



CITIES & REGIONS
IN THE UNFCCC PROCESS



GLOBAL
TASKFORCE
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS



Local Governments
for Sustainability

ALL-CONSTITUENCY BRIEFING

Staking Our Claim: The LGMA Constituency Position toward COP31

17 September 2026 | Quarterly Briefing

*Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA)
Constituency to the UNFCCC*



LGMA All-Constituency Briefing

ITEM	SPEAKER
1. Welcome remarks	Ariel Dekovic , LGMA Constituency Focal Point
2. Scene-setting from the LGMA Constituency Co-Chairs	Goksen Sahin , ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability Pablo Mariani , UCLG
3. Endorsing the LGMA Position	Ariel Dekovic , LGMA Constituency Focal Point
4. Presentations by the LGMA Working Groups	Various LGMA Working Group co-leads and representatives
5. Questions and Closing	



WELCOME REMARKS

Ariel Dekovic

LGMA Constituency Focal Point

ICLEI Head of Global Communications & Engagement



Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency to the UNFCCC

The voice of local and other subnational governments in the UNFCCC process since 1995



Create a Unified Advocacy Agenda

Provide a **unified global voice** for subnational governments in international climate policy and negotiation spaces, strengthening subnational diplomacy through collective impact



Integrated Advocacy Approach

Combine coordinated expert opinions and proactive targeted diplomacy with public legitimacy and momentum to achieve collective goals



Collaborate with COP Presidencies

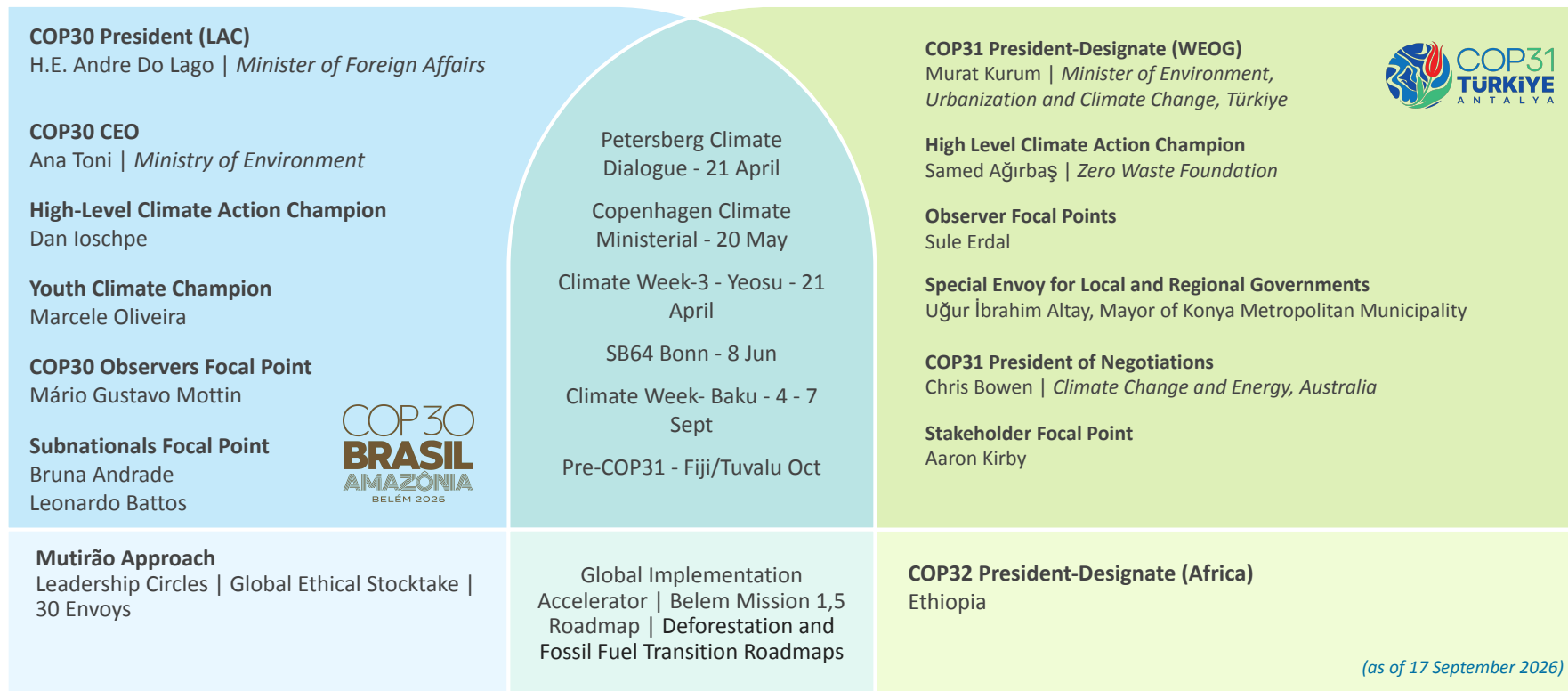
Work with the hosts of COP and UNFCCC to ensure that our Constituency plays a **meaningful role** in each COP



Advance the global movement

Help to **shift global narratives**, showcasing subnational leadership and global political momentum for climate action

Towards COP31 – Who is whom?



(as of 17 September 2026)

SCENE-SETTING WITH THE LGMA STEERING COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS



Where we are with 53 days till COP31 (since Bonn)

LGMA

- **Zero Draft of the LGMA Position** shared and consulted on throughout Bonn Climate Talks and London Climate Week
- Established and convened **12 Working Groups**
- Working Group Leads onboarded
- All Working Groups have developed Workplans, and where appropriate, Guidance Documents for Negotiators
- LGMA submission to the **Belém Mission to 1.5** consultation process
- LRG representatives attending Pre-COP

UNFCCC / COP31 Presidency

- **COP31 Special Envoy** for Local and Regional Governments announced
- Turkish Presidency releases ten priority themes, including Resilient Cities
- Australia (and Türkiye) citing electrification as a priority; still seeing issues with Adaptation Finance and Mitigation WP negotiations
- Announcements anticipated on the Action Agenda at CW NYC, including the Climate Bridge initiative
- COP31 twelve thematic days announced - Cities Day is 12 November (Day 4)



THE LGMA POSITION TOWARDS COP31

Ariel Dekovic

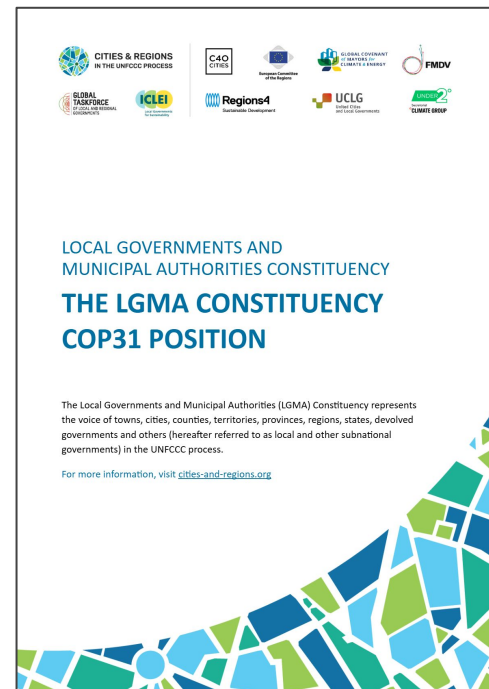
LGMA Constituency Focal Point

ICLEI Head of Global Communications & Engagement



What is the LGMA Position?

- **Our formal position** ahead of COP31, out for consultation with the full Constituency
- Serves as **the basis for our interventions and advocacy** leading up to and at COP31
- Integrated into our **longer-term advocacy strategy towards COP32 and COP33**
- Core message: the Paris Agreement will only be delivered through the engagement of all levels of government
- **Focuses on six asks**, backed by detailed recommendations and proposed negotiating text in negotiators guidance documents
- Will be **open for endorsement** by organizations / networks to showcase the strength/depth of the Constituency



Our Six COP31 Asks (under consultation)

1. Achieve an **energy transition outcome that recognizes and accelerates subnational delivery** on the 1.5°C pathway.
2. Prioritize an ambitious outcome on just transition and meaningfully include **subnational representation in the Belém-Antalya Mechanism for Global Just Transitions (BAM)**
3. Recognize, increase and embed **multilevel climate finance and subnational access** as core implementation mechanisms across key finance processes



Our Six COP31 Asks (under consultation)

4. Continue to ensure the key role of **independent science** in the COP process
5. Create, within an appropriate timeframe, **a systematic, joint space for Parties, and subnational and local governments to discuss barriers to multilevel action**
6. Accelerate the implementation of the **Global Goal on Adaptation and National Adaptation Plans by strengthening their alignment and support to local action**



How we will use the LGMA COP31 Position

- Our unified message into COP31
- Endorsement campaign used to demonstrate strength and unity around the Position
- Used to engage Parties, COP Presidency, CHAMP endorsers, UNFCCC Secretariat, other constituencies, other UN agencies, Global Task Force, Climate Champions
- Basis for engagement and interventions in negotiations tracks
- Anchor for other COP31 platforms, including side event participation, and media outreach
- Negotiators guidance provides back-up for political statements / asks

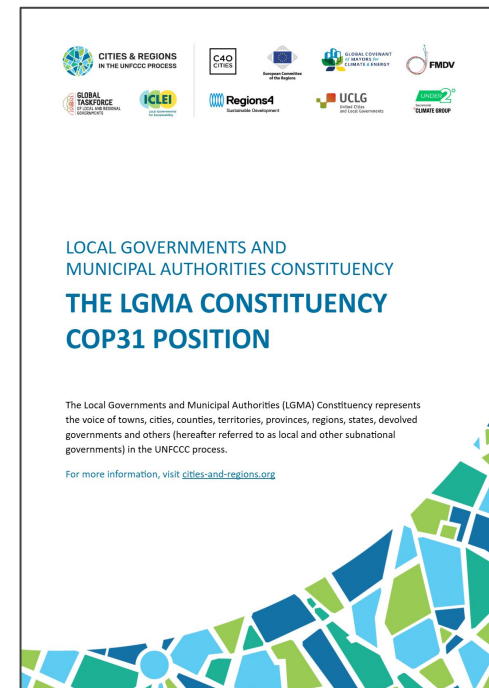


Dorah Marema, Head Municipal Sustainability Portfolio, South African Local Government Association (SALGA) delivering an intervention on behalf of the LGMA at COP30 (Photo courtesy of UNFCCC)

Live now: All-Constituency Consultation on the COP31 Position

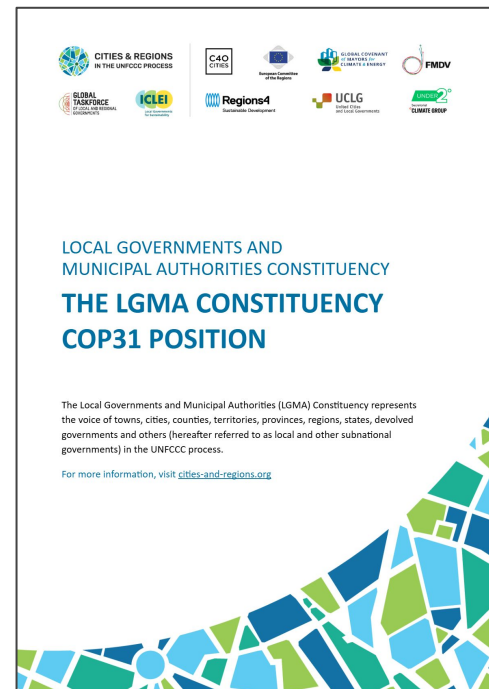
- This is a live draft under review - consultation is open to you
- Consultation window open until 24 September
- Submit inputs through comments in the collaborative documents

[Invitation to join the consultation](#)



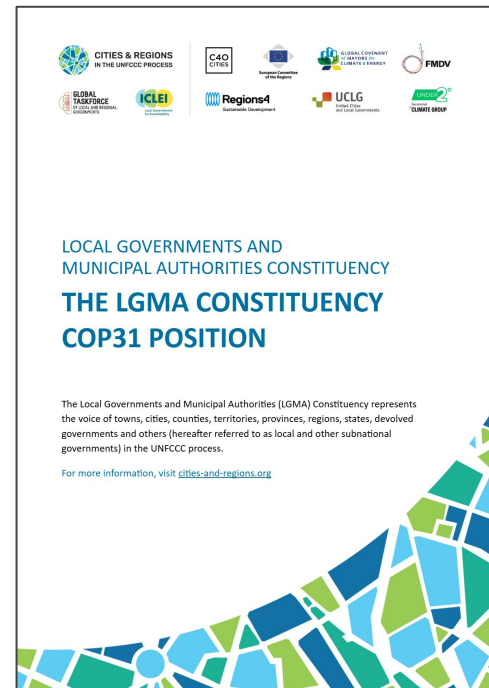
Next Step: Endorsements of the LGMA COP31 Position

- Options:
 - **Endorse directly:** Endorsements are open to networks of subnational/local/regional governments
 - **Advocate for endorsement:** Local & subnational governments who support the Position are asked to make the case to the (national and international) networks that they participate in to endorse
- **Open for endorsement: 28 September - 5 October**
- **Goal: Exceed the 50+ networks we had that endorsed our COP30 Position; representation from all regions**



Next Step: Endorsements of the LGMA COP31 Position

- Endorsement is a simple process of filling out a form and submitting your logo (if desired)
- Endorsing organizations will get access to a toolkit to help land the Position with national governments and other critical actors ahead of and during COP31



Stay tuned to LGMA coordination channels for next steps

LGMA Monthly Community Bulletin

Curated monthly update on LGMA activities, UNFCCC processes, and partner initiatives.



LGMA Whatsapp Group

Unmoderated group chat for the LGMA community. Especially active during climate events. Join using the link in the chat.

Constituency Briefings

Open quarterly briefing on UNFCCC developments and LGMA engagement opportunities. Exact dates and registration details to are posted on [cities-and-regions.org](https://www.cities-and-regions.org).

Next briefing: second half of October to preview COP31 plans

LGMA TOWARDS COP31

CROSS-CUTTING TOPICS



LGMA TOWARDS COP31 - CULTURE WORKING GROUP

Agnès Ruiz

Lead of the LGMA Culture Working Group
United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)



Culture Working Group

HEADLINE ASKS

- Integrate culture and heritage across adaptation, mitigation, climate finance, just transition, and loss and damage.
- Embed cultural rights in climate strategies to reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.

RELEVANCE TO COP31

- Amplify culture and heritage voices throughout the COP31 process.
- Concise culture-climate policy brief with key messages for local and regional governments.
- Mapping COP31 negotiation and advocacy opportunities

ASKS TO THE CONSTITUENCY.

- Advocate for culture and heritage to be addressed in different contexts, instead of as a stand-alone theme.
- Guarantee meaningful participation of different voices in discussions, including cultural actors and Indigenous Peoples.



LGMA TOWARDS COP31 - GENDER EQUITY WORKING GROUP

Cécile Roth

Co-Lead of the LGMA Gender Equity Working Group
United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)



HEADLINE ASKS

- Embed gender equality and intersectionality in the implementation architecture of the Paris Agreement:
looking at who is most vulnerable, as well as at who leads and decides, whose knowledge is valued, who has access to finance, who benefits from climate action while recognizing that local and regional governments are where these commitments become concrete.

RELEVANCE TO COP31

- Connect gender with the implementation architecture with women as knowledge holders and leaders of climate action
- Recognize local care systems and public services as climate infrastructure

ASKS TO THE CONSTITUENCY

- Mainstream gender equality across the LGMA Position and its implementation:
advocate for making multilevel climate action genuinely inclusive
and strengthening gender-responsive finance and accountability
- Support the leadership and mobilization of women mayors and councillors for COP31

LGMA TOWARDS COP31 - URBAN AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Nadine Bitar

Co-Lead of the LGMA Urban and Territorial Planning and Management Working Group

IFLA Middle East



Urban and Territorial Planning and Management Working Group

HEADLINE ASKS

- Recognise urban and territorial planning as a core climate implementation mechanism
- Connect NDCs and NAPs with urban and territorial planning systems
- Enable local and regional governments to plan and implement integrated climate action

RELEVANCE TO COP31

- COP31: moving from climate commitments to implementation in places
- Planning connects mitigation, adaptation, resilience and just transition across cities, regions and territories

ASKS TO THE CONSTITUENCY

- Help strengthen the guidance with practical examples and case studies
- Identify opportunities to bring planning into COP31 advocacy and discussions
- Collaborate across Working Groups on shared implementation priorities



LGMA TOWARDS COP31 - YOUTH WORKING GROUP

Lamis Elkhatieb

Co-Lead of the LGMA Youth Working Group

*International Society of City and Regional Planners
Loss and Damage Youth Coalition*



Youth Working Group

HEADLINE ASKS

- **Local and regional governments cannot claim inclusive implementation without institutionalised youth participation. Not consultations but seats at the table with clear mandates**
1. Intergenerational representation in CHAMP (Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships) follow-ups and NDC 3.0 consultation processes
 2. Visibility for children and youth-led local/subnational climate action within the Action Agenda

RELEVANCE TO COP31

- Connect the children and youth agenda with the implementation focus by positioning young people as partners in multilevel climate action

ASKS TO THE CONSTITUENCY

- CHAMP-endorsing Parties commit to include youth representatives in the implementation and monitoring of their NDC 3.0



LGMA TOWARDS COP31 - ZERO WASTE AND FOOD WORKING GROUP

Chris DiGennaro

Paulie Mora

LGMA Zero Waste and Food Working Group Co-Leads
CityNet Secretariat



Zero Waste and Food Working Group

HEADLINE ASKS.

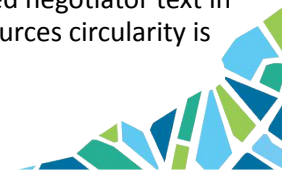
- **Policy coherence:** Bridge production, consumption, and post-consumption waste into a unified circular economy framework while expanding access to healthy, sustainability.
- **Zero Waste Paradigm:** Reduce waste generation across all categories and target organic waste separation at the source.
- **Enabling environment:** Secure operational and capital finance for waste hierarchy infrastructure, source segregation, and capacity building.

RELEVANCE TO COP31.

- **NDCs & Methane Targets:** Integrating municipal organic waste diversion directly into national NDCs to slash methane emissions from open burning and landfills.
- **Negotiator Text Inclusion:** Formalizing COP31 decision text that recognizes subnational circularity and capacity as critical for achieving national climate commitments.
- **Multilevel Governance:** Leveraging LGMA offerings—including technical assistance, scalable pilot models, and capacity building—to embed urban planners into national climate implementation.

ASKS TO THE CONSTITUENCY

- **Submit Attributed Feedback:** Review the draft collaborative document and add your attributed comments before the 24 September 2026 COB CEST consultation deadline.
- **Submit Case Studies & Best Practices:** Share local case studies - such as school meal donation initiatives or aste reduction models to - to strengthen our collective evidence base for negotiators.
- **Champion Text in Negotiation Tracks:** Use the proposed negotiator text in your bilateral engagements to ensure subnational resources circularity is formally recognized at COP31.



LGMA TOWARDS COP31 - MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

Ellen Swan

Co-Lead of the Multilevel Governance Working Group
LGMA Steering Committee

Under2 Coalition

Amelia Dearman

Co-Lead of the Multilevel Governance Working Group
LGMA Steering Committee

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy



HEADLINE ASKS

- **Embed and recognise multilevel cooperative action across COP31 negotiated decisions** on just transition, finance, and the Second Global Stocktake.
- **Deliver multilevel cooperative action through initiatives**, such as the Global Implementation Accelerator, Belem 1.5 and the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships.
- **Establish a multilevel cooperative dialogue for national and subnational governments** to address implementation barriers in response to the IPCC Special Report on Cities and as part of the Second Global Stocktake.

RELEVANCE TO COP31

- This is being framed as an ‘implementation’ COP. A strong outcome at COP31 can deliver implementation of the Paris Agreement by empowering all levels of government to act and collaborate to deliver action.
- **Embed** and **deliver** respond to negotiations on the table.
- Need to start sharing the **establish** ask ahead of key ‘reflection’ milestones (IPCC, GST)

ASKS TO THE CONSTITUENCY.

- Inputs into the draft negotiator paper by 24 Sept
- Identify and share which national governments you can contact before (and during COP31) about these asks.
- Date TBC - join in-person huddle at COP31 towards end of week one.

LGMA TOWARDS COP31 - IPCC COLLABORATION WORKING GROUP

JANE WELSH

Co-Lead of LGMA Constituency Working Group on IPCC Collaboration
International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA)



LGMA TOWARDS COP31

NEGOTIATIONS TOPICS



LGMA TOWARDS COP31 - JUST TRANSITION WORKING GROUP

Marta Stencel

Lead of the LGMA Just Transition Working Group
C40 Cities



Just Transition Working Group

Marta Stencel (C40 Cities)

HEADLINE ASKS

- **Make** an action-oriented Belém-Antalya Mechanism for Global Just Transitions (BAM) a COP31 legacy, cementing a just transition as a pillar of climate action next to mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage.
- **Integrate** UNFCCC constituencies' representatives in the governance structure of the Mechanism to ensure inclusive & participatory decision-making.
- **Recognise** subnational governments as essential delivery partners, facilitating their direct access to matchmaking, technical assistance, and capacity-building.
- **Deepen** the understanding of multilevel climate action by proposing a thematic dialogue on subnational just transitions & collaboration across levels of government, aligning it with the upcoming IPCC Special Report on Climate Change & Cities.

RELEVANCE TO COP31

- Just Transition Work Programme

ASKS TO THE CONSTITUENCY.

- Inputs into the draft paper by 24 Sept
- Identify your participation at COP31
- Support the working group in conducting additional light-touch research ahead of COP31



LGMA TOWARDS COP31 - ADAPTATION WORKING GROUP

Teresa Garcia Perez

Co-lead of LGMA Constituency Working Group on Adaptation
LGMA Steering Committee
Committee of the Regions



HEADLINE ASKS

1. Belém–Addis Vision on Adaptation:

Ensure inclusive representation of subnational and local governments in the technical task force, including expertise on territorial monitoring and data systems, alongside balanced geographic and gender representation.

Establish structured consultations with local and regional government networks, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities to ensure adaptation indicators are relevant and applicable at the local level.

2. Baku Adaptation Roadmap – Means of Implementation:

Establish a dedicated workstream on **finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building** across 11 targets, including dedicated attention to subnational implementation.

3. Adaptation Finance:

Define a baseline, base year, and delivery pathway for the commitment to **triple adaptation finance by 2035**, with simplified, grant-based access for subnational governments and increased non-debt-creating finance.

4. National Adaptation Plans (NAPs):

Strengthen vertical coordination by formally engaging subnational and territorial governments in NAP formulation and implementation, reflecting their contributions in national communications and integrating investment-ready local adaptation projects.

RELEVANCE TO COP31

- Securing implementation of NAPs at subnational level
- Decentralizing climate finance
- Supporting local adaptation plans and action
- Measuring progress that captures local progress towards Global Goal on Adaptation

ASKS TO THE CONSTITUENCY.

- Consulted with Adaptation Working Group - final review this week
- Asked for Adaptation Working Group members to precise their attendance date to COP and negotiations strands can follow
- Share case studies/best practices on adaptation to support our calls
- Identify Parties willing to support our asks and share key messages with them

LGMA TOWARDS COP31 - CLIMATE FINANCE WORKING GROUP

Federico Merino

Co-Lead of the LGMA Climate Finance Working Group

City of Buenos Aires



HEADLINE ASKS

1. Climate Finance Work Programme: LRGs access within multilevel delivery systems

Seek Party-backed treatment of access, preparation and LRG participation under Article 9, including 9.1.

2. 30by30: finance reaching local implementation

At least 30% by 2030 as a political benchmark.
Pilot transparent tracking and local decision rights.

3. Veredas / Xingu: subnational financial capacity

Advance multilevel country platforms, subnational public banks and FinHubs, with fiscal space, local-currency finance, pooled and off-balance sheet mechanisms, guarantees and fiscal reform.

4. Standing Committee on Finance: Climate-fund access and territorial evidence

Seek guidance on access and preparation, and a recurring multilevel finance synthesis or analytical module within SCF reporting.

5. Voluntary Subnational Investment Annexes

Link territorial needs, opportunities (projects), costs/sources and delivery channels and responsibilities to NDCs and NAPs (+ NBSAPs).

6. GCAA: Funded country-owned multilevel partnerships and a Global Compact for Multilevel Finance

Propose a Global Compact for Multilevel Finance, with funded preparation, delivery institutions and milestones.

Position Paper: comments until 24 September - Workplan: drafted.

RELEVANCE TO COP31

Negotiations

- CFWP - CMA8 item 11(g)

Party sponsors and co-chairs: seek LRG access in the 2027 work. Co-chairs' summary note expected in October.

- Veredas / Xingu - CMA8 item 11(f)

Co-chairs and CMA Presidency: feed cases into the annual report and discussion of financing solutions/systems + seek discussion @Xingu (11-13 Oct)

- Standing Committee on Finance and climate funds

SCF members, Party negotiators and fund Boards: pursue access provisions and territorial flows evidence.

(For other tracks, see the draft position paper)

Global Climate Action Agenda

Presidency and Champions: explore voluntary partnerships through the **Climate Implementation Bridge** and **CHAMP** + new potential umbrella space for Multilevel Finance

ASKS TO THE CONSTITUENCY

- ➔ **Brief your government and finance negotiators**, seeking support for the six asks and proposed text.
- ➔ Bring **national and subnational development banks** (professional financial intermediation) into COP31 discussions and partnerships.
- ➔ **Send cases for an annex to co-chairs and negotiators**: finance mechanism, results, access barriers and reforms.

LGMA TOWARDS COP31 - LOSS & DAMAGE WORKING GROUP

Lewis Watson

Co-Lead of the LGMA Loss & Damage Working Group
C40 Cities



**WE WELCOME
YOUR QUESTIONS**



WRAP-UP CALL TO ACTION

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE AHEAD OF COP31 WITH LGMA

**CONSULT ON THE LGMA
COP31 POSITION &
NEGOTIATORS'
GUIDANCE**

**DEADLINE: 24
SEPTEMBER**

**ENDORSE OUR COP31
POSITION OR
ADVOCATE THAT YOUR
NETWORKS ENDORSE IT**

**OPEN FOR ENDORSING:
28 SEPTEMBER - 5
OCTOBER**

**JOIN US FOR OUR COP31
PREVIEW BRIEFING:
SECOND HALF OF
OCTOBER**

**STAY TUNED TO LGMA
CHANNELS**

