

THE NANTES DECLARATION OF

Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change

Gravely concerned by the threat to human life from worsening global environmental trends, in particular, global warming, given that the 400 ppm threshold was recently breached, thus exposing the most vulnerable populations to increased risk, such as extreme weather events, and endangering sustainable access to water and food; that global biodiversity loss continues to accelerate; that deforestation and degradation of land is continuing and that our international waters are endangered;

Emphasizing the extreme importance of the ongoing climate change negotiations, in particular the progress to be achieved between the UN Warsaw Climate Conference in 2013 and the UN Paris Climate Conference in 2015 and parallel multilateral negotiations on biodiversity (2014), disaster risk reduction (2015), human settlements (Habitat III 2016), as well as the negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals launched after Rio+20 (2012-2015);

Highlighting the opportunity to set a common agenda for the negotiations on climate change and on the Sustainable Development Goals;

Emphasizing that the climate regime to be agreed on at the UN Paris Climate Conference in 2015 forms an essential building block and milestone in improved sustainability and equity for all, with its success underpinning progress in all other agendas; expecting that this series of multilateral negotiations will result, both, in ambitious, rapid and tangible climate actions in developed and developing countries as well as improved sustainability for all globally;

Highlighting our numerous ambitious targets agreed and implemented at the local level in fields such as GHG emission reduction, energy, waste, resource efficient use, clean air and water, disease prevention, health, biodiversity, forests and timber products, all of which directly contribute to sustainability at all levels; including acknowledgement of the need to more effectively align the climate change and biodiversity agendas at the local level in order to ensure enhanced adaptive capacity and resilience in a manner that is cost-effective and sustainable;

Building upon our local climate and sustainability actions and results achieved world-wide since 1992 in partnership with our citizens, stakeholders and networks;

Welcoming the decisions of national governments such as para.7 of Dec1./CP16 of Cancun Climate Conference in 2010 that recognizes local and subnational governments as “governmental stakeholders” of the global climate regime; Dec.X/22 of Nagoya Biodiversity Conference in 2010 that endorses the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020); para.42 of the Rio+20 Outcome document in 2012 that acknowledge progress and recognizes the role of local and subnational governments in achieving sustainable development; as well as the initiative of UN bodies such as the “Making My Cities Resilient” campaign by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), as concrete progress in the recognition, engagement and empowerment of local governments in global environmental governance;

Commending the Copenhagen World Catalogue of Local Climate Commitments, the Global Cities Covenant on Climate – the Mexico City Pact, the Durban Adaptation Charter, carbonn Cities Climate Registry (cCCR) and the Global Protocol for Community Scale GHG Emissions (GPC) as milestone achievements of the Local Government Climate Roadmap in its first phase between 2007-2012;

Welcoming the creation of the Global Taskforce for Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 and Habitat III, gathering the main international networks of cities, local and subnational authorities to provide a collaborative work towards a united voice in international processes for sustainable development, including the climate change process;

We, the Mayors and Subnational leaders of the World, through our partnership in the Local Government Climate Roadmap 2013-2015 and in coordination with the Global Taskforce for Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 and Habitat III,





In response to global processes:

1. **Commit** to engage with national governments, supranational organisations such as the European Union, intergovernmental bodies, private sector, finance institutions and civil society to create a strong and effective global climate community that can support and implement a rapid transformation towards a global renewable energy based, low-emission and resilient development at all levels,
2. **Offer** our know-how in the elaboration of strategic action plans to reduce GHG emissions, in facilitating the participation of stakeholders and in developing alternative financing models,
3. **Urge** national governments to commit, to take and implement all required actions now to limit any further increase in global warming, to approve a climate regime at the UN Climate Conference in Paris 2015 that will ensure the implementation of this goal, and to appropriately resource both mitigation and adaptation, and urge committed Parties, in particular the European Union, to adopt own ambitious and binding targets for climate and energy policies, hereby continuing to demonstrate a leadership role,
4. **Urge** national governments, supranational organisations and intergovernmental bodies to ensure that local and subnational governments have the capacity and resources to implement local climate mitigation and adaptation strategies that contribute to national and global efforts and to create enabling structures as well as effective framework conditions that enhance climate cooperation and complementarity between local and subnational governments, including City-to-City, City-Region, City-Rural, City-Business-Citizen, Region-Region and multilevel partnerships,
5. **Urge** national governments to ensure synergies with other multilateral processes including the Sustainable Development Goals negotiations, high level political forum, the UN Environment Assembly, the Hyogo Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction Phase-2-2015, HABITATIII – 2016, and the Nagoya 10-Year Plan of Action for Biodiversity,

In terms of our renewed global climate advocacy strategy:

6. **Engage** as “governmental stakeholders” with national governments in the multilateral negotiations on climate change and further advocate for a strong and effective global climate regime and a global climate community that will ensure implementation at all levels, building upon the achievements of the first phase of the Local Government Climate Roadmap of 2007-2012,
7. **Welcome** the group “Friends of Cities” at the UNFCCC as a mechanism of dialogue and collective consultation between Parties and the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency that can provide inputs to the climate negotiations as well as foster partnerships in or outside the climate negotiations,
8. **Invite** Ministers, starting with the UN Warsaw Climate Conference in 2013, to hold regular High Level Mayoral-Ministerial dialogues, in particular within the framework of multilateral climate conferences, to report on our actions, monitor progress achieved and explore further collaborations,
9. **Commit**, to hold a regular and high-level dialogue between the local authorities networks and Mayors and Subnational leaders of the World to advocate for an ambitious and balanced agreement the UN Climate Conference in Paris 2015; and to collaborate with the other major groups which participate in the multilateral negotiations, in particular the scientific and business community, with a view to formulating common positions on the multilateral negotiations in progress,
10. **Invite** all Parties to UNFCCC to decide at the Warsaw Climate Conference in 2013 to initiate a process to prepare, agree and adopt not later than at Paris COP21, an Action Plan to engage local and subnational governments in climate change policies on mitigation and adaptation, supported by capacity building, finance and technology,





11. **Request** national governments, supranational organisations such as the European Union and intergovernmental bodies to create multilateral/bilateral partnerships or initiatives through existing or new mechanisms to enhance and support local, low-carbon, resource-efficient, climate-resilient action in the pre-2020 period as well as a specific space for local governmental stakeholders in the governance of the various structures in charge of the implementation of the results of the multilateral negotiations,

In terms of our vision for financing to scale-up local climate action:

12. **Commit** to actively mobilize and prioritize within our own local budgetary schemes the necessary funding required to implement local low carbon actions and adaptation measures, to enhance our response capacities to climate change, and to generate where we can new and innovative sources of funding that can support our low carbon plans, low emission development plans, biodiversity action plans, our integrated sustainability plans, or other smart city development measures, noting that the development and implementation of these plans can offer a great opportunity for local governments to create local jobs and to respond to the economic crisis,
13. **Commit** to ensure the transparency and accountability of our own low carbon and resilience measures, by engaging in and enhancing the global/regional/national level initiatives for local commitment and reporting and capacity building programmes/contests to enhance local climate action globally,
14. **Welcome** the Covenant of Mayors in Europe and other innovative models on multi-level governance, such as low carbon pilot city programmes in China, to inspire similar initiatives in other parts of the world as well,
15. **Urge** national governments and multilateral development banks, public financing institutions, private funds, philanthropic funds and alternative financing mechanisms to increase the allocation of funding to support local climate action; to enhance access for local and subnational governments to such funding; to support the replication of innovative local solutions on climate financing; as well as to direct finance away from individual projects towards a holistic and integrated sustainable transformation to low-carbon, climate-resilient communities, noting that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should be respected in climate finance as well,
16. **Call** upon national governments, to launch specific windows of funding to directly support local climate action and sustainable urban development within the global finance mechanisms and funds including the Clean Development Mechanism, the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund and the Global Environment Facility,
17. **Invite** national governments and intergovernmental bodies to collaborate with the local and subnational governments as appropriate, in the development, implementation and advancement of existing and new market-based mechanisms, taking into account innovative experiences such as in Tokyo, California, Quebec or China,
18. **Invite** national governments and intergovernmental bodies to support, facilitate and ensure vertical integration of local GHG emission accounting, management and reporting within the national procedures and practices, taking into account the evolving experience of local and subnational governments in measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) climate action,
19. **Urge** national governments, in collaboration with private and public financial sectors, to make and implement new, public financial commitments that will phase out subsidies and portfolio support for fossil fuels, as a means to fill the substantial financing gap required to scale up local climate action, in particular for renewable energies,

We, the Mayors and Subnational leaders of the World, through our partnership in the Local Government Climate Roadmap 2013-2015 and in coordination with the Global Taskforce for Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 agenda towards Habitat III,

20. **Invite** the Government of France, in collaboration with the group "Friends of Cities" at the UNFCCC and with a view towards the UN Paris Climate Conference in 2015, to undertake all necessary efforts to assist Mayors and Subnational Leaders in the implementation of this Declaration adopted in Nantes, France on 28 September 2013.



The Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change

We, the Mayors and Subnational leaders of the World, through our partnership in the Local Government Climate Roadmap 2013-2015 and in coordination with the Global Taskforce for Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 agenda towards Habitat III

In response to global processes

1. Commit to rapid transformation
2. Offer know-how of local governments in climate action
3. Urge for an ambitious outcome at Paris 2015
4. Urge for support to local governments
5. Urge for synergy among global processes

Renewed Climate Advocacy Strategy

6. Act as governmental stakeholders
7. Welcome Friends of Cities at the UNFCCC
8. Invite to Mayor-Ministerial dialogues
9. Enhance dialogues within constituency and other major groups
10. Kick-off an action plan by Paris 2015 at Warsaw 2013
11. Encourage partnerships and engagement

Financing to Scale-Up Local Climate Action

12. Mobilize municipal budgets
13. Ensure transparency and accountability of local climate action
14. Encourage multilevel governance models
15. Encourage financing for holistic and integrated transformation
16. Urge for specific windows for sustainable urban development in global finance mechanisms
17. Encourage innovative existing and new market-based mechanisms at local and subnational level
18. Enhance vertical integration at the national level
19. Urge the phase-out subsidies for fossil fuels

Implementation

20. Invite France and Friends of Cities at the UNFCCC to support implementation



The Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change has been developed:

Through the partnership:



**Local Government
Climate Roadmap**

Facilitated by:



Endorsed by:



In collaboration with:

