



CITIES & REGIONS
IN THE UNFCCC PROCESS



GLOBAL
TASKFORCE
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS



Local Governments
for Sustainability

ALL-CONSTITUENCY BRIEFING

Navigating a Shifting Climate Landscape: The LGMA Constituency at the Bonn Climate Talks

28 May 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. Representative of COP31 Presidency	Dr. Tuğba Dinçbaşı , Director of the COP31 Action Agenda, COP31 Presidency (invited)
3. Representative of COP31 President of Negotiations	Aaron Kirby , Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australia
4. High Level Climate Champion perspective	Neil Khor , Special Advisor to the Climate High Level Champion Designate & Advisor to the President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
5. The LGMA in the first half of 2026	Yunus Arıkan , ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, LGMA Steering Committee (co-chair) Teresa Perez , Committee of the Regions, LGMA Steering Committee (co-chair)



LGMA All-Constituency Briefing

ITEM	SPEAKER
6. Reflections from Santa Marta	Toby Walker , Under2 Coalition, LGMA Steering Committee
7. Urban Content in NDC 3.0: Cities at the Centre	Lea Ranalder & Bernhard Barth , UN-Habitat
8. Climate finance in the LGMA's advocacy strategy	Carlos de Freitas , Executive Director, FMDV, the Global Fund For Cities Development, LGMA Steering Committee; LGMA Working Group on Climate Finance co-lead
9. The moment for just transition and the LGMA	Marta Stencel , LGMA Working Group on Just Transition lead
10. Landing the case for multilevel governance in the UNFCCC process	Amelia Dearman , Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, LGMA Steering Committee
11. Engagement with the LGMA	Ariel Dekovic , LGMA Constituency Focal Point
12. Question and answer session	



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?

<p>COP30 President (LAC) H.E. Andre Do Lago <i>Minister of Foreign Affairs</i></p> <p>COP30 CEO Ana Toni <i>Ministry of Environment</i></p> <p>High-Level Climate Action Champion Dan Ioschpe</p> <p>Youth Climate Champion Marcele Oliveira</p> <p>COP30 Observers Focal Point Mário Gustavo Mottin</p> <p>Subnationals Focal Point Bruna Andrade Leonardo Battos</p> 	<p>Petersberg Climate Dialogue - 21 April</p> <p>Copenhagen Climate Ministerial - 20 May</p> <p>Climate Week-3 - Yeosu - 21 April</p> <p>SB64 Bonn - 8 Jun</p> <p>Climate Week- Baku - 4 - 7 Sept</p> <p>Pre-COP31 - Fiji/Tuvalu Oct</p>	 <p>COP31 President-Designate (WEOG) Murat Kurum <i>Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Türkiye</i></p> <p>High Level Climate Action Champion Samed Ağırbaş <i>Zero Waste Foundation</i></p> <p>Observer Focal Points Prof. Mehmet Emin Birpınar Dr. Tuğba Dinçbaş</p> <p>COP31 President of Negotiations Chris Bowen <i>Climate Change and Energy, Australia</i></p> <p>Youth Climate Action Champion Sally Higgins</p> <p>Stakeholder Focal Point Aaron Kirby</p>
<p>Mutirão Approach Leadership Circles Global Ethical Stocktake 30 Envoys</p>	<p>Global Implementation Accelerator Belem 1,5 Roadmap Deforestation and Fossil Fuel Transition Roadmaps</p>	<p>COP32 President-Designate (Africa) Ethiopia</p> <p><i>(as of 28 May 2026)</i></p>

COP31 INTERVENTIONS



THE LGMA CONSTITUENCY IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2026

Teresa Garcia Perez

Committee of the Regions | LGMA Steering Committee (Q1-Q2 Co-Chair)



LGMA Constituency 2026 Q1-Q2 Accomplishments

GOVERNANCE

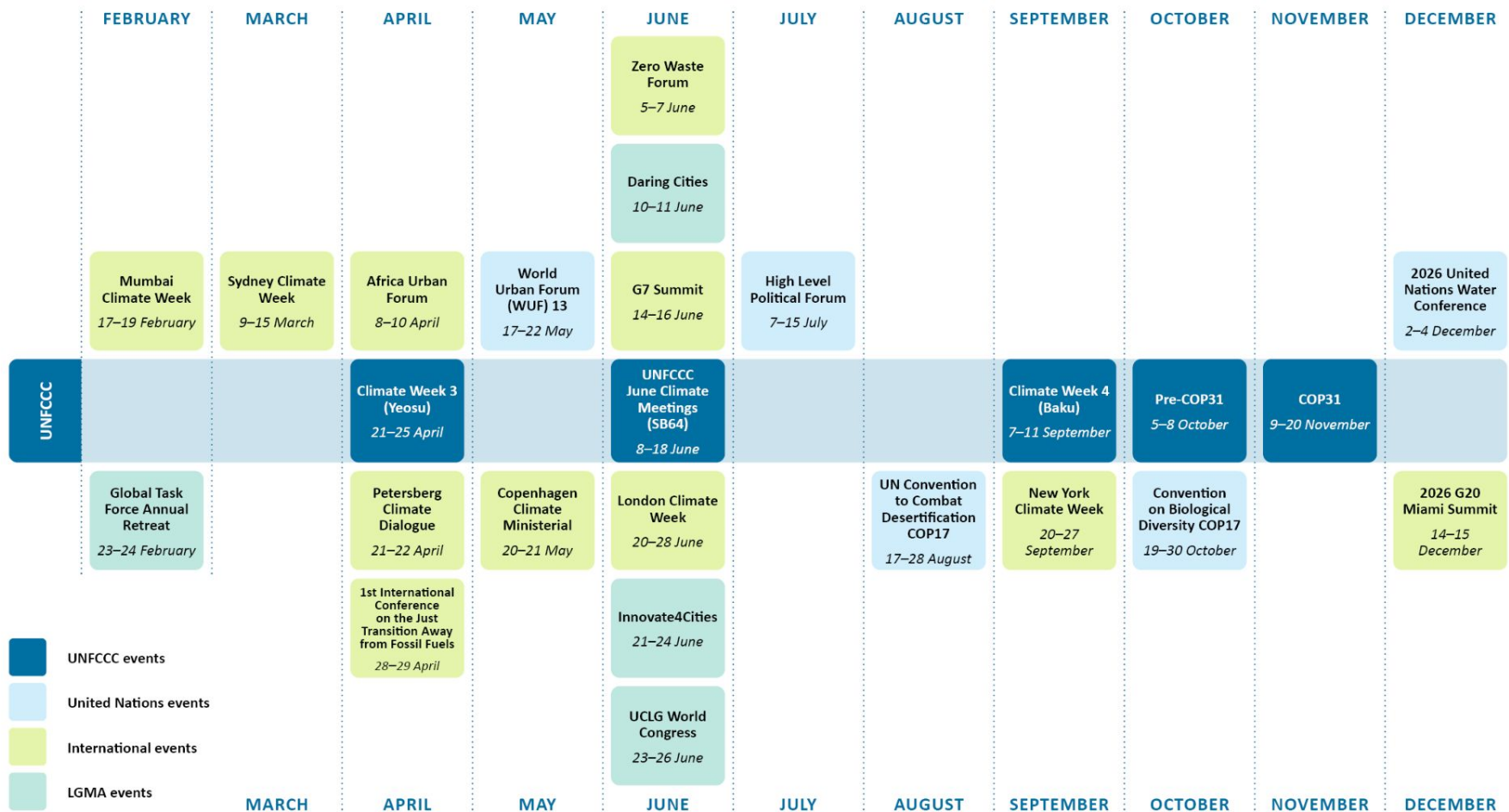
- Established Steering Committee
- Established and convened initial Working Groups
- Initial Working Group Leads onboarded
- Second call for Working Group Expressions of Interest released
- Coordination and communications channels established
- Two all-Constituency Briefings (virtual)

ADVOCACY

- Initial advocacy strategy planning for three-year strategy - priorities and milestones
- Established initial advocacy tracking systems
- Initial LGMA position development under way for priority areas: climate finance, multilevel governance and just transition
- Connected to CHAMP process
- Supported Constituency Members in ad hoc thematic work
- Numerous engagements with COP31 leadership and UNFCCC processes
- Submissions to COP31 Roadmaps



LGMA ADVOCACY CALENDAR 2026



Q1-Q2 LGMA Advocacy Engagements

1. Global Task Force Annual Retreat

- Date/Location: 23-24 February, Barcelona
- Attendance: Ariel Dekovic, CFP; Yunus Arikan, ICLEI (co-chair)
- Outcomes: Alignment on key messages across UN engagements; 100 days of multilateralism campaign introduced

2. UNFCCC Constituency/Observer Strategy Session (plus follow-up virtual meetings)

- Date/Location: 15-16 April, Bonn
- Attendance: Ariel Dekovic, CFP; Yunus Arikan, ICLEI (co-chair)
- Outcomes: 75 action items for CFPs, UNFCCC, Parties to improve relationships with Constituencies and observers; rights-based Constituencies focused on Advocacy Actions (ie. demonstrations at COP); opportunities to deepen our work with department heads in UNFCCC; improve processes on observer-Constituency relationships

3. Petersberg Climate Ministerial

- Date/Location: 21 - 22 April, Berlin
- Attendance: Ariel Dekovic, CFP
- Main takeaways: Focus on energy independence amongst ministers; Australia noted fatigue and fragmentation in the processes; EU wants to focus on means of implementation; Germany highlighted private sector in invited keynotes



Q1-Q2 LGMA Advocacy Engagements

4. Monthly meetings with the COP30 Presidency

- Date/Location: 6 March, 27 April, online
- Attendance across both meetings: Ariel Dekovic, CFP; Yunus Arikan, ICLEI (co-chair); José Fonseca Lavado, CoR (co-chair)
- Main takeaways: COP30 Presidency priorities for Bonn; opportunity to engage on roadmaps after Bonn; COP31 attendance - 20K blue zone/80K green zone

5. Climate Week 3, Yeosu

- Date/Location: 21-25 April, Yeosu
- Attendance: numerous LGMA Partners
- Outcomes: Yeosu Summit, dialogues with COP31 HLC, ACE, UNFCCC mandated events (e.g. MWP, JTWP etc)

6. COP31 Presidency Bilaterals

- Date/Location: 5 May, Ankara, Türkiye
- Attendance: Ariel Dekovic, CFP; Goksen Sahin (ICLEI)
- Outcomes: Introduced the main priority messages for the Constituency and understood their initial action plan.

7. Hatay Resilient Cities Forum

- Date/Location: 8-9 May, Hatay, Türkiye
- Attendance: Gökse Sahin, ICLEI Europe
- Outcomes: Hatay Declaration - *“commit to.....Strengthening multi-level and data-driven governance, empowering local authorities as key actors of implementation”*.



Q1-Q2 LGMA Advocacy Engagements

8. Submissions to COP31 Action Agenda 10 Thematic Priorities

- Date/Location: 11 May, virtual
- Attendance: each/any organization can submit views, final announcement by COP31 HLC on 9 June

9. Copenhagen Climate Ministerial

- Date/Location: 20 - 21 May, Copenhagen
- Attendance: Mikkel Zinck Schrøder, Director Climate Action Planning and Innovation and C40 Copenhagen, C40 (notes forthcoming)

10. Baku Continuity Coalition at WUF13

- Date/Location: 19 May, Baku
- Attendance: Rodrigo Perpetuo, ICLEI Regional Director for South America

11. Upcoming in June

- Zero Waste Forum, Istanbul, 5-7 June
- Civil Voices Festival, Ankara, 5-6 June
- SB64, 8-18 June, Bonn
- Daring Cities, 10-12 June, Bonn
- London Climate Action Week, 21-28 June
- I4C, Nairobi, 21-24 June
- UCLG World Congress, Tangier, 23-26 June



REFLECTIONS FROM SANTA MARTA

Toby Walker

Senior Manager: International Advocacy
Under2 Coalition | LGMA Steering Committee



Reflections from Santa Marta: The start of something new...

- COP30 Presidency Roadmap X Santa Marta
- Subnational Chapter
 - 3 events
 - 11 subnationals: 8 states/regions and 3 cities
 - c.100 governments engaged virtually
 - 60 media outlets covered Under2 govts
- Localised pathways away from dependency
- Logistics favoured our perspective

Minister Irene Vélez, Colombia, closed the Subnational Chapter with: **“multilateralism has too often hidden behind national agendas, avoiding the hard work of implementers. Bringing subnational governments into technical discussions in Santa Marta changes that. It is a step toward bridging international ambition with local delivery.”**



URBAN CONTENT IN NDC 3.0: CITIES AT THE CENTRE

Lea Ranalder

Bernhard Barth

Climate Change and Urban Environment
UN-Habitat





UN-HABITAT

Key Findings

UN-Habitat's flagship report on national climate plans

Lea Ranalder, UN-Habitat



Urban Content in NDC 3.0

Cities at the centre

Prioritizing cities and housing
in national climate plans



For the first time, cities are at the centre of national climate plans

80%

of NDCs 3.0
include
**well-developed
urban content**

- Climate risks
- Identified challenges
- Actions needed
- How to deliver the national climate plans (NDC) *in and with* cities

49%

of NDCs 2.0

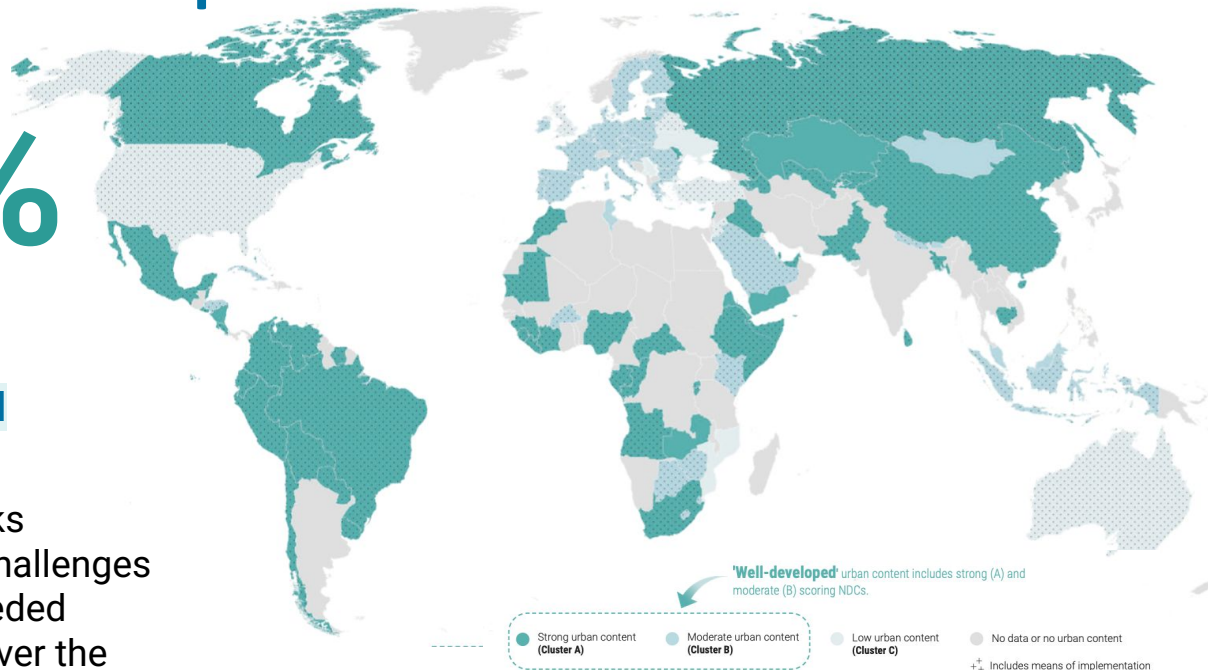


Figure 3. Geographical distribution of urban content in NDCs 3.0

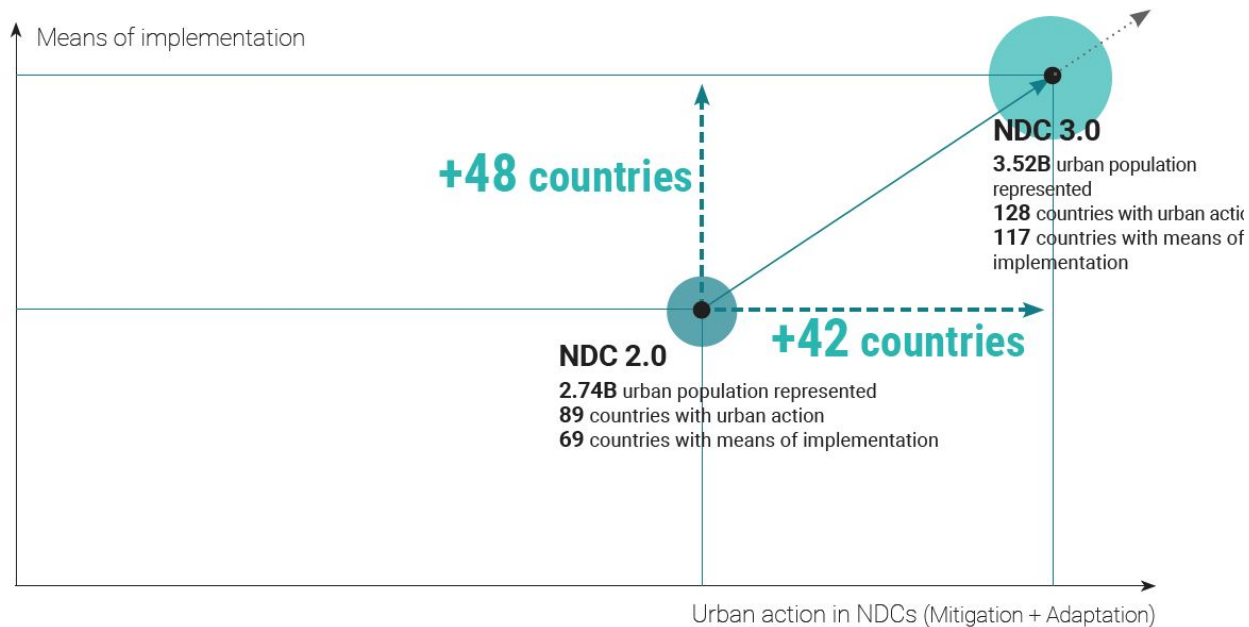
50% of national climate plans make cities a priority for achieving national climate goals

Half

of NDCs 3.0 make cities a priority

across **3+** sectors

such as transport, energy, waste, water and infrastructure



Housing is emerging as a key pathway for improving people's lives

45%

of NDCs 3.0 include housing and informal settlements, particularly in least developed countries

Focusing on making housing

1. Affordable and safe
2. Resilient to disasters
3. Sustainable and low-carbon
4. Housing with better infrastructure: drainage, energy access, transport networks and waste management

NDCs lack: informal settlements upgrade and tenure security



Multilevel governance & capacity-building: one of the most significant shifts in NDC 3.0



Include MLG and
capacity-building



+124%

Increase between
NDCs 2.0
and NDCs 3.0

CLIMATE FEDERALISM



BRAZIL



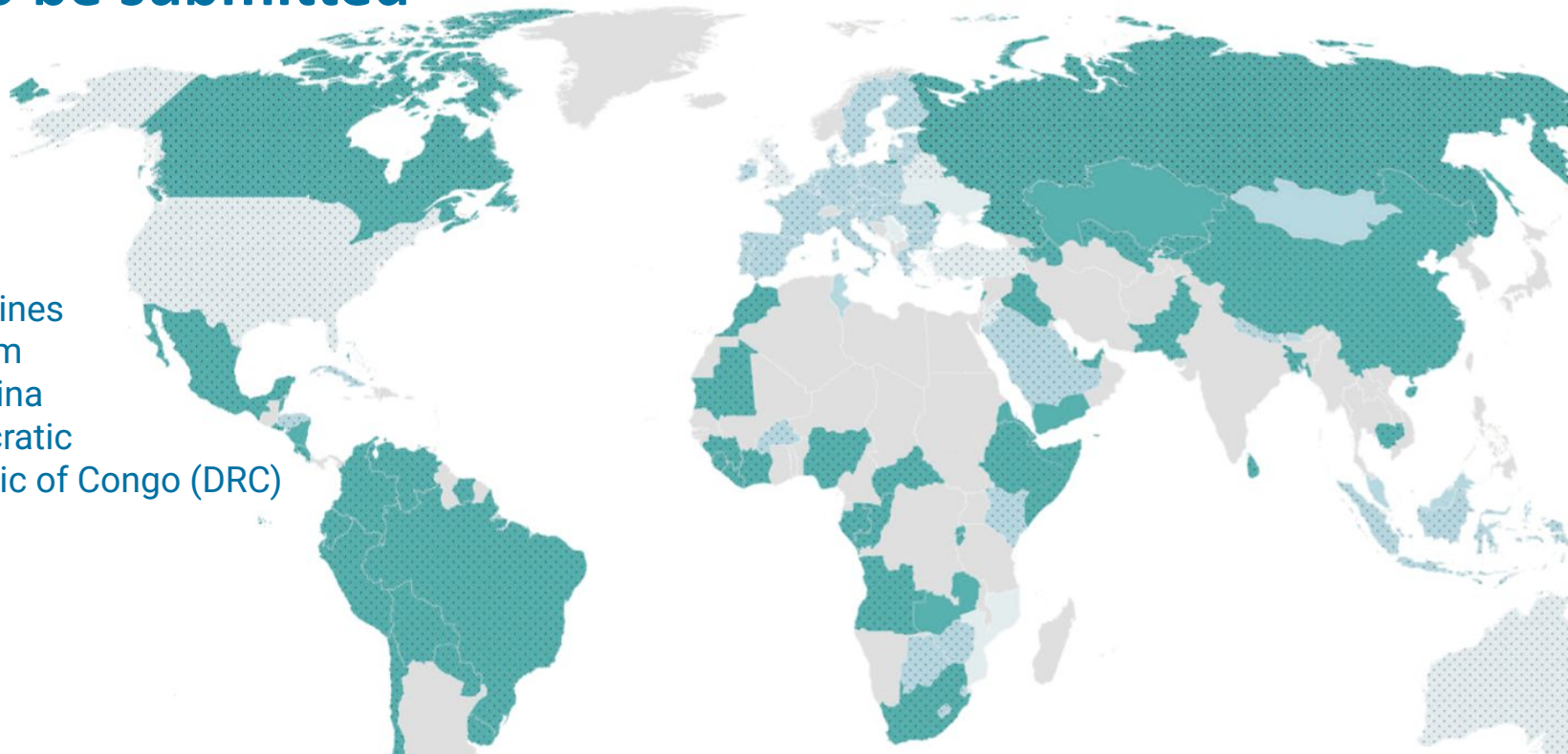
IMPLEMENTATION PATHWAYS

1. Vertical coordination
2. Training & skills development
3. Institutional strengthening and technical assistance
4. Legal and regulatory frameworks
5. Multi-stakeholder partnerships

A KEY FINDING: CHAMP signatories show stronger commitment to multilevel governance and capacity-building

50+ national climate plans still to be submitted

- Egypt
- Philippines
- Vietnam
- Argentina
- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)



LGMA PRIORITIES AT SB64 - CLIMATE FINANCE

Carlos de Freitas

FMDV, the Global Fund For Cities Development

LGMA Steering Committee & Co-Lead of the LGMA Climate Finance Working Group



SB64 Advocacy Plan - Climate Finance

Priority Messages and Engagement for SBs: “Moving from volumes to delivery mechanisms”

- **Continuity on COP30 LGMA positioning:** public finance obligations protected (article 9); a **“delivery architecture” strengthened** (article 2.1 c + Country Platforms for Localizing Finance/Financial Intermediation NDBs/SDBs); territorial access improved (GCF LLCA/Country Platforms Hub); flows tracked where implementation happens (Standing Committee on Finance/Dedicated indicators).
- **Insert multilevel finance** into Climate Finance Work Programme (CFWP - article 9), Veredas Dialogue (Article 2.1 (c)), NCQG implementation & COP31 Action Agenda → **Test an ask for a Synthesis Report on Multilevel Climate Finance** (echoing the Baku to Belem Roadmap) and a **HLC-supported “Compact/Campaign on Multilevel Climate Finance Delivery Package”** ?
- **Use 30x30** (30% of Climate Finance Flows going to subnational level of action by 2030) **as a political benchmark, mobilizing tool, and implementation indicator** through nationally determined and trackable systems → **Test a proposition to have a specific “subnational Investment Annex”** in NDCs/NAPs/NBSAPs?

What we are building on from COP30 (with regards to Position and advocacy)

- **Publication of GCF’s Locally-Led Climate Action (LLCA) Guidelines**
- **COP30 finance asks remain valid:** inclusive country platforms; SDB/PDB support ecosystem; local project preparation capabilities strengthened (FinHubs); local windows (specific mechanisms and funding lines); BTR/SCF/GST tracking; adaptation & L&D access; 30% by 2030 (flows).
- **Latest news: Veredas 2026 workplan** now public (1st meeting 9–10 June; Xingu Finance Talks in Oct. tbc.) and **CFWP co-chairs appointed;** detailed workplan/entry points for subnationals still to confirm.

Our call-to-action for the wider Constituency at the SBs

In-country advocacy; leaders on site; pipeline of projects/data evidence, and access barriers or advancements.



LGMA PRIORITIES AT SB64 - JUST TRANSITION

Marta Stencel

C40 Cities

Lead of the LGMA Just Transition Working Group



SB64 Advocacy Plan - Just Transition

Priority Messages and Engagement for SBs:

- Continue to elevate the critical role of subnational govts as **just transition implementers and partners for national governments**, including in the **Just Transition Mechanism**.
- Explore areas of mutual interest with negotiators and other constituencies, in particular with a focus on **inclusivity of the process and JTM itself**.

What we are building on from COP30 (with regards to Position and advocacy):

- COP30 text omitted subnational governments and whole-of-govt approach, despite Parties' support. Included whole-of-society approach.
- Many Parties highlighted the crucial role of subnationals in 2026 submissions and see a need for their future engagement under JTM.

Our call-to-action for the wider Constituency at the SBs:

- Share insights to support LGMA position refinement
- Lessons learned from WIM/ Santiago Network or Technology Mechanism (others)



LGMA PRIORITIES AT SB64 - MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE

Amelia Dearman

LGMA Constituency Steering Committee

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy



SB64 Advocacy Plan - Multilevel Governance

Priority Messages and Engagement for SBs:

- We want to develop a detailed proposal for the “Multilevel Cooperative Dialogue”, through consultation with subnational and national officials.
- Building shared understanding and ownership will help to deliver a constructive, beneficial mechanism to connect global goals to local realities.
- Learn from existing dialogues on format and function.

What we are building on from COP30 (with regards to Position and advocacy):

- Efforts to secure a dialogue started a conversation but also raised challenges: we need a more detailed proposal, stronger buy-in from allies and negotiator endorsement.

Our call-to-action for the wider Constituency at the SBs: consult with subnational leaders & national contacts about the Dialogue concept (support docs available) and share your ideas in LGMA.



ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Ariel Dekovic

LGMA Constituency Focal Point

ICLEI Head of Global Communications & Engagement



SB64 Planning - Areas of focus for CFP & Steering Committee

1. **LGMA interventions in public (Blue Zone +) spaces**
 - a. Text of interventions (opening and closing)
 - b. Nominations/planning for interventions
 - c. Key messages one-pager for any other interventions
2. **Interactions with Presidency/COP leadership/Action Agenda**
3. **Meetings with Parties**
 - a. Prioritizing, scheduling and tracking meetings
4. **Constituency convenings and information**
 - a. 2-3 in-person briefings/gatherings scheduled throughout
 - b. Daring Cities 2026 LGMA Position Consultation (11 June)
 - c. Working Group consultations if needed
 - d. LGMA Whatsapp Group for those on the ground
 - e. 2(+?) all-Constituency update newsletters during SBs

→ Will you be in Bonn for the Climate Talks?

Please let us know by filling out the form:

[LGMA SB64 Attendance Tracker](#)

→ Link: [LGMA SB64 Agenda file](#)

2026 LGMA Governance and Communications Agenda

	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Governance	Online meeting	Online meeting	Online meeting	Online meeting	SBs / Hybrid	Online meeting		Online meeting	Online meeting	COP31	Online meeting
Briefings		All Constituency Briefing 2026 Planning		All Constituency Briefing SBs Prep					All Constituency Briefing COP31 Prep		All Constituency Briefing COP31 Debrief
Spokespeople									Spokesperson training COP31 Prep		
Comms	LGMA Bulletin	LGMA Bulletin	LGMA Bulletin	LGMA Bulletin	SB Updates (TBC)	LGMA Bulletin	LGMA Bulletin	LGMA Bulletin	LGMA Bulletin	Daily COP Updates	LGMA Bulletin



LGMA Working Groups

- Provide **thematic expertise** and coordination to advance LGMA advocacy in UNFCCC and global climate processes
- **Contribute to unified advocacy positions** and technical inputs for LGMA positions/publications
- **Support year-round engagement and submissions** to UNFCCC thematic climate processes
- **Strengthen collaboration** across LGMA organizations and thematic experts
- **Ensure credible, informed, and coordinated inputs** into climate negotiations
- Operate under the **strategic guidance** of the LGMA Steering Committee



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)

LGMA Working Groups 2026 - 2027

NOW CONVENED

- **Adaptation**
 - Heloise Chicou, Regions4
 - Teresa Garcia Perez, European Committee of the Regions
- **Climate Finance**
 - Carlos de Freitas, FMDV - Global Fund for Cities Development
 - Esteban Tomé Fuentes, Buenos Aires City Government
- **Communications**
 - Rachel Levesque, Government of Québec
 - Vanessa Power, Under2 Coalition
 - Matteo Bizzotto, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
- **Just Transition**
 - Marta Stencel, C40 Cities
- **Loss & Damage**
 - Leadership to be confirmed

NOW OPEN FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- Culture
- Gender Equity
- IPCC Special Report on Cities & Climate Change
- Multilevel Governance
- Urban and Territorial Planning and Management
- Youth
- Zero Waste and Food

→ Deadline for Expressions of Interest for co-leads of new Working Groups: **Friday 5 June**

IPCC SR-Cities Second-Order Draft Review

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is inviting experts worldwide to serve as **Expert Reviewers of the Second-Order Draft of the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities**.
- **Registration to be a reviewer is open until 26 June 2026**, with the review period open from 8 May to 3 July 2026.
- Interested experts, practitioners and policymakers can register to participate in the review, offering a unique opportunity to engage with this first-of-its-kind assessment that explores the role of urban areas in climate action.
- This review process plays a critical role in ensuring scientific rigor, diverse perspectives, and real-world relevance to the urgent challenges urban areas and communities face in a rapidly changing climate.



LGMA Coordination Channels

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.

**WE WELCOME
YOUR QUESTIONS**

