



MEDIA RELEASE

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## COP29: Over 500 Delegates Representing Local and Other Subnational Governments Mobilize to Advance Multilevel Climate Goals

*Local and regional governments and their networks have mobilized more than 100+ political leaders with a 500-strong delegation worldwide attending COP29, making it one of the strongest overall delegations*

*Nearly 100 local and regional governments and their networks worldwide have endorsed the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities position for COP29*

*Local and regional elected leaders are urging the parties to include multilevel action into the new round of national climate and adaptation goals*

**Baku, Azerbaijan** (12 November 2024) – As the COP29 climate summit kicks off, cities, regions, local and subnational governments and other non-party stakeholders are uniting to demonstrate their indispensable role in climate action, setting the stage for an integrated, inclusive, and impactful global climate agenda.

Local and regional governments have sent more than 100+ political leaders and mobilized more than 500 delegates to advance city and region climate goals at COP29. The delegation of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency will be one of the largest at COP29. Delegates will participate in more than 170 events across the negotiations space, plenary sessions, Pavilions and Green Zone.

“COP28 made important strides in engaging local and subnational governments in the design and implementation of new climate plans by 2025. We come to COP29 as partners to the Parties, with expectations of urgent, strong action towards improved climate goals and financing” said Yunus Arian, **Director of Global Advocacy at ICLEI - Local Governments for**

**Sustainability (ICLEI) and the LGMA Focal Point to the UNFCCC.** “Throughout 2024, from the IPCC Special Report on Cities to the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), from the Mitigation Work Programme to delivery of multilevel action commitments under CHAMP, the LGMA Constituency was actively engaged in the UNFCCC processes to ensure progress. However, global efforts for transformative climate action are challenged by growing pressures from short-term domestic political agendas, complex geopolitical tensions and climate emergencies reaching every community, city, nation, continent, with diverse impacts due to existing inequalities. The LGMA's vision for local-to-global climate action and advocacy through multilevel collaboration promises to be one of the most effective tools for the climate community's victory during COP29.”

### **LGMA JOINT COP29 POSITION: A UNITED VOICE DEMANDING THREE CLEAR OUTCOMES FROM BAKU**

The LGMA today releases its COP29 Joint Position, which makes three clear calls to Parties. As of publication, this position has already been endorsed by nearly 100 local and regional governments and their global networks.

In the position, the LGMA calls on Parties to COP29 to urgently accelerate inclusive, multilevel, and gender-responsive climate action by embedding local and subnational governments within new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Additionally, highlighting the need for equitable climate financing, the LGMA urges COP29 to adopt an ambitious New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance that enables access across government levels. Finally, the LGMA is asking Parties to build on the COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature, and People, with deeper integration of biodiversity and climate goals.

Through its COP29 Joint Position, the LGMA also welcomes the **COP29 Declaration on Multisectoral Actions Pathways (MAP) to Resilient and Healthy Cities** as an opportunity to ensure synergy and continuity among numerous agendas and processes, to highlight the urgency and importance of urban climate finance and to strengthen the efforts to advance multilevel climate action by COP30. LGMA also expressed its support for a COP29 Truce Deal as a timely and necessary effort, and proposed a strong synergy with the biodiversity COP16 theme on “Peace with Nature” to strengthen such efforts.

### **THE MULTILEVEL ACTION & URBANIZATION PAVILION AT COP29: A PLATFORM FOR CLIMATE ACTION LEADERSHIP**

ICLEI, in its role as the focal point of the LGMA Constituency, and The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization, are hosting a joint pavilion at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion serves as the global stage for the city and subnational climate agenda at COP29. The Pavilion brings into focus not only the challenges and needs, but also the accomplishments and commitments of local and subnational actors on climate action. The Pavilion is co-hosted by Azerbaijan State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA); the ILBANK, development and investment bank of local authorities in Türkiye, with the support of the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change; Zero Waste Foundation; and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

“The Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion at COP29 represents a crucial platform for experts, cities and local governments to showcase their leadership in climate action. By fostering dialogue among diverse stakeholders, this Pavilion will elevate local voices and solutions that are essential for achieving global climate goals,” said **Anacláudia Rossbach, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat**. “It will not only highlight the challenges we face but also celebrate the innovative approaches being adopted by cities worldwide, reaffirming our collective commitment to sustainable urban futures,” she continued.

Open during the entire COP29 program, 12 – 22 November, the Pavilion provides a space for local, national and international leaders to meet and exchange. The Pavilion is hosted within the Blue Zone at COP29, where the urban climate agenda has a strong narrative through the two-week programming.

### **LGMA CONSTITUENCY REPRESENTED IN THE MINISTERIAL MEETING(S) ON URBANIZATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

On 20 November 2024, global leaders will gather for the third Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, a key moment to drive forward climate action at the urban level. The Ministerial Meeting, including the High-Level Opening and Roundtables, is co-hosted by the COP29 Presidency and UN-Habitat with the support of Azerbaijan's SCUPA, the COP29 High-Level Champion, Azerbaijan's Ministry of Digital Development and Transport, UNEP, WHO, ITF, WMO, FAO, Multilateral Development Banks, and with the support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and the LGMA. The meeting will emphasize the vital role cities must play in

addressing the climate crisis and accelerating sustainable urban development. The LGMA Constituency is proud to support this important moment in the COP29 agenda.

This meeting builds on a legacy of collaboration, starting with the inaugural Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP27, which launched the SURGe initiative to connect local, national, and global climate action. The second meeting at COP28 brought together over 1,000 participants, including 60 ministers, to further the agenda for multilevel climate action and local climate finance, resulting in a Joint Outcomes Statement with a ten-point strategy for advancing local climate action.

## **QUOTES FROM LGMA MEMBERS**

“Subnational governments around the world are delivering the green transition on the ground. At COP29, the European Committee of the Regions’ delegation will advocate for the LGMA Constituency’s position to be reflected in COP29’s decision outcomes, in particular the inclusion of subnational governments in the development, financing and implementation of ambitious climate plans leading up to COP30 in Brazil. Subnational governments play a crucial role in the success of the Paris Agreement, but we cannot do it alone. Multi-level governance and financial resources are needed to make sure the transition is a success,” said **Vasco Alves Cordeiro, President of the European Committee of the Regions and Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Autonomous Region of the Azores.**

"The year 2024 has once again underscored the severity of the climate crisis, as extreme weather events have caused extensive damage to local communities across the globe. We have witnessed unprecedented wildfires in North America and Chile, devastating floods from an abnormally active monsoon season in the Sahel, the widespread destruction caused by Typhoon Yagi in southern China and Southeast Asia, and severe flash flooding across Central Europe and Spain. Local communities are the first to bear the brunt of our warming climate, yet they are also proactive agents of change, continually seeking and implementing innovative solutions. At COP29, we urgently call for accelerated multilevel cooperation and accessible climate financing to empower local governments worldwide. The decisions made here must recognize cities as essential partners—vital to shaping and executing the ambitious climate strategies our world so desperately needs," said **Minna Arve, First Vice President of ICLEI and Mayor of Turku, Finland.**

“Climate change is already deeply affecting our cities and communities, and we’re committed to leading the charge in resilience and adaptation. But this requires support that flows to where

it's needed most, directly to the local level. African cities, regions, and towns are ready with climate-smart plans and on-the-ground solutions, but without access to adequate funding, these plans remain out of reach. We call for a fully operational Loss and Damage Fund that channels resources directly to subnational governments, enabling us to address the losses and damages we're facing. Alongside this, we urgently need improvements in the financial architecture to make climate finance accessible, reliable, and inclusive of local needs. By strengthening both the quantity and quality of finance, particularly for adaptation, we can build the sustainable, resilient communities that our citizens deserve," said **Yawo Winny Dogbatse, Mayor of Kloto I, Togo, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy Board Member and Chair of the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoMSSA) Regional Mayors Forum.**

"Every climate summit is now a critical one. With so many national leaders not showing up to this year's COP in Azerbaijan, I want to congratulate all the 500 plus local, city and regional governments that have shown up to this year's COP. Nearly 30 Under2 Coalition states, regions and provinces from across the world are in Baku, ready to play their part. Our home for the next two weeks will be the Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion. Through a power-packed program of events - cities, states, regions and all the representatives of the Local Government and Municipal Authority Constituency will make these two weeks count," said **Nehmat Kaur, Director, Under2 Coalition.**

"Scotland was the first global north government to commit funding to address loss and damage – and that money is now supporting vulnerable communities who are at most risk of suffering the effects of climate change. We are committed to continuing that progress and contributing to the finance debate, to ensure it is in line with climate justice principles. That is why at COP29 we will continue to call on international actors to scale up climate finance, particularly for adaptation and to address loss and damage, in the form of grants, not loans, with those most responsible for emissions contributing the most. Through our leadership positions in Under2 Coalition and Regions4, we will also continue to work towards increasing devolved nations, states and regions' ambition and delivery of a just transition to net zero," said **Gillian Martin, Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy for Scotland, representing Scotland as the President of Regions4.**

"With all sister organizations and networks we have issued a Call to Deliver an efficient local and subnational loss and damage response to establish governance structures that give local governments a direct voice, with special attention to marginalized groups and enrich the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements by including locally-sourced knowledge and implementation pathways to meet and the objectives of the three Rio

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Conventions: Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification. This call extends to national governments to support these paradigms of transformation and ensure that there are sufficient resources to implement a local mechanism for loss and damage,” said **Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**.

“Climate change touches all SDGs, from Zero hunger to Clean energy. We don’t have the luxury of time. As young local elected politicians, we advise that all countries unite to make progress. We should act now!” said **Clifford Galea Vella, President of Reġjun Tramuntana, Local Councils' Association (Malta), representative of CEMR & PLATFORMA Young Elected Officials Committee** at COP29.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

The LGMA offers COP29 daily mailers for tailored insights specifically for local and subnational leaders: <https://cop.cities-and-regions.org/updates>

Follow LGMA's roadmap for action and collaboration throughout COP29 in the agenda of our delegation: [https://www.cities-and-regions.org/wp-content/uploads/lgma\\_cop29\\_agenda.pdf](https://www.cities-and-regions.org/wp-content/uploads/lgma_cop29_agenda.pdf)

Full list of LGMA representatives who are shaping inclusive, multilevel climate action: [https://www.cities-and-regions.org/wp-content/uploads/lgma\\_cop29\\_politicalleaders.pdf](https://www.cities-and-regions.org/wp-content/uploads/lgma_cop29_politicalleaders.pdf)

The LGMA COP29 Joint Position: <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/cop29/cop29-lgma-joint-position/>

More information about the Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion (Area E, Pavilion I15): <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/multilevel-action-urbanization-pavilion-at-cop29/>

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## **NOTE TO EDITORS**

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

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (known as "ICLEI") 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, please visit: [www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)

### **About Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency**

Since the Earth Summit in 1992, when nine stakeholder groups – including local authorities – were designated as essential partners in implementing the global sustainability agenda, the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency has represented networks of local and regional governments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The LGMA has served as the voice of cities and regions since the first Conference of Parties (COP) in 1995 and continues to achieve advocacy success for multilevel action in the climate, nature, and desertification processes. The LGMA has grown to more than 45 accredited networks of local and regional governments. The LGMA coordinates inputs to the global climate negotiations all year, influencing and informing outcomes toward meeting the Paris Agreement. For more information, please visit: [www.cities-and-regions.org/](http://www.cities-and-regions.org/)

### **About the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments**

The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments is a coordination and consultation mechanism that brings together the major international networks of local governments to undertake joint advocacy work relating to global policy processes. It was set up in 2013 to bring the perspectives of local and regional governments to the SDGs, climate change agenda and New Urban Agenda in particular. The Global Taskforce convenes elected local and regional leaders from around the world in the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, whose role in the follow-up of the New Urban Agenda is recognized in the Quito Outcome Document. For more information, please visit: <https://www.global-taskforce.org/about-us>

### **About European Committee of the Regions**

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the voice of regions and cities in the European Union (EU). It represents local and regional authorities across the European Union and advises on new laws that have an impact on regions and cities (70% of all EU legislation). The CoR is a political assembly composed of 329 members and 329 alternates from all EU Member States (grouped by political party and headed by the President) who have been elected at local or regional level (for example as Mayors or Presidents of a region). The European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission must consult the CoR in policy areas that are defined in the EU Treaties. For more information, please visit: [www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu)

### **About Regions4**

Regions4 is the global voice of regional governments (states, regions and provinces) before UN negotiations, European Union initiatives and global discussions in the fields of climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development. Regions4 was established in 2002 at the World Summit in Johannesburg as the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development – nrg4SD. In 2019, it became Regions4, and now represents 47 regional governments from 23 countries on four continents. For more information, please visit: [www.regions4.org](http://www.regions4.org)

### **About Under2 Coalition**

Under2 Coalition is the largest global network of states and regions committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest. Today, the coalition represents 173 individual states, regions, provinces and subnational governments along with several other national and subnational entities: a total of more than 270 actors, totaling more than 50% of global GDP. For more information, please visit: [www.theclimategroup.org/under2-coalition](http://www.theclimategroup.org/under2-coalition)

### **About United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**

UCLG is the product of a century-old collaborative movement of local and regional governments. It is the voice of democratic local self-government and, with 250,000 members in over 140 States, it represents 70% of the world's population through local and regional governments in seven world regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Europe, Middle East and West Asia, Latin America, and North America. It also has a regional section and a section for metropolises and metropolitan areas. UCLG has ECOSOC consultative status. For more information, please visit: [www.uclg.org](http://www.uclg.org)