Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency Recommendations on the COP31 Cover Decision Text from 19 November 2026

Building on the priorities previously shared by the LGMA Constituency, we welcome the draft cover decision published on 19 November as a constructive starting point. We encourage Parties to support a Presidency-led, Party-driven outcome at COP31 that sends a strong signal of their continued commitment to implementing the Paris Agreement in a balanced way through both mitigation and adaptation action.

Local and subnational governments stand ready to work with Parties to turn their national climate commitments into concrete policies, measures and investments that improve lives and livelihoods by advancing action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilient communities.

We respectfully call on Parties to consider our recommendations on which paragraphs to retain and what language to add:

Priority for retention

We urge Parties to **retain paragraph 69 as our highest priority**. It encourages Parties to strengthen arrangements for working with local and regional governments to implement climate action, in line with national circumstances and priorities.

Why? More systematic and meaningful engagement with local, regional and subnational governments can lead to national mitigation, adaptation and just transition plans that are policy aligned, can be implemented faster and are better tailored to the reality of communities. It also provides better territorial information, earlier identification of implementation barriers, stronger delivery capacity and greater transparency on what is happening below the national level.

Key paragraphs we support for retention:

We also ask Parties to **retain** the following paragraphs:

- **Paragraph 37** on locally led and ecosystem-based adaptation and the finance, technology and capacity-building needed to support it.
- **Paragraph 38** on cooperation across levels of government to advance energy

transition.

- **Paragraph 70** on the central role of the best available science and the IPCC in implementing the Paris Agreement and informing the global stocktake.
- **Paragraph 71** on the second global stocktake and the meaningful participation of non-Party stakeholders.
- **Paragraph 73** on the contribution of cities, subnational authorities and other non-Party stakeholders to achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

We also support **paragraph 78** on the role of the voluntary Global Climate Action Agenda in supporting implementation.

We also urge Parties to secure strong language in the cover decision on early warning systems and on halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. Early warnings save lives when, through local and subnational action, they reach people at risk in time to act, while protecting and restoring forests reduces emissions, protects biodiversity and strengthens resilience.

Proposed amendment to paragraph 47

We propose explicitly including subnational entities among those eligible for readiness support, institutional capacity-building and technical assistance when seeking direct access to climate finance. The proposed insertion is in bold.

> **47.** Encourages enhanced readiness support, institutional capacity-building and technical assistance for developing country Parties to strengthen national financial institutions, including national, **subnational** and public development banks, and other entities, seeking direct access to climate finance, and [...] capacity-building;

Proposed addition on COP30 Presidency Roadmaps

We urge Parties to reference the COP30 Presidency Roadmaps, in particular the Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in Energy Systems. The Transition Away from Fossil Fuels Roadmap recognises the efforts of local and subnational governments already implementing their own transition plans, and referencing it in the COP31 cover decision would encourage them to build on that progress.