

LGMA GLASGOW #TIME4MULTILEVELACTION ROADMAP: IMPLEMENTING MULTILEVEL ACTION IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

As announced on 31 October 2021, World Cities Day

The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency has been representing local and regional governments at the processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since the first Conference of Parties (COP) in 1995. The LGMA also represents the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability acts as the Focal Point of LGMA.

The LGMA believes that global climate action can succeed only when all levels of government are engaged. Our four-point path for subnational advocacy can get us there.

1. Multilevel action is the new normal for the next phase Paris Agreement

In a historic first, the Paris Agreement recognized the importance of engaging all levels of government in its preamble.

To build on this understanding – that cities, towns and regions are essential actors for meeting national climate goals— the next phase of global efforts must center around multilevel collaboration. More than 60 countries from both Global North and Global South that have presented more ambitious national climate plans ahead COP26 refer to multilevel collaboration. This positive indication that collaboration across levels of government accelerates climate action should be embraced by all Parties.

What LGMA Constituency members are doing to support this:

- Bridging nationally determined contributions (NDCs) with local and regional climate action plans, commitments and contributions
- Mobilizing legal, technical and financial resources to support local and regional governments in the Race-to-Zero and Race-to-Resilience, as well as those that have declared a climate emergency through their legislative bodies.
- Replicating examples of multilevel collaboration in national commitments and plans, including those from the Dominican Republic, Japan, South Korea, Rwanda, Chile, EU, UK, and the United States
- Demanding that post-COVID recovery plans are aligned with NDCs
- Inviting Parties who raised their ambition through multilevel collaboration to engage more actively in the UNFCCC Friends of Multilevel Action, a group of national governments that play an instrumental role to ensure acknowledgement of local and regional governments in the Paris Agreement.

2. Localize national, global and private climate finance to seize the urban opportunity for bold action in cities and regions

We live in a continuously urbanizing world. Yet, climate finance has not realized the full opportunity presented by urban expansion : less than 10% of available global climate finance is focused on local investments as of today. Sustainable urbanization needs to be top of the agenda for climate action and finance, especially for the Global South,

the most rapidly urbanizing part of the world, through investment to lower emissions while safeguarding our cities and regions from climate-related disasters.

What LGMA Constituency members are doing to support this:

- Calling for the Article 6 negotiators to recognize sustainable, integrated, urban and territorial development as one of the *non-market mechanisms* and incorporate urban and regional emissions-trading as well as enhance engagement of local and regional governments in the *market mechanisms* of the Paris Agreement
- Supporting all levels of government to divest from fossil fuels to reduce financial risk
- Supporting the transformative policies and instruments to unlock subnational climate finance promoted in the Human Settlements and Climate Finance Pathways endorsed by the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action: financial intermediation through Subnational Development Banks, National programs on financial engineering to support cities and regions' climate transition and project preparation and financing, subnational-specific vehicles for blended finance allowing to unlock private investment based on public incentives.
- Enabling national climate finance and development finance to be provided directly to local and regional governments and the communities they support. National COVID-19 recovery finance needs to include local-level support.
- Directing private finance to effectively, directly, and rapidly contribute to the redesign of urban spaces that are accessible, resilient, inclusive and safe
- Harnessing the procurement power of local and regional governments for rapid, cost-effective, and accessible deployment of climate-friendly and sustainable products, tools, equipment, and technologies in support of climate commitments.

3. Just climate action for all

A new era of climate action views cities and regions holistically to address not only reducing emissions, but also social justice, gender, food, nature and health. Integrated approaches provide ample opportunities for multilevel collaboration and can accelerate Sustainable Development Goal progress by leveraging the 2030 Agenda's core tenets to foster whole-of-government approaches that leave no one behind. The European Green Deal could constitute a blueprint for this broad and just approach to climate action.

What LGMA Constituency members are doing to support this:

- Stepping up our canvassing for all levels of government to adopt holistic approaches.
- Implementing further research, interpret, and communicate how climate-related issues interrelate, including socially just and nature-based approaches.
- Supporting climate plans at all levels to address food, biodiversity, housing, mobility, sustainable consumption, circular economy, culture, intergenerational equity, skills, informal settlements, climate-induced migration, social justice and health.
- Proposing models and best practices for comprehensive climate action, tackling the different social, environmental and economic aspects, building upon the idea of a Glocal Green Deal.

4. Stepping up subnational engagement in the UNFCCC processes

Networks of local and regional governments must step up their participation in the UNFCCC processes going forward—not only during the annual COP, but throughout the year. Since the first COP in 1995, the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) has represented the voices of cities, towns and regions at international climate negotiations. As the Multilevel Action COP, COP26 calls on the LGMA to step up our role as an essential implementation partner, able to: 1) bring clarity around local-level needs and replicable successes to negotiations, 2) translate national-level commitments into action on the ground and 3) veil on the fair implementation of climate action, ensuring that no citizen, business or small local authority is left behind.

Within the European region, the unique institutional nature of the European Committee of the Regions may be a source of inspiration for other UN regions aiming at having a mandatory consultation in topics affecting the subnational level.

What LGMA Constituency members are doing to support this:

- Engaging as the LGMA Constituency representatives across UNFCCC processes, including in the Katowice Rulebook, to ensure that the outcomes from Glasgow are relevant to the regional and local levels and can be successfully turned into on-the-ground action locally.
- Participating in enhanced engagement with the Marrakech Partnership and the work of High-Level Action Champions, and pushing for greater cooperation with UNFCCC bodies on finance, capacity building, public awareness and participation, loss and damage, mitigation and adaptation.
- Enhancing understanding around how we support essential procedures and mechanisms to operationalize the Paris Agreement.
- Participating in future LGMA Regional and Thematic Expert Groups to follow these processes effectively throughout the year between COPs.

Further LGMA COP26 updates are available here: <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/cop26>