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ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

Regions4 Sustainable Development

UCLG United Cities and Local Governments

UNDER 2° Secretariat CLIMATE GROUP

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES (LGMA) CONSTITUENCY

## COP31 Guidance for Negotiators on

# URBAN AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

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**

## Background

Urban and territorial planning and management are critical mechanisms for translating national and global climate commitments into integrated, place-based action. Planning and territorial concepts and policy directions shape land use, public space as a commons, resilient infrastructure, housing, mobility, ecosystems and public investment. This can help integrate mitigation, adaptation, resilience and just transition objectives across cities, regions and territories.

## Key calls to Parties

**1. Recognize urban and territorial planning as a core climate implementation mechanism**

Parties should explicitly recognize integrated urban and territorial planning at local, regional and subnational levels as an enabling framework for implementing the Paris Agreement and translating NDCs, NAPs and other climate commitments into tangible and measurable outcomes on the ground.

**2. Strengthen coherence between national climate commitments and urban and territorial planning systems**

NDCs, NAPs and other national climate strategies should connect with urban, regional and territorial plans and be developed and implemented through effective multilevel governance, enabling integrated urban and territorial solutions that respond to local contexts, climate risks and development priorities.

**3. Enable local and subnational governments to plan and implement integrated climate action**

Parties should empower and strengthen local and subnational governments by building institutional capacity, planning instruments and data systems, improving access to climate finance and supporting cross-sectoral and territorial coordination, so that they can develop and implement integrated territorial approaches addressing mitigation, adaptation, resilience, nature, infrastructure and just transition.

**4. Recognize the role of local Indigenous knowledge, skills and technologies as well as local community groups in advancing sustainable and climate-resilient urban and territorial planning**

Parties should recognize and prioritize the local indigenous knowledge, skills and technologies related to climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience for advancing sustainable urban and territorial planning as well as the knowledge of local community groups, including residents of informal settlements.

**5. Internalize risk and safety audits in settlement planning**

Parties should institutionalize risk and safety audits of human settlements in high-risk and vulnerable localities and make risk-sensitive land use and landscape plans a mandatory component of integrated urban plans. Planning, landscape and building norms, standards, regulations and urban environment management guidelines should be regularly reviewed and updated considering climate risks and strengthening their internalization by creating an adequate enabling framework. Risk-sensitive planning should prioritize in situ

risk reduction and settlement upgrading and ensure that relocation is a measure of last resort, undertaken with the meaningful participation of affected communities and in line with human rights obligations.

In informal settlements, promoting security of tenure across the continuum of land rights is essential for risk-sensitive planning.

**6. Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation and partnership for climate action**

Improve inter-sector, intergovernmental, intergenerational and multi-stakeholder cooperation - including with government, private sector, academia, community groups, environmental organizations and development partners - as an integral part of strengthening local and subnational capabilities and implementing climate actions.

### Proposed text for negotiators

Actively advocate the coordinated approach and action at regional, urban, territorial and local community levels making cities, regions and rural areas an essential and integral part of the solution in fighting and adapting to climate change.

Recognises and facilitates the critical role of integrated urban and territorial planning - at local, regional and subnational levels - in translating national climate commitments into locally place-based appropriate, tangible and implementable action. Encourages Parties to strengthen coherence between NDCs, NAPs and subnational, urban and territorial planning frameworks through inclusive multilevel governance, integrated place-based approaches and strengthened planning and landscape capacities, including risk-sensitive planning for vulnerable urban and rural areas and climate territorial audits of informal settlements as enabling conditions for climate-resilient development.

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