CITIES & REGIONS IN THE UNFCCC PROCESS

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European Committee of the Regions

GLOBAL COVENANT of MAYORS for CLIMATE & ENERGY

FMDV

GLOBAL TASKFORCE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

Regions4 Sustainable Development

UCLG United Cities and Local Governments

UNDER2° Secretariat CLIMATE GROUP

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES (LGMA) CONSTITUENCY

COP31 Guidance for Negotiators on the

JUST TRANSITION WORK PROGRAMME AND MECHANISM

The LGMA Guidance for Negotiators accompanies the LGMA COP31 Position and provides detailed recommendations, context and proposed negotiating text, setting out how each ask can be operationalized.

cities-and-regions.org/cop31-lgma-position

Executive summary

The Just Transition Mechanism, also referred to as the Belém-Antalya Mechanism for Global Just Transitions, will be crucial for advancing just transitions globally, nationally, and locally. Subnational governments are already delivering just transitions because of their direct powers over key climate sectors, close proximity to communities and workers, and deep understanding of local needs. To scale these efforts and share key learnings, it is essential to embed and operationalize a multilevel, whole-of-society approach within the Mechanism, in line with the COP30 Just Transition Work Programme outcomes and the first Global Stocktake. Achieving tangible benefits on the ground requires meaningfully including subnational governments, workers, and communities in governance of the future Mechanism, as well as ensuring direct access to opportunities that accelerate local action.

Background

The Mechanism presents a significant opportunity to enable just transitions at all levels of government. Subnational governments play a key role in translating high-level national commitments into place-based, people-centered implementation solutions. Being closest to communities, they understand local dynamics and vulnerabilities, using their powers to maximize climate action co-benefits while addressing challenges, especially for disadvantaged groups. Their on-the-ground experience and positive implementation track record make them critical partners for national governments.

Parties are increasingly embracing multilevel just transition strategies. By establishing multilevel just transition commissions or embedding vertical integration into their just transition frameworks, national governments are already ensuring their just transition policies and plans are deeply rooted in local priorities and that they leverage the subnational governments' powers. These collaborative models already demonstrate enhanced policy coherence, greater public spending efficiency, and strengthened public trust. Scaling these proven national best practices and integrating subnational voices within the future Mechanism will serve as a fundamental catalyst for realizing just transitions globally. It is also a direct avenue for operationalizing paragraphs 161 and 162 of the first Global Stocktake, which call for accelerating action through multilevel governance and international cooperation among non-Party stakeholders at subnational and national levels.

The Mechanism represents a landmark opportunity to operationalize whole-of-society just transitions. Integrating the perspectives of those driving implementation and those most impacted is fundamental to crafting solutions that build public trust and achieve lasting impact. By ensuring all constituencies are represented within the governance structure, the Mechanism can uphold and demonstrate practical application of the participatory and inclusive decision-making principles agreed at COP30. Inclusive approaches are not merely an option; they are a prerequisite for realizing the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Key asks

To unlock the potential of a truly just transition, Parties should:

- Make an ambitious and action-oriented Just Transition Mechanism a defining COP31 legacy and cement a just transition as a core pillar of climate action alongside mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage.
- Integrate representatives of the UNFCCC constituencies, including the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency, into the governance structure of the Mechanism to ensure inclusive and participatory decision-making is at its heart.
- Recognize multilevel action as key to advancing just transitions and subnational governments as essential delivery partners, facilitating their direct access to matchmaking, technical assistance, and capacity-building resources.
- Deepen the global understanding of multilevel climate action by proposing a thematic dialogue focused on subnational just transition strategies and collaboration across all levels of government, in 2027, aligning it with the upcoming IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities.

What the LGMA can offer

The LGMA is ready to support Parties and contribute to the Mechanism to best deliver on its future functions by:

- Informing global guidance and national just transition plans by integrating local experiences, data, best practices, and lessons learned into the Mechanism to ensure they are locally responsive and impactful.
- Facilitating active participation of subnational leaders and urban practitioners in peer-to-peer exchanges, communities of practice, or the development of knowledge products, to identify gaps and best practices and to help channel practical assistance where it is most needed.
- Appointing an LGMA representative, on a rotational basis, to represent the Constituency in the future Mechanism, alongside unions, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders.

Proposed text for negotiators

Recognizes the importance of the role of non-Party stakeholders in enabling inclusive and participatory just transition pathways and decides that the mechanism's governance body shall include representatives from the nine constituencies to co-shape the activities under the mechanism together with Parties.

Mobilize and facilitate demand-driven access to, and matching with, technical and financial assistance, capacity-building from existing UNFCCC and non-UNFCCC sources, connecting Parties, subnational governments, and communities with support where it is most needed.

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