

LGMA STATEMENT AT SB60 JOINT OPENING PLENARY
Delivered by; Karishma Asarpota, Climate Action Officer,
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Mister Chair, distinguished delegates,

My name is Karishma Asarpota. I am a Climate Action Officer at ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and I am delivering this statement on behalf of the LGMA Constituency – the voice of towns, cities and regions in the UNFCCC process.

Last year at the SB58 opening, the LGMA Statement noted that engaging urbanization and multilevel action to address climate emergency will be the new normal in the second phase of the Paris Agreement.

We are delighted to see that COP28 Outcomes have transformed this foresight into a reality. Paragraph 161 of the GST Decision urges Parties to multilevel action and the CHAMP Initiative for multilevel NDCs by 2025 that has been endorsed by 72 nations till date.

Since COP28 in Dubai, the LGMA built on the momentum for multilevel climate action further; through our engagement with Ministers in Copenhagen and Berlin, with the 6th UN Environment Assembly and the UN-Habitat Executive Board in Nairobi, the Global Buildings Forum in Paris, the 'Latin American Cities and Regions Climate Week' in Belém, scoping of the upcoming IPCC Special Report on Cities in Riga, dialogues with finance institutions in Washington, and powerful multilevel collaboration cases for local climate action, such as in Dhaka.

At SB60 in Bonn, we are particularly engaged in the Mitigation Work Program focusing on cities, buildings and urban systems, just transition, urban loss and damage, Article 6.8 on non-market approaches, annual Global Stocktake dialogue and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action. We are also engaged with the COP28 and COP29 High Level Champions, including special agendas through our annual Daring Cities Forum in the next 3 days, and close collaboration with CHAMP Endorsing countries.

All these interactions demonstrate clearly that multilevel climate action is the most effective catalyzer to bridge communities and the real economy across the world to national climate plans and we invite all UNFCCC Parties to seize this opportunity from Bonn to Baku and Belem.

However, the shrinking of budgets of the UN agencies in general, but especially of the UNFCCC Secretariat, as we see here at SB60, poses a great risk for the success of this momentum. Therefore, we urge all nations to elevate their domestic and international financial contributions for multilevel climate action so that we can collectively respond to climate emergency as appropriate.

I thank you. (388 words)

** The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency has been representing local and regional governments at the processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since the first Conference of Parties (COP) in 1995. The LGMA also represents the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability acts as the Focal Point of LGMA. <https://www.cities-and-regions.org>*