Rotterdam, The Netherlands January 25, 2021

# Joint Statement on Accelerating Climate Adaptation in Cities

# 1000 Cities Adapt Now global program



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# Joint Statement on Accelerating Climate Adaptation in Cities

To be launched 25-01-2021 at Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Cities and their growing populations are impacted by climate change on a daily basis. The need to accelerate adaptation in cities and to invest in solutions with multiple benefits is higher than ever before. It is for this reason that the first ever 10-year global program, 1000 Cities Adapt Now (1000 CAN), has been established to accelerate and scale climate adaptation in 1000 cities worldwide.

1000 CAN is initiated by a new and unique Coalition to accelerate adaptation in cities, installed by the Global Commission on Adaptation at the launch of their flagship report, "Adapt Now" (Sept 2019), wherein the Commission called for redoubling the effort to build more resilient and equitable cities. The Coalition will create impact on the ground in cities and is endorsed and supported by cities.
In this Joint Statement the Coalition, and a first cohort of Partners and Cities, confirm the urgency to act now and commit to support further development and implementation of 1000 CAN. The Coalition and others also call on city leaders, heads of states, NGO's and the private sector participating in CAS 2021 to support and facilitate this global program laying the foundation for a decade of action toward a climate-resilient future of 1000 cities in 2030.

### **A Resilient Recovery**

As cities recover from COVID-19, smart investments and policies on resilience can create a triple dividend: helping cities boost their economies; improving equity; and preparing communities for inevitable climate and health threats. According to the Global Commission on Adaptation's *Adapt Now* report, adaptation investments consistently deliver high returns, with benefit-cost ratios ranging from 2:1 to 10:1. Plus, when compared to traditional investment, adaptation investments often create more jobs, many of which are at the local level. The health and economic impacts of COVID-19, climate change and inequality are deeply intertwined. The need to accelerate inclusive adaptation in cities and to invest in solutions is higher than ever before. Cities *must* and *can* make a difference, we have no time to waste!

To help cities recover from COVID-19 and build a more climate-resilient and inclusive future, solutions must deliver immediate benefits to our most vulnerable communities, while also strengthening cities' individual and collective capacities to adapt and thrive in the face of climate change contributing to and in line with the COP26 High Level Climate Champion's Race to Resilience.

# Five Principles of Accelerating and Scaling Urban Climate Adaptation

We (the *Coalition* and the first cohort of Partners) commit to support the most vulnerable urban communities and help accelerate and scale urban climate adaptation globally during the Decade of Action by implementing the following five principles:

- 1. Strengthen and prioritize urban adaptation and climate resilience in cities with a focus on equity and the most vulnerable and poor communities and settlements in the world;
- 2. Build water-resilient cities and scale nature-based solutions to address climate risks;
- 3. Advocate for more devolved mandates and funding for cities and advance coordinated leadership to gain political leverage and financing at scale;
- 4. Enhance knowledge and capacity on urban adaptation and support peer-to-peer collaboration for deep, long-term and systemic change;
- 5. Coordinate methods and (smart) innovations, partners and investments to maximise synergy and impact and accelerate implementation.

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# 1000 Cities Adapt Now – global program

The main goal of the 1000 Cities Adapt Now global program is to accelerate adaptation in 1000 cities by 2030. To achieve this, the program is promoting a comprehensive package of measures including the implementation of nature-based solutions, urban water resilience solutions and a transformative capacity building program. An alliance of core delivery partners will start implementation in a first batch of 100 cities. This program will focus on climate adaptation in cities as leverage for an inclusive and resilient COVID-19 recovery, while creating a pathway to reach the Paris climate adaptation goals.

#### Impact of the *1000 Cities Adapt Now* global program: By 2030 reducing climate risks and improving the quality of life of 500 million – 1 billion citizens.

To deliver on these commitments and generate the speed and scale we must work with cities, community groups, international organizations, financial institutions, city networks and knowledge partners. To kick off, the program has initiated several actions and related partnerships to start creating impact in cities.

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) and World Resources Institute (WRI) are co-leading the Resilient Cities Action Track to build a 10 year program and a growing coalition to accelerate urban resilience.

The lead coalition partners, GCA, WRI, the Resilient Cities Network and UN-Habitat respond to the needs of the cities to start adapting to climate change now, and commit to operationalize the Global Program through:

- **A.** *System Change:* A growing coalition of global organizations will coordinate technical support and investments, share knowledge and networks to maximize impact and accelerate implementation on the ground in cities;
- **B.** Strategic Solutions: Adaptation as driver of resilient recovery to advance three high impact adaptation solutions: nature-based adaptation, urban water resilience, inclusive and locally led adaptation for the urban poor;
- *C. Scaling Strategy: Transformative capacity building by building an urban adaptation practice and by supporting local and global knowledge partnerships on adaptation;*

### Launched by

Francis X. Suarez, Mayor of Miami Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of Rotterdam Patrick Verkooijen, CEO Global Center on Adaptation Andrew Steer, CEO World Resources Institute

## Supported by

#### PARTNERS

(Role: Act as implementing partner for related sub-deliverables, be an ambassador for the 1000 Cities Adapt global program, connect to donors and other City programs)

#### Lead Coalition Partners

Global Center on Adaptation; World Resources Institute; Resilient Cities Network; UN-Habitat

#### **Global Knowledge Partners**

Slum Dwellers International (SDI); Deltares; the IHE/IHS/TU Delft-coalition; CURE (Collaborative on Urban Resilience and Effectiveness); BLUE21-Foundation; Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water; Global Environment Facility (GEF); GCOM Global Covenant of Mayors

#### **Global Support Partners**

ICCCAD (International Centre for Climate Change and Development); LUCCC (Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change); Global Network for Advanced Management; Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Rotary International; Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation Germany (BMZ); Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Canada; UN Environment Program

#### **INFLUENCING CITIES**

(Role: Endorse and support the 1000 Cities Adapt Now global program, share knowledge, advocate for climate resilience regionally and globally and connect to relevant networks and partners) Accra – Mayor Adjei Sowah Antwerp - Mayor Bart de Wever Athens – Mayor Kostas Bakoyannis Beira – Mayor Daviz Simango Christchurch - Mayor Lianne Dalziel The Hague – Mayor Jan van Zanen Greater Manchester - Mayor Andy Burnham Groningen – Mayor Koen Schuiling Istanbul – Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu Jakarta – Governor Anies Baswedan Khulna – Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque Milan – Mayor Giuseppe Sala Miami – Mayor Francis Suarez Paris – Mayor Anne Hidalgo Rotterdam – Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb Surat - Commissioner Shri Banchhanidhi Pani Tirana – Mayor Erion Veliaj

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#### **APPENDIX 1: GLOBAL PROGRAM STRUCTURE** TO

ACCELERATE ADAPTATION IN 1000 CITIES BY 2	030
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#### A. Cities Action Track Coalition

Global Center for Adaptation (GCA), World Resources Institute (WRI), Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities), UN-Habitat

**Deliverables:** 

Leads:

- A unique platform of key resilience leaders combines forces to provide donors and cities a defragmented offer, i. both institutional and programmatic to accelerate climate adaptation in cites.
- ii. By 2030, 1000 cities will have a comprehensive Climate Resilience Strategy and have started implementing their related adaptation action plans.
  - B. Transformative Capacity Building for Adaptation and Rigorous Learning

1. Scalable Practical Transformative Capacity Building	2. Knowledge and Learning network	
Lead: GCA	Leads: WRI (i), GCA (ii)	
Co-leads: R-Cities, WRI, Deltares, Partners: SDI, Blue21	Co-leads: CURE, ICCCAD, LUCCC, R-Cities, IHE-Delft	
Deliverables:	Deliverables:	
<ul> <li>i. Development of Cities Adaptation Accelerator (CAA), including new modules on e.g. vulnerable communities and on Floating Urban Development in coastal cities;</li> <li>ii. By 2030, through partners apply CAA in 300 cities to build climate adaptation strategies and action plans and parallel start implementation;</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>i. By 2030, support 100 cities and 100 communities develop and implement 200-300 inclusive climate adaptation initiatives in partnership with global network of 40 universities;</li> <li>ii. By 2030 Providing education and knowledge for students</li> </ul>	
iii. Dissemination to and exchange between <b>1000</b> regional cities, supported by the Community of Water Adaptation Practice.	in <b>200 cities</b> through MSC Climate Resilient Cities run by IHE/IHS/TU Delft-coalition.	

#### C. Accelerate and Scale Solutions for Urban Adaptation

1. Advance nature-based	2. Urban Water Resilience Initiative	3. Build the climate resilience of		
solutions (NBS) in cities to		the urban poor		
reduce climate risks	Africa Lead: WRI			
	Co-leads: R-Cities, tRS, Arup	Leads: UN-Habitat, WRI, GCA		
Lead: WRI	Deliverables:	Deliverables:		
Co-lead: Cities4Forests (C4F)	By 2030:	i. By 2023, implement climate		
Deliverables:	i. An urban water resilience program has been set up to	resilience pilot projects in 12 hotspot		
By 2030, a coalition of <b>65</b> cities	implement and scale urban water action plans in cities	cities, and mainstream pro-poor		
have integrated NBS into spatial	across sub-Saharan Africa.	resilience in national and local climate		
planning, investments, and	ii. The Africa Urban Water Resilience program has been	policies.		
infrastructure implementation to	scaled from 6 to 20 cities with catalytic impact in at	ii. By 2027, scale up climate resilience		
reduce their climate risks.	least 100 cities.	to <b>50-70</b> hotspot cities through		
	iii. A pan-African finance coalition supporting urban	planning and investment finance.		
	water resilience has been established.	iii. By 2030, enhance capacity among		
		all levels of government and core		
	India Lead: WRI	partners to coordinate action towards		
	Co-leads: WaterAid, BMGF, Water.org, Biome Trust,	resilience of the urban poor globally in		
	MHT, Take a Stake Fund, iihs, NIUM, GUDI, Dasra	at least 140 cities.		
	Deliverables:			
	i. An accelerate access to WASH and healthy spaces			
	coalition has been setup in India			
	ii. The coalition develops key research products and			
	implements learning labs for the urban poor			
	communities across India			
	iii. The coalition implements demonstration projects			
	advancing placed based integrated WASH and healthy			
	spaces solutions in 8 cities and 18 communities			
D. DATA				

#### Lead: WRI Co-lead: GCOM

**Deliverables:** 

i.

Establish an M&E plan and develop indicators for the 1000 Cities Adapt Now Program to track progress.

By 2030, add the resilience data of 1000 cities to GCOM's climate data portal for cities. ii.

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# Join the coalition #1000CAN

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