa | 43. Japan |
| 10. Chad | 22. Uganda | 34. The United States of America | 44. Spain |
| 11. Cuba | 23. Seychelles | | 45. Indonesia |
| 12. Ethiopia | 24. Azerbaijan | | 46. Brazil |

7 Statements from subnational governments

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. City of Makati, the Philippines | 5. Teinainano Urban Council (TUC) in South Tarawa, Kiribati |
| 2. Province of British Columbia, Canada | 6. City of Freetown, Sierra Leone |
| 3. City of Bonn, Germany | 7. City of Belém, Brazil |
| 4. City of Amman, Jordan | |

14 Statements from non-party stakeholders

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) | 8. Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, President, United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network |
| 2. H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, High-Level Champion, COP28 | 9. Ms. Boitumelo Mosako, Chief Executive Officer and a Director of the Bank's Board of Directors, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) |
| 3. Professor Diana Urge-Vorsatz, Vice-Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) | 10. Mr. Lassana Coulibaly, Director General, National Agency for Investment of Local Authorities (ANICT) |
| 4. Ms. Nandita Preshad, Managing Director of Sustainable Infrastructure Group of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) | 11. Ms. Tatiana Molcean, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, UNECE |
| 5. Ms. Karishma Asarpota, United Arab Emirates COP28 Youth Delegate | 12. Mr. Mikko Ollikainen, Head, Adaptation Fund |
| 6. Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations | 13. Ms. Anna Wellenstein, Director for Sustainable Development, East Asia and the Pacific Region, World Bank |
| 7. Mr. Gregor Robertson, Global Ambassador, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy | 14. Mr. Craig Cogut, Founder, Chairman, and CEO, Pegasus Capital Advisors |

2 Stakeholders that provided a written or video statement

- | |
|---|
| 1. Mr. Michael R. Bloomberg, Founder, Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies |
| 2. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) |

Summaries of statements (in chronological order)

High-level opening



H.E. Eng. Sharif Al Olama, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, United Arab Emirates

H.E. Eng. Sharif Al Olama highlighted the objective “to put cities and urbanization at the heart of the climate agenda” at the Ministerial Meeting. According to him, COP28 should be “a platform to elevate the role of cities and urban areas in addressing climate change. But cities cannot act alone...” In response to this, the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) was launched. Acknowledging the endorsements by over sixty countries, H.E. Eng. Sharif Al Olama emphasized their commitment “to partnering with cities, towns, states, and regions to plan, finance, implement, and monitor climate strategies, including the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions.” For cities to “hit near zero”, “city skills and access to funding” are needed. “CHAMP and this Ministerial Meeting offer the opportunity to show the world what is possible when all levels of government and society work together with a common purpose.”



Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

In the first Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change held at COP27, multilevel climate action was “successfully anchored” and the local voice “integrated into the COP process. Housing and Urban Development Ministers now speak with the same voice as cities and local governments. The strong endorsement of the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for the Climate Action Pledge by 64 countries is testament to this... Much has been said about multilevel climate action at this COP. Multilevel action will also frame this Ministerial Meeting.” Climate change “requires all of us to act... together – in a coordinated way, across levels of government – across ministries, across sectors, with civil society, academia, the private sector and communities.” Finance should “reach the local level. This Ministerial Meeting... [should help] to shape global commitments... bring the voices of the cities to the global fora... [and] shape a resilient, just and sustainable future for all.”



H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28

“...Subnational governments are the primary implementers of localized actions and the first responders to disasters associated with climate change. The Global Race to Resilience, Global Race to Zero already recognize this critical role that non-party stakeholders have, including cities [and] sub-national governments.’ Al Mubarak recognized the “local and subnational leadership... under these two campaigns. Across cities, towns, states and regions... The Marrakesh Partnership framework emphasizes that cities, states, and regions serve as a vital platform for engaging policymakers across all pathway areas. These entities are essential partners in implementing the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties. Building upon the inaugural Ministerial [Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change] hosted at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh last year, this Ministerial Meeting today is a powerful example of an incredible platform. The announcement of the COP28 Presidency's

Continued

H.E. Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28

coalition for the High Ambition Multilevel Partnership for Climate Action (CHAMP) on December 1st recognizes and values the contribution from cities, states, and regions... CHAMP has been endorsed by now 65 countries, covering 27% of the global population, 53% of global GDP, and 32% of global emissions... With the announcement of CHAMP, we have an opportunity to align and streamline the various sub-national initiatives such as the C40, the 2030 Breakthroughs, the Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, and SURGe with other subnational initiatives and create the bridge that is needed to empower the urban climate agenda." Al Mubarak acknowledged the Ministerial Meeting as an opportunity "to send a strong signal that multilevel governance is a key enabler to close the implementation gaps, especially governments submitting a new round of ambitious NDCs ahead of COP30 in 2025. Taking note of this outcome in the Global Stocktake is also an opportunity to cement and strengthen the multilevel governance needed to mobilize finance for local action". Lastly, the High-Level Champion recognized the work of the Marrakesh Partnership and the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency, looking forward to "keep pushing the urban agenda forward to best empower cities and subnational authorities to deliver climate action."



Mar-ien Abigail Binay, Mayor of Makati, Philippines

"To address this crucial financial gap for local investment, there is a need for action at all levels of government. COP28 hosting the first Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS)... is a clear recognition of the critical role local leaders play in reducing emissions and addressing climate risk." During LCAS, a call was made for the reform of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) as "banks for cities, concentrating on comprehensive climate investment projects. The collaboration between MDBs and local governments should aim to establish dedicated urban financing programmes for stronger connections between national policies and local actions, and for the development of financial instruments that align with urban realities." In acknowledging the launch of the Coalition for High Ambition Multi-Level Partnerships (CHAMP) during LCAS, the Mayor of Makati mentioned CHAMP as "a product of consultations with sub-national and national leaders. It has been endorsed by 65 countries, mutually committed to finding a new, inclusive, and ambitious approach to updating Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through stronger collaboration among all levels of government. Through CHAMP, there is a real opportunity for inclusive dialogue that positions local governments as active participants in climate action and not just as beneficiaries." The Mayor of Makati commended the COP 28 Presidency for "their bold leadership and inclusive approach and collaboration with the LGMA constituency... The role of governments is indispensable in the fight against climate change." The position that governments have enables them to "address the specific needs of our communities swiftly and effectively through direct climate action." Lastly, the Mayor of Makati, as representative of local governments invited the national governments "to join CHAMP and work with local governments in a holistic and collaborative approach that is key to creating resilient, sustainable cities in the face of global climate challenges."



Professor Diana Urge-Vorsatz,
Intergovernmental
Panel on Climate
Change (IPCC)
Vice-Chair

“The IPCC warmly welcomes the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change in order to reinforce mechanisms for urban-level climate action to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement... [C]ities are not only where people suffer the brunt of climate impact, but they are also the most significant hubs for reducing emissions... However, cities can only achieve near net-zero emissions through deep decarbonization, entailing three broad strategies concurrently: reducing urban energy and material consumption across all sectors; electrification and switching to net-zero emission resources; and enhancing urban carbon uptake and stocks... [W]ith increasing emphasis on cities as well as burgeoning action in cities related to climate change... efforts [should be] underpinned by the best available science... Therefore, the processes [strengthened in the Ministerial] Meeting will strongly benefit from the upcoming IPCC Special Reports on Cities and Climate Change... The IPCC very much looks forward to an increase in cooperation with the UNFCCC and urban decision-makers in the field of evidence-based urban climate action.”



Nandita Parshad,
Managing Director
of Sustainable
Infrastructure
Group of European
Bank for
Reconstruction and
Development
(EBRD)

The representative of EBRD welcomed the opportunity to share the group’s experience in “developing a direct financing programme for cities... [T]he EBRD has developed its flagship urban programme, EBRD Green Cities, with the aim of building a better and more sustainable future for cities and their residents. At the core of this programme is working directly with the cities to assess and prioritize their environmental challenges and develop a Green City Action Plan (GCAP), to tackle these challenges through policy interventions and clearly identified sustainable infrastructure investments.” The EBRD Green Cities programme has 60 cities and “has provided nearly EUR 3 billion to 88 Green City infrastructure projects, many directly to cities and municipalities or their utilities... [T]hese projects have an accumulated CO2 savings impact equivalent to taking a million cars off the road each year... The programme also has at its core the decentralization and empowering of cities, both in terms of decision-making but also fiscal action. This is fully aligned with the COP 28 Presidency CHAMP initiative, intended to drive better engagement between national and sub-national governments, including cities in the planning, financing, and implementation of climate strategies. The EBRD targets adoption of the GCAPs only after consultations with all stakeholders to ensure true ownership by the municipalities and their residents and continuity across changing administrations... GCAPs are public documents available to all investors and financiers, other multilateral development banks, and also the private sector. They are proving to be a great example of how to mobilize financing for cross-cutting mitigation and adaptation projects with a mix of public and private financing for cities.” Lastly EBRD reaffirmed their commitment to “delivering climate finance to our cities and municipalities.”



Karishma Asarpota, United Arab Emirates COP28 Youth Delegate

"Intergenerational equity can only be achieved through providing equal opportunities and participation on all fronts." As such, the Youth Delegate included all the participants of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change in the following commitment: "The 2021 Glasgow Climate Pact, paragraph 64, urged parties and stakeholders to ensure youth participation and representation in multilateral, national and local decision-making processes." Youth contribution needs to be strengthened at the global level "in UNFCCC processes like the Global Stocktake (GST), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Currently, only eight NDCs mention youth. The youth stocktake that was conducted by YOUNGO, assesses the prospects and challenges for integrating youth into the UNFCCC processes... at both the national and sub-national level." At the local level, the participation of youth should be ensured "in decision-making processes towards making our cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. For example, 26 cities and regions conducted local stocktakes. These were official contributions to the first Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement, facilitated by the Local Government and Municipal Authorities Constituency... Four main calls came from the youth-led local stocktakes: More inclusive planning processes emphasizing the participation of climate-vulnerable and marginalized groups; Adaptive governance structures, a structure that allows for swift policy adjustments to accelerate implementation with strong measures to ensure accountability; Capacity-building through climate education and upskilling youth for green economy jobs; Increasing access to finance. According to the Youth Climate Justice Fund, currently, less than 1% of global climate finance supports youth projects. Access to funds is vital to implement and replicate youth-led projects to be able to achieve our climate goals." Lastly, as the youth representative, Karishma Asarpota invited all attendees to "[i]nclude young voices and... their passion, ideas, and innovation to help address pressing challenges in our urban areas today."



Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations
Via video

"Cities are at the epicentre of climate action and sustainable development... [U]rban areas are becoming even more central to the transformations we seek to achieve in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations defined the task of the second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change to "articulate an urban transition plan that drives local climate action and sustainable development with greater ambition and more robust funding at speed and at scale. Mayors around the world comprehend the urgency and impact of localization on climate mitigation and adaptation. They recognize the mutually reinforcing benefits for biodiversity, social protection, employment, food security, just transition, energy transition and more... More and more local and regional authorities [are] actively pursuing strategies to advance to a circular economy and reduce emissions... But they cannot do it alone." International cooperation should be scaled up to "support local leaders and incentivize innovation, inclusivity, and integration across sectors... to advocate and recognize local achievements and provide local actors with adequate means of implementation, to deliver on climate priorities. This includes the critical question of finance... [C]ities are overlooked for funding climate and development. Finance must prioritize communities that need our support the most, including the urban poor, and displaced populations migrating towards cities in the hope of a better life, often fleeing the climate destruction of their rural environments and livelihoods." The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations defined the discussions of the Ministerial Meeting as critical to "determine the outcome of COP 28" and urged the attendees to "use the Coalition for High Ambition on Multi-Level Partnerships (CHAMP) to craft solutions that deliver tangible progress on the ground... [and] make full use of existing initiatives such as the Local 2030 Coalition and the Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments to advance the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind."

Segment 1: Multilevel Action and Partnerships

Under the umbrella theme of advancing multilevel cooperation to achieve the Paris Agreement, this segment was dedicated to interventions from Ministers and subnational leaders showcasing concrete examples of vertical and horizontal climate partnership, including through NDCs and other climate plans and strategies.



Gregor Robertson,
Global
Ambassador,
Global Covenant of
Mayors for Climate
and Energy

“... [T]his is the second ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change. It is also the first ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change that will issue a joint statement of outcomes and recommendations with the Local Climate Action Summit... [C]ities, states, provinces, regions, all the subnational governments can... drive a very ambitious response from the Global Stocktake and inform the upcoming IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, and... the 2025 Nationally Determined Contributions. As a former mayor of the beautiful city of Vancouver, Canada,” Gregor Robertson encouraged the Ministers present at the Ministerial Meeting “to endorse the COP 28 Presidency CHAMP initiative.”

Welcoming remarks by co-convening countries



Dr Charles Konyango,
National Director
of Urban
Development,
Kenya²

Kenya recognized the second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change as a “historic moment,” stressing the need for strategic measures to address “one of the greatest development challenges of our time.” Emphasizing the importance of balance for Sustainable Development Goals, the representative, as co-chair of Multilevel Action and Partnerships, highlighted the increasing prominence of cities in climate change discourse since the Paris Agreement, citing “The UN Climate Action Summit 2019 [as]... an opportunity for cities and local governments to make a difference in the climate change discourse,” whereby “the UN Secretary-General identified infrastructure, cities, and local actions as one of the key determinants in addressing the climate crisis that the world faces.” Kenya highlighted their collaboration with “Brazil, with the technical support of the UN-Habitat and the political mobilization of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa,” in “leading the global community in championing one of the outcomes of that 2019 summit, which was building climate resilience for the urban poor.” Kenya called for “a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address urbanization and climate change,” urging inclusive urban planning, “It is important [to] include the gender lens in the design and the planning of our urban areas, because this is something that has been missed, and therefore, in the resilience of our cities, we have not planned for... inclusive... urban areas... leaving the gender divide vulnerable and without attention.” In concluding, the representative from Kenya called upon policymakers and urban practitioners “to give the declaration of the second Ministerial [Meeting] the attention it deserves towards the full realization of its objectives.”

² On behalf of Hon. Alice Wahome Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development, Kenya



Hon. David Nga Kor Ming, Minister of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia

The representative of Malaysia recognized climate change as “the most defining crisis of our time and the most significant challenge to achieving sustainable urban development” and sustainable urbanization and a green future as the “one pathway ahead”. The poor mobilization and lack of transparency in climate finance “is a global problem which needs a global commitment to immediately hammer out a transition plan to utilize renewable energy and help fund vulnerable nations... Malaysia is highly committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030 and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. [The] National Energy Policy 2040 establishes the groundwork for a just and inclusive energy transition... [The] “Low Carbon Nation” aspiration enables the Malaysian economy to capitalize on the energy transition while remaining resilient and sustainable. The National Energy Transition Roadmap is designed to establish a sustainable energy pathway and a high-value green economy fostering sustainable growth and job creation. Malaysia is also committed to promoting the broader adoption of electric vehicles. Malaysia has actively implemented high-impact initiatives to reduce the amount of solid waste... committed to promoting waste-to-energy technology as a viable solution to reduce solid waste... established the National Circular Economy Council to oversee the implementation and progress of this economic sector... Malaysia reiterated the importance of the transparent and immediate mobilization of the loss and damage funds promised to fully empower vulnerable cities and local governments to be at the forefront of fighting this climate crisis...”

(T)winning for multilevel climate action

This segment brought together interventions from Ministers and national level government representatives and subnational leaders to showcase multilevel climate action.

Canada

“Canada is one of the first countries to support CHAMP” with a focus “on strengthening partnerships with provinces, territories, Indigenous peoples, and cities”. An example of this collaboration is the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act which “requires the Government of Canada to engage with provinces, territories, and Indigenous peoples when establishing a national emissions reduction target or when developing emissions reduction planning.” On 5 December, “Canada joined the Global Cooling Pledge... to reduce cooling-related emissions across all sectors by at least 68% globally by 2030... If fully implemented, this deal can prevent up to an estimated 0.5°C of warming by 2100... This pledge calls for the implementation of the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol” which “have resulted in emission reductions equivalent to over 135 billion tonnes of CO₂.” In that context, Canada announced “a contribution of more than USD 30 million to the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol” as “host of the secretariat of this institution.”

British Columbia

British Columbia expressed their support to “local governments in taking action to lower their emissions and serve their citizens... to achieve zero-carbon building standards.” The need for support from the federal government was emphasized to contribute to “benefit across the entire nation and across [the] entire province from collaboration.” British Columbia suffered “the worst wildfire season in [their] history. Entire cities [and municipalities] were threatened... and evacuated.” The Emergency and Disaster Management Act was recently updated “to provide training tools and collaboration with local communities to better manage adaptation and climate resilience, so that citizens do not face the threats and fears that they did this summer.” The government of British Columbia restated their commitment “to work with [their] federal government to reduce emissions and to support the small and large communities in British Columbia... to secure the future.”

Germany

Germany, as a federal country, believes in “acting on the sub-national level with regard to mitigation and adaptation” and that some tasks “can best be taken on this sub-national level. Cities and municipalities are obviously closer to the people, so they are better in organizing participatory processes. The creation of the Urban 7 and the EU 7 was strongly supported by Germany during their G7 Presidency and Japan continues this support. Germany's commitment extends globally through bilateral cooperation with cities worldwide, amounting to over EUR 11 billion, “... supporting global initiatives and funds in this field with EUR 200 million... [I]n this context, Germany welcomes and supports the new CHAMP as a coalition of high-ambition multilateral initiatives... CHAMP has great potential for the development of more holistic approaches to implement NDCs on the ground.” The representative of Germany concluded by inviting the attendees to “jointly work to transform our cities to become more climate-sensitive, more resilient, and... socially just in order to reach both our Paris Agreement commitments as well as our 2030 Agenda.”

European Union

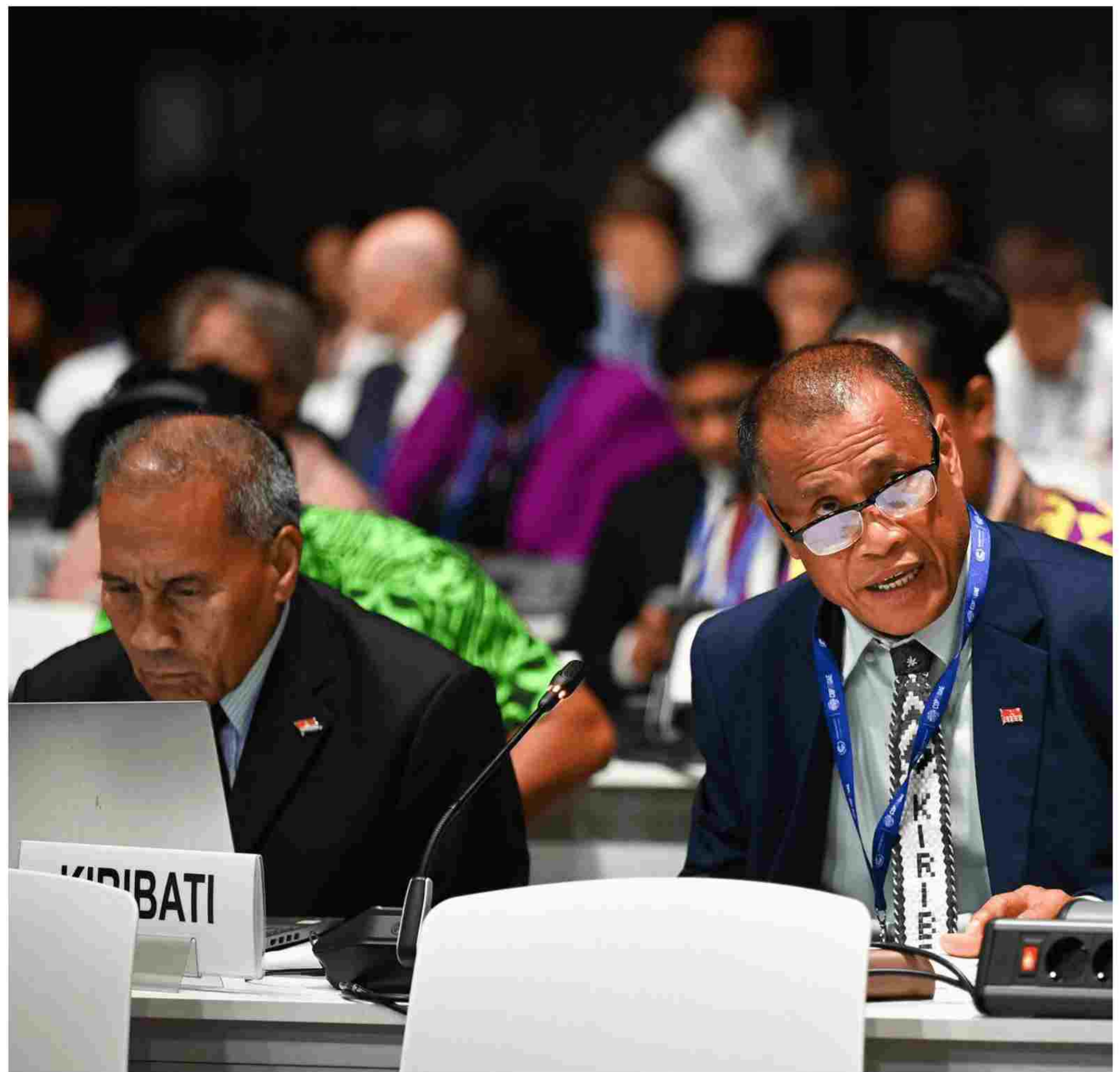
“The European Union has established very ambitious goals to become climate neutral by 2050, and... [supported] in particular urban areas... through investments directly contributing to their integrated development strategies. In this context, cohesion policy is one of the largest investment policies in the European Union, investing over EUR 379 billion in seven years towards sustainable development, with substantial parts of these going for the transition of cities.” The European Union expects that “many projects will be developed and implemented under the framework of the new European Bauhaus initiative, combining the principles of sustainability and participatory approaches” and has the ambition to “mobilize all territories in the green and just transition using [their] regulatory and financial tools.” Beyond financial assistance, the European Union is dedicated to “accompanying all local authorities in building their knowledge and capacities to develop, manage, and implement their strategies and projects” like the European Urban initiative, the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission under the Horizon Europe programme, and the Urban Agenda for the European Union. Reaffirming the engagement of the European Union in promoting multilevel governance, the European Union highlighted their cooperation with the OECD and the World Bank “on the role of medium-sized cities and functional areas, including urban-rural links, in wider territorial development.” Among their international partnerships, “the European Union is supporting strong collaboration among countries, regions, and cities to implement the goals of the New Urban Agenda and the climate targets of the Paris Agreement.” The International Urban and Regional Cooperation Programme is an example of that work. The representative of the European Union concluded their statement by emphasizing that “[e]mpowering transformation towards sustainability and inclusiveness needs to happen everywhere through joint governance and ownership, leaving space for elaborating place-based approaches focusing on local challenges and potentials” and their ambition to “sharing knowledge and learning from our partners globally, because only together can we deliver strong policies backed up by efficient implementation to achieve common goals of the green transition and ensure balanced territorial development, leaving no place and no person behind.”

City of Bonn

Bonn's vision is for a climate-neutral Bonn 2035 originates from the city's participatory processes. “It is brought to life through a Council-approved plan of action, jointly engaging our administration, civil society and local stakeholders.” The imperative of collective action, particularly emphasized by the Paris Agreement, has been “understood and translated into action” by local governments who “have taken the global agendas to their own town halls. Like Bonn, many cities have led talent, newer dialogues... are holding local Stocktake events... engage in initiatives led by COP Presidencies and national governments...” In that context, “COP28 is a milestone, a breakthrough for multilevel action. The Local Climate Action Summit has rallied mayors and national leaders in a major demonstration of joint ambition. With the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships, more and more parties are renewing their commitment to the Paris Agreement and their readiness for truly collaborative multilevel action...” The Ministerial Meeting represents the starting point of “the next phase of climate action by turning our commitment into action and working together to generate results which we can take to Belem in 2030...” The Mayor of Bonn concluded by suggesting the federal system of Germany as a potential “role model for collaboration and mechanism between different levels of government” and offering the Cities Forum “as a platform for concrete action and multilevel collaboration.”

Jordan and the City of Amman

“Amman has made... efforts to coordinate strategic plans and local projects in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and other global policies, as well as at the national level... Amman has launched its Strategic Plan for 2023-2026, which aligns with these... national [and global] goals... and the needs of citizens... in addition to aligning with the Jordan Economic Plan which has been launched by the Jordanian government last year for the coming 10 years... Although the impact of Amman on climate change is limited... the development of partnerships... has contributed to the aligning of local policies with national objectives... Amman also seeks to improve the partnership between the private and public sectors and... [has] established an international network of cities and organizations to ensure the knowledge exchange and to build the local capacities.” Lastly, Jordan and Amman confirmed their commitment “in pursuing all the efforts to develop the Sustainable Development Goals.”



*Representatives from Kiribati discuss their nation's proactive measures against climate change from a local and national perspective.
Credit: COP28 / Stuart Wilson*

Kiribati

“As a small island developing state and low-lying atoll nation, Kiribati finds itself at the forefront of climate change impact... Urbanization and climate change... [are] embedded within regional strategies, as expressed in the Pacific Strategy for 2050, but requires further elaboration in terms of the impact of climate change and the irreversible damage on our coastal communities... Raising ambitions to meet emission reduction targets... consistent with a 1.5°C target, and simplifying access to adaptation and loss and damage funds for local governments and communities at the frontline of climate change are crucial steps. Kiribati's long-term development vision, KV-20, sets out a 20-year trajectory, which matches [the country's] ambition towards transformative adaptation and resilient development.” The Government of Kiribati reaffirmed their support for “climate finance and technical support, targeting urbanization to ensure that they are prepared to respond to the climate crisis” and the SURGE Initiative as a “steppingstone towards [an] urbanization, which considers coastal communities and rural development.”

Teinainano Urban Council (TUC)Nanu Urban Council Tuvalu

“Local councils... have no choice but to take the matter into our own hands and adapt to climate change... [working] together with [the national] government and our development partners.” The responses from all the councils “help shape Kiribati's national ambitions to cope with climate-related disasters.” The Teinainano Urban Council has “mainstreamed climate change and our responses into our local planning... embarked on a programme of mangrove planting on coastal lines to help protect and alleviate erosions to our coastal areas with the help of the UN and other agencies... [build] seawalls to protect infrastructure, roads, and public areas [from] storms. Communities provide labour, where the government provides machinery and materials.” In light of the IPCC warning of global warming exceeding the 1.5° mark by 2027, the Teinainano Urban Council highlighted that “multilevel action and collaboration is needed to raise the ambition of every nation's NDC.” And emphasized “the importance for local climate action to advance sustainable urban development in line with the 2030 Agenda, more particularly, for the most vulnerable countries like Kiribati”

Interventions on multilevel climate action and partnerships

Interventions on multilevel climate action and partnerships, first interventions from Ministers, followed by government representatives

Bahrain

*Translated
from Arabic*

“The Kingdom of Bahrain has gone a long way in implementing plans and development projects in line with the kingdom's commitments towards the Paris Convention as well as other conventions and agreements and the SDGs for 2030, focusing on the mitigation of the consequences of climate change and adapting to those changes through adapting policies in the housing sector. The government [of Bahrain] makes efforts to develop planning standards ensuring the sustainability of cities, improving standards and increasing agricultural lands... [Bahrain] also focus[es] on sustainability pillars when implementing housing projects and concentrate[s] on environmental aspects by increasing green spaces and adding tracks for cycling and jogging... When designing residential units, [Bahrain] use[s] environmentally friendly materials, such as in Salman City...”

Chad

*Translated
from French*

“Chad is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.” To correct this inequality, the country calls for a “more sustainable development” and has implemented “major strategic measures.” However, due to natural hazards, Chad has challenges “in putting these measures into place” particularly “in terms of mobilization of resources”. The country is adapting to climate change by “seeking to use floods as an opportunity” and reforming their land. For that reason, Chad has the ambition to “get more support from the Global Fund for the development of cities and to put into place some ambitious programmes. The representative of Chad concluded their statement by emphasizing their cooperation and proposing that the Ministerial Meeting to “be put on each agenda for the next COPs... to strengthen our partnership to have more resilient cities.”

Cuba

*Translated
from Spanish*

Cuba has undertaken a “multilevel action plan for the National Urban Plan,” emphasizing that “[i]ts elaboration was a result from a collective effort” with a continuous evaluation – “making our administration accountable.” This collective effort has notably benefited the local development of various municipalities “relating to construction materials as well as the good use of renewable energies, nature-based solutions the rehabilitation of public services and the general improvement of the habitat altogether with the technical assistance of UN-Habitat.” The development of this projects its testament to “the political will from the Cuban State to meet The Paris Agreement” as they “reduce vulnerabilities in low-lying coastal settlements and reinforce capabilities for better mitigation and adaptation policies.” These adaptation programmes “favour the opportunities for financing cooperation from different communities that should be resilient and sustainable to... climate change.” The representative from Cuba concluded by emphasizing the “importance of “South-South cooperation and better financial mechanisms.”

Ethiopia

“Ethiopia has put in place a Climate-Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy, and in 2020, the Long-Term Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development Strategy (2020-2050).” Furthermore, Ethiopia is “committed to urban cooling, sustainable building, transport systems, and construction...” including “[i]nitiatives such as integrated waste management and urban green infrastructure development...” Ethiopia is “also working with development partners to strengthen the regulatory and legal frameworks and institutional coordination mechanisms to integrate these initiatives within the urban system by involving small and micro-enterprises... to ensure financial sustainability... With [the initiative] Green Legacy, Ethiopia has planted 32 billion trees, both in cities and rural areas, between 2019 and 2022, involving participation from more than 20 million people.” Lastly, the Government of Ethiopia reaffirmed “the commitment for the realization of the COP 28 agenda and...”

Continued
Ethiopia

to bring these national commitments to implementation at the city level...” and invited “international development partners to enhance their cooperation in the realization of the urbanization and climate change agenda in Africa... and in Ethiopia in particular.”

Finland

“...Finland aims to be carbon neutral by 2035. Achieving this ambitious target will require significant emission reductions in all sectors of society. Many Finnish cities and municipalities have taken local action and set even more ambitious climate goals. The City of Lahti has garnered worldwide attention with its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2025. The city of Turku plans to commemorate its 800th birthday in 2029 by achieving carbon neutrality. The cities of Tampere, Espo, Helsinki, and La Peralta have pledged to reach carbon neutrality by 2030. The commitment and action of these cities means that 1/3 of Finland's population will be living in climate-neutral cities six years from now.” Finland is undergoing the revision of their “building legislation to meet future needs and widening the scope of [their] climate action to the whole life cycle of carbon emissions in the built environment.” For Finland, “the circular economy [is] an essential part of the solution. The power of local action is also empowering people and enhancing citizens informed participation in combating climate change. Emission reduction measures must be carried out in a way that is fair from a social and regional perspective.” Finland finished their statement by emphasizing that “climate education is a cornerstone of just transition.” Four in five people in Finland are “very active in climate action” and “support Finland's climate objectives and action”.

Ghana

“The Government of Ghana is committed to fostering sustainable urban development and mitigating the impact of climate change. As a member of the African Ministers for Urban Development, financing AMUF, and in alignment with the Global ABC Initiative, Ghana is dedicated to decarbonizing the construction sector, recognizing the crucial role they both play in our climate action endeavors. Through collaboration with stakeholders, [Ghana] aim[s] to implement innovative solutions embracing sustainable practices that reduce carbon emissions and enhance energy efficiency... Ghana pledges its support to the Coalition for High Ambition Multi-Level Partnership (CHAMP) and the Urban Opportunity Fast Forward Initiative (UFFI) for accelerated access to climate finance for sustainable urbanization. By joining these initiatives... [Ghana] anticipate[s] valuable support in advancing [their] urban resilience agenda. [Ghana] envision[s] UFFI and CHAMP as catalysts for transformative change, providing resources and expertise to fortify our cities against climate change... Ghana looks forward to not only contributing to UFFI and CHAMP's objectives but also reaping the benefits of shared knowledge, technology transfer, and financial support. Through this collaboration, cities worldwide will be fortified “making them more resilient to climate change-related challenges while simultaneously fostering sustainable and inclusive urban development.” Ghana is supports “the request to include the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change in the official agenda of future COPs” to “build a resilient and sustainable future for our urban landscape.”

Guinea-Bissau
*Translated
from Portuguese*

Guinea-Bissau started by praising the presence of several urban actors gathered at the Ministerial Meeting to reflect on how “to finance the sustainable and resilient planning of our cities... [T]he World Fund, through the alliance of ministers... should undertake the process of financing Guinea-Bissau, aligning with the objectives and levels faithful to The Paris Agreement. Guinea-Bissau is... determined to reach the SDGs, considering the necessary coordination that links the government and various sectorial audiences.” Guinea-Bissau is determined to achieve this “in the next four years, allowing the organization and development of other localities” with strategic partners like UN-Habitat. Guinea-Bissau also encourages the organization of COPs that include the urban sector, “considering the significant problem of climate change happening in towns” and aims to “establish a sustainable framework for everyone.”

Malta

“As the person responsible for the social and affordable accommodation sector in Malta,” the Minister suggested “that accommodation and basic human needs are intrinsically linked to climate challenges...” and that their “approach to accommodation must evolve and align with... efforts to combat climate change... [S]ustainable, resilient housing solutions [should] minimize carbon footprints, from energy-efficient designs to eco-friendly materials. Innovation must drive construction practices simultaneously.... [T]he inequality and the impact of climate change on housing [should be addressed], ensuring vulnerable communities are not left without adequate shelter.” Malta has taken concrete actions to address climate change such as “more investment committed to electrical distribution, kickstarting the discussion to invest in winter abodes, and strengthening renewable energy schemes.” In the understanding of COP 28 as ‘an opportunity for global collaboration,’ Malta invited parties to “commit to policies that incentivize sustainable housing practices and invest in resilient infrastructure, supporting communities disproportionately affected by climate-related housing challenges.”

Nepal

The priority of Nepal is “to strengthen federal governance for sustainable development.” The country has “integrated urban development planning to strengthen the relationship between local government through cluster and territorial approaches and to enhance the capacity at different levels of government to guide sustainable urbanization, contributing to the national economy... Nepal is among the vulnerable countries to climate change,” despite their “near-zero contribution to global emissions... [The] preparation [of Nepal] is not sufficient to tackle climate-induced catastrophes...” The Government of Nepal emphasized “the need for an integrated approach and collaboration to commit through loss and damage funds, as adopted in this COP, towards reducing the impacts of climate change for countries like Nepal.”

Nigeria

Nigeria affirmed their “commitment to upholding the principles of the convention to address global climate change and urbanization”. Nigeria has “improved financial commitments towards urban renewal and slum upgrading, renewing and re-enacting all enabling laws in housing and urban development, and robust plans aimed at championing resilient cities... [T]he government is committed to providing access to adequate and affordable housing, recognizing the link between energy-efficient, sustainable buildings and their impact on climate change. [Nigeria is] also advocating for the use of renewable energy and efficient building materials while promoting energy education and awareness.” Nigeria calls for “more multilateral cooperation to build resilience and adapt to changing climate patterns. In addition, [Nigeria is] advocating for more defined roles for traditional institutions, NGOs, and place-based organizations that will give renewed hope to local communities and integrate their concerns and aspirations in the climate change discussion.” Nigeria concluded by reiterating their commitment to “combating climate change and promoting sustainable urbanization” and recognized that to address this issue collective efforts are needed to “find viable solutions that will ensure a sustainable future for all.”

The Philippines

The Philippines focuses on their most urbanized centres as “creators of risk but also opportunities for resilience and inclusive growth.” In that regard, their representative highlighted three areas of work. Firstly, “[c]o-beneficial adaptation [and] mitigation through the implementation of [their] NAP, and the NDC implementation plan”. The cities in the Philippines “are already transforming their water, energy, waste management, and transport systems to localize these goals.” Secondly, the Philippines are “enhancing investments in climate and disaster resilience by working with the private sector... [P]rivate sector companies are already aligning their investments with city governments and ecosystem protection, robust engineering, and the greening of buildings to manage the footprint of carbon as well as local adaptation needs.” Thirdly, the Philippines are “enhancing multilevel and multi-

Continued
The Philippines

stakeholder collaboration for climate action. Risk-based planning for multi-stakeholder, as well as multilevel partners, is already adopted in national and local projects and programmes, as well as in local resilience plans." The Philippines concluded by recognizing the roles and contributions of cities as "critical agents of climate action" and emphasizing the need of collaborative work "to achieve the targets of [the] Paris [Agreement] where no ecosystem and no one is left behind."

Portugal

"National decarbonization strategies need to be implemented at the local level. Therefore, accelerating climate action must mean accelerating local partnerships and involving local communities. Portugal is committed to the CHAMP coalition to strengthen the mechanisms for multilevel climate action. [The Strategy of Portugal] relies on transparent and active public participation, together with regional and local approaches, to support the climate transition... [T]he public consultation process [of the Energy and Climate Plan] was coupled with town halls in the different regions of the country, listening to local stakeholders and embedding their feedback into the national strategy. [The] climate framework law, approved in 2021, includes the elaboration of local climate action plans by local authorities, ensuring ownership of the decarbonization strategy." To meet national and global goals, the Government of Portugal provides "financial support to a network of cities committed to net zero by 2030, promoting capacity building and sharing best practices. These transparent and participative processes are of essence to ensure ownership..."

Soloman Islands

The representative from Solomon Islands started by thanking UN-Habitat and ESCAP for their "work has now drawn the attention of national and subnational authorities to address climate change." Some climate funds have reached the country through projects, however, "the gap between our adaptation needs and funds available for climate action through funding organisms set up [by] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate and [the] Paris Agreement is too wide... Finance is a critical enabler of actions to address climate change. It is important that climate finance is defined in line with the Paris Agreement." The representative from Solomon Islands finished their stating that "[f]inancial resources intended to address adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage must be grant-based, predictable - based on country allocations, [and t]ransformational - unencumbered with onerous access and available to sub-national entities such as towns and municipalities."

Uganda

Uganda stated their "commitment to the urban agenda" by highlighting their "numerous policies and laws regarding the environment and urban development and housing." The government of Uganda is "focusing on key critical issues in this area, with urban financing playing a crucial role in managing, mitigating, and adapting to environmental measures." Uganda is "looking into renewable energy initiatives... and working on greening [their] cities." The Government of Uganda concluded its participation with the announcement of the launch of "the first Urban African Forum next year in Ethiopia."

Seychelles

Seychelles has "taken the responsibility to lead from the front... driving various initiatives to meet our pledges of reducing economy wide emissions by 26.4% by 2030 and to achieve a decarbonized net zero emissions economy by 2050. Such initiatives [are] based on a multilateral multilevel cooperation and close coordination. However, as a small economy, Seychelles "encounter[s] obstacles due to absence of sufficient financial resources and the necessary technical capacity to further this urbanization and sustainable development agenda". Seychelles called "on the support of the industrialised nations" expressing their belief that "however big or small our respective countries... if we work together, we can meet the pledges that we have made and design the financial inno-

Continued
Seychelles

-vations we need". The representative concluded by highlighting the 2030 Agenda promise of "Leave no one behind" engaging and empowering youth.

Azerbaijan

"Azerbaijan is [on] the journey towards climate-sensitive, sustainable urbanization", noting that the World Habitat Day during Urban October was previously celebrated in Baku. Considering their growth during the last twenty years, Azerbaijan highlights that their "urban development efforts are linked to this growth in... taking advantage of the excellent development opportunity presented by the Committee as well as aspiring to contribute to it through well-planned, solid urban design and city planning initiatives". Nevertheless, Azerbaijan faces "the challenge of rebuilding [their] lands following thirty years of occupation... applying a comprehensive approach to urban planning and reconstruction, ensuring not only the physical rebuilding of infrastructure and human settlements but also the climate resilience of the ecosystems affected by the conflict". Considering the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement, Azerbaijan concludes by stating that they "hope that city planning, and development can be one of the avenues of peace and partnership in the region."

China
Translated
from Chinese

The Chinese government articulated its commitment to develop "the urban structure and layout... from six perspectives." Firstly, China aims to "optimize the urban structure and layout rationally [and] determine the density and intensity of development and construction." Secondly, the government plans to "promote the systemization of urban [areas]" by "reduc[ing] energy consumption and carbon emissions during facility operation." Thirdly, by "promoting green construction methods", China will "carry out actions to create green buildings." Fourthly, the Chinese government will "promote solar energy structures." Fifthly, China aims to "promote urban ecological restoration and improve the urban ecosystem." Lastly, the Chinese government will "carry out pilot projects for the construction of climate-adapted cities." In addition, China underscored that they "actively provide public goods to the international community," exemplified by establishing a "World Cities Day to communicate with different countries," and "support[ing] UN-Habitat to establish the global word of sustainable cities... Embarked on a new journey to tackle climate change", they concluded by stating that China "take[s] an active part in global climate governance."

France
Translated
from French

France reiterated their "strong support for the CHAMP declaration, which aligns with [their] convictions and the policies [they] lead both nationally and internationally." France has developed these policies "through environmental and social projects, through contractual agreements on [their] shared objectives, regional COPs that [France] organize[s], and the means [they] make available, such as the recently unlocked additional Green Fund of €2.5 billion." In light of the "urgent needs for renovation and construction in Southern countries", France aims to prioritize "the topic of sustainable building on [their] agenda". As such, the representative concluded by inviting attendees to the launch of the Building Breakthrough that day at COP28 "with almost 30 governments and 18 major initiatives" and the World Forum for Building and Climate "scheduled to be held in Paris on March 7 and 8, 2024, bringing together, for the first time, Ministers of Construction and all their partners."

Guinea
Translated
from French

"...Committed to the fight against climate change, the Government of Guinea wants to promote its economic and social development... [based] on decentralization in order to allow the inclusive participation of all stakeholders in decision-making." The nation emphasizes that the resources mobilized "are not enough today to finance [their] programmes, because of insufficient finances," and declares support for "every project that aims at supporting local actions in favour of climate." Guinea advocates for the development of partnerships "at every level in order to realize or put in place community projects." Guinea deemed the Ministerial Meeting as "a great opportunity..

Continued
Guinea

to exchange and talk about our projects” and “identify... the programmes of the Members of the Alliance that could [be] finance[d].”

Italy

Italy underscored their role in the G20, where they “stressed the importance of promoting nature-based solutions in urban areas to contrast the effects of climate change and improve energy efficiency.” Affirming their belief that “international collaboration can help [to] celebrate policy and technology implementation, share learnings, and strengthen engagement around financing and investment... the Ministry for Environmental and Energy Security is financing the IEA Digital Demand-Driven Electricity Networks Initiative to accelerate the modernization of power systems and digitalization in emerging and developing economies, as a concrete contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation.” Italy presented one of the “three... funded pilot projects being developed in Brazil with the support of the UNEP... contributing to promote the decarbonization in the social housing sector in view of the just transition.” They expressed continued support for “the localization of the SDGs as one of the main tools to achieve the Agenda 2030. Italy concluded their participation by announcing that “[t]he Italian Minister of Environmental and Energy Security founded the 30-pilot action led by Italian metropolitan cities with the multi-level approach and... vertical and horizontal coordination...”

Lao People’s Democratic Republic

The Lao People’s Democratic Republic “reiterates its commitment to promoting urban resilience and post-sustainability challenges through cooperative language and climate action,” stating that their “national development plan now integrates a comprehensive strategy for resilient urban areas.” The Lao People’s Democratic Republic highlighted their efforts to learn “how to manage urban development with a focus on sustainability, emphasizing carbon reduction, reuse, and recycling.” They affirmed that their “government has integrated climate action into key initiatives like... the Urban Low Emission Development Strategy.” By improving “the property and quality of life in [their] cities,” the Lao People’s Democratic Republic seeks to “contribute to the global fight against climate change” and “aspires to create just safe, healthy, and sustainable cities for all.”

Madagascar
Translated from French

Madagascar expressed the “deep concern of [their] government regarding the global impact of climate change.” Highlighting that the “173 cities... housing 30% of [their] population... regardless of their size or location” are facing “challenges in governance, infrastructure, transportation, housing, and more”. Madagascar emphasized the country’s vulnerability to climate change effects, “including tornadoes, floods, and other extreme events. Urban areas, with their densely populated nature, are especially vulnerable to climate risks. In response, Madagascar has implemented a ban on construction projects in the capital that do not meet specific safety and sustainability standards. To address this critical issue, [Madagascar is] collaborating with various agencies, including the World Bank, UN-Habitat, and the European Union.”

Malawi

Malawi reiterated its commitment “to implementing the agreements within its NDCs, particularly regarding policy formulation.” Reminding of the impact Cyclone Freddy had on their “livelihoods, food systems, water systems, energy, and road infrastructure”, Malawi called for “further support for implementing adaptive mechanisms in their urban settings.” They expressed strong support for the call to “unlock transparent and inclusive financing for climate change to implement adaptive mechanisms.” In closing, Malawi recognized “the crucial role of collaboration and partnerships outlined in the Paris Agreement”, announcing their adherence to the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnership Initiative (CHAMP).

Mali
*Translated
from French*

Mali opened by asserting that the Ministerial Meeting "should create a platform to mobilize and promote our expertise and best practices for sustainable development," recognizing it as "a crucial opportunity to find solutions for financing national plans." Emphasizing the challenges posed by rapid development sequences on resilient infrastructure, Mali highlighted how "financial instruments can mitigate these risks." Stressing the significance of urban adaptation, particularly in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, Mali expressed the importance of such measures for citizens striving for a brighter future. As such, the government "is paving the way for implementing [their] proposed measures" through innovative initiatives. In conclusion, Mali reiterated their "engagement and commitment to making these measures powerful tools for future development, transforming our cities and shaping a better tomorrow."

South Africa

"South Africa's adaptation response for human settlements leverages the three spheres of government as complementary players, with local government taking the lead, and national and provincial governments providing an enabling and supportive role." South Africa expressed their belief that "a strong national policy framework is crucial for guiding local adaptation strategies and establishing best practice standards." They announced the passing of the South African Climate Change Bill, which mandates "all state organs involved in climate change or environmental sustainability to review, coordinate, and harmonize their policies and programmes with the national framework." South Africa highlighted that their "Department of Human Settlements is undertaking multi-level, multi-stakeholder engagement to build climate resilience in human settlements, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in living spaces, and foster a just transition towards environmentally friendly and nature-based solutions." Additionally, South Africa announced their development of "a white paper for human settlements, which has been approved by the Cabinet for public comment."

United States of America

The United States of America highlighted their collaborative efforts with organizations like the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and the Under2 Coalition in launching "the subnational climate action leaders exchange last year, and... incubat[ing] a new initiative" focused on "lowering organic waste methane or low methane to harness the transformative role that cities and states can play in cutting methane emissions." This initiative is seen as a crucial step "to keep a safe 1.5-degree Celsius future within reach." The United States of America also shared insights into their federal investments domestically, noting how they "empower communities to come up with and execute plans that meet their unique climate change needs. While decisions and work happened at the local level, the US federal government helps [their] local communities [to] effectively deploy investments to address [their] dual housing affordability and climate crises." In closing, the United States of America expressed their commitment, stating that "[o]ver the next decade, the Biden Harris administration has made investments that will provide billions of dollars for building efficiency upgrades, solar generation and other clean energy deployment, green workforce development, training, creation of a National Green Bank and much more."

Samoa

Samoa's "joint commitment fosters sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban development through bold and transformative change, guided by the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent and the Pacific New Urban Agenda," in "a significant step towards strengthening our urban development and resilience." Samoa highlighted their partnership with the Global Covenant of Mayors "to develop the Upper City Climate Action Plan," which, "[a]t the local level... prioritizes the planning and development of [their] urban waterways drainage system," and "urges the institutionalization of sustainable urban development practices and the adoption of stringent policies within each nation, particularly those aligned with the framework of crop agencies."

Segment 2: Localizing climate finance

Under the umbrella theme of scaling up local climate finance local to achieve the Paris Agreement, this segment was dedicated to interventions from Ministers, subnational leaders, and others on concrete examples of initiatives scaling up financing and support for local climate action.

Welcoming remarks by co-convening countries



Dr. Abdelkhalek A. Ibrahim, Assistant Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, Egypt

Egypt started by stating that “current national pledges have fallen short in curbing harmful emissions and achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement.” Egypt expressed that “local governments often lack the technical and financial resources to drive local climate action... cities are at the heart, collaboration is our hope, and localization is our action.” Egypt recalled the launch of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative at COP27 the previous year in Sharm el Sheikh, expressing appreciation towards the SURGe initiative being “recalled again... enhancing the interlinkages between urbanization and climate change.” In closing, Egypt “highly recommend[s] recalling this initiative in the coming Ministerial Meetings during COP every year and also during the World Urban Forum,” and highlighted that “localization leads to globalization, so it is time for a multilevel partnership at local, national, and global levels for resilient, sustainable, and inclusive cities.”



Hon. Kobby Bomareo, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea reaffirmed their commitment “to spreading the message of multi-level climate action. As the host of the next Pacific Urban Forum, Papua New Guinea announced their pledge “to ensure that the climate resilience framework is properly institutionalized to cushion the effects of climate change in [Pacific] towns and communities.” In closing, Papua New Guinea praised the introduction of the CHAMP pledge by the COP28 Presidency and stressed the urgency for “negotiators to ensure that multilevel climate action is strongly integrated in the outcome document of this COP28.”

Setting the scene – climate and SDG finance for cities



Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, President of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Mr. Jeffrey Sachs highlighted the work of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, that, “in advance of next year's finance COP, has established a global commission for urban SDG finance... working to ensure that direct financing of subnational governments, city governments will be considered in each of the various channels of finance, mitigation, adaptation, losses, and damages, and nature-based solutions.” In closing, Jeffrey Sachs invited participants to “be engaged” with the commission which was developed to “make specific recommendations in each of the funding modalities to ensure that cities have access to direct financing”.

Localizing climate finance: Bringing together Ministers and financing institutions

Côte d'Ivoire

Translated from French

Côte d'Ivoire started their statement by commending “the progress achieved by this historic COP, particularly the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund and the direct access of local collectivities to the resources of this fund, as well as the evolution of the CHAMP alliance... [A]fter signing CHAMP, the members of the Alliance of African Ministers for Urban Development, which now includes more than 35 active countries, have decided to launch a partnership with the FMDV and a pioneering initiative called the Urban Opportunity Fast Forward Initiative. This initiative aims to be a pan-African hub for expertise and financial engineering, capable of accelerating and facilitating access to funding for our ministries and local governments.” In closing, Côte d'Ivoire called for “all development partners to work towards mobilizing the available resources as widely as possible and to empower [countries] with the negotiating and engineering capabilities [needed] to more effectively address climate change”.

Mayor Aki Sawyer, City of Freetown, Sierra Leone

The Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone, as Co-Chair of C40 Cities, praised cities for taking action and highlighted that “80 of the C40 cities have a transition plan to deliver climate action in line with the ambitions of the Paris Agreement.” Mayor Aki Sawyer stated that “[i]f global decision-makers can join forces with local climate leaders... together [can] lower emissions and keep the aim of the Paris Agreement alive. But despite all of this, less than 25% of local governments... include climate action in their NDCs.” For this reason, CHAMP represents an opportunity to collaboratively “develop implementation plans that will keep us within the 1.5 limit.” In conclusion and as Co-Chair of C40 Cities, the Mayor of Freetown urged “national governments to prioritize multi-level partnerships to support cities in building resilient, sustainable environments for us all... [and] ensuring that cities have access to finance.”

Ms. Boitumelo Mosako, Chief Executive Officer and a Director of the Bank's Board of Directors, Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA)

The Development Bank of Southern Africa started by stating the importance of cities as “the epicentre for climate resilience interventions to achieve NDCs and net zero ambitions” and the “need for development finance institutions to take a part in this. The Development Bank of Southern Africa focuses and prioritizes funding for cities. [They] administer both financial and non-financial interventions such as planning support, project preparation concessional funding. This includes tapping into global green funds like the GCF and GEF, providing operations and maintenance support as well as offering empirical evidence that is feasible.” As such, the DBSA has partnered with GEF to “provide infrastructure planning support” and “embed nature-based solutions, biodiversity, and climate resilience into infrastructure planning.” Through their partnership with the GCF, DBSA “support[s] cities in addressing climate induced water scarcity challenges, using the SA Water Reuse Programme, which is the largest adaptation investment by the DBSA and GCF to date”.

Mr. Lassana Coulibaly, Director General, National Agency for Investment of Local Authorities (ANICT) *Translated from French*

The National Agency for Investment in Local Territories of Mali “give[s] financial and technical support to local entities... and [knows] how to give them access to financing and how to establish links between them and international agencies and other entities. The financial intermediaries in Africa play a very important role to ensure access to financing for many African cities, and in this regard, [ANICT] is very aware of the need for financial and technical assistance to communities and municipalities. During the last 20 years, [ANICT] has dealt with USD 800 million for investments in communities for 25,000 projects, and... 35 provinces... could benefit from these projects”. In collaboration with the Global Fund for Cities Development, ANICT announced the launch of “an alliance for local agencies” including forty institutions.

Interventions on Localizing Climate Finance

The Comoros

*Translated
from French*

The Comoros started by recognizing the Ministerial Meeting as an opportunity “to express their worries regarding their access to climate finance... to lay the foundations for the future of our countries and also take concrete actions to fight climate change, and even though the [Comoros] has barely contributed to gas emissions, [they] are continuing the effort to have a lesser carbon footprint. However, [they] do not have easy access to financing linked to the fight against climate change.” For that reason, an Alliance for African Ministers has been created. The plan of the Alliance for 2023-2024 includes help for “local agencies and local territories to receive the appropriate financing”.

Germany

Germany started by highlighting the need for “stronger collaboration to make most effective use of limited public resources. One important example for this collaboration is the Leadership for Urban Climate Investment (LUCI). LUCI provides a framework for joint action across the value chain of urban project development. It was developed under the leadership of Germany in 2019. Now, more than 20 initiatives are active in the LUCI framework implemented by partners,” including many present at the Ministerial Meeting. This initiative was developed with the “aim to strengthen capacities for 2000 cities, ending 1000 projects to finance until 2024”. Germany highlighted their support of “several partnerships and actions, and local climate finance initiatives over the last year, amounting to more than EUR 200 million”. This was exemplified by their work with the City Climate Finance Gap Fund, “the biggest global multi-donor trust fund for cities;” a national development bank for climate action; and the NUCA Programme³, “the latest addition to [the] LUCI framework.” In closing, Germany pledged its willingness “to deepen collaboration on these matters.”

Fiji

Fiji began by stating that cities “must be equipped with the necessary resources to build sustainable and resilient communities” and highlighted the need to “bridge the financing gap and unlock new avenues and investment to support the development and implementation of climate resilient infrastructure and housing projects.” Fiji stressed that “partnership will be critical” and that “[c]ollaboration between governments and international organisations, financial institutions and civil society is essential to leverage financial resources, knowledge sharing and technical expertise.” This collaboration will allow “to pull resources and develop effective strategies to address the challenges faced by the housing and urban sectors in accessing funding.” In closing, Fiji emphasized that “resilience should be a guiding principle in our efforts to access funding for housing and urban sectors” and that “incorporating climate resilient designs, green technologies, and sustainable practises... can ensure that cities and urban areas are better equipped to face the impacts of climate change.”

Zambia

Zambia reiterated its commitment to promote “the resilience and mitigation of climate change impacts, focusing on decentralization, sustainable, and transformative development”, prioritizing climate action.” Zambia identified several “challenges faced at the local government level in building productive partnerships in climate action”, including “[l]imited multi-level action climate interventions that are focused mostly on the national level... the capacity to build, respond to climate challenges, provisions of sustainable public infrastructure, control of land use settlements and bio-sensitive areas, financial and human capital resources for effectively engaging with climate fund partners.” The country highlighted a notable issue wherein “most of the climate fund partners do not share the same aspirations, as they operate on a commercial basis,” stressing the need for

³ The National Development Banks’ Climate Action Programme in the Urban Sector (better known by its acronym NUCAP – NDBs Urban Climate Action Programme)

Continued
Zambia

attention to this problem. Zambia proposed practical solutions to addressing climate finance, including “actualizing decentralization and allocating more resources” as well as advocating for “deliberate policy to local authorities to develop and implement integrated development plans.” Additionally, Zambia underscored the importance of “streamlin[ing] the policy and legislative framework to enable knowledge and understanding of climate change and its effects”.

Japan

Japan recalled the outcomes of “the G7 Ministers' meeting, which was held in Japan this July with the participation from UN-Habitat” where “achieving sustainable urban development together” was discussed. “The meeting emphasized the importance of market condition improvement and local government” leading Japan to “now promot[e] the utilization of private funds to implement localizing climate finance”. Japan expressed the view that environmental, social and governance “investment is growing, it is important to encourage private sectors to invest in projects with environmental and social benefits, such as urban development with rich green spaces and waters, which also contribute to enhancing their company values.” The country reported its current efforts, stating, Japan is “now working to establish an evaluation and certification system that objectifies the environmental and social impact of the project. Furthermore, Japan is now focusing on the use of digital technologies, such as the 3D city model of a project plateau.” In concluding, Japan affirmed its commitment “to cooperate with other countries in order for cities to contribute to climate change mitigation”.

Spain

Spain announced they “recently created a specific Ministry for the Urban Agenda”, emphasizing that “it is essential to mobilize both public and private investment to transform cities in a coherent manner”. They highlighted that their “recovery and resilience plan from the Covid-19 pandemic have been a plan for the green transformation of the country and, therefore, a plan for the green transformation of cities.” Spain detailed their allocation of funds, dedicating “over EUR 1.5 billion to transforming cities for pedestrian and cycle mobility, EUR 1.6 billion for electric mobility, EUR 700 million for small municipalities, and EUR 120 million for nature-based solutions in cities.” Spain, however, expressed concern about the need for “coherent policymaking” noting that “cities are beginning to reverse some of the sustainable mobility measures, such as cycle lanes and pedestrian streets, meaning that they have to give back some of the public funds they have been allocated.” Spain recognized the importance of ensuring continued collaboration at “municipal and national levels to ensure that policy is coherent, funding is used appropriately and irreversible for the improvement of the quality of life of citizens.” In conclusion, they expressed their commitment to “continuing to work with [their] international partners.”

Indonesia

Indonesia endorsed the Ministerial Meeting’s urgency “in addressing the importance of multi-level climate action and expanding urban climate finance,” reminding that “action requires full support and collaboration of every stakeholder, including governments at all levels.” The country announced their support to “the call for putting nature, people's life, and livelihood at the heart of climate change.” Indonesia articulated its aim to “establish more practical and horizontal climate partnerships to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change,” expressing that, “through Climate Village Programme, Indonesian communities are able to determine climate actions needed and measure, as well as mobilize resources for adaptation and mitigation implementations. With 3,270 locations of established in 2021, Indonesia is targeting to achieve 20,000 locations by next year.” Indonesia concluded by stating that “by working together toward a shared vision of collaborations, multi-level climate actions can significantly contribute to progress and our journey towards sustainable futures for our generation.”

Localizing Climate Finance: The role of financing institutions and non-party actors to accelerate urban climate finance

Ms. Tatiana Molcean, United Nations Under Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

UNECE reiterated the central role of cities in the fight against climate change and “that partnerships between national and local governments are key to achieving the sustainable goals.” UNECE proceeded to share their efforts in building “city diplomacy [that] materialize[s] within the multilateral system.” Under UNECE’s Committee on Urban Development, Housing, and Land Management, they have “established a forum of mayors... designed so that mayors can participate in their own capacity, not as part of a national delegation or as observers. One of the key objectives is to increase coherence and complementarity between the local, regional, and global levels”. UNECE highlighted that “cities have added not only their voices to the discussions but also concrete recommendations and commitments, for instance, by adopting a Geneva Declaration of Mayors. This document identifies the main goals for sustainable development in cities.” UNECE concluded by inviting the participants to the next session of the forum which will be held in October 2024 to “address how cities and urban formats can contribute to the Pact of the future.”

Mr. Mikko Ollikaine, Head of the Adaptation Fund

The Adaptation Fund has “witnessed a rising interest in projects related to climate change adaptation in urban settings, which relate to deploying innovative solutions. For example, the Fund is pleased to be collaborating with UN-Habitat to support countries with impactful projects like the ones in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Comoros, helping develop local governance capacity in risk management and resilience planning, as well as supporting minimizing loss and damage of disasters.” They specifically mentioned a project in Malaysia, noting that “[t]he project... engages the City of Penang and its local actors in deploying innovative nature-based solutions to address heat waves and flood risks.” In closing, the Adaptation Fund reiterated their continued “support and engagement for a more resilient urban environment”.

Ms. Anna Wellenstein, Director for Sustainable Development, East Asia and the Pacific Region, World Bank

The World Bank, as a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB), recognized the “barriers to climate action in cities and ha[s] developed strategies and programmes to scale up how [MDBs] address and support cities going forward.” The World Bank specifically highlighted their efforts in the last year stating the approval of “over USD 8 billion in financing in 40 projects for cities across 30 developing countries.” They underscored their commitment through “technical assistance programmes like the City Climate Finance Gap Fund and the City Resilience Programme”. The World Bank highlighted their collaboration with other MDBs “including, for example, with EBRD in the urban space through the Global Infrastructure Fund, which is particularly important because of its private sector focus.” They noted their participation in the MDB City Working group, scheduled to meet at COP later that day, to discuss “how we can do more together.” However, they acknowledged “there is much more we can do and need to do.” The World Bank stressed that “the MDBs alone cannot solve this issue” and looks forward to working together with “national stakeholders, industry, private sector, civil society, and city networks.”

Mr. Craig Cogut, Founder, Chairman, and CEO, Pegasus Capital Advisors

Pegasus Capital Advisors emphasized their role in managing two funds anchored by the Green Climate Fund. “[The] sub-national Climate Fund is the only such fund focused on local and urban green infrastructure in the Global South. Additionally, [they] manage the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, which has a significant focus on coastal cities in the Global South”. They highlighted that opportunities are now available in multiple sectors and that new technologies should not be the sole solution. Pegasus Capital Advisors highlighted investment opportunities “in areas like cold chain storage, energy-efficient broadband, resilience, and energy-efficient

Continued
Mr. Craig Cogut,
Founder, Chairman,
and CEO, Pegasus
Capital Advisors

housing, among others." As such, Pegasus Capital Advisors announced their partnership with UCLGA "to bring these sorts of innovations throughout the cities of Africa, both large and small."

Joint Closing Statement

The event ended with an inspirational closing, followed by a call to action to deliver the actions urgently needed by governments on accelerating climate finance and calling for the continuation of the Ministerial Meeting. The Joint Outcomes Statement was summarized at the end of this segment.

Closing remarks



Hon. Jader Filho,
Minister of Cities,
Brazil
*Translated
from Portuguese*

Brazil applauded and endorsed CHAMP, emphasizing its alignment with the shared purpose and actions discussed during the meeting. Notably, the nation highlighted the vital role of the urban agenda in the climate debate, highlighting their process of "formulating the National Urban Development Policy with the incorporation of the climate lens in line with the 2030 Agenda" and encouraging "municipalities for a new generation of master plans and work to support subnational entities for the preparation of 216 local climate adaptation plans by 2026." The country advocated for the "strengthening of the adaptation agenda... focused on the most vulnerable to climate change" outlining their "investments to support municipalities in enhancing resilience and addressing inequalities." This includes the ambitious "New Growth Acceleration Programme [which] will invest BRL 340 billion throughout Brazil" and allocate BRL 9 billion specifically for sustainable and resilient towns and water initiatives. Referring to the "Viva Periferia" programme, Brazil emphasized its city-focused approach, aiming to improve "structures and housing, innovation, technology, and, above all, strengthening the social community." The representative highlighted the impact of the "Minha Casa Minha Vida", describing it as "one of the largest housing programmes in the world" with a goal of providing "2 million housing units by 2026, including 1 million for families with incomes up to BRL 400,000." Declaring its efforts towards multi-level governance, Brazil announced that the demonstration of this commitment would be visible at COP30 in Belem do Para, with "full alignment and cooperation between national, state, and municipal governments." In closing, the representative extended an invitation "to a new ministerial meeting" at COP30 in Belém, Brazil in 2025.



**Mayor Edmilson
Rodrigues,** City of
Belém, Brazil
*Translated
from Portuguese*

The mayor of Belém highlighted the city's role as the host of COP30, describing it as "the first COP in the Amazon in 2025." Recognizing the Ministerial Meeting as "a unique event that reinforces the commitment of the Paris Agreement and the great pacts at multiple levels," he emphasized the need to "enhance governance to have a just and inclusive response to the climate emergency and to elevate... the ambitions of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)." Belém expressed their commitment to carry this sentiment into COP30, stating, "COP30 will be the Amazon COP, but above all, the urban Amazon," with a focus on "putting the river and the forest in the centre of the climate change conversations." In closing, the mayor declared, "Belem is a strategic partner to reinforce the world commitments to reduce global warming," and extended an invitation by saying, "in 2025, we will see each other again in Belém."

Closing and Summary of the Joint Outcomes Statement



Mr. Gregor Robertson, Global Ambassador, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

The Chair, Mr. Gregor Robertson, concluded the meeting by highlighting the progress made at COP28's Local Climate Action Summit and Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change. He emphasized that COP28 had advanced "collaborative, inclusive, and ambitious multi-level climate action by mobilizing stakeholders committed to achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement." Mr. Robertson stated, "At COP28, cities, regions, and national governments deliberated on achieving the Paris Agreement targets through multi-level climate action and identifying levers to increase and accelerate climate finance for subnational governments, respecting national legislations, regulations, and circumstances." In concluding, the Chair introduced the Joint Outcomes Statement on Urbanization and Climate Change, outlining 10 key points centred around "encouraging national governments to advance multi-level climate action, encouraging local governments to increase climate action, proposing regular ministerial meetings at COP, encouraging to have [the] Ministerial Meeting regularly at COP, and encouraging all parties to consider [the] outcomes in their deliberations on the negotiated decisions at COP28."

Written Statements

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The OECD states that "Achieving national climate commitments will depend on local action". Both the source of GHG emissions and exposure to climate hazards vary significantly across cities. OECD demonstrates that their data shows that there remains significant variation across countries in the extent to which national governments have incorporated local perspectives into their climate plans and that most cities and regions are still far from reaching net zero. The OECD recommends that governments at all levels incorporate a "Territorial Approach to Climate Action and Resilience" as part of their net zero and climate resilience strategies, by integrating a place-based perspective into national climate strategies, "climate-proofing" urban development policies, and scaling up local climate action, including through improving cities' access to finance in line with the OECD/G20 report on Financing Cities of Tomorrow. The OECD concludes that they stand ready to support national governments and work in partnership with other international organizations"

Michael R. Bloomberg, Founder, Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies

Michael R. Bloomberg highlighted the Local Climate Action Summit as "a historic moment" given that it was "the first time in the history of COP that a delegation of local leaders was included in the official proceedings." He acknowledged that "[m]any mayors and governors are reducing per capita emissions at a faster rate than their national governments and they are acting more boldly by testing and implementing innovative solutions that are improving public health and creating good paying jobs." The representative from Bloomberg Philanthropies concluded by calling for "more collaboration between cities and national governments."

*Gregor Robertson, moderator of the Ministerial Meeting, delivers his closing remarks to the audience of approximately 1,000 people.
Credit: UN-Habitat / Dean Alexander*

Annex

Annex 1. Joint Outcomes Statement on Urbanization and Climate Change

From the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit and Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change

COP28 advanced collaborative, inclusive and ambitious multilevel climate action by convening an unprecedented mobilization of stakeholders committed to achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement.

On 1-2 December 2023, the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies convened the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS). This first-ever subnational leaders' summit at a COP featured more than 500 attendees from 60+ countries, including more than 250 mayors and governors, and highlighted the importance of subnational action and leadership in supporting the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Summit launched the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), a pledge endorsed by 70+ national governments to enhance consultation and collaboration with local and regional leaders in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of future Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other climate plans and strategies.

On 6 December 2023, the COP28 Presidency, UN-Habitat and the UN Climate Change High Level Champions co-hosted the second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change as the high-level opening for the Multilevel Action, Urbanization, Built Environment, and Transport Day, coconvened by the Governments of Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Egypt, Kenya, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, and the United Arab Emirates. The Ministerial brought together over 1000+ attendees, including around 50 Ministers of Environment, Urban Development, and Housing, 200+ subnational leaders in collaboration with the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA) to the UNFCCC, representatives from multilateral, national and subnational development banks, the private sector, and civil society organizations.

At COP28, cities, regions and national governments discussed how to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement through multilevel climate action, and to identify and strengthen levers to increase and accelerate deployment of climate finance for subnational governments, respecting national legislations, regulations and circumstances.

The outcomes are put forward below:

1. Encouraging all national governments to advance the necessary mechanisms for multilevel climate action to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement, across all levels of governments as well as across Ministries with complementary portfolios, including but not limited to Environment, Climate Change, Housing, and Urban Development.
2. Welcoming specific references to multilevel action and urbanization by a majority of Parties in their submissions to the Global Stocktake (GST) and recognizing the launch of the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action as a mechanism to enhance cooperation between national and subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of climate strategies, with a view to enable subnational governments to contribute to further enhancing NDCs, where applicable, ahead of COP30 in 2025.
3. Encouraged by the various initiatives under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, welcoming efforts to streamline, consolidate, and coordinate support, as appropriate, for the implementation of cross-sectoral and multilevel climate action, at global, regional, national, and subnational levels, including through the COP27 Presidency's Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative.
4. Taking note of the 11,000+ cities and 200+ regions that have reported climate action data to the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Portal and further encourage strengthening this repository as a means of recording subnational climate ambition and action within the context of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement as the primary intergovernmental fora for the global response to climate change.
5. Welcoming the agreement on the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund which supports direct access for subnational entities and looking towards similar provisions in further COP outcomes.
6. Encouraging national governments to accelerate deployment of climate finance to support local climate action and strengthen local financial and technical capacities.
7. Encouraging all local governments and urban stakeholders to commit to climate adaptation and mitigations measures that support a just transition, including for the most vulnerable and impacted communities; and to align assessments of local-level progress ("local stocktakes") with future iterations of the Global Stocktake.
8. Recognizing the opportunities for local climate action to advance sustainable urban development in line with the 2030 Agenda.
9. Encouraging the annual convening of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change in conjunction with future UNFCCC COPs. And encouraging linking future iterations of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change with the Local Climate Action Summit, the World Urban Forum and the UN-Habitat Assembly.
10. Encouraging all parties to consider these outcomes in their deliberations on the negotiated decisions at COP28.

Annex 2. First Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change

This year's Ministerial Meeting builds on the first-ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP27. Convened by the COP27 Presidency with the support of UN-Habitat, the meeting occurred on 17 November 2022 as part of Solutions Day. It brought together 50+ representatives from national governments as well as local leaders as part of LGMA. The Ministerial Meeting was a significant step in delivering the vertical alignment needed for multilevel climate action to achieve the Paris Agreement.

The meeting emphasized the need to strengthen multilevel climate action as a critical framework for addressing the climate crisis and called for better integrating subnational actors within the design and implementation of climate change plans, policies, and strategies, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Delegates also endorsed regular ministerial meetings on urban development and climate change at future COPs as a mechanism to track progress.

The COP27 Presidency's [Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation \(SURGe\) Initiative](#), supported by UN-Habitat and ICLEI was also launched at the Ministerial Meeting. This initiative is a platform to connect local, national, and global level to coordinate collective action and fosters cross-sectoral collaboration between sectoral initiatives. All with the objective to build more strategically on cities and sustainable urbanization to help deliver the targets of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. It also aims to widely share replicable solutions and best practices.

Access the COP27 Ministerial Meeting report: [Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change 2022](#)

Annex 3. COP28 Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action

Multilevel cooperation—i.e., partnerships among nations, their subnational jurisdictions, and international organizations, multilateral financial institutions, and civil society groups—is a priority for the COP28 presidency, which seeks to elevate it as a major enabling factor for implementation of the Paris Agreement and a meaningful response to the Global Stocktake.

The urban content of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is improving, but it remains insufficient. UN-Habitat led analysis shows that only 24% of nations' pledges under the Paris Agreement include strong urban content. Increasing this and setting national targets in closer collaboration with subnational governments can help close the emissions gap because cities, states and regions are ready to act and with the right support could rapidly reduce 90% of their emissions through existing, technically feasible means.

With the ambition to have a groundbreaking moment for subnational and multilevel action that secures a lasting place in the climate agenda and COP process, the presidency is supporting partners to advance a new platform dedicated to multilevel partnerships, the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships ("CHAMP") for Climate Action. CHAMP is a commitment by national governments to engage subnational governments, including cities, towns, states and regions, in the planning, financing, implementation and monitoring of climate strategies (Nationally Determined Contributions, NDCs, for example). It is a proposal by the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies supported by subnational networks and partner organizations (GCoM, C40, ICLEI, Under2, UCLG, UN-Habitat, NDC Partnership and more), and consulted on with a diverse "contact group" of countries.

The launch of CHAMP complemented - and has been made possible by - an ecosystem of initiatives that champion subnational and local climate leadership and multilevel action spanning over decades. In the years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement these initiatives have proven critical to the objectives of the UNFCCC.

CHAMP seeks to connect existing initiatives that support NDC development (e.g., the NDC Partnership) or help accelerate local level action (including but not limited to: Subnational Climate Action Leader's Exchange (SCALE), Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe), the City Climate Gap Fund, the C40 Cities Finance Facility, Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, etc.).

With respect to the link with the COP27 Presidency-led Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative, both Initiatives strive to collectively keep 1.5C degrees within reach and increase adaptation and resilience. CHAMP does so by rallying national governments to pledge to enhance cooperation with subnational governments and activating an ecosystem of support for this cooperation, while SURGe provides a complementary vehicle that enables the translation of this national commitment into localized cross-sectoral climate action.

Annex 4. COP27 Presidency Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) Initiative

Connecting local, national and global levels for climate action

SURGe is a COP27 Presidency Initiative dedicated to connecting the local, national and global levels with the vision to achieve global climate goals by using effective multilevel governance to transform cities to be healthy, sustainable, just, inclusive, low-emission and resilient urban systems for a better urban future for all. To achieve this vision, the SURGe Initiative is dedicated to equipping cities to accelerate local climate action and building more strategically on cities and sustainable urbanization as allies to help deliver the targets of the Paris Agreements and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The SURGe Initiative has been developed under the leadership of the COP27 Presidency in collaboration with UN-Habitat and facilitated by ICLEI. It was officially launched at the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP27. It has been endorsed by 180+ global partners. The SURGe objective is achieved by connecting local, national and global levels for climate action and delivering through five integrated tracks and track partners: Buildings and Housing, Urban Energy, Urban Waste and Consumption, Urban Mobility and Urban Water. It builds on existing work in this space, on commitments of local and regional governments, adds momentum to existing initiatives, and provides a holistic framework to achieve sustainable and resilient urban systems.

SURGe offers the opportunity to turn urban resilience, climate-proof infrastructure and informal settlements into an economic, social and political opportunity for accelerating resilience to climate impacts and sustainable development. This is a critical opportunity for local, regional and national governments to work together and collaborate with key stakeholders and rightsholders to simultaneously advance decarbonization efforts while building resilient urban systems that allow residents to not simply survive but thrive.

The updated concept note and summary brochure for SURGe can be found [here](#).

CREATING A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



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