



COP24 · KATOWICE 2018
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

CITIES AND OTHER SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS
at **2018 UN Katowice Climate Change Conference (COP24)**

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

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

**AT THE PRESIDENCY OPEN DIALOGUE BETWEEN PARTIES AND NON-
PARTY STAKEHOLDERS**

5 December 2018, Katowice

Delivered by Jisun Hwang, Senior Climate Advocacy and Policy Officer,
ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability**

Thank you Ambassador.

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

At the outset, the LGMA Constituency expresses its gratitude to the COP24 Presidency for hosting this open dialogue and we welcome your willingness to hear from cities and regions on this important theme of just transition.

Our constituency was not consulted during the drafting process of the Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration but having read the text that was formally announced on 3 December, we note with great appreciation the numerous references to the role of cities and regions in shaping inclusive, people-centred just transitions.

The LGMA constituency has been advancing on the issue of just transitions through relevant processes and initiatives. Across the globe, cities with an industrial legacy – cities like Pittsburgh, Essen, Katowice and Shijiazhuang which are in ICLEI’s Urban Transitions Alliance (UTA) – have been dealing with the challenge of ensuring just transitions out of fossil-fuel based economies for decades.

* 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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The decline of industrial manufacturing in developed countries had a significant impact on the cities that relied on industrial growth for their overall economic and social development. Experiencing the closing of mines or steel mills which were drivers of growth and major employers, confronted many cities with surging unemployment and rapid population loss in relatively short periods of time. The remaining negative remnants of pollution and poverty reinforced trends of under-investment and often led to a loss of identity for the city. Already vulnerable social groups faced the biggest hurdles when adapting to the new conditions. Acknowledging existing transition experiences and achievements of industrial legacy cities can provide great value in the current debate on the coal phase out and just transitions in an inclusive manner.

Building upon the Silesia Declaration, the LGMA constituency looks forward to connecting our existing work programmes on just transitions to the Polish Presidency initiative at COP24 and beyond. It is at the local and regional levels where the impacts of environmental pollution directly strike and new economic models are initiated. Thus, we reiterate our readiness to support the Polish Presidency in addressing the challenge of shaping greater social transitions under this Declaration.

Thank you Ambassador.

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