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IN THE UNFCCC PROCESS



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Local Governments
for sustainability

MEDIA RELEASE

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COP30: CITIES AND REGIONS ARE AT THE HEART OF CLIMATE ACTION IMPLEMENTATION

Local and regional elected leaders are urging the parties to leave Belém delivering a legacy of multilevel action and governance in the COP process

Over 50 local and regional government networks worldwide have endorsed the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency joint position for COP30, representing tens of thousands of local and regional governments around the world

Belém, Brazil (10 November 2025) – As the COP30 climate summit kicks off, cities, regions, local and subnational governments and other non-party stakeholders are coming together to show their critical role in climate action, demonstrating that they are essential to preserving climate multilateralism and moving the world from negotiations to implementation.

With the vision of using COP30 to bridge local, national and multilateral goals, an ecosystem of influential platforms has emerged, including the [Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency Joint COP30 Position](#) and year-round advocacy, the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action, the outcomes of the COP30 Local Leaders Forum, and the Ministerial Meeting(s) on Urbanization and Climate Change.

Together, the goal is to see a negotiations outcome that puts local and other subnational governments at the heart of the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement, and to build a legacy to firmly embed multilevel collaboration and urbanization in the UNFCCC process by the time IPCC concludes its Special Report on Cities in 2027.

The LGMA Constituency represents the voice of towns, cities, counties, territories, provinces, regions, states, devolved governments and others in the UNFCCC process.

Yunus Arian, Director of Global Advocacy at ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) and the LGMA Focal Point to the UNFCCC said, “If COP30 is to be remembered as the implementation COP, then we need more than ambitious words – we need the structures that

make delivery possible. That means a formal UNFCCC mechanism where local and other subnational governments are fully engaged in shaping and driving implementation of NDCs and Paris Agreement outcomes and full synergy is achieved with sustainable urbanization and climate action. Cities are where commitments come to life, and it is time for the UNFCCC process to reflect that in a permanent, institutional way. This Belém legacy should pave the way for a collective commitment to design, build and live in climate and human friendly cities of the 21st century, to be guided with the IPCC Special Report on Cities in 2027.”

LGMA JOINT COP30 POSITION: A UNITED VISION TO MAKE COP30 A SUCCESS

At a [UNFCCC COP30 press conference today \(webcast\)](#), the LGMA announced its COP30 Joint Position with all of its endorsements. The Position has been endorsed by more than 50 local and regional government networks, representing tens of thousands of local and regional governments around the world.

The Position makes five clear calls to Parties to: 1) Work towards a formal UNFCCC work program that is dedicated to furthering multilevel climate action in collaboration with local and other subnational governments; 2) Operationalize adaptation indicators that reflect local and territorial priorities and capture their progress to the Global Goal on Adaptation; 3) Formally recognize local and other subnational actors as indispensable partners for national governments in implementing just transition policies and programs; 4) Elevate the localization of climate finance as a fundamental pillar of the evolving global financial architecture, ensuring resources are appropriately channeled to local and regional governments; and 5) Usher in a new era for multilevel cooperation through the design of new and holistic climate and sustainability governance processes, including through upcoming UN80 reforms.

"The Government of Scotland, as Regions4 President and Co-Chair of the Under2 Coalition, is proud to have helped shape the COP30 LGMA position - a strong call for the recognition and full engagement of subnational governments in climate negotiations. The impacts of climate change are being felt everywhere. From 48°C heatwaves in India to record-breaking heat and wildfires in Andalucía, the cost of inaction is already here. Networks such as Regions4, Under2 Coalition and others, play a vital role in advancing this progress and supporting our collective efforts," said **Gillian Martin, Cabinet Secretary, Scotland; President, Regions4; European Co-Chair, Under2 Coalition.**

“We are at COP30 as the implementers of our shared future - united by urgency and action. Since the Paris Agreement, cities and regions have led by setting ambitious climate targets and

taking bold actions to fulfill them. We truly hope that the COP30 negotiations will conclude with a push that furthers the engagement of the LGMA in the design of new and holistic climate and sustainability governance processes,” said **Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, Mayor of Malmö, Sweden; President, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.**

OUTCOMES FROM THE LOCAL LEADERS FORUM BRIDGE RIO TO BELÉM

The outcomes of the COP30 Local Leaders Forum in Rio de Janeiro, held just before COP30 begins, form a vital link between local climate leadership and the global negotiations set to take place in Belém. Over three days, the Forum convened nearly 3,000 mayors, governors, and regional leaders from more than 120 countries for over 60 sessions of dialogue, partnership, and solution-sharing. The resulting [Local Leaders Joint Outcome Statement](#) calls for stronger collaboration across all levels of government to deliver transformative action this decade. These outcomes highlight the critical role of cities and regions in implementing national climate goals, accelerating finance for local solutions, and ensuring that local priorities are fully integrated into global decision-making.

Lord Mayor Jane Lomax-Smith, Adelaide, Australia, who was part of the Local Leaders Forum delegation, said: "Cities like Adelaide are showing that climate ambition is strongest when it's shared. While our nations sign the big agreements, it's the cities and states that put those commitments into action. COP30 must recognise that implementation happens locally and ensure local governments have the authority, finance, and voice to deliver results. We're closest to our communities; we see the challenges firsthand, act at the right time to protect people, and maintain the trust and social licence needed to make real change happen."

MINISTERIAL MEETING(S) ON URBANIZATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The upcoming Ministerial Meetings on Urbanization and Climate Change, taking place on 11 November 2025 in Belém, will advance the COP30 Global Mutirão—a collective effort rooted in indigenous knowledge to accelerate multilevel climate action. Organized by the COP30 Presidency, Brazil's Ministry of Cities, and UN-Habitat, the Meetings will convene national, local, and regional leaders alongside partners from finance, academia, and civil society for a series of high-level roundtables and a closing plenary.

Discussions will focus on four major themes—housing, science, nature, and finance—demonstrating how cities and regions are central to delivering on the Paris Agreement and shaping the next generation of national climate plans (NDCs 3.0).

“The Paris Agreement cannot be delivered by national governments alone. Climate action succeeds when national, regional, and local governments work in partnership with communities and organized constituencies. Connecting global ambition to local realities is what turns plans into progress — and ensures climate solutions are inclusive, equitable, and sustainable,” said **Anacláudia Rossbach, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat.**

CITIES & REGIONS HUB AT COP30: THE HOME FOR MULTILEVEL ACTION & URBANIZATION

Building on multiple successful COP pavilions, ICLEI, in its role as the focal point of the LGMA Constituency, and UN-Habitat are co-convening the Cities & Regions Hub in the Blue Zone at COP30. The Hub is hosted by the Ministry of Cities of Brazil. The Cities & Regions Hub is the home for multilevel climate action, a space where mayors, governors, ministers, negotiators, civil society, and experts come together to connect local realities with global negotiations.

The Cities & Regions Hub is supported by ABRAINC, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Consórcio Nordeste, Italian Ministry for the Environment, GIZ Brazil, Türkiye Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, İLBANK, Zero Waste Foundation, ABCON, NTU, and ANPTrilhos.

Open from 11 - 20 November 2025, the Hub will be part of the first *Neighbourhood of the Mutirão for Cities, Water and Infrastructure*, an interconnected neighbourhood of four pavilions that places cities, infrastructure, buildings, cooling, and water at the center of climate discussions.

QUOTES FROM LGMA MEMBERS

The LGMA Constituency stands as the voice of towns, cities, counties, territories, provinces, regions, states, devolved governments and others in the UNFCCC process, who are represented by accredited network organizations. Here are comments from members of the LGMA.

“The International Society of City and Regional Planners joins LGMA in calling for multilevel climate action, with local and subnational governance at its heart, and collective implementation in the spirit of Mutirão. ISOCARP advocates well-planned place-based climate action through the mobilisation of its global network of planning professionals, committed to contribute to resilient, inclusive, safe, sustainable cities and regions. City and regional planners

have a critical role for place-based climate action. Integrated participatory and strategic spatial planning is a critical transformative instrument - integrating mitigation and adaptation, linking local action to global ambition, translating commitments into places that work for people and the planet today, while shaping resilient, inclusive, regenerative and sustainable communities, cities and regions for tomorrow,” said **Elisabeth Belpaire, President International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP)**.

“African countries will not achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions without cities. Local governments must be formally recognised as essential partners in the development and implementation of NDCs. We call for the establishment of a formal UNFCCC mechanism and institutionalised platform dedicated to subnational governments, building on previous UNFCCC outcomes,” said **Chilando Chitangala, Mayor of Lusaka, Zambia; Chair of ICLEI Africa Regional Executive Committee; Vice-Chair of CoM SSA Regional Mayors Forum**.

“In our rapidly changing world, faced with increasing intensity in extreme weather events, biodiversity loss and rapidly approaching tipping points, we urgently need governments, MDBs and the private sector to increase investment in scaling nature-based solutions (NBS) in cities, to ensure a climate-ready future for urban communities that recognizes the links between climate, nature, health and water. NBS would help mitigate impacts of more frequent and stronger storms as we are now experiencing from the Pacific to the Atlantic,” said **Mayor Alfredo Coro, Mayor of Del Carmen, Philippines; ICLEI Global Executive Committee and ICLEI Biodiversity, Water and One Health Portfolio**.

“Cities and local governments are where climate action is delivered. The signatories of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy are leading the charge, bringing the spirit of Mutirão to Belém and showcasing their annual delivery on climate commitments. This is the year for COP30 to seize this unparalleled opportunity to recognize cities as full partners, moving decisively from negotiation to implementation. It is time to structurally unlock the climate finance needed for subnational governments to accelerate ambitious climate action locally.” said **Andy Deacon, Co-Managing Director of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy**.

“In Quelimane, we have seen firsthand the urgent need for rapid, locally led responses to disasters, as when we used local funds to respond to Cyclone Freddy. Ensuring that the voices of cities and communities are heard by the Loss and Damage Fund board is critical to directing resources where they are needed most. Recovery must be socially just, gender-responsive, and strengthen resilience for the future, drawing on the grounded experiences of cities across

Africa,” said **Manuel de Araujo, Mayor of Quelimane, Mozambique; Vice-Chair of ICLEI Africa Regional Executive Committee.**

“LGMA’s finance package is an activation blueprint: Country Platforms for Localising Finance that feed subnational access windows, dedicated FinHubs that industrialise project preparation and turn concepts into portfolios, and a Public Development Banks ‘system-as-one’ to move capital at speed from global to local, so ambition becomes deployable capital where people live. With this architecture in place, cities and regions step forward not as grant-seekers but as co-investors and first partners to national governments, ready to mobilise resources, raise ambition, and close the climate action gap to keep 1.5°C within reach,” said **Carlos de Freitas, Executive Director, FMDV-Global Fund for Cities Development.**

“It is time to take a new step forward, and cities and regions will keep leading the way. Mayors have made it clear that local solutions are essential to protecting the people and places we love. Ten years after Paris, the world is looking to Belém, full of hope. Today, we have the opportunity to write a new page,” said **Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo; Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) Global Ambassador.**

“In South Australia, local government is on the frontline, building the resilience of communities and responding to climate challenges from drought and heat and bushfire risk, coastal erosion and algal blooms. Councils are driving nature-based solutions, investing in renewable energy, building climate-ready infrastructure and creating safer, more sustainable futures now and for generations to come. We are pleased to support the LGMA COP30 Joint Position in the spirit of *mutirão* - working together for collective action to achieve collective results,” said **Dr. Heather Holmes-Ross, President of the Local Government Association of South Australia.**

“For COP30 to be successful, States must include local and regional governments (LRGs) in the global efforts to implement the pledges of the Paris Agreement. They need to formally recognize the vital role LRGs play in driving more ambitious climate action and ensure that LRGs get adequate funding for mitigation and adaptation projects,” said **Christina Kitsos, Vice Mayor of Geneva, Switzerland; Global Cities Hub President.**

“The climate crisis is erasing lives and livelihoods, but our municipal movement is convinced that women youth and local leaders can rewrite the future. Through genuine multilevel governance and frameworks like CHAMP, we can transform global ambition into grounded action — restoring ecosystems, strengthening NDCs, and delivering justice where it matters

most,” said **Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malick, President of Nouakchott Region; Co-President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).**

"The International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) stands firmly with the LGMA's call for multilevel action. High-level climate goals remain abstract until they are implemented locally, and that implementation must be designed. As landscape architects, we are the essential partners for the mayors, governors, and local leaders on the front lines. We provide the technical design for the 'Sponge Cities,' resilient public spaces, and nature-based solutions that turn national ambition into a tangible, just, and liveable reality for communities," said **Dr. Bruno Marques, President, International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA).**

“Climate leadership today means shaping markets, not waiting on them, and Belém should be where we decide to do so. We call for a public-finance compact that puts local balance sheets centre-stage and mobilises national and subnational development banks as market-makers in the public interest, moving projects from pipeline to portfolio to performance. Only then, by design, not by chance, commitments become results on the ground,” said **Dada Morero, Executive Mayor of Johannesburg; Chair of FMDV-Global Fund for Cities Development.**

“To achieve our NDCs, national and local governments must work hand in hand, institutionalising partnerships that recognise cities as essential drivers of climate ambition and delivery. Initiatives like ICLEI's Town Hall COPs have allowed Nansana municipality and community leaders to engage directly with national representatives and share on-the-ground insights to inform national climate ambitions,” said **Mayor Regina Bakitte Nakazzi, Nansana, Uganda.**

“Governors, ministers and premiers are proving that climate leadership is most powerful when it’s shared. Its financing resilient infrastructure, scaling clean energy, and protecting the most vulnerable frontline communities. States and regions already demonstrate COP30's Global *Mutirão* spirit. As we head into these negotiations, the time for empty promises is past. We have no time to waste. At every level of climate governance, we must centre states and regions – while nations backtrack and slow down their action, they are going further and faster. In the Under2 Coalition just over 70% of subnational governments have their own climate plans, many of which have targets far more ambitious than national countries. A fair COP process is one that recognises subnational leadership,” said **Dr. Champa Patel, Executive Director for Governments and Policy, Climate Group.**

“Nowhere are the ideas of energy and climate transitions more alive, urgent, and tangible than in the heart of our cities. But achieving net-zero, resilient, and inclusive communities requires investment at scale. The Urban Transitions Mission (UTM) and its cohort of 117 cities from 47 countries are committed to delivering practical, scalable solutions, making capital accessible by unlocking effective blended finance models that combine public and private capital to manage risk and deliver impact. This will only succeed by working together, activating meaningful collaboration between local, national governments, and the private sector,” said **Giorgia Rambelli, Director, Urban Transitions Mission**.

“Climate justice is built from our territories, through local public policies, planning and education. Tending to the needs of all generations and ensuring involvement of youth is critical to enhance ownership and durable solutions. This is also our global contribution through UCLG, to demonstrate that true transformation begins locally, where communities and governments act together for the future of our planet,” said **Ana Lucía Reis, Mayor of Cobija; Co-President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**.

"By supporting the LGMA COP30 Joint Position, we reiterate our conviction that local leaders have a role to play in climate action. Mayors and regional leaders are not just witnesses to the climate crisis — they're the first responders when its impacts hit citizens and territories," said **Fabrizio Rossi, Secretary General, CEMR**.

“In the face of climate change, cities and subnational entities are not just stakeholders—they are the frontline actors driving real, measurable progress. While national governments debate, cities deliver: implementing innovative solutions, mobilizing communities, and leveraging international cooperation to achieve tangible results. The multilateral system must recognize this reality by granting subnational entities a permanent, meaningful seat at every level of decision-making. Climate action will be won or lost in our cities, and it is time for global governance to reflect that truth,” said **Michèle Rubirola - First Deputy Mayor of the City of Marseille; Vice-President of Cités Unies France**.

“COP30 must be the COP of implementation — the moment when promises become action. Achieving climate justice means recognising that sustainable urbanization — inclusive, resilient, and care-based — is climate action in practice. Our local efforts to confront poverty, hunger, and inequality power the global transition we need. From Belém, let us launch a new era of climate multilateralism that listens to cities, empowers communities, and delivers dignity for all,” said **Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**.

“Cities like Chefchaouen are already demonstrating that sustainable energy, local innovation and community participation can drive real climate solutions. True transformation comes from cooperation - when national, regional and local leaders act together for shared climate ambition,” said **Mayor Mohamed Sefiani, Chefchaouen, Morocco; Vice President of ICLEI; Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) Regional Ambassador.**

“Local governments are the first responders to the climate crisis, yet too often the last to be heard. COP30 must create direct pathways for climate finance and partnerships that empower African cities to implement sustainable solutions that protect both our people and our planet,” said **Mayor John-Charuk Siafa, Monrovia, Liberia.**

“It is essential that cities and local governments of all sizes are recognised as key actors in addressing climate change, including within the multilateral system. They must continue to be supported and empowered to deliver transformative change with and for their local communities, making multilevel governance a reality,” said **Lucy Slack, Secretary-General, Commonwealth Local Government Forum.**

“Subnational governments, closest to people and territories, are indispensable partners in turning ambition into local action. Across the world, they are already showing powerful examples of just and resilient solutions on the ground. Recognizing and financing their leadership is essential. Regions4 supports the LGMA joint position for COP30 because subnational action must be at the heart of global climate ambition,” said **Natalia Uribe, Secretary General, Regions4.**

“Over the last twenty years, C40 Cities have proven unequivocally that local climate leadership works: 73% of our cities, for which data is available, have already peaked their emissions, and three quarters are now cutting them faster than their national governments. The C40 World Mayors Summit showcased the incredible momentum and collective commitment of subnational leaders to deliver the Global Mutirão. Our focus is now on Belém and the 'decade of delivery': mayors will be there to showcase the action they are taking every year. COP30 must recognize cities as indispensable partners in securing a just transition and implementing the Paris Agreement. But recognition isn't enough; finance must follow. We urge global leaders to unlock the funding cities urgently need, especially in the Global South, to scale up our proven, people-centered solutions,” said **Mark Watts, C40 Cities Executive Director.**

“We are seeing how local climate action, from restoring our coastlines to investing in renewable energy and green jobs, builds both resilience and community pride. The *Mutirão* spirit calls us

to act collectively. COP30 must embed multilevel collaboration as the foundation for an effective and equitable transition," said **Moira Were, Mayor of Onkaparinga, Australia; Global Executive Committee of ICLEI Oceania.**

"Any global framework that takes climate action seriously must also take the local and regional levels seriously. Whether in Europe or in the forests of Amazonia, it is in these communities where high-level promises become real action and where the ambition to surpass national pledges unfolds. The perspectives, realities and leadership of our municipalities and indigenous communities alike are indispensable if we are to achieve the just and ambitious climate transition the world so urgently needs," said **Andreas Wolter, City Councilor of the City of Cologne, Germany; Climate Alliance President.**

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NOTE TO EDITORS

About Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency

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

global climate negotiations all year, influencing and informing outcomes toward meeting the Paris Agreement. For more information, please visit: www.cities-and-regions.org

About the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments is a coordination and consultation mechanism that brings together the major international networks of local governments to undertake joint advocacy work relating to global policy processes. It was set up in 2013 to bring the perspectives of local and regional governments to the SDGs, climate change agenda and New Urban Agenda in particular. The Global Taskforce convenes elected local and regional leaders from around the world in the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, whose role in the follow-up of the New Urban Agenda is recognized in the Quito Outcome Document. For more information, please visit: <https://www.global-taskforce.org/about-us>

About ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

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