

PRESS RELEASE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT OF UN HABITAT ASSEMBLY

UNHA PRESIDENT LAUNCHES KL CALL TO ACTION FOR COP30, CALLS FOR NEW URBAN AGENDA TO BE INTEGRATED IN UNFCCC PROCESS

KUALA LUMPUR (August 14) — President of United Nations Habitat Assembly (UNHA) Mr Nga Kor Ming has called on member states to work together in realising the ASEAN Vision 2045 of building a resilient, innovative, dynamic, people-centred ASEAN.

He also calls for the New Urban Agenda (NUA) to be integrated into the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, ensuring that environmental policies are not only adopted at the global level but also effectively implemented by local governments and communities on the ground.

"We must ensure that no one and no place is left behind in our urbanising world," he said in his closing remarks at the Joint Closing Ceremony of ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Forum (ASUF), ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF), and the Meeting of Governors and Mayors of ASEAN Capitals (MGMAC) 2025.

"To further amplify this mission, I am thrilled to launch the KL Call to Action for COP30. This initiative will serve as the central engine driving our collective effort, and I urge everyone to not just participate, but to actively lead and champion this cause," he added.

The key outcomes from the events are as follows:

- a. ASUF strengthened its alignment with ASEAN's key framework including the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy and the ASEAN Community Vision 2045;
- b. AGMF adopted shared commitments including promoting greater inclusion of women and youth in urban governance;
- c. MGMAC adopted the Joint Communique of MGMAC 2025 and agreed to establish a secretariat in Jakarta, while calling for greater investment at the local level from international institutions such as the United Nations and the World Bank.

In addition, the Kuala Lumpur Sustainable Declaration on Localising the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 has been submitted as an official input to the 47th ASEAN Leaders' Summit, which will be held in October this year.

"These milestones are not just agreements on paper — they are a promise of stronger regional cooperation and a shared resolve to build cities that are resilient, sustainable, and people-centred," he added.

On the sidelines of ASUF, AGMF and MGMAC, Nga held a bilateral meeting with COP30 Special Envoy for Cities Mr. Philip Yang on Malaysia's dual role as ASEAN Chair and UNHA President on championing sustainable urbanisation.

He reiterated Malaysia's commitment to:

- a. Convening national editions of urban and climate ministerials throughout Urban October, with outcomes presented to the COP30 Ministerial in Belém;
- b. Encouraging local and subnational governments to hold Town Hall COPs as bottom-up platforms for connecting climate action at all levels;
- c. Actively engaging in Axis-4 of the COP30 Action Agenda on cities, and supporting the two-week-long Cities and Regions Hub at COP30;
- d. Creating a network of Urban Ministers for Climate to sustain global collaboration beyond COP30;
- e. Requesting a mechanism for including multi-level climate action in accordance with the principles of the New Urban Agenda, in UNFCCC deliberations, supported by the UNFCCC Secretariat and the LGMA constituency.

"Malaysia will continue to mobilise its 156 local governments where 83 have initiated Voluntary Local Reviews to align climate policies with local development plans, budgeting, and on-the-ground projects, reinforcing its position as a global best practice in multi-level governance.

The ASUF, AGMF, and MGMAC, held from 10 to 15 August 2025 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, drew 9,120 participants from 66 countries, including 300 governors and mayors from across the ASEAN region. These events were made possible with the support of strategic partners and sponsors, including PR1MA, Airbnb, Gamuda, and Prasarana.

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