ICLEI Leaders Statement on the Outcomes of COP28

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We, the undersigned local and regional leaders from the ICLEI network who attended COP28, welcome the key outcomes, including the unprecedented but necessary call to “transition away from fossil fuels,” the setting of the global goal on adaptation and the establishment and funding of a critically needed Loss and Damage fund.
We celebrate the strong references to multilevel action in the outcomes of this COP that will help us to work together, to achieve sustainable, equitable and resilient development.
At COP28, as local and regional leaders, we had a seat at the table like never before. This level of inclusion has set the bar high for future COP summits.
With the Global Stocktake underway, ICLEI has offered local and regional governments a way to contribute - through local stocktake, which have been pioneered in 30+ cities in 17 nations across six continents.
We are also cheering the landmark COP28 Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnership (CHAMP) for Climate Action, signed by more than 70 countries.
COP28 also had a historic announcement of the Loss and Damage fund that includes direct access for subnational governments, which should provide the much-needed finances for our cities, towns and regions to respond to the impacts of climate change.
We are hopeful that our nations will make adaptation financing more easily available to subnational and local governments, especially in the global south.
We welcome COP28’s emphasis on **systems-based integrated approaches** to climate adaptation and mitigation that fully consider the linkages with nature, food, water, pollution and health.
We were also heartened to see the institutionalization of the youth voice within the COP process.
We are looking forward to Daring Cities 2024 and the ICLEI World Congress take stock of subnational climate action and invite others to join us as we advocate to tackle the climate crisis at all policy levels.
With every year that passes, the climate COP becomes a more potent reminder of the work we all have to do to collectively solve the global climate crisis. We are energized by the outcomes we saw at COP28, and we are ready to bring the work home.