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COALITION FOR HIGH AMBITION MULTILEVEL PARTNERSHIPS (CHAMP)

Information package

May 2024



INTRODUCTION

COP28 elevated the role of cities and subnational governments in addressing climate change and mobilized unprecedented subnational participation. More than 500 mayors, governors and local leaders attended COP28, including at the first-ever Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS), the second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change as well as across the two-week program of the dedicated Multilevel Action and Urbanization Pavilion. In total, nearly \$500 million was mobilised toward local climate action, underscoring the need to finance collaborative, inclusive and ambitious multilevel climate action across a range of sectors including buildings, transport, waste, energy, nature and water.

At LCAS, the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action was launched by the COP28 Presidency in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies. 72 countries have endorsed CHAMP to date, pledging to enhance cooperation with subnational governments (e.g. cities, towns, states, regions) in planning, financing, implementing, and monitoring climate plans and strategies, and better integrating subnational mitigation and adaptation actions within the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). CHAMP seeks to unlock further emissions reductions and resilience through concerted action across all levels of government, ensuring that the next round of national pledges reflect greater ambition and inclusivity.

CHAMP is supported by the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency to the UNFCCC and is representative of the “inclusive, multi-level, gender-responsive, and cooperative action” called for by the outcome of the first Global Stocktake.¹

As of May 2024, 72 national governments, representing 34% of the global population, 58% of global GDP, and 36% of global emissions, have joined the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) and endorsed the CHAMP pledge.

¹ FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/16/Add.1, Para 161

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CHAMP PLEDGE

The full pledge of the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), endorsed by 72 national governments and launched at COP28, is provided below.

Recalling the Paris Agreement's recognition of the importance of engagement of all levels of government, and subsequent decisions by the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on multilevel engagement, including the creation of the roles of the High Level Champions at COP21 and their establishment of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action at COP22, the introduction of the Talanoa Dialogue process at COP23, and the COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact,

Reaffirming that collaborative and science-based climate action coordinated between national and subnational governments - including cities, towns, states and regions - is critical and creates additional potential for emissions reduction, building resilience, and avoiding severe climate impacts,

Acknowledging respective national legislations, regulations, and circumstances, and the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement as the primary intergovernmental fora for the global response to climate change,

Encouraged by the work and contributions of non-Party stakeholders, including cities, towns, states and regions, to the Paris Agreement process since its adoption, the inaugural convening of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP27 and its second iteration at COP28, and the work of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency to the UNFCCC,

We, the countries identified below, gathered at COP28, pledge to:

Join the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action in order to enhance cooperation, where applicable and appropriate, with our subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of climate strategies, including but not limited to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Long Term Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), to maximise climate action, including through coalitions such as the NDC Partnership, with a view towards collectively pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and increase adaptation and resilience.

To achieve these objectives, we will, in nationally determined ways:

1. Consult

Consult with our respective subnational governments, as appropriate and applicable, to determine the avenues for subnational action to contribute to national mitigation and adaptation commitments and strategies, and their subsequent implementation and monitoring.

2. Collaborate

Work collaboratively with our respective subnational governments to unlock and realise mitigation and adaptation action opportunities at the subnational level by involving them, as appropriate and applicable, in the review, design, enhancement, consolidation and implementation of our national commitments and strategies.

3. NDC 2025

Create inclusive institutional and informal processes to enable subnational governments to contribute to further enhancing NDCs, where applicable, ahead of COP30 in 2025, and, where available and appropriate, integrate local and territorial baseline information, targets and actions for emissions mitigation and adaptation across all sectors and industries.

4. NDC Investment

Include relevant subnational government projects (encompassing mitigation and adaptation) in climate-related investment priorities (including those directly and indirectly related to NDCs) and strive to help them secure the resources necessary from public and private financial institutions, as applicable, to begin or scale up implementation, including but not limited to supporting project preparation, pipeline development, aggregation of projects, new financial instruments or policy reform at local, national, regional and global levels as needed.

5. Voluntary review

Undertake, as appropriate and applicable, regular, and inclusive country-led reviews of progress at national and subnational level around the implementation of CHAMP commitments through existing processes, which may include the Voluntary National Review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a view to ensure that national policy frameworks support and, where appropriate, can accelerate ambitious multilevel climate action.

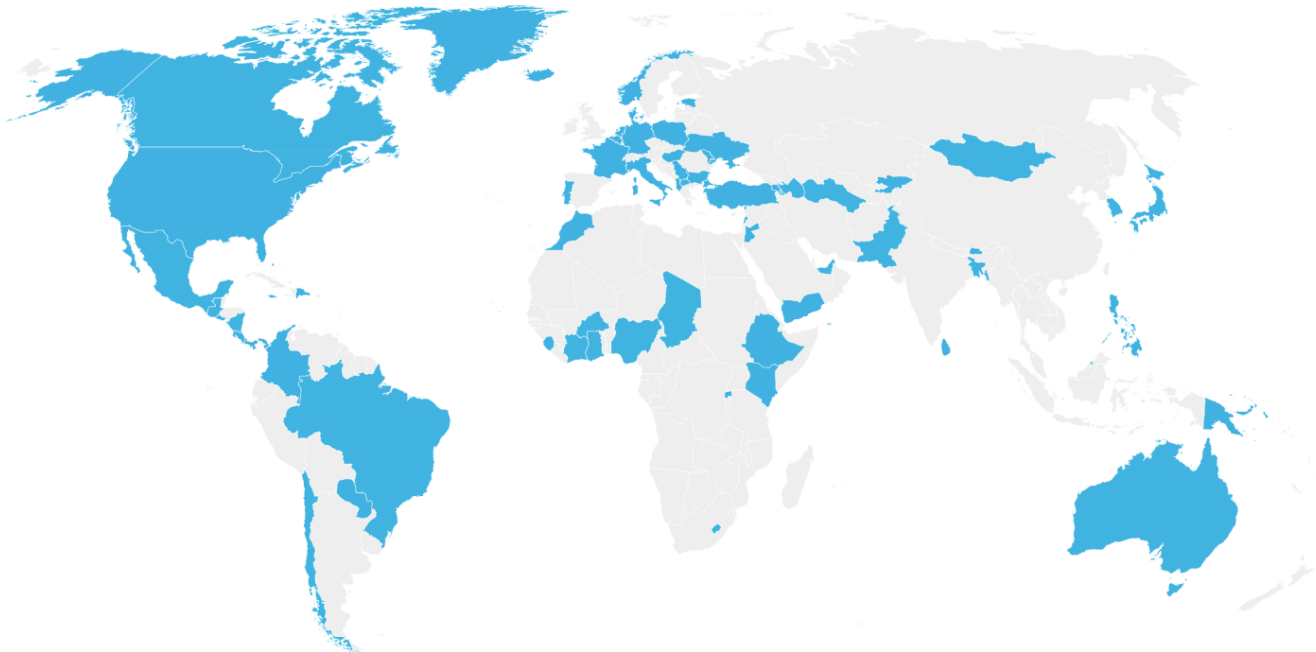
6. High Level Dialogue

Meet, amongst the endorsers of CHAMP, with representative subnational leaders, at a global High Level Political Dialogue on Multilevel Climate Action in the lead up to both COP29 and COP30 to share good practices and lessons learned in implementing the CHAMP commitments, to be compiled into a summary shared, among others, as a contribution to the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change.

ENDORSERS



UN-HABITAT



**Countries who endorsed CHAMP (Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships) as of 14 February 2024
Based on data from SDU.Resilience, to be published by UN-Habitat and UNDP in the forthcoming report "Urban
Climate Action - The Urban Content of the NDCs 2023"
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map
do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.*

1. Republic of Albania
2. Principality of Andorra
3. Antigua and Barbuda
4. Republic of Armenia
5. Commonwealth of Australia
6. Republic of Azerbaijan
7. Commonwealth of the Bahamas
8. People's Republic of Bangladesh
9. Kingdom of Belgium
10. Kingdom of Bhutan
11. Federative Republic of Brazil
12. Negara Brunei Darussalam
13. Republic of Bulgaria
14. Burkina Faso
15. Republic of Cabo Verde
16. Canada
17. Republic of Chad
18. Republic of Chile
19. Republic of Colombia
20. Republic of Costa Rica
21. Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
22. Kingdom of Denmark
23. Dominican Republic
24. Republic of El Salvador
25. Republic of Estonia
26. Kingdom of Eswatini
27. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
28. Republic of France
29. Federal Republic of Germany
30. Republic of Ghana
31. Republic of Guatemala
32. Hungary
33. Iceland
34. Republic of Italy
35. Jamaica
36. Japan
37. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
38. Republic of Kenya
39. Republic of Kiribati
40. Republic of Korea
41. Kyrgyz Republic
42. Republic of Lebanon
43. Kingdom of Lesotho
44. United Mexican States
45. Republic of Moldova
46. Mongolia
47. Kingdom of Morocco
48. Kingdom of the Netherlands
49. Republic of Nicaragua
50. Federal Republic of Nigeria
51. Republic of North Macedonia
52. Kingdom of Norway
53. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
54. Republic of Palau
55. Republic of Panama
56. Independent State of Papua New Guinea
57. Republic of Paraguay
58. Republic of the Philippines
59. Republic of Poland
60. Portuguese Republic
61. Republic of Rwanda
62. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
63. Republic of Serbia
64. Republic of Seychelles
65. Republic of Sierra Leone
66. Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
67. Republic of Türkiye
68. Turkmenistan
69. Ukraine
70. United Arab Emirates
71. United States of America
72. Republic of Yemen

ANNOTATIONS

The following annotations do not form part of the CHAMP pledge. They were originally included in the invitation to endorse CHAMP sent to all Parties by the COP28 Presidency to provide clarity to national governments on their commitments under CHAMP.

2. Collaborate

"involving [our subnational governments], where appropriate, in the review, design, enhancement, consolidation and implementation of our national commitments and strategies"

National governments that have endorsed CHAMP have the sole and exclusive authority to decide how they intend to deliver their CHAMP commitments, including total discretion on how to institutionally involve subnational governments in consultation and how to harvest their contributions for inclusion, where and when appropriate, into relevant national commitments and strategies.

3. NDC 2025

"Create inclusive institutional and informal processes to enable subnational governments to contribute to further enhancing NDCs, where applicable, ahead of COP30 in 2025"

National governments have total discretion to determine the time, place, and manner for subnational inputs, as well as control over how to review and evaluate these submissions. National governments wishing to request support or guidance in how to implement their commitment may place these requests with CHAMP's strategic partner, the NDC Partnership.

4. NDC Investment

"help [subnational governments] secure the resources necessary from public and private financial institutions, as applicable, to begin or scale up implementation (...)"

With this pledge, national governments do not commit to funding directly all local subnational projects that they identify and include as part of their NDC investment plan. However national governments commit to enhancing access for subnational governments to sustainable financing for their climate actions and projects, as applicable. CHAMP endorsers have total discretion over how to enhance access to finance, according to national legislation, regulations, and circumstances.

One way in which national governments can support subnational governments to access financing, is to support the development of local climate projects through the concept of a National Accelerator for Local Climate Finance. The goal of such a mechanism is to create a national pipeline of investable local climate projects on a national-level platform, accessible to subnational governments of all sizes, that would support the preparation and aggregation of subnational climate projects, tailor climate investment vehicles to national and local policy environments and improve policy enabling environments for scaling local climate finance.

5. Voluntary review

“Undertake, as appropriate and applicable, regular and inclusive country-led reviews of progress (...) which may include the Voluntary National Review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development...”

Reporting on progress against the CHAMP commitments may be highlighted as part of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) particularly in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) #11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities,” #13 “Climate Action” and #17 “Partnerships for the Goals.” These VNR reports can also be communicated to CHAMP partners. Countries may also consider including this information within the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) mandated by the Paris Agreement, the first of which are due by the end of 2024.

6. High Level Dialogue

“Meet, amongst the endorsers of CHAMP, with representative subnational leaders at a global High-Level Political Dialogue on Multilevel Climate Action in the lead up to both COP29 and COP30(...”

A technical team is in place to deliver critical secretarial functions for CHAMP, including the organisation of the High-Level Political Dialogue on Multilevel Climate Action. The High-Level Dialogue will be the opportunity for CHAMP endorsers to meet to discuss progress and barriers to the CHAMP commitment implementation. A summary of good practice and lessons learned produced by the High-Level Political Dialogue will inform future iterations of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change.

NEXT STEPS AND IMPLEMENTATION

What immediate actions can CHAMP endorsers take to meet their commitment?

Actions	CHAMP Commitments					
	Consult	Collaborate	NDC 2025	NDC Investment	Voluntary Review	High-Level Dialogue
Conduct consultations with subnational governments on NDC 3.0 and other climate plans and policies, independently or in collaboration with partners. ²	●	●	●			
Benchmark level of urban content in NDC against findings of the latest UN-Habitat analysis and connect with networks active in the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience, as well as the wider LGMA constituency to identify opportunities to enhance this through the NDC 3.0 process.	●	●	●			
Reflect subnational climate action in NDC investment and implementation planning. Support is available through the NDC Partnership, including through the Global Call for 3.0 NDCs and LT-LEDS, and the upcoming NDC 3.0 Navigator, an online tool to help countries raise the ambition and strengthen implementation of their new NDCs to be submitted in 2025. ³	●	●	●	●		
Identify new or existing multilateral and bilateral funds that can be made available to subnational actors to begin or scale up implementation and work with MDBs and IFIs to enhance and expand the availability of such funds.				●		
Publish or otherwise make transparent national processes and mechanisms for consultation and collaboration with subnational governments, including through the Voluntary National Review (VNR) submissions under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, or within the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) first due to the UNFCCC by 31 December 2024.					●	
Share progress, challenges, and best practices at the CHAMP High-Level Dialogue and associated events in the lead up to COP29, and champion the CHAMP agenda at related international fora.						●

2 Including CHAMP supporting organizations: C40 Cities, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the NDC Partnership, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Under2 Coalition, WRI - Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, and UN-Habitat. However, please note that CHAMP activity is not the exclusive purview of the afore-mentioned partners - governments may collaborate with any organization(s) of their choosing.

3 CHAMP endorsers who are not yet members of the NDC Partnership are encouraged to join to enable CHAMP partners to streamline offers of support and assistance. Please reach out to supportunit@ndcpartnership.org for further information on membership and accessing NDCP support.

What does successful implementation of CHAMP look like?

Endorsers may consider the below examples of actions and initiatives illustrative of “good practice” in multilevel climate governance in their own preparations for CHAMP implementation.

1. Consult

Completing, as appropriate and applicable, **a consultation with their subnational governments** to determine ways that subnational governments can contribute to national mitigation and adaptation commitments and strategies, and their subsequent implementation and monitoring;

Examples:

Towards COP28, 26 Local stocktakes (or mini-COPs), including 13 in developing countries, were organised to ensure cross-cutting engagement between tiers of government, as well as with civil society, academia, and the private sector to address opportunities on local commitments, NDCs and climate justice. Continuing such consultations towards COP30 can help identify municipal projects that require funding for ensuring integration into NDC investment pipeline as per the CHAMP commitment to support sourcing of finance for subnational activities that, in turn, support implementation and achievement of NDC targets across sectors. (Source: <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/wp-content/uploads/stocktake-4climateemergency-outcomes-report.pdf>, 2023)

In Kenya, with the support of the GIZ NDC Assist project, the national government held comprehensive consultations with subnational governments and a wide range of other stakeholders, which aimed to inform Kenya's updated NDC by capturing the progress made and challenges presented by sector-specific targets in the previous NDC. These consultations also intended to establish a multi-level governance and stakeholder coordination process to execute the sector-specific actions within the new NDC (Source: [NDC Update Kenya: Enhanced reduction target, Changing Transport / GIZ, 2023](#))

In France, following a comprehensive stakeholder debate with local and regional actors, the French national government adopted an Energy Transition Law in 2015 to accelerate low-emission development and established a permanent stakeholder committee, the National Council for the Ecological Transition (CTNE), to support the development of consistent national, regional and local climate and energy strategies. The CTNE, which consists of stakeholders from the state, members of parliament, municipalities, companies, trade unions and environmental associations, is involved in the elaboration and review of key strategic plans under the Energy Transition Law and must be consulted when any piece of environmental or sustainability legislation is drafted - thus enabling for a more inclusive climate governance framework. (Source: [IDDRI, 2018](#))

2. Collaborate

Involving subnational governments, as appropriate and applicable, in the review, design, enhancement, consolidation, and implementation of their national commitments and strategies to unlock and realise mitigation and adaptation action opportunities at the subnational level;

Examples:

In Chile, as part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change 2017-2022, the Chilean National Government established Regional Committees on Climate Change (CORECCs) to advance climate change management in the regions by strengthening institutional structures and providing access to tools and information for decision making, including regional greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories. The CORECCs are led by a regional authority (governor) and work across public entities (including regional councils and municipalities), private sectors, citizens, NGOs and academia with the aim to promote and facilitate the elaboration and implementation of climate-related policies, plans and actions based on local and regional needs and abilities, and to align these with national policies, including the NDC. The Chilean government also plans to develop Regional Climate Action Plans in four administrative regions, as a pilot project (Source: [NDCP Good Practice database](#)).

In the Philippines, in 2009, the national government passed a Climate Change Act and established the Climate Change Committee which combined several agencies with overlapping jurisdictions and roles into one agency that could be the sole policymaking authority on climate actions. This Climate Change Committee reports directly to the President, which elevates climate action to the highest levels of government, but also works directly with local leaders to Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAP) (Source: [The Multilevel Climate Action Guide for Decision Makers Decision](#), GCoM, 2023)

In Costa Rica, in 2017 with support from the IKI-funded Vertically Integrated Climate Protection Program (VICLIM - also active in Georgia, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa), the Municipal Contribution to the National Low Emission Strategy Program was published (Programa País Carbono Neutralidad Categoría Cantonal, PPCNC), allowing municipalities to be certified for their progress in climate change. Six municipalities created greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories by the end of 2018, thus obtaining the first certificate within the PPCNC and identifying mitigation measures. The project has supported and now accompanies them in the development of their climate protection plans. (Source: [IKI - International Climate Initiative](#))

In Morocco, the Ministries of Territorial planning and Interior have signed a multilateral agreement with UCLG, UN-Habitat, and UCLG Africa to devise a National Strategy for Intermediary Cities across the country to implement the 2030 Agenda, with climate and territorial resilience as one of the core focus areas. Consultation and engagement with local and regional level governments is taking place all across the country to help outline the agreement's design, strategy, and enable them to contribute to the decision-making process. (Source: [Chefchaouen Declaration-Charter of the Intermediary Cities of the World](#), UCLG, 2018)

3. NDC 2025

Creating inclusive institutional and informal processes to enable subnational governments to contribute to further enhancing NDCs, where applicable, ahead of COP30 in 2025, and, where available and appropriate, integrating local and territorial baseline information, targets and actions for emissions mitigation and adaptation across all sectors and industries.

Examples:

In Nigeria, as part of the NDC Partnership Climate Action Enhancement, the extensive subnational commitments and actions were set, aided by analysis of state-specific vulnerabilities, with a focus on livelihoods and resilience. Through this assessment, subnational officers received capacity building support to reduce local community vulnerability and strengthen resilience. (Source: [NDC Partnership](#))

In Australia, the Climate Change Act 2022 made the Climate Change Authority responsible for delivering an official recommendation of the emissions targets and target sectors to be incorporated into Australia's next NDC (due in 2025) to the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy and Water. As part of this NDC advisory process, the Climate Change Authority is holding a legally mandated public consultation - an inclusive and transparent process to which subnational governments can contribute - and is also aggregating the local targets and actions of Australia's state and territory governments. (Source: [Climate Change Authority Annual Progress Report 2023](#) & [2024 Consultation Paper](#))

In Canada, the process to enhance the country's first NDC was informed by engagement with provinces, territories, industry, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and the public. As a result, the Canadian submission includes an annex that outlines provincial and territorial climate action as well as an annex that outlines Indigenous climate action. (Source: [Canada's First NDC - updated submission](#))

4. NDC Investment

Including relevant subnational government projects (encompassing mitigation and adaptation) in their climate-related investment priorities (including those directly and indirectly related to NDCs), and supporting their subnational governments to secure the resources necessary from public and private financial institutions, as applicable, to begin or scale up implementation, including but not limited to supporting project preparation, pipeline development, aggregation of projects, new financial instruments or policy reform at local, national, regional and global levels as needed;

Examples:

Colombia's 2020 NDC Update emphasizes the involvement of regional and local governments for the "formulation and implementation in the medium and long-term, of comprehensive climate change plans that foster competitive and sustainable cities" (Colombian National Government, 2015 p.7) and lists 89 measures falling under the responsibility of local and regional entities (alongside the 32 measures to be implemented at national level). Local and regional governments have defined adaptation and mitigation targets related to the NDC goals and according to their capabilities. The national government is exploring how to accelerate regional climate plans, reflect their efforts in the revised NDC, and embed NDC targets into regional budgets. (Source: [Colombia's 2020 NDC Update](#))

In Italy, four regions (Emilia Romagna, Sicily, Apulia, and Marche) have established financing schemes – via grants and vouchers proportional to population size used to bring in technical expertise – to support the development of municipal sustainable energy and climate action plans (SECAPs). So far, around EUR 8.6 million has been committed through these four regions collectively. Furthermore, those regions offer technical support through capacity building activities, guidance materials and tools useful both for SECAP development and monitoring (e.g. climate and energy regional observatories). (Source: [Covenant of Mayors - Europe, 2023](#))

5. Voluntary review

Undertaking, as appropriate and applicable, regular and inclusive country-led reviews of progress, at national and subnational level, around the implementation of CHAMP commitments through existing processes, which may include the Voluntary National Review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a view to ensuring that national policy frameworks support and, where appropriate, accelerate ambitious multilevel climate action;

Examples:

Brazil conducted a Voluntary National Review (VNR) of its progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) in 2017 and included a dedicated section for assessing the initiatives subnational governments across Brazil are taking with the support of all three levels of government to align planning instruments of local governments with the Sustainable Development Goals and targets.

CHAMP endorsers may also consider encouraging or including in their Voluntary National Reviews, the contribution from their subnational governments also called: "Voluntary Local Reviews." New York was the first city to ever produce a local version of the VNR for their SDG agenda (in 2018) and Buenos Aires is the first city to produce one annually. Since then, 174 cities have produced Voluntary Local Review (Source: [Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews. Volume 2: Towards a new generation of VLRs: Exploring the local-national link](#), UN Habitat & UCLG, 2021)

6. High Level Dialogue

Meeting, amongst the endorsers of CHAMP, with representative subnational leaders at the mandated global High-Level Political Dialogue on Multilevel Climate Action in the lead up to both COP29 and COP30 to share good practices and lessons learned in implementing the CHAMP commitments to be compiled into a summary and shared, among others, as a contribution to the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change.

As an indication of successful implementation of CHAMP, endorsing national governments may be interested to review their urban content using the UN Habitat methodology which identified 'strong', 'moderate', 'low' or 'no' urban content in the current NDCs, and strive to increase their score. The original research from UN Habitat was published in 2022: "[Urban Climate Action - The Urban Content of the NDCs: Global review 2022](#)," with a technical brief update released in 2024 as well: "[Local Action for Global Goals: An Opportunity for Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions](#)."

RESOURCES

What existing resources are available to provide guidance for how to review, design, develop, and implement ambitious multilevel NDCs?

NDC Partnership Thematic Call on LT-LEDS and NDC Alignment, Update, and Enhancement

The Thematic Call is the NDC Partnership's initiative for countries to align, update and enhance their Long-term Low Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The NDC Partnership's Thematic Call leverages resources from its members to support countries in preparing robust NDCs for ahead of COP30 in 2025 and developing resilient LT-LEDS, in line with the recommendations of the Paris Agreement. The Thematic Call allows countries to respond to calls for increased climate action ambition outlined in the Glasgow Climate Pact. The Thematic Call was launched at COP27 in 2022 and runs until 2025.

NDC Partnership Knowledge Portal

The NDC Partnership's Knowledge Portal helps countries to accelerate climate action by providing quick and easy access to data, tools, guidance, good practice, and funding opportunities. It comprises modules such as the Climate Toolbox, the Climate Funds Explorer and the Climate Finance Bulletin.

- **Climate toolbox:** The Climate Toolbox draws together tools, guidance, platforms, and advisory support from leading institutions in a searchable database to help countries plan and implement their NDCs.
- **Climate Funds Explorer:** The Climate Funds Explorer is a searchable database of open climate funding opportunities and related support for your climate-relevant activities.
- **Climate Finance Bulletin:** The Climate Finance Bulletin is a searchable repository of open, time-bound climate funding opportunities and calls for proposals for countries and implementing partners.

The Multilevel Climate Action Guide for Decision Makers Decision (Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy)

This resource, developed by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy in partnership with WRI Ross Center for Cities, highlights key recommendations that can catalyse governance and action across levels of government. The guide offers a wealth of examples of best practices, demonstrating that alignment of planning and implementation of national, regional, and local policies on climate and sustainability can usher progress towards a resilient and low-emission future.

NDC Ambition Handbook (C40 Cities)

This C40 NDC Ambition Handbook may be a useful resource to CHAMP-endorsing countries during the NDC development phase to identify the most impactful urban actions that should be implemented across key urban sectors including energy, transport, buildings, waste, construction and urban planning. This resource can complement a wider planning process that includes consultation and collaboration with subnational governments when selecting, prioritising and defining which urban climate actions (mitigation and adaptation) to incorporate into their NDC.

Multi-level Governance Atlas **(WRI Ross Center for Cities)**

The Multi-Level Governance Atlas, produced by WRI in partnership with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, showcases over 100 examples of multi-level governance at work. Examples from 52 countries around the world are categorized according to different enabling conditions and mapped with links to find further information. Despite differing country and city contexts, the Atlas demonstrates that there are many lessons to be learned from existing initiatives and that through collaboration, we can move together at pace towards a resilient and net-zero future.

Enhancing NDCs through multilevel partnerships **(WRI Ross Center for Cities)***

This resource aims to guide national governments, in particular the 72 CHAMP endorsers, on how to enhance their NDCs through cooperation with subnational governments. It will highlight the importance of collaborating with subnational governments in developing and implementing the NDC. It will also include recommendations on realising the CHAMP principles - from setting up institutional structures for multilevel dialogues, to reflecting the contribution of subnational governments in the NDC, identifying and overcoming barriers and establishing impactful multilevel partnerships.

Collaborative multi-level governance for climate resilient development (ICLEI)

Online course (funded by the IDRC) to enable national and sub-national officials to understand and implement collaborative, multi-level governance for improved, whole-of-society climate resilience actions when executing mandates or activities that relate to supporting both sub-national and national priorities for transformative, climate resilient development.

Meeting climate commitments. Transforming cities and nations (ICLEI)

This brochure provides 13 tips for creating a robust NDC, and a step-by-step guide on how to integrate subnational government into the NDC process, based on research undertaken by the IDRC-funded [Improved Municipal Planning in African CiTies](#) - IMPACT - project.

A Guide to Collaborative Multi-level Governance for Climate Resilient Development (ICLEI)

Guide on the cross-scale and cross-discipline relationships necessary for inclusive governance and decision-making that builds local level climate resilience (derived from the IDRC-funded [Improved Municipal Planning in African Cities](#) - IMPACT - project).

Urban Climate Review: the urban content of the NDC review (UN-Habitat, Southern Denmark University, UNESCO)

This report presents a global analysis of the urban content of NDCs, including consideration of the many challenges and opportunities in the response to the climate crisis in the context of the urban setting. An updated version of this report will be published in mid-2024.

Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions through Urban Climate Action (UN-Habitat)

This guide provides practical opportunities for incorporating urban climate action and human settlement issues into the current NDC revision and enhancement process, drawing on existing knowledge and networks.

*Coming soon: November 2024

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Which national governments have endorsed CHAMP?

As of May 2024, 72 national governments have joined the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) and endorsed the CHAMP pledge as stated above. See full list page 6-7.

Endorsements of CHAMP from these national governments have generally been received by the country's Ministry of Environment, Climate, Cities or Urban Development etc. or any other authoritative representative from the national government.

We encourage you to make your country's endorsement of CHAMP known to all relevant ministries and departments relevant to its implementation.

What does endorsing CHAMP mean?

National governments who endorse CHAMP signal their support for the objective of CHAMP "(...)to enhance cooperation, where applicable and appropriate, with our subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of climate strategies (...)" - and specifically to take action according to the six pledge clauses.

There are no expectations of financial contribution to CHAMP from the CHAMP endorsers.

How was CHAMP developed?

CHAMP is an initiative led by the COP28 Presidency, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and developed with the support and inputs from local and regional government and urban stakeholders including: C40 Cities, the Global Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the NDC Partnership, the University of Maryland, United Cities and Local Governments, Under2 Coalition, WRI - Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, and UN-Habitat.

A contact group of national governments participated in consultations led by the COP28 Presidency throughout 2023 and advised the Presidency on the scope and language of the CHAMP pledge.

The CHAMP coalition was announced at the Local Climate Action Summit at COP28 in Dubai on 2 December 2023.

What support is available for national governments to deliver their CHAMP commitments?

National governments wishing to request support or guidance on implementing their commitment can direct these requests through the NDC Partnership.⁴

The NDC Partnership is a strategic partner in delivering CHAMP and serves to strengthen multilevel governance by aligning national government requests for support with responses by CHAMP non-governmental technical partners (C40, the Global Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, High Level Climate Champions, UN Habitat, Under2 Coalition, UCLG, University of Maryland, and WRI - Ross Center, among others) that can organise support when appropriate and available.

Through CHAMP, partners are working to develop and give greater visibility to project pipelines and investment opportunities coming forward from endorsing countries.

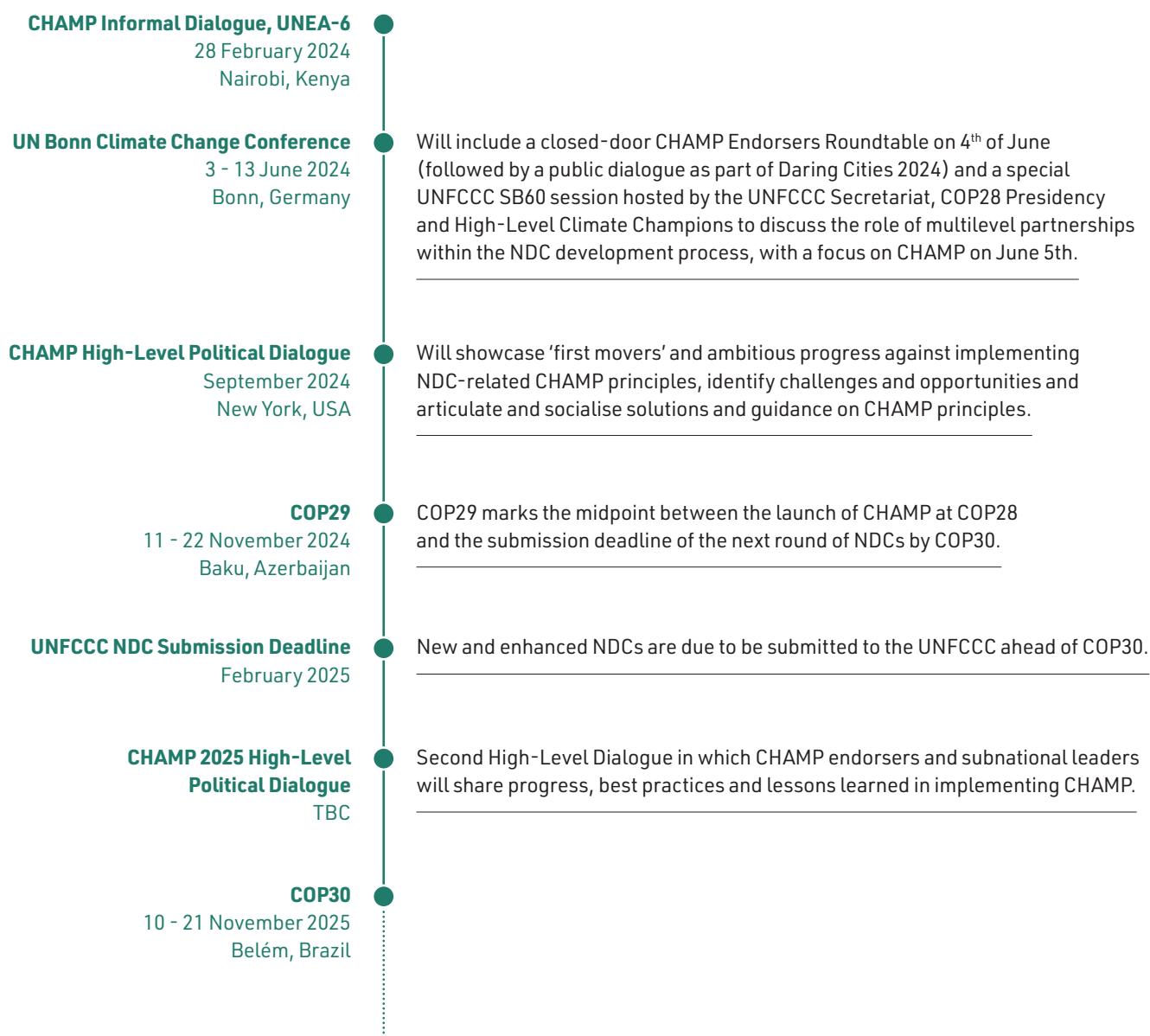
⁴ CHAMP endorsers are encouraged to submit their requests for support through their NDC Partnership Focal Points to the NDC Partnership, which, as a CHAMP partner, can coordinate a response. CHAMP endorsers that are not yet members of NDC Partnership are invited to approach the Partnership about membership. Support to CHAMP endorsers is not limited to members of the NDC Partnership.

How is CHAMP different from existing urban initiatives and how does it interact with them?

CHAMP is a commitment taken by national governments on a new way of working in partnership with their subnational governments, and in particular, on a new way of approaching the development and implementation of their next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in time for COP30 in 2025.

CHAMP seeks to connect existing initiatives that support NDC development (e.g., the NDC Partnership - see above) or help accelerate local-level action (including but not limited to: Subnational Climate Action Leaders Exchange (SCALE), Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe), the City Climate Gap Fund, the C40 Cities Finance Facility, Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, etc.).

2024-2025 CHAMP MILESTONES



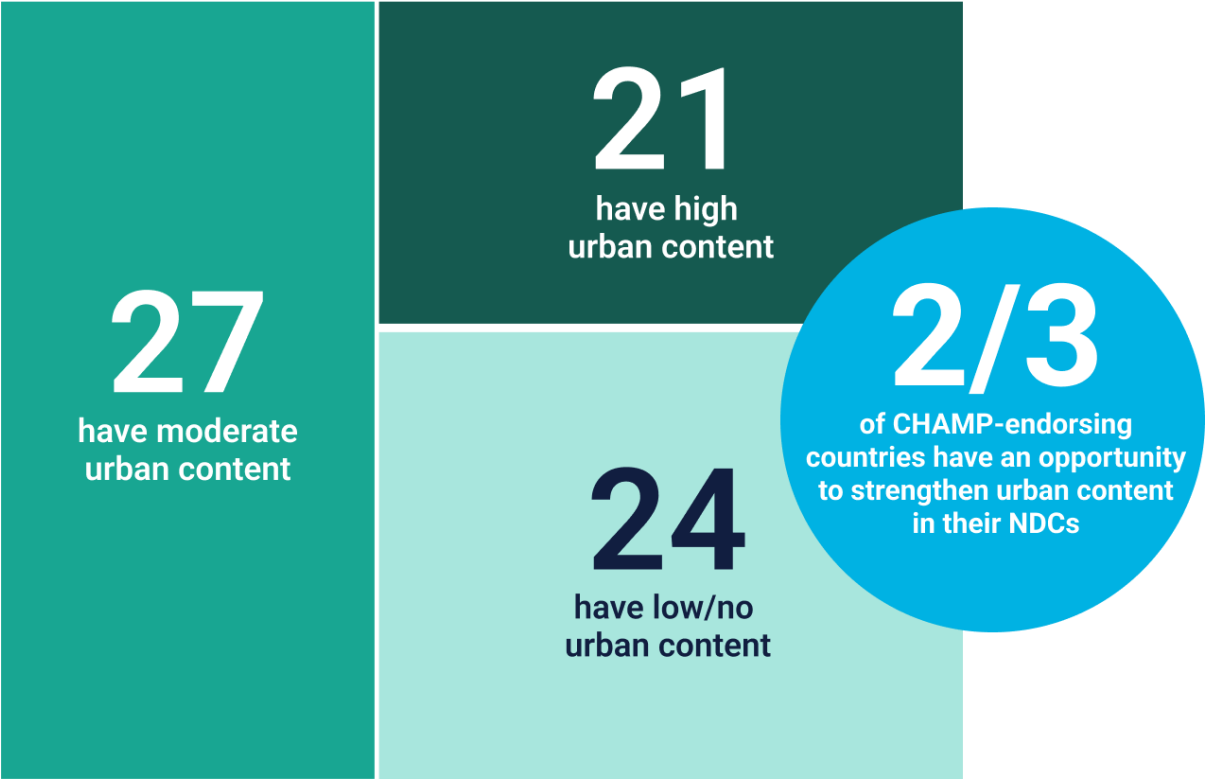
ANALYSIS ON CHAMP AND URBAN CONTENT OF THE NDCs

A technical brief, produced by UN-Habitat, titled "[Local Action for Global Goals. An Opportunity for Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions](#)" was launched during UNEA-6 Cities and Regions Summit. It looks at whether national climate action plans, known as nationally determined contributions (NDCs), have included urban priorities as a key focus.

Key findings:

- The analysis shows a clear opportunity for action: a significant number of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) lack sufficient emphasis on urban priorities, presenting an opportunity to achieve climate goals through enhancing urban content as countries revise their climate commitments in the next two years.
- 50+ countries demonstrate significant potential: Among 72 countries endorsing the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), two thirds feature low to moderate, or no urban content in their commitments. Strengthening the urban content in these 50+ countries offers an opportunity to achieve global climate goals.
- Urgent call for collaboration: Recognizing the substantial gap in current commitments in order to progress towards global climate goals, increased cooperation between local and national governments provides an opportunity to contribute to greater climate action in part through strengthening urban content in NDCs. This can include:
 - Review previous NDC and identify gaps and opportunities and take stock of existing national planning processes and their alignments with National Urban Policies, existing city plans, etc.
 - Dialogues to bring together different Ministerial portfolios, local leaders, and technical experts to work together in the 2025 NDC revision process and discuss how to use the NDCs as entry point to accelerate local climate action, while considering the local and regional contexts.
 - Create peer-to-peer learning opportunities across national, regional, and local governments - as well as academia, business, and civil society - to better understand good practices.
 - Generate opportunities to showcase advances in ambition across national climate strategies, take stock and consolidate efforts.

Distribution: Urban content in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of CHAMP endorsing countries



*Countries who endorsed CHAMP (Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships) as of 14 February 2024
Based on data from SDU.Resilience, to be published by UN-Habitat and UNDP in the forthcoming report "Urban Climate Action - The Urban Content of the NDCs 2023"

