



CITIES & REGIONS
IN THE UNFCCC PROCESS



**GLOBAL
TASKFORCE**
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS

29 October 2024

HE Dr. Sultan Al Jaber
COP28 President
Special Envoy for Climate
Change,
United Arab Emirates

HE Mukhtar Babayev
COP29 Incoming President
Minister of Ecology and
Natural Resources,
Republic of Azerbaijan

HE Marina Silva
Minister of the Environment
and Climate Change,
Federative Republic of
Brazil

Excellencies,

On the margins of the 79th UN General Assembly in New York City, endorsers of the Coalition for High Ambition Multi-level Partnerships (CHAMP) and their partners met at the first CHAMP High Level Political Dialogue, under the leadership of the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Participants reflected on shared priorities and experiences in strengthening multilevel partnership in the context of designing their enhanced NDCs and associated plans for investment and implementation. Two new Parties also announced their endorsement of CHAMP - Finland and the United Kingdom - bringing the total number of endorsers up to 74, representing 34% of the global population, 61% of global GDP, and 36% of global emissions.

These developments demonstrate that Parties to the UNFCCC are increasingly searching for solutions and partnerships that can help them turn pledges into action on the ground - and that CHAMP is such a solution.

As the voice of cities and regions within the UNFCCC, the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency views CHAMP as the main opportunity to 1) accelerate inclusive, multilevel, gender-responsive and cooperative action through new NDCs developed in partnership with local and subnational governments, building on paragraph 161 of the UAE Consensus, 2) mobilize the finance needed for sustainable urban and climate action at all levels, and 3) align the implementation of the climate, nature, pollution, just transition and sustainable development agendas.

We know that **climate action undertaken by cities could close at least 10% of the current 2030 global emissions gap**, and with stronger mechanisms for multilevel collaboration, like CHAMP, could be scaled much further. Local and regional governments are also on the frontlines of climate impacts and held accountable by the communities affected by them. Their role is key to building much-needed trust, transparency, and credibility around climate pledges and targets, and ensuring a just, fair, resilient, and equitable transition that leaves no one behind.



Thus, on behalf of all cities and regions in the COP process, we would like to:

- **Reiterate our appreciation to the COP28 Presidency for elevating subnational climate action and bringing CHAMP to life** - reflecting the contributions of subnational governments to the COP process and decades of advocacy from the LGMA.
- **Recognize the COP29 Presidency for prioritizing the continuity of the urban agenda at future COPs**, including through the development of the Multisectoral Actions Pathways (MAP) Declaration to Resilient and Healthy Cities, the proposed Baku Continuity Coalition for Urban Climate Action, and the third iteration of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change.
- **Extend an open offer of partnership to the COP Presidencies Troika - and especially the future COP30 Presidency**, to help grow and advance CHAMP within the context of your Presidencies.
- **Urge you, as founding endorsers, to explore all opportunities in the negotiated outcomes to reflect the spirit of CHAMP and advance the GST outcome, in particular paragraph 161¹**, by establishing a work programme or other formal channel for subnationals to support and collaborate with Parties' in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, complementing the official position of the [LGMA Constituency towards COP29 negotiations](#).

Our constituency stands ready to work with you to show the world how the contributions of local and regional leaders through CHAMP can raise ambition, improve lives and livelihoods, and protect our planet. We are at your disposal for any consultations as appropriate both at the Multilevel Action and Urbanization Pavilion throughout COP29 in Baku, as well as during the U20 Mayors Summit in Rio. We thank you in advance for your commitment and continued partnership in advancing multilevel climate action.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Signed by:

Gregor Robertson
Special Envoy for Cities in CHAMP
& Global Ambassador of the Global Covenant
of Mayors for Climate & Energy

Yunus Arikan
Director of Global Advocacy, ICLEI
LGMA Focal Point

¹ *Urges Parties and non-Party stakeholders to join efforts to accelerate delivery through inclusive, multilevel, gender-responsive and cooperative action*