



COP24 · KATOWICE 2018  
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

**LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS**  
at **2018 UN Katowice Climate Change Conference (COP24)**

<http://www.cities-and-regions.org/cop24/>



**UN Climate Change Conference - December 2018  
(COP24/CMP14/CMA 1.3/SBSTA49/SBI49/APA1.7)**

**(DRAFT) INTERVENTION OF THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES (LGMA)\*  
CONSTITUENCY**

**AT THE JOINT OPENING PLENARY OF COP24/CMP14/CMA  
1.3/SBSTA49/SBI49/APA1.7  
2 December 2018, Katowice**

Thank you Mr President.

My name is Jisun Hwang from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and I am delivering this statement on behalf of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency.

At this opening statement of COP24, we would like to provide an overview of engagement of cities and other subnational governments in global climate action since COP23.

2018 was truly the year of Talanoa Dialogues and spirit. The inclusiveness of the COP23 decision enabled an unprecedented engagement worldwide throughout the year, instead of a one-off event at COP24.

Through Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, our constituency participated in more than 60 events in 40 countries, most of which were hosted by local and regional governments with their networks and partners. They voiced their wish to fix-and-lift NDCs and make-them-fit for Paris Agreement by bridging sustainable urban development with climate action and engaging all levels of governments.

\* Facilitated by [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](http://www.iclei.org/) in its capacity the focal point of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency to the UNFCCC and on behalf of [Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments](http://www.cities-and-regions.org/)

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At the Global Climate Action Summit, close to 100 cities and regions announced ambitious commitments on Paris compatible plans, mobility, buildings, and waste, supported with around 500 commitments on 100% Renewable Energy, phase-out or divestment from fossil fuels. IPCC adopted the first global research agenda for cities that will kick-off the inputs for into the 7<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report towards 2023. First Urban20 summit was held to contribute to G20 and G7 Heads of States recognized the need to act with all levels of governments for the first time, inline with the vision of the Paris Agreement.

At the UNFCCC front, we are happy to see numerous references in the Bangkok Outcome with regards to engaging cities and other subnational governments in the NDC planning, adaptation, sustainable development mechanisms, non-market approaches, capacity building, technology and transparency. We are advancing our engagement in the Paris Committee for Capacity Building. And we particularly welcome and commend the decision of Standing Committee on Finance to focus on sustainable cities in their 2019 Forum.

Our latest figures demonstrate that GHG reduction potential of cities and regions may reach above 20 Gt/yr by 2030, while 70% of adaptation actions are financed by local sources and biodiversity loss due to urban expansion may add an additional 4.5 Gt of GHG emissions until 2030. We were all alerted by 1.5oC report of IPCC on the urgency of action and concerned that only around 12% of climate-smart investment potentials are utilized, but we are motivated by the transformative power of exponential climate action.

All these prove that if, engaging cities and other subnational governments at every step of planning and implementing climate actions in every country is a must, if nations and global climate community are sincere in the delivery and raising ambitions of NDCs.

Therefore, here in Katowice, we call upon the COP24 Presidency and all Parties to ensure that multilevel climate action is embedded in the heart of a robust Paris Agreement Work Programme with relevant provisions and supported with inclusive partnerships.

Thank you Mr President.

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