



CITIES & REGIONS
IN THE UNFCCC PROCESS



GLOBAL
TASKFORCE
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS



Local Governments
for Sustainability

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES (LGMA) CONSTITUENCY ONLINE BRIEFING

A year without precedent: what to expect at COP31

29 October 2026 | 10:00 CET / 16:00 CET

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



LGMA All-Constituency Briefing

Welcome, housekeeping, agenda and scene-setting

Ariel Dekovic, LGMA Constituency Focal Point

Representative of COP31 Presidency

Samet Yilanci, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Urbanisation of Türkiye

Representative of COP31 President of Negotiations

Aaron Kirby, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australia

Special Envoy for Local and Regional Governments

Uğur İbrahim Altay, COP31 Local and Regional Governments Envoy and UCLG President

Preview of the CHAMP Initiative's engagement at COP31

Dr. Ulf Jäckel, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN), CHAMP Steering Committee co-chair, Germany - (AM)

Ambassador Antonio da Costa e Silva, Brazil Ministry of Cities, CHAMP Steering Committee co-chair, Brazil - (PM)



LGMA All-Constituency Briefing

Negotiations Tracks Round Robin with LGMA Steering Committee members and Working Group leads

- Adaptation
- Climate Finance
- Multilevel Governance Outcomes
- Just Transition

The vision for the Action Agenda, High Level Champion and climate-resilient cities

Nathan Cooper, Policy and Engagement Department, Climate Champions (AM)

Neil Khor, Special Advisor to the Climate High Level Champion Designate & Advisor to the President of the United Nations Habitat Assembly (PM)

NDCs 3.0 and the Urbanization Climate Ministerial put cities at the heart of climate strategy

Lea Renalder, Climate Change and Urban Environment, UN-Habitat

LGMA COP31 Engagement Plan

Ariel Dekovic, Constituency Focal Point



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

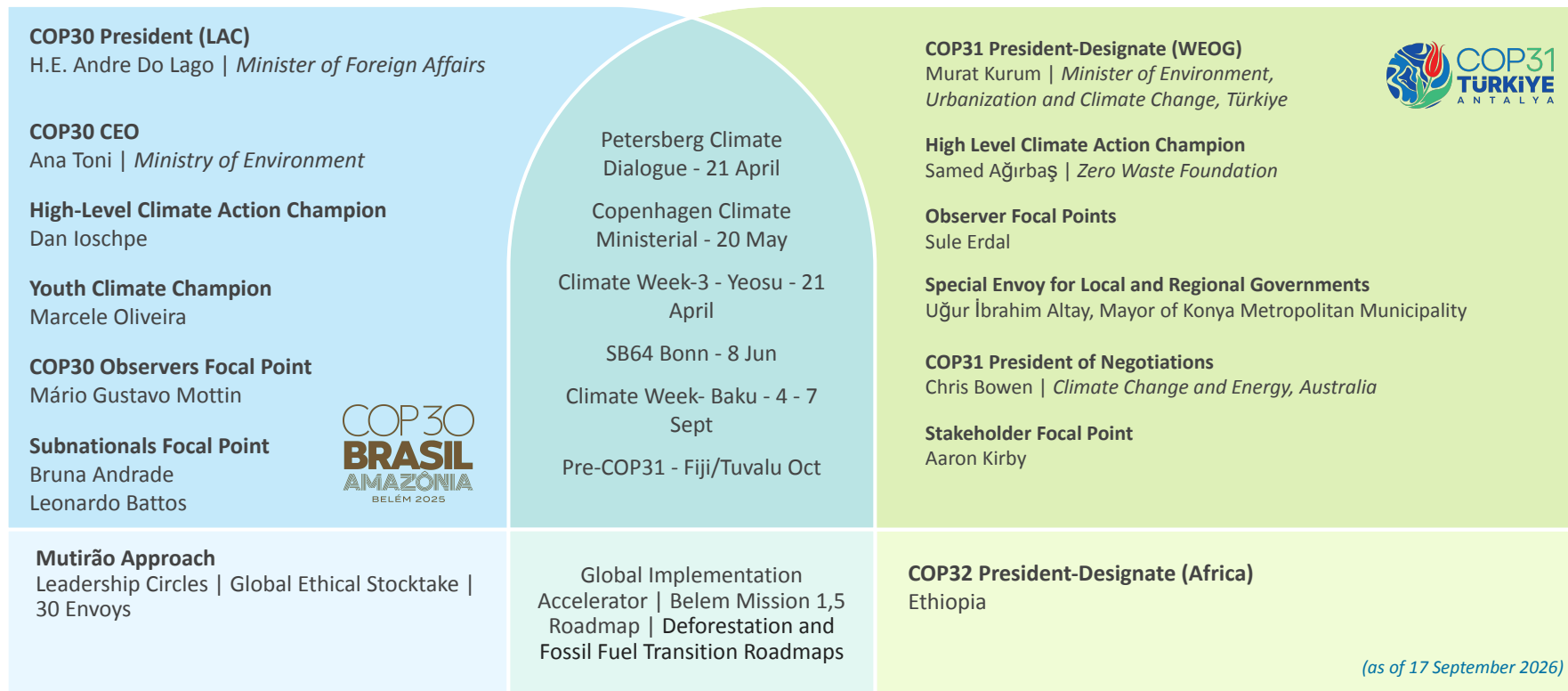
Work with the hosts of COP and UNFCCC to ensure that our Constituency plays a **meaningful role** in each COP



Advance the global movement

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

Towards COP31 – Who is whom?



Where we are with 13 days till COP31 (since our last Briefing)

Negotiating package published

Constituency Interventions

Observer Forum on Electrification

Observer Forum on Climate Finance

Observer Dialogue at Pre-COP in Fiji - delivered by the Mr. Muni Reddy, CEO of Nadi Town Council

Constituency Actions

Access to Finance Declaration and Workplan on SIDS/LDCs - endorsed

Participation in the development of the Observer Dialogue with the COP31 Presidency



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

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

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**



LGMA COP31 Position

Available in English and:

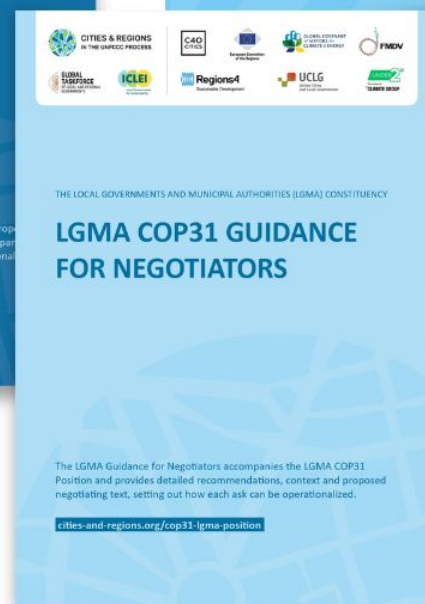
- Turkish
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- German
- French
- Japanese

LGMA COP31 Guidance for Negotiators

On the following topics:

- Adaptation
- Just transition
- Children & youth
- Loss & damage
- Climate finance
- Multilevel governance outcomes
- Culture
- Urban & territorial planning
- Gender equity
- Zero waste & food

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



Endorsements of the LGMA COP31 Position

- **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
- **STILL OPEN FOR ENDORSEMENT UNTIL 2 NOVEMBER**



CITIES & REGIONS
IN THE UNFCCC PROCESS

C40
CITIES

European Committee
of the Regions

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE
CLIMATE & ENERGY

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ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS

ICLEI
Local Governments
for Sustainability

Regions4
Sustainable Development

UCLG
Union of Local and
Regional Governments

CLIMATE GROUP

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES (LGMA) CONSTITUENCY

THE LGMA CONSTITUENCY COP31 POSITION

The Paris Agreement will only be delivered through the engagement of all levels of government

The LGMA provides detailed recommendations, context and proposed negotiating text in our Guidance for Negotiators, which accompanies this COP31 Position and sets out how each ask can be operationalized.

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

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: LGMA Daily Briefings at COP31!
Online: Post-COP debrief

LGMA TOWARDS COP31

PRIORITY NEGOTIATIONS TOPICS



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



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.

- Identify and share which national governments you can contact before (and during COP31) about these asks.
- Saturday 14th Nov, 3.30pm local time - in-person huddle at COP31 towards end of week one.

4 Structuring Pillars for Subnational Financing Systems

1. Design Inclusive Multilevel Country Platforms

Co-design national financing systems with local and regional governments, with dedicated access arrangements and meaningful decision-making roles.

2. Support Financial Intermediation / National & Subnational Public Development Banks

Equip domestic banks to channel affordable finance to territorial priorities, with adequate mandates, capital, instruments and risk-sharing.

3. Fund Lasting Project Preparation and Financial Capacity / « FinHubs-Deal Teams »

Fund permanent domestic expertise (Financial Structuring Hubs) to design and connect territorial portfolios with suitable finance and sustainable public services.

4. Foster Regulatory Innovation and Fiscal Flexibility

Enable predictable transfers, own-source revenues and territorial carbon-revenue sharing, and pilot fiscal and prudential reforms through regulatory sandboxes for pooled bonds, guarantees and SPVs. Use resilience-linked debt clauses and adaptation swaps with demonstrable net benefits, transparent liabilities and enforceable public-value conditions on PPPs and public risk-sharing.

Action Agenda - A Global Compact for Subnational Climate Finance

A proposed voluntary umbrella framework within the Global Climate Action Agenda for all initiatives aiming to support subnational finance architectures & access to funding and financing

1. Secure the COP31 Presidency' support to a Global Compact for Subnational Climate Finance with the Climate High-Level Champions and the LGMA.

The Compact would connect existing GCAA initiatives, including the Sustainable Urban Resilience Financing Facility (SURFF), CHAMP, the Climate Implementation Bridge and the Global Implementation Accelerator, around reciprocal commitments to strengthen subnational financial architectures co-designed by national and subnational governments. Following the launch, participating partners should develop partnerships with clear institutional responsibilities, local decision-making rights, funded preparation and domestic financial expertise, financing contributions and public 12–24-month delivery milestones.

- **Creating a Shared & Visible Space for Political & Operational Commitments**

Successive Champions would convene the Compact with the Presidency, LGMA and public development-bank networks, while participating GCA initiatives (including CHAMP, SURFF, etc.) would report on their advancements and retain their mandates and leadership.

- **Fostering Country Partnerships with Financing Commitments**

National and subnational governments shaping priorities together would find expert support through funded preparation, domestic intermediaries and tailored contributions from financing partners and existing initiatives.

- **Supporting Continuity and Accountable Delivery**

Partners & initiatives would define their contributions and review delivery through existing GCAA channels, tracing resources, decision-making roles and benefits.

Negotiations - The Changes LGMA is Seeking

- 1. Secure Party-agreed modalities for the Climate Finance Work Programme and explicit treatment of subnational governments' access within multilevel delivery systems.** *Under Article 9, including Article 9.1, address adequacy and predictability of provision, concessionality, affordability, simplified access, domestic public intermediation, quality preparation capacity and appropriate financial instruments. Relevant thematic work should meaningfully involve subnational governments.*
- 2. Use Veredas and the Xingu Finance Talks to advance nationally determined solutions that improve access, fiscal capacity and financing conditions for subnational governments.** *Country Platforms for Localizing Finance, national and subnational public development banks, FinHubs and intermediary organizations, supported over the long term, should connect permanent preparation capacity with affordable local-currency, pooled and appropriately structured off-balance-sheet finance, supported by guarantees and fair risk-sharing. These arrangements should support low-emission and climate-resilient development, deliver demonstrable public value and remain complementary to Article 9.*
- 3. Strengthen subnational access through COP31 guidance to climate funds and improve evidence on territorial delivery through the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF).** *Relevant guidance should support domestic public intermediation and funded preparation. Support [a recurring Global Synthesis Report on Multilevel Climate Finance and Subnational Investment Needs and Opportunities](#), or an equivalent module within mandated SCF outputs, beginning with scoped and resourced methodological and evidence contributions to future reporting, NCQG follow-up and the second Global Stocktake.*

4. Encourage voluntary *Subnational Investment Annexes* in nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs), co-developed with subnational governments *and supported by technical and financial assistance. These should identify priority territorial programs, preparation and lifecycle costs, financing sources, delivery responsibilities, domestic intermediaries, enabling reforms and tracking indicators. They should connect national priorities with subnational climate plans and draw on provisions under the Convention on Biological Diversity that already support subnational biodiversity planning, resource allocation and links to national biodiversity finance plans.*

5. Use NCQG follow-up to strengthen accountability for territorial delivery and advance the LGMA's 30by30 political benchmark. *By 2030, at least 30% of climate finance should effectively reach subnational implementation, directly or through nationally determined multilevel systems. It entails piloting transparent methodologies with willing countries and institutions, identifying financing quality, subnational government-led delivery and decision-making roles and safeguards against double counting.*

Across these priorities, financing arrangements should protect local fiscal sustainability, strengthen domestic institutions and deliver fair public benefits. The LGMA also calls for increased grant-based adaptation and Loss and Damage resources through operationalization of the adaptation-finance tripling call with a transparent baseline and delivery pathway; completion of the Adaptation Fund's Paris Agreement transition while strengthening locally led access; accessible Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) readiness and recovery finance.

These arrangements should strengthen the role of subnational governments as strategic partners of national governments in raising climate ambition, identifying sustainable ways to expand fiscal space, unlocking new sources of climate finance and building stronger domestic multilevel financial systems.

Just Transition Working Group

Marta Stencel (C40 Cities)

HEADLINE ASKS

- **Make** an ambitious & action-oriented Just Transition Mechanism a COP31 legacy & cement a just transition as a core pillar of climate action
- **Recognise** subnational governments as essential partners for implementation of just transitions, and recognise multilevel approaches as key to delivery.
- **Include** the LGMA & other constituencies in the JTM's core structure to align global and national frameworks with local realities
- **Enable** direct access for subnational governments to technical assistance, capacity building, and resources through the JTM matchmaking platform.
- **Enhance** understanding of subnational just transitions & multilevel action, such as by hosting a dedicated thematic dialogue next year through the JTWP Dialogues or future JTM work plans.

RELEVANCE TO COP31

- Just Transition Work Programme & Mechanism

COP31 SCENARIOS

- **Ambitious/unlikely/risky:** Full package (purpose, scope, functions, governance, modalities, relationship with JTWP, stakeholder participation)
- **Likely:** Establish now & finalise at COP 32 (basic structures, functions, high-level governance principles w/non-Party referenced)
- **Bad/inconclusive:** COP 31 agrees to continue working on the Mechanism but leaves establishment or key elements unresolved.

LGMA TOWARDS COP31

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT



COP31 Engagement: Negotiations/Meetings Tracking

Priority tracks

1. Adaptation (all tracks)
2. Climate Finance (all tracks)
3. Just Transition
4. Second Global Stocktake

- Collaborative note-taking
- Intel sharing

Other topics

5. Action Agenda (all topics)
6. Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)
7. Belem Mission to 1.5
8. Carbon markets and non-market approaches
9. Climate Implementation Bridge (Action Agenda)
10. COP30 Presidency Roadmap - Transition Away from Fossil Fuels
11. COP30 Presidency Roadmap - Ending deforestation
12. Gender
13. Global Implementation Accelerator (Action Agenda)
14. Loss & Damage
15. Mitigation Work Programme
16. Oceans and Coasts



COP31 Engagement: Moments

Confirmed

- Press briefing (5 November)
- Press conference (9 November - time TBC)
- Daily briefings - Meeting room + Multilevel Action Pavilion
- Live from COP videos (daily)
- Opening statement release (9 November)
- Press conference (9 November)
- Multilevel Action Pavilion HL opening (11 November)
- Urbanization Ministerial (12 November)
- Closing statement release (TBD)

In planning

- Position handoff to Australia (TBD)
- Position handoff to HLC (TBD)



COP31 Engagement: Tools

- Attendance tracker form
- LGMA agenda of priority UNFCCC COP31 meetings
- LGMA collaborative notes
- Whatsapp Group on the ground
- Daily briefings - Meeting room + Multilevel Action Pavilion
- LGMA Daily Bulletin
- The Multilevel Action Pavilion - co-convened by LGMA, Zero Waste Foundation, Turkiye, and with Organizing Partner Bloomberg Philanthropies



COP31 Engagement: Communications

Contribute to the COP31 LGMA Daily Mailer (beginning on 9 November)

Here's the type of content we are looking for (see [last year's daily mailers](#)):

- Analysis of on-going negotiations related to the LGMA COP31 Position
- News, blogs, press article/interview or video covering key points for the LGMA
- Launch of your organization's new report, publication or partnership at COP31 or relating to COP31

How to submit your content: Simply use the [LGMA call for content](#) that we already use for the LGMA monthly bulletins. If any of your content has an embargo or launch date, please indicate that in the "notes/comments" section.

COP31 Engagement: Communications

LGMA COP31 Opening press statement (to be released 5 Nov)

- The press release summarizes our LGMA COP31 Position, the endorsements and other key milestones for our Constituency at COP31 (see our [COP30 press release](#)).
- All LGMA members are invited to submit quotes from your organization's leadership and your organization's boilerplate information until 3 November.

LGMA COP31 Outcomes Statement (to be released 1 day after the final outcomes)

- Statement summarizes our position on the outcome of COP31.
- We will seek inputs both towards the statement and also direct quotes from partner organizations (you can see our [COP30 outcome statement](#) here).
- We will alert the Constituency when we begin crafting this outcome statement and invite your inputs.



CALL TO ACTION

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE AHEAD OF COP31 WITH LGMA

**DOWNLOAD LGMA
COP31 POSITION &
NEGOTIATORS'
GUIDANCE**

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

**OPEN FOR
ENDORSEMENT UNTIL 2
NOVEMBER**

**LET US KNOW YOUR
PLANS AT COP31**

**FILL OUT THE
ATTENDANCE TRACKER**



**WE WELCOME
YOUR QUESTIONS**

