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COALITION FOR HIGH AMBITION MULTILEVEL PARTNERSHIPS (CHAMP) FOR CLIMATE ACTION

From the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and C40 Cities, CHAMP Support Unit

WHAT IS CHAMP?

The **Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action** was launched in December 2023 by the COP28 Presidency in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies. **The total number of endorsers is 78**, representing 36% of the global population, 69% of global GDP and 40% of global emissions.

The Coalition continues to grow with **3 new endorsers joining in the last 2 months** (Sweden, Bolivia and the EU).

Through CHAMP, nations have pledged to enhance cooperation with subnational governments (e.g. cities, towns, provinces, states, regions) in the planning, financing, implementing, and monitoring of climate plans and strategies. Specifically:

- **Consult and collaborate with subnational governments over climate strategies.**
- **Include investment needs and priorities from subnational governments into national investment priorities.**
- **Report and share progress voluntarily.**

Countries in CHAMP are working with their subnational governments to turn global promises and national pledges into plans, delivering action at a time when some view the formal negotiations as making slow progress.

SUPPORTING CHAMP-ALIGNED 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 endorsing countries have received high-level guidance for delivering enhanced NDCs incorporating strong subnational content and robust consultation with subnational governments** - in line with the principles of the CHAMP Pledge.

NDCs developed in accordance with the CHAMP principles should:

- **Undertake consultation** between national and subnational governments for co-designed climate action.
- **Explicitly include urban and or/ subnational content & priorities** (e.g. dedicated sections on urban priorities).
- **Use relevant data and evidence** (e.g. integrate subnational emissions inventories).
- **Link to financial resources** including a clear plan or pathway to securing for financing and implementing subnational climate action.

- **Identify governance arrangements** to support long-term multilevel collaboration.

At COP30, national governments are required to submit new climate action plans (NDCs), **and analysts internationally are bracing for insufficient NDCs.**

Where cities and regions are consulted and their climate priorities are raised to the level of national objectives, it is a sure way to address people and communities' needs. **When national climate plans are developed in consultation with subnational governments they can be stronger and more implementable.**

To date and based on preliminary analysis, out of the 30 NDCs submitted by CHAMP endorsers, **the majority of NDCs from CHAMP endorsers can be considered stronger than previous ones in terms of subnational content** - with 6 NDCs specifically referencing CHAMP in their text (Brazil, UAE, Canada, UK, Chile and Colombia).

CASE STUDIES

Here are some examples of how CHAMP endorsing countries are integrating subnationals into their climate strategies and how this is reflected in their NDCs.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION IN NDCS

Most NDCs quantify finance needs, outline capacity-building/technology-transfer packages, and establish MRV/Evaluation frameworks; these are often done at the national level. However, some dive deeper into detailed financing or capacity building provisions for subnational governments:

- United Kingdom (2035 ICTU, Jan 2025), e.g. Great British Energy Local Power Plan and Warm Homes Plan.
- Japan (2035/2040 NDC, Feb 2025), e.g. City-to-City Collaboration Programme and Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).
- Norway (2035 NDC, Nov 2024), e.g. Klimasats grant scheme.

In Brazil, the Federal Government has developed a national "Green Resilient Cities Programme" to provide technical support and finance opportunities for local climate action. The initiative aims to foster partnerships and enable better coordinated actions among federal entities to enhance climate resilience in Brazilian cities. Priority projects in adaptation and mitigation will be identified in 50 Brazilian cities.

Morocco is working with local and regional governments on strengthening municipal services (including water, energy, and waste) and building resilience to climate impacts in line with national climate plans.

In Colombia, the national government has established an open application process for cities to contribute their specific climate initiatives for the development of Colombia's NDC in addition to running five workshops, with support from partners, across the country to proactively involve subnational governments and other stakeholders. The inputs have been reflected in Colombia's NDC 3.0.

Kenya's third generation Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) (2030–2035) reaffirms the country's commitment to climate resilience and low-carbon development, emphasizing the integration of subnational climate priorities into national frameworks. Through initiatives such as the Participatory Climate Risk Assessment (PCRA), the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLLoCA) Program, and CHAMP Initiatives, Kenya



has empowered local governments and communities to take an active role in climate decision-making and implementation.

The UAE, as a leading force behind CHAMP, relied on our strategic advice and resources, which aided the development of their NDC and was reflected in the dedicated sections on subnational policy action.

[Visit the CHAMP website to learn more](#)



SUBNATIONAL TRANSITION PLANS

From the Under2 Coalition

Progress is being made in NDC 3.0s with increasing references to multilevel action and subnational actors. But true multilevel collaboration must extend across the entire design and implementation process of formulating an NDC – not just through one-off consultations during national planning.

To advance this, the Under2 Coalition launched its [Subnational Transition Plan \(STP\)](#) project at the start of 2025. Already, 73% of Under2 Coalition governments are developing subnational climate plans. These plans are locally driven climate strategies that outline how states and regions will reduce emissions, build resilience, and transition to clean energy.

WHAT IS A SUBNATIONAL TRANSITION PLAN (STP)?

A Subnational Transition Plan outlines a climate action roadmap or strategy that addresses mitigation, adaptation (resilience), and/or energy-related issues. It offers a more agile and responsive approach to national climate action plans, allowing local and regional governments to act on data, community needs, and emerging policy trends.

High ambition plans will align with the UNFCCC's [Integrity Matters principle](#) and reflect areas of the below:

- Long-term GHG emissions reduction target, aligned with, or exceeding, national targets.
- Sectoral implementation and investment pathways across energy, transport, buildings, and land use, for a just transition towards a decarbonised economy.
- Commitment to transparency, including how the plan will be updated and how progress will be tracked - typically every 3–5 years.

HOW CAN NATIONS TAKE THIS STRATEGY FORWARD

Given that subnational governments are responsible for a large share of global emissions and directly manage critical sectors such as energy, transport, and land use, STPs are emerging as powerful tools for delivering a just transition. They are also a powerful signal that climate leadership is happening from the ground up: half of existing STPs are as ambitious, or more ambitious, than national government targets.

Multilevel action is essential. Subnational climate plans act as the bridge from ambition to delivery, transforming national targets into inclusive, real-world action. Our governments are clear: they want their challenges, local contexts, and existing programmes more effectively integrated into national ambitions—as seen in recent interviews with [Santa Fe](#) (Argentina), [Rio Grande do Sul](#) (Brazil), [Taraba State](#) (Nigeria), and [New South Wales](#) (Australia).

Case study: Taraba State

Taraba State has drafted its first Climate Change Policy and Action Plan. The plan is currently in parliament pending approval and sets – a roadmap for a climate-resilient state by 2060. The implementation pathway includes: 90% renewable energy by 2060; 10,000 hectares of reforestation by 2060; and 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2060.



To unlock their full potential, STPs must be recognised as credible policy tools, backed with targeted finance, strengthened through capacity-building, and embedded in institutionalised multilevel governance. These are the key objectives of the STP project.

[Visit the Under2 Coalition website to learn more](#)



TOWN HALL COPs

From ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

BACKGROUND

The [Town Hall COP initiative](#) is a ground-up initiative to drive the connection of climate action at all levels.

In the lead-up to COP30 in Belém, more than 50 communities across six continents hosted Town Hall COPs – locally driven dialogues that connected thousands of residents, local leaders, and national representatives to chart pathways for stronger climate action.

The goal of each Town Hall COP was to connect climate action at every level. This includes linking local priorities with national climate commitments to show how climate ambition is delivered in practice at the local level.

Town Hall COPs are locally-led, nationally-relevant and transformation-oriented.

WHAT WE HEARD AT THE TOWN HALL COPs IN 2025

- 51 Town Hall COPs held in 25 countries on six continents
- More than 13,000 residents attended events
- The Town Hall COPs were on average 9 hours long
- More than half announced a new policy or plan
- 37 of 51 Town Hall COPs said that they will continue discussions with national representatives
- 42 of 51 reporting Town Hall COPs said that the event strengthened national-subnational collaboration on NDCs.

A TOOL FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO MEANINGFULLY ENGAGE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND COMMUNITIES

National governments see value in the Town Hall COP model to help connect their local communities to country-level plans. Strong endorsements of the Town Hall COP approach and participation by national governments such as South Africa, Malaysia, Kiribati and Mexico show the strength of Town Hall COPs.

Case study: South Africa

South Africa was the first nation to formally endorse the Town Hall COP Initiative as a platform for creating inclusive national climate plans. South Africa's Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) announced by letter its official endorsement of the Town Hall COP Initiative. This endorsement aligns with the priorities of South Africa's G20 Presidency, such as innovation for sustainable development.



Town Hall COPs are showing that inclusion drives innovation and legitimacy. When everyone has a voice — from youth to informal settlements to Indigenous leaders — new ideas and ownership emerge. Inclusive participation is making climate governance more democratic and effective.

Case study: Kiribati

The Pacific island nation of Kiribati hosted the first Town Hall COP in the Pacific, bringing together community leaders, national government, local councils, youth, churches, NGOs, and international partners in the traditional maneaba meeting house. His Excellency Te Beretitenti, President of Kiribati, was one of the participants of the Town Hall COP and said, “National climate goals cannot succeed without local leadership. Town Hall COPs bring communities and governments together to close the gap between commitment and action, ensuring our voices shape the policies that shape our future.” At the heart of the discussions was the adoption of the *Ikarekebai Declaration* – a powerful message of collective responsibility from the people of Kiribati.

Local communities are shaping national climate ambition through demonstrated implementation and shared accountability. Across continents, Town Hall COPs are showing that climate action becomes stronger when local priorities and realities inform national goals. These dialogues turn NDCs into shared commitments rooted in people’s everyday experience.

Case study: Malaysia

Malaysia’s capital became the first city in the ASEAN region to host a Town Hall COP, convened by Mayor Dr Maimunah Mohd Sharif. Mr. Nga Kor Ming, Malaysia’s Minister of Housing and Local Government attended the event and praised the initiative: “I welcome the efforts by the mayor of Kuala Lumpur to organize this Town Hall COP. I urge all other local governments in Malaysia to emulate how Kuala Lumpur is actively including private goals in their local development plans, building maintenance, and daily activities.”

Throughout 2025, hosts and participants reported that the Town Hall COP model works — it builds trust, accelerates solutions, and makes climate policy tangible. By translating global frameworks into local action plans, communities are moving faster on adaptation, resilience, and clean energy — with residents, universities, and local authorities co-creating projects that deliver visible results.

HOW CAN NATIONS TAKE THIS STRATEGY FORWARD

Town Hall COPs are a powerful expression of the COP30 Presidency’s global *mutirão* call – a global, collective effort grounded in local action. They are inclusive, community-led events that mobilize diverse local voices to identify climate priorities, showcase on-the-ground solutions, and connect directly with national and international processes. By surfacing real, self-determined contributions and aligning them with global goals, Town Hall COPs turn the spirit of *mutirão* into a practical, participatory model for climate action everywhere.

Additionally, Town Hall COPs can serve as a practical delivery mechanism for countries implementing their CHAMP pledges by creating a regular, structured process for engaging subnational actors in the design and implementation of NDCs 3.0. Through these locally driven dialogues, national governments can identify priority actions, gather data and feedback from territories, and co-develop solutions that accelerate



implementation on the ground. Integrating Town Hall COPs into the CHAMP framework transforms multilevel collaboration from a one-off consultation into an ongoing, community-anchored process—helping nations move from planning to tangible delivery of their NDC 3.0 commitments in the implementation phase.

Town Hall COPs can become an annual bridge between national climate commitments and local implementation. With NDCs renewed every five years, the Town Hall COP process will sustain yearly dialogue and accountability, ensuring continuous, community-driven inputs into national climate goals and accelerating real implementation across all levels of government.

This national mobilization strategy is a ready-made, inclusive mechanism for connecting local action to national ambition. We invite Parties to engage and take up Town Hall COPs in their future climate action implementation.

[Visit the Town Hall COP webpage to learn more](#)



FINANCE YOUR CITIES COUNTRY PLATFORMS FOR LOCALIZING FINANCE

From FMDV - Global Fund for Cities Development

WHAT ARE THE **FINANCE YOUR CITIES COUNTRY PLATFORMS** FOR LOCALIZING FINANCE

LOCALIZING FINANCE AS A SYSTEMIC PRIORITY: FROM LONG-TERM PRACTICE TO COUNTRY-OWNED PLATFORMS

Local and regional governments stand at the frontline of climate impacts and rapid urbanization, yet they remain structurally underfinanced. Even where decentralization has progressed, cities and regions still lack predictable, programmatic and scaled access to national and international finance.

Over more than a decade of work with local and regional governments, national authorities and public development banks, FMDV has been systematically building a response to this structural gap. The [Finance Your Cities Country Platforms for Localizing Finance](#) (FYC CPLFs) are the result of this long-term investment. They offer a country-owned framework to institutionalize the localization of finance and to connect national climate and development strategies with financeable and bankable, city- and region-ready investment pipelines.

KEY FEATURES OF THE FYC CPLFS

FYC CPLFs are not a generic technical assistance programme. They are national “systems engineering” mechanisms that:

- Embed subnational finance within national planning, urban and sectoral investment frameworks, including NDCs, NAPs and related strategies.
- Establish a multilevel and co-governance model between line ministries and local and regional governments and their associations, as well as Subnational Development Banks (SDBs) to jointly shape access conditions, investment priorities and financial innovation.
- Position NDBs and SDBs as core financial intermediaries for aggregating local projects, managing risk and blending domestic and international capital.
- Provide a clear entry point for partners (MDBs, climate funds, bilateral agencies, philanthropies, private finance) to align and sequence their support around a single national architecture.

ALIGNMENT WITH CURRENT INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES

This approach sits within the current international climate-finance debate and commitments (including the [Sevilla Commitment](#) and its [Sevilla Platform for Action](#)).

In its official submission to the [Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T](#), FMDV called for “Country Platforms for Localizing Finance” as part of national climate finance architectures, designed to empower local and regional governments and to leverage national and subnational development banks as key intermediaries. The Baku to Belém process itself identifies country platforms and public development banks as central levers to ensure that the USD 1.3 trillion per year target translates into real investments on the ground.

The same logic is now being taken forward by the COP30 Circle of Ministers of Finance, where 35 countries discussed access to climate funds, reform of multilateral development banks, regulatory frameworks and country platforms as one of the inputs to the Roadmap to 1.3T.

In parallel, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has made [Locally Led Climate Action \(LLCA\)](#) a core part of its business model, with a new LLCA framework built on devolved decision-making and finance, local ownership and sustainable local capacities.

At COP30, the GCF and Brazil's Ministry of Finance showcased country platforms as key delivery vehicles, announced a new Country Platform Hub and a new wave of GCF-supported country platforms in thirteen countries and one region.

A PIONEERING YET FULLY ALIGNED MODEL

In this fast-evolving landscape, FYC CPLFs stand out as a pioneering and fully aligned model. They emerged before the Baku to Belém Roadmap and the GCF's LLCA framework, yet they embody the same paradigm shift: building national architectures that devolve finance and decision-making, use NDBs and SDBs as "last-mile" public intermediaries, and make local and regional governments visible co-investors rather than mere grant seekers.

The initiative complements and reinforces other global processes such as [Finance in Common](#) and the [Global Alliance of Subnational Development Banks](#), CHAMP, the broader movement to operationalize locally led adaptation and is compatible with JET-Ps initiatives and any national development strategy or platform.

It offers a concrete, **country-level mechanism** to translate high-level commitments into institutionalized, **multilevel climate finance systems that can be replicated and scaled**.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND REFERENCE FRAMEWORKS

FYC CPLFs are now formally recognized in major international reference frameworks. They are listed in the [Sevilla Platform for Action](#) adopted at FfD4 as one of the initiatives advancing an integrated reform of the global financial architecture through country-led solutions.

They are also cited in the [Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2025](#) as a practical example of country-driven architecture to localize climate finance through public development banks.

PARTNERS INVOLVED

- National ministries (Finance, Planning, Urban Development, Environment and others)
- Local and regional governments' national associations
- National and subnational development banks and territorial funds
- European Union Delegations
- FMDV and its partner networks and coalitions (UCLG, ADEME, Global Alliance of SDBs, AMUF Alliance of African Ministers for Urbanization Finance, and others).

These long-standing partnerships attest that the FYC CPLFs are not a one-off project, but the latest stage of a sustained, trust-based collaboration between FMDV, national governments and their public finance institutions.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

The first two FYC Country Platforms, in Cameroon and Madagascar, are anchored in national institutions and legal frameworks.

Cameroon – from legislation to architecture

In Cameroon, the platform is rooted in the Ministries of Decentralisation and Local Development and of Housing and Urban Development, the national associations of cities (CVUC) and regions (ARC), and FEICOM, the Special Council Support Fund for Mutual Assistance, which acts as a subnational development bank.

A recent legislative reform allows FEICOM to collect and redistribute an earmarked excise tax on waste management to cities, creating a dedicated domestic resource stream for climate-relevant services.

On this foundation, the Cameroon FYC CPLF is building a coherent investment pipeline for resilient local infrastructure (water, floods, resilience) and structuring the enabling environment for FEICOM's future access to climate funds.

The platform has already mapped domestic technical support, is supporting FEICOM's accreditation and access to vertical funds, is working on assembling a first generation of projects, and creating a structured interface with donors and MDBs.

Madagascar – aligning ministries, funds and local governments

In Madagascar, the platform connects the Ministry of Planning and Decentralisation, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Environment with the Local Development Fund (FDL) and AGVM, the National association of local governments.

Joint workstreams cover project identification and prioritisation, capacity building for subnational project preparation, and the structuring of future financing and partnership agreements with development partners.

Initial activities will focus on building municipal and regional pipelines in sectors such as coastal resilience, reforestation, solid waste management and flood-risk reduction, in line with national climate and development strategies and the principles of locally led adaptation.

A FIRST WAVE OF TANGIBLE RESULTS

Since the pilots in Cameroon and Madagascar were launched, FYC CPLFs have already mobilized around **€1 million in readiness resources** and identified **€10.6 million** for project design, feasibility and implementation, with **71 local and regional governments actively engaged** in prioritizing resilient infrastructure pipelines.

At COP30, Cameroon's FYC CPLF was officially launched on the international stage during the [Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change](#), with Ambassadors and Ministers explicitly framing it as a contribution to the *Baku to Belém Roadmap* and to the implementation of NDC 3.0 in African cities.



COP30's Evening Summary highlighted the country platforms for localizing finance in Cameroon and Madagascar as emblematic of the emerging generation of national climate finance architectures that connect the Roadmap's global target to local delivery.

As the Green Climate Fund and Brazil's Ministry of Finance roll out a new generation of country platforms and a Country Platform Hub, FYC CPLFs demonstrate what it means, in practice, to structure such platforms around local and regional governments and their public financial intermediaries.

FYC CPLFs are now framed as a first cohort of country platforms dedicated specifically to localizing finance through national and subnational development banks. The ambition is to scale to **six countries by 2028**, mobilizing approximately **USD 350 million** and engaging around **200 local and regional governments**.

This ambition directly echoes the LGMA call to make country platforms genuinely multilevel and to include subnational investment needs and institutions at their core.

In parallel, the FYC CPLFs are recognised as part of the [Sevilla Platform for Action](#) adopted at FfD4, consolidating their role as a bridge between the UNFCCC process, the Financing for Development agenda and the reform of public development banks.

This cumulative recognition confirms both their pioneering status and their alignment with the latest international decisions on climate and development finance.

Looking ahead, FMDV's work with national governments, local and regional governments and public development banks through FYC CPLFs offers a ready, country-owned vehicle to:

- **Support the implementation of the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T** by embedding subnational finance in national architectures.
- **Operationalize GCF's Locally Led Climate Action framework** by devolving decision-making and finance through trusted domestic intermediaries.
- **Provide the Circle of Ministers of Finance and other high-level platforms with concrete, replicable examples** of how country platforms can deliver for territories where people actually live.

[Visit the FYC webpage to learn more](#)