LGMA Recommendations on the COP31 Cover Decision

11 November 2026

Following the process initiated by the COP31 Presidency and the Presidency of Negotiations to develop a cover decision, we share the reflections and priorities of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency based on our asks in our COP31 position relevant to topics mentioned by the COP Presidencies at Opening Plenary on Monday 9th November.

Science and urgency

We call on Parties to recognise UNEP's *Limiting Overshoot* report and the urgency of accelerating both mitigation and adaptation action to minimise the magnitude and duration of overshoot and strengthen resilience. Local and subnational governments are key planning, implementation and financing partners for the mitigation and adaptation action that reaches to communities. The cover decision should therefore, as highlighted by the Belém Mission to 1.5 report, recognise the essential role of local and subnational governments in delivering climate commitments, and strengthen their participation in implementing NDCs and NAPs.

> **SUGGESTED TEXT**
>
> Recognises the UNEP *Limiting Overshoot* report and the risks associated with overshooting the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C temperature goal, including increasingly severe climate impacts, threats to security, prosperity and health, and disproportionate burdens on developing countries and vulnerable communities, particularly at the local level.

The IPCC, including its Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, and GST 2.0 process

We call on Parties to reaffirm the IPCC's central role in informing climate action, uphold the integrity and independence of its work, and ensure its assessments, including the forthcoming Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, once approved, inform the second Global Stocktake (GST2).

The forthcoming IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities is an important opportunity to strengthen the scientific foundations for climate action and support closer collaboration between national, regional and local governments in delivering climate commitments. The cover decision should emphasise the upcoming IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities and encourage relevant findings to be central to GST2 technical assessment.

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Energy transition and subnational delivery

We call for an ambitious and equitable energy transition outcome that, among others, recognises and accelerates local and subnational delivery towards a 1.5°C pathway and transitioning away from fossil fuels. The cover decision should highlight clean electrification, renewable energy, energy efficiency and integrated urban and regional planning as key areas for delivery.

The most effective pathway to transitioning away from fossil fuels is inherently collaborative and multilevel. It must connect local communities, subnational governments, and national authorities in a coherent and mutually reinforcing framework. The cover decision should explicitly recognise and operationalise this approach.

SUGGESTED TEXT

Recognises that the energy transition will be most effective when it is just, collaborative and multilevel, and *calls* for an ambitious and equitable energy transition that prioritises clean electrification, renewable energy, energy efficiency and integrated urban and regional planning as key areas to advance the transition.

Reflections on the Action Agenda and multilevel delivery of national climate commitments

We welcome the further strengthening and continuity of the Action Agenda and COP31 efforts to connect it to negotiations outcomes. We call for the Belém Mission's implementation priorities to translate into coordinated action, investment and accountable follow-up through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The decision should encourage Parties to establish or strengthen permanent multilevel arrangements, building on CHAMP (Coalition for High Ambition on Multilevel Partnerships) under Action Agenda, to jointly design, implement and monitor NDCs and NAPs with subnational governments, with clear responsibilities and means of implementation.

SUGGESTED TEXT

Encourages Parties to translate the Belém Mission's 1.5 implementation priorities into coordinated action, investment and accountable follow-up through NDCs and NAPs by establishing or strengthening permanent multilevel arrangements, building on CHAMP (Coalition for High Ambition on Multilevel Partnerships) under the Action Agenda, to jointly design, implement and monitor NDCs and NAPs with subnational governments, with clear responsibilities and means of implementation.

Adaptation finance, resilience and early warning systems

We call on Parties to recognise early warning systems as a high-impact, cost-effective resilience solution and to accelerate delivery of the UN Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All initiative so that everyone is protected by the end of 2027. Local and subnational governments are key to ensuring that early warnings reach people and trigger timely action, by mapping local risk, communicating alerts, coordinating civil protection, emergency and health services, and safeguarding critical infrastructure and essential public services. The cover decision should therefore encourage further progress on early warning systems, while emphasising the need to strengthen locally led adaptation and to provide local and subnational governments with the finance and capacity they need to make these systems work on the ground.

We call on Parties to turn the Belém call for efforts to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035 into a credible delivery pathway with interim milestones. Local and subnational governments plan and deliver much of the

adaptation on the ground, yet only a small fraction of adaptation finance currently reaches them. Tripling should therefore be judged on quality and reach as well as volume. This means finance that is predominantly grant-based and highly concessional, channelled through stronger domestic financial systems, including national and subnational public development banks and dedicated financing arrangements for local and regional governments. The cover decision should reaffirm the tripling goal, call for a clear pathway to deliver it, and ensure that a growing share of adaptation finance flows to the local level.

SUGGESTED TEXT

Reaffirms the call for efforts to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035 and calls for a clear delivery pathway with interim milestones, prioritising grants and highly concessional resources and increasing the share reaching the local and subnational level. Calls on Parties to urgently advance the universal coverage of early warning systems against extreme weather and climate change in support of the Early Warnings for All initiative and to provide local and subnational governments with the finance and capacity they need to make these systems work on the ground.

Delivering on climate finance commitments and enhancing access for developing countries: making climate finance available, accessible and affordable

We call on Parties to advance delivery of the NCQG and scale up predictable public financial support to lower the cost of capital and expand developing countries' fiscal space for climate investment, while upholding developed country Parties' obligations under Article 9.

The cover decision should encourage climate funds and multilateral development banks to work as a system in strengthening domestic financial architectures centred on national and subnational public development banks, backed by funded project preparation and lasting financial structuring capacity embedded in domestic institutions. These architectures will enable country-led financial innovation and reduce reliance on international intermediaries, giving countries greater negotiating strength and control over the resources and investment decisions needed to deliver their NDCs and NAPs. Integrating local and regional governments into these systems will build on advances in multilevel action (CHAMP, SURFF, Access to Climate Finance for SIDS and LDCs Statement and Action Plan) and locally led finance (GCF LLCA framework; Adaptation Fund Single-Country LLA window). These approaches connect national priorities with subnational investment programmes and devolved financing decisions, broadening the institutional and investment base through which countries can access and deploy climate finance.

SUGGESTED TEXT

Invites climate funds and multilateral development banks to work as a system to support developing countries in strengthening domestic financial architectures centred on national and subnational public development banks, with funded project preparation and sustained financial structuring capacity. Encourages Parties to strengthen national investment planning and resource mobilisation through a multilevel approach that connects financing institutions and implementing partners across sectors and all levels of government, with a view to expanding and aggregating project pipelines, mobilising additional finance and supporting progressively higher ambition in NDCs and NAPs.