



Stocktake4ClimateEmergency Outcomes Report

*Local Stocktakes: Subnational contributions
to the first Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement*

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LETTER FROM THE LGMA FOCAL POINT

Dear colleagues, subnational leaders and friends of multilevel action,

In the leadup to COP28, over twenty cities and regions around the world held local stocktakes to form subnational inputs to the first Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement. At each event, elected officials and their constituents discussed how to align local action with their country's climate commitments, paving the way for multilevel implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans.

As subnational governments increased their commitment to multilevel action, so too did the Parties to the UNFCCC. Over the course of COP28, 70+ Parties committed to enhancing cooperation with subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of climate strategies through the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships for Climate Action (CHAMP), led by the COP28 Presidency. Over the next two years, from Dubai to Belém, CHAMP signatories will embark on multilevel consultation to ensure the second generation of NDCs are prepared alongside subnational leaders.

We envision local stocktakes (and future iterations known as “Town Hall COPs”), as a part of this effort. The local stocktake pilot, with 26 cities across 18 countries and 6 continents, demonstrated the power, feasibility and value of multilevel stakeholder engagement.

The local stocktake pilot described in this report initiates a new era of Paris Agreement implementation: one which elevates the voices of those experiencing climate impacts firsthand and funnels resources to support their climate solutions.

We invite cities and regions around the world to bring COP to their town hall annually, and we invite Parties to recognize and incorporate the outcomes of such discussions as they fulfill their Paris Agreement obligations.

Kind regards,

Yunus Arikan

Local Government and Municipal Authority (LGMA) Focal Point
Global Advocacy Director, ICLEI – Local Governments
for Sustainability

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the leadup to COP28, over 20 cities and regions around the world hosted “local stocktakes” as official, local-level contributions to the first Global Stocktake (GST) of the Paris Agreement. Local stocktakes, supported by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability in its capacity as the focal point of the Local Government and Municipal Authority Constituency to the UNFCCC (LGMA), are a direct response to the 2022 UNFCCC Bonn Conference concluding remarks, in which the UNFCCC “encouraged Parties and non-party stakeholders to hold events, at the local, national, regional and international level, as appropriate, in support of the Global Stocktake” (SB56, pgph. 6).

At each local stocktake, government officials and their constituents asked “Where are we?”, “Where do we want to go?” and “How do we get there?” across three themes: (1) local climate ambition, (2) alignment with their country’s Nationally Determined Contribution, and (3) climate justice domestically and globally. Through these discussions, participants identified opportunities for enhanced multilevel action, bringing a critical “on the ground” perspective into the broader Global Stocktake high-level discussion. Most events in the Global South were supported by funding provided by ICLEI and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Lastly, Stocktake4ClimateEmergency advances youth involvement in local climate processes through a collaboration with YOUNGO, the youth and children’s constituency to the UNFCCC.

As the first Global Stocktake passes, the local stocktake pilot will emerge into a full-scale initiative of “Town Hall COPs.” The pilot outcomes detailed in this report demonstrate the types of discussions other cities and regions can expect to inspire through future “Town Hall COPs” and to fulfill other multilateral agendas.

PARTICIPATING CITIES AND REGIONS

* Supported by ICLEI

+ Led by YOUNGO

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Accra, Ghana * + | 14. Makati City, Philippines |
| 2. Baguio, Philippines * | 15. Mogadishu, Somalia * |
| 3. Bonn, Germany – Daring Cities, 11-13 June | 16. Nairobi, Kenya * + |
| 4. Bristol, UK | 17. Port Louis, Mauritius * |
| 5. Broward County, FL, USA | 18. Rosario, Argentina * |
| 6. Cape Coast, Ghana * | 19. Saint Paul, MN, USA |
| 7. Concord, MA, USA | 20. Seberang Perai, Malaysia * |
| 8. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania * | 21. Suva, Fiji - Pacific Urban Forum |
| 9. Denver, Colorado, USA | 22. Tangier, Morocco – MEDCOP |
| 10. Glasgow, UK | 23. Turku, Finland |
| 11. Hoboken, NJ, USA | 24. Venice, Italy–European Heritage Forum |
| 12. Kampala, Uganda * + | 25. Walvis Bay, Namibia * |
| 13. Lusaka, Zambia * | 26. Yarra, Australia |

LOCAL STOCKTAKE ADVOCACY AT COP28

The LGMA brought local stocktake outcomes to COP28 to elevate the voices of subnationals in the Global Stocktake process. Local stocktakes were highlighted at the following COP28 events:

LGMA Press Conference (30 Nov)

The LGMA's opening press conference established the LGMA's key focuses for COP28, including local stocktakes, with remarks from Mayor Minna Arve from Turku, Finland.

Local Stocktake Announcement (4 Dec)

The Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion celebrated the local stocktake initiative on 4 December. Mayors Minna Arve (Turku, Finland), Ravinder Bhalla (Hoboken, USA) and Chilando Chitangala (Lusaka, Zambia) sharing their cities' key discussion outcomes. LGMA and YOUNGO focal points Yunus Arikan and Zihan Xuan also gave remarks in support of the subnational inputs to the Global Stocktake and emphasizing the leadership demonstrated by youth in the pilot year.

Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change (6 Dec)

At the Second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, youth representative Karishma Asarpota presented the key results of youth-led local stocktakes to Ministers of Housing, Urban Development and Environment Finance from 60 countries. Mayor Katja Dörner (Bonn, Germany) also cited local stocktakes in her Ministerial statement alongside German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development State Secretary Jochen Flasbarth. The [joint outcomes statement](#) from the Local Climate Action Summit and Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change encourages "to align assessments of local-level progress ("local stocktakes") with future iterations of the Global Stocktake."



Karishma Asarpota and Mayor Binay in the opening of the second Ministerial of Urbanization and Climate Change



Group photo from the 4 December Multilevel Action & Urbanization event announcing the key outcomes of local stocktakes

iLabs: Youth and local leaders spearheading action in the climate emergency (8 Dec)

The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action event, hosted by ICLEI and YOUNGO, featured Juliet Oluoch and Walter Osigai Etepesit, the youth organizers of the Nairobi, Kenya and Kampala, Uganda stocktakes.

Synergizing Youth, Local, and Global Stocktake: Aligning global policy and local implementation (8 Dec)

The UNFCCC side event hosted by ICLEI, YOUNGO and Care about Climate included remarks from City Councillor Niina Ratilainen (Turku, Finland) and youth organizer Richard Matey (Accra, Ghana).

COP28 Closing Plenary (13 Dec)

In the LGMA intervention, LGMA Focal Point Yunus Arikan shared the future of local stocktakes following the pilot year leading up to COP28: “After Dubai, LGMA will transform our local stocktakes experience into annual Town Hall COPs in thousands of cities and regions globally, as an additional innovation in this era of climate emergency action.”

COP28 Global Youth Statement

[YOUNGO’s COP28 demands](#) encouraged “other stakeholders to conduct a stocktake, similar to the Youth Stocktake and Local Stocktake by Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI).”



Stocktake youth organizers Juliet Oluoch and Walter Osigai Etepesit speaking at the Marrakech Partnership side event “iLabs: Youth and local leaders spearheading action in the climate emergency” on 8 December



Mayor Ravi Bhalla (Hoboken, USA) sharing key outcomes from Hoboken’s local stocktake at the 4 December session at the Multilevel Action & Urbanization pavilion

TAKING STOCK OF MULTILEVEL ACTION AND URBANIZATION IN THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

	Before Paris (2015)	After Paris (2015-2023)
Local & regional governments that have declared a climate emergency	0	2200+
Local & regional governments that have committed to ambitious 2030 targets	<100	1000+
NDCs that have raised ambitions through the engagement of local & regional governments	n/a	60+
% of NDCs with strong urban components	n/a	24%
Relevant UNFCCC decisions	2010 - COP16 “governmental stakeholders” 2013 - COP18	2015 - Paris Agreement “all levels of governments”, “cities and other subnational as Non-Party Stakeholders” 2021 - Glasgow Climate Pact “multilevel and cooperative action”
Inside UNFCCC	2007 - LGMA Climate Roadmap 2008 - European Covenant of Mayors 2009 - Local Government Climate Lounge 2010 - Parliamentarians and Mayors Forum 2013- ADP 2.3 Workshop, Ministers-Mayors Forum, 2014 - SB40 Forum, NAZCA Portal, Lima-Paris Action Agenda, Compact of Mayors	2016 - Global Covenant of Mayors 2016 - Marrakech Partnership Human Settlements Action Pathway 2018 - GEF Sustainable Cities Integrated Programme 2018 - IPCC Cities & Climate Change Conference & Action Agenda 2018 - Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues 2019 - SB56 COP Presidency Multilevel Action Event 2020 - Cities Race-To-Zero 2021 - Cities-Race-To-Resilience, RegionsAdapt, LGMA Multilevel Action Pavilion 2022 - SURGe Initiative, Ministerial Meeting in Urbanization and Climate Change, IPCC AR6 Summary for Urban Policy Makers
Outside UNFCCC	2010 - UNDRR Making Cities Resilient 2010 - CBD Biodiversity 10-Year Action Plan for Cities, Subnational Governments and other Local Authorities	2016 - SDG11, New Urban Agenda 2018 - Local2030, U20 as G20 Engagement Group 2019 - GAP Fund 2020 - MakingCitiesResilient2030 2021 - G20 Localization Working Group 2022 - Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target:12, 2nd 10-Year Action Plan, U7 as G7 Engagement Group 2023 - G7 Roundtable on Subnational Climate Action



HIGHLIGHTS OF ICLEI CONTRIBUTIONS TO PARIS AGREEMENT

In 2016, **Darebin, Australia was the first city council to declare a climate emergency**. As of 2022, more than 2000 councils adopted this declaration, including more than 500 ICLEI members. Since 2020, ICLEI runs the Daring Cities Forum as the Global Response for Urban Leaders Taking on Climate Emergency.

In 2016, **Dunedin was the first city to divest from fossil fuels**. As of 2022, hundreds have followed a similar path. In 2022, ICLEI adopted its 100% Renewable Resolution and joined 24/7 Carbon Energy Compact.

In 2015 at COP21, **ICLEI launched Transformative Actions Program** as the world's first local climate finance project preparation initiative. As of 2022, more than 30 projects in 23 countries received finance with a volume of 1.32 billion USD.

In 2016, **Durban, South Africa pioneered a proposal for an IPCC agenda on cities and climate research**. ICLEI also co-led advocacy and implementation of the IPCC decision for the first-ever IPCC co-sponsored conference in 2018 and a Special Report as part of the 7th Assessment Report.

In 2016, **ICLEI co-led the creation of an integrated approach for urbanization** under the Global Environment Facility and contributed its implementation in GEF6/7/8 cycles.

In 2018, **ICLEI pioneered engagement of cities and regions in the Talanoa Dialogues**. The Talanoa Dialogues paved the way for 60+ nations to present more ambitious climate plans through multilevel collaboration at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, with ICLEI concretely engaging in more than 15 countries. The Glasgow Climate Pact introduced an "urgent need for multilevel action" in the Glasgow Climate Pact as a result of these efforts. The Talanoa Dialogues and multilevel NDC collaboration led by ICLEI was then transformed into the Stocktake4ClimateEmergency: local leadership for subnational inputs to Paris Agreement Global Stocktake, which was implemented in 25+ cities in 18 nations in 6 continents.

In 2022, **ICLEI facilitated the first ever meeting of Urbanization and Climate Ministers at COP27**, which resulted in the first ever urbanization and climate initiative and recognition at the first UN Habitat Assembly, paving the way for ambitious agenda at COP28.

In 2023, **ICLEI led and advocated for numerous new multilevel partnerships**, from the Amazon Climate Summit to G7, and facilitated local inputs to the Global Stocktake through the aforementioned Stocktake4ClimateEmergency.




LOCAL AMBITION

At the local stocktakes, government officials and their constituents asked “Where are we?”, “Where do we want to go?” and “How do we get there?” on their local climate ambition. Through this exercise, participants evaluated progress on their 2030 and 2050 climate goals and identified decarbonization, adaptation, and justice strategies to accelerate progress.

SAMPLE OF DISCUSSION OUTCOMES



What local measures and changes are needed in order to achieve your community’s or region’s most ambitious climate plans?

-  **Cape Coast, Ghana:** “Stopping encroachment of wetlands and illegal mining at the beach side and to save lagoons in Cape Coast.”
-  **Concord, New Hampshire, USA:** “The establishment of a community power program (energy aggregation) and the continued siting of renewable energy resources within the Concord community.”
-  **Yarra, Australia:** “Actively shaping the design of our City to foster a greater sense of community through increased gathering spaces and shared spaces that are in or surrounded by nature. In this way, and many others, we would aim to have everyone in Yarra feel a sense of belonging and show care towards each other and our natural environment, increasing wellbeing and resilience.”

TAKING STOCK OF CLIMATE PROGRESS IN TURKU, FINLAND

On 2 November 2023, Turku, Finland brought together local organizations, communities, and inhabitants for a local stocktake event at the city hall. During the event, the city presented its current climate strategy and projects to achieve climate neutrality by 2029, before engaging in an open dialogue with participants on the topic. Participants discussed how they can achieve the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement in their own lives and organizations, and what additional actions they would like to see from the city. Discussion included the following topics:



*Local stocktake participants from Turku, Finland
(Image credit: Lotte Suveri)*

- Evaluating ways public transport can become more attractive, while acknowledging the need for cars in some cases;
- Envisioning a city center exclusively available for public transport, pedestrians, and cyclists;
- Raising concerns about an ever-growing city, in which local nature disappears under construction;
- Addressing the health and status of the Baltic Sea;
- Discussing the difficulty of ethical and environmentally-responsible consumption;
- Stating the need for more regular dialogues and discussions to empower and educate, rather than increasing rifts in society around climate issues.

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*“The local stocktake and participation of our state representative allowed us to consider:
Where does state and national policy influence our ability to pursue local policy?”*

Rob Werner, Concord, New Hampshire, USA



Local stocktake participants from Denver, USA



Presentation at the Rosario, Argentina local stocktake

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“The global stocktake of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change represents a unique opportunity to influence global decisions and ensure that climate action is enriched by the innovation and commitment of our community.”

Pilar Bueno, Undersecretary for Climate Change and Just Ecological Transition of Rosario Municipality



Speaker at the Cape Coast, Ghana local stocktake



Local stocktake in Glasgow, UK

“

“Local leaders are key to mobilizing stakeholders. This event assessed the seriousness of climate change and how our community can contribute to necessary changes. Collaboration is essential; we can’t do it alone.”

Mayor Chilando Chitangala, Lusaka, Zambia

ALIGNMENT WITH NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION

Local stocktake participants discussed their country's latest Nationally Determined Contribution, evaluated the NDCs' multilevel and urban components, and identified alignments between the NDC and local climate policies. These discussions increased local awareness of national climate plans, paving the way for informed multilevel consultation in the next round of NDC preparations.

PAVING THE WAY FOR MULTILEVEL NDC'S

"After the local stocktake, the community and local government is now inspired by the Namibian NDC. Walvis Bay is planning to connect our local plans to existing actions and targets in the NDC as part of Walvis Bay Environmental Management Advisory Forum activities."

– Walvis Bay, Namibia









Local stocktake participants from Walvis Bay, Namibia

SAMPLE OF DISCUSSION OUTCOMES



In what ways can your country raise national climate ambition by collaborating across levels of government?

-  **Denver, USA:** "Ultimately, the strength of the U.S. NDC hinges on transforming abstract targets into measurable initiatives, fostering city-federal collaboration, and setting a global example in economic development, consumption patterns, and environmental stewardship."
-  **Makati City, Philippines:** "Our national government can support local governments by detailing the conditions of national GHG reduction targets and quantify carbon savings in relation to the Paris Agreement."
-  **Cape Coast, Ghana:** "The national government can raise ambition by establishing dedicated funding mechanisms targeting local climate projects and ensuring that part of national climate funds is allocated to local governments."
-  **Port Louis, Mauritius:** "The community can benefit from data from national departments and ministries to guide local plans and decision making."
-  **Nairobi, Kenya:** "Mainstreaming indigenous knowledge on climate interventions by the government for effective stakeholder engagement."
-  **Hoboken, New Jersey, USA:** "The United States NDC aims to deliver 40% of the benefits from federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities. The local-level climate justice activity of coastal flood mitigation through the federal Rebuild by Design project covers 80% of the study area and all of Hoboken, including disadvantaged communities."

CLIMATE JUSTICE: AT HOME AND INTERNATIONALLY

Local stocktake participants evaluated local climate justice through the lens of broader global climate justice.

SAMPLE OF DISCUSSION OUTCOMES



Which long standing issues of justice are currently most affecting your community?

Denver, USA: “A critical link was identified between city home building investments and the need for robust renter protections [at the local stocktake.] The dialogue stressed integrating justice and equity perspectives into steering committees and city initiatives, acknowledging the need to safeguard existing communities against the potential downsides of environmental improvements.”

Glasgow, Scotland, UK: “The city must address child poverty and commit to ending it by 2030.”



What would it mean to “seize the climate opportunity” for your community in a way that everyone benefits from climate action?

Kampala, Uganda: “Using the climate change crisis to create more opportunities for young people, such as circular jobs and gender-inclusive green skill programs.”

Yarra, Australia: “Amplifying First nations voices, respectfully drawing on First Nations wisdom and support for First Nations projects was a big focus for the Yarra Stocktake. At a national level, the government has made a commitment that includes doubling the number of Indigenous Rangers. On a local level, suggested goals and actions include prioritizing indigenous land management practices ideally the support of First Nations owned services and businesses.”

Makati City, Philippines: “Makati City shall be a leading financial hub in Southeast Asia, strengthened by its secure and self-reliant citizens and stakeholders empowered by excellent and inclusive public service; with a climate-adaptive and disaster-resilient environment that is boosted by robust and responsive green infrastructure; and enabled by transparent and digitally transformative governance.”

Broward County, Florida, USA: “Ensuring amnesty for undocumented and migrant farm workers during national and weather disasters.”



“We believe that by uniting our efforts we can better address the unique needs and challenges faced by our most vulnerable residents during times of crisis... Together we can shape a more resilient and inclusive Makati where every resident regardless of their circumstances can face the future with confidence and hope.”

Mayor Abigail Binay, Makati City, Philippines

YOUTH IN LOCAL STOCKTAKES

Most local stocktakes incorporated youth voices, but three stocktakes in particular were led and organized by youth affiliated with the youth and children's constituency to the UNFCCC, YOUNGO. These stocktakes, hosted in Nairobi, Kampala and Accra, also included representation from local government, elevating youth voices not only in the global climate process but in their home communities as well.

The youth-led local stocktakes called for more inclusive planning processes, emphasizing the participation of climate vulnerable and marginalized groups. Youth are seeking an adaptive governance structure that allows for swift policy adjustments to accelerate implementation, with strong measures to ensure accountability.

Other key discussion outcomes included capacity building through climate education in schools and upskilling youth for green economy jobs and finance. International and national financial mechanisms should ensure that climate finance amplifies youth engagement and targeted capacity-building. Access to funds to implement and replicate community level youth-led projects and initiatives is vital to achieve climate goals.



Local stocktake participants in Kampala, Uganda

Youth inclusion in local stocktakes is a continuation of ICLEI's efforts to meaningfully engage the voices of youth in local government, including the "[Unlocking the Power of Youth](#)" checklist which provides concrete actions and metrics for cities and regions.

YOUNGO's [COP28 Global Youth Statement](#) also referenced local stocktakes, encouraging "other stakeholders to conduct a stocktake, similar to the Youth Stocktake and Local Stocktake by Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)."



Local stocktake youth organizer Juliet Oluoch delivering remarks at the Nairobi stocktake



Local stocktake participants in Accra, Ghana



"Youth engagement is not a buzzword. When we participate in the local stocktake process, our potential to drive innovation is unleashed: We bring in fresh perspectives and catalyze transformation that we want to see."

Juliet Oluoch, YOUNGO Cities Working Group Focal Point and Nairobi stocktake organizer

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Though the local stocktake pilot had a strong presence at COP28, the effort to elevate subnational voices into the global stocktake was year-long. ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, in its capacity as the LGMA focal point, created a series of webinars, blogs and toolkits to encourage global participation and provide resources for participating subnational governments.

- The Stocktake4ClimateEmergency Toolkit is available in [Google Drive](#) and as a [zip file](#).
- Introduction to #Stocktake4ClimateEmergency with LGMA Focal Point Yunus Arikan ([2 minute video](#))
- How to host a mini-COP in your town hall ([webinar](#))
- Funds for Global South local climate stocktake: selected recipients ([newsbit](#))
- Local youth voices going global: Uganda's youth-led stocktake ([blog post](#))
- Town Hall COPs energizing Global stocktake Towards and Beyond COP28 ([blog post](#))
- Localizing the Global Stocktake: Subnational Governments Making a Global Impact on Climate Change ([blog post](#) featuring Rosario, Denver and Hoboken)
- Turku hosts stocktake event to discuss local climate progress ahead of COP28 ([blog post](#))
- Glasgow engages with citizens in local stocktake event ahead of COP28 ([blog post](#))



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