



## **COP27 Presidency Launches Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) as Integrated, Holistic, Multilevel Initiative to Accelerate Climate Action**

**(Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt | 17 November, 2022):** The COP27 presidency, in collaboration with the UN-Habitat and facilitated by ICLEI, has launched the [Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation \(SURGe\) Initiative](#) at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), during the first-ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change. The initiative will work to enhance and accelerate local and urban climate action through multi-level governance, engagement, and delivery to transform cities to be healthy, sustainable, just, inclusive, low-emission and resilient urban systems for a better urban future for all.

"This UNFCCC COP27 is the implementation COP. After five years of interpreting the Paris Agreement and producing its rulebook in Glasgow, it's now time to act through holistic and multilevel initiatives including SURGe and the new Ministerial on Urbanization." - Ayman Tharwat Amin, Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Director Department of Climate, Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt.

It's now clear that the climate battle will be won or lost in cities. Cities and urban areas face challenges and opportunities as both significant offenders and victims of climate change. Through five integrated tracks, buildings and housing, urban water, urban mobility, urban waste/consumption, urban energy, SURGe builds on existing work in this space, on commitments of local and regional governments, adds momentum to existing initiatives, and provides a holistic framework to achieve sustainable and resilient urban systems. In other words, SURGe aims to leverage multi-level governance to transform cities to be healthy, sustainable, just, inclusive, low-emission and resilient urban systems for a better urban future for all.

"Cities are engines of climate action and at the forefront of delivering solutions. The SURGe Initiative promises to enhance and accelerate local and urban climate action through multi-level governance, engagement and delivery. We need to transform cities to be healthy, sustainable, just, inclusive, low-emission and resilient urban systems for a better urban future for all." - Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN Habitat.



The SURGe initiative is the product of robust stakeholder engagement under the leadership of the COP27 Presidency over the span of six months, engaging over 300 people and/or organizations. SURGe is the outcome of over ten years of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) advocacy to bridge climate and urban communities for a holistic and multilevel action. It addresses all levels of urbanization including climate change as one of the top priorities. This initiative led by the COP Presidency aims at holistic, multilevel, and inclusive collaboration, bringing together Ministers beyond just the climate scope and aiming to continue as a legacy in future COPs.

**Interim Co-leads and Steering Committee members of the Initiative**



**100+ Members of the Global SURGe Alliance, including:**





“As we enter phase two of the Paris Agreement, the SURGe initiative offers a critical opportunity for governments at all levels to partner with other sectors to finally put in motion what we’ve been advocating for decades; that multilevel climate action delivers. We urge that Climate and Urbanization Ministerial meeting be formalized into the UNFCCC COP to ensure cities and regions have a formal place at the climate negotiating table”, said Sharon Djiskma, Mayor of Utrecht, The Netherlands and Special LGMA Envoy to Climate and Urbanization Ministerial.

Now with over 120 endorsers establishing the Global SURGe Alliance representing national governments, UN organizations, civil society, academia and private sector and NGOs, the initiative is primed to establish a steering committee, Global Secretariat, and working groups to develop a roadmap and key success criteria for each working group as well as for the SURGe Initiative overall.

To endorse the initiative and/or express interest in participating in the initiative going forward, please complete [this form](#)

To learn more about the SURGe initiative, visit <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/surge/>

\*\*\*Organizational representatives from the COP27 Presidency, UN-Habitat, ICLEI, and select organizations from the Global SURGe Alliance are available for interview\*\*\*

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### **About UN Habitat**

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-Habitat, is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries that support policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. For more information, visit [unhabitat.org](http://unhabitat.org).

### **About ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability**

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our Members and team of experts work together through peer



exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability. For more information about ICLEI, please visit: <https://iclei.org/>.

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