



**INTERVENTION OF ICLEI – LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
AT THE 1ST SESSION OF 2023 MEETING OF UNHABITAT EXECUTIVE BOARD**

28 March 2023

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**(The verbal presentation of this intervention will be shortened to comply with the 2-
minutes time limit.)**

Mr. Chair, Madame Executive Director, distinguished members of the UNHabitat Executive Board, ladies and gentlemen,

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in more than 130 countries, ICLEI influences 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.

This intervention builds upon the [ICLEI Intervention I delivered at the first UNHabitat Executive Board Meeting on 7 April 2021](#).

At that intervention, ICLEI invited UNH Secretariat and Executive Board to actively engage with the LGMA Constituency to the UNFCCC to convene the first-ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at Glasgow at COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, under the motto of “Time4MultilevelAction”.

At COP26 in Glasgow in 2021, the LGMA Constituency succeeded to convince the UNFCCC negotiators to include “the urgent need for multilevel and cooperative action” at the preamble of the Glasgow Climate Pact.

Building on this impressive achievement for multilevel action at COP26, we were delighted to hear that at its meeting in March 2022, the UNH ExBoard decided to ask UNH ED to convene a ministerial meeting on urbanisation and housing at COP27.

Over these months since March 2022, we had extensive dialogues with UNH Climate Team and UNH ED in order to successfully deliver this UNH ExB decision, including active engagement at WUF11 in Katowice and special event in Nairobi on 9 September.

ICLEI is proud to report to UNH ExB that all these efforts resulted with the convening of the [first-ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate at COP27 on 17 November 2022](#), which concluded with the milestone [SURGe Initiative launched by the Egyptian government as the COP27 Presidency where ICLEI is a proud partner with UNhabitat in the secretariat](#).

In the meantime, ICLEI also actively supported the Urban7 process as the response of local governments to the G7 process. [U7 resulted in remarkable outcomes in 2022](#) during Germany G7 Presidency, including unprecedented references to cities, sustainable urbanization and multilevel action at the G7 Leaders and Ministerial Communiques as well as the first-ever [G7 Sustainable Urbanization Ministerial in September 2022](#).





In 2023, U7 already made major progress by assigning ICLEI and the Global Parliament of Mayors to lead the U7 Secretariat which convened the [2023 U7 Mayors Summit on 2 March 2023](#) where JDCMA acted as the Chair and announced the [2023 U7 Mayors Declaration](#) which was presented to MLIT Parliamentary Secretary who attended in person. In 2023, under the Japanese G7 Presidency, U7 is already invited to attend the 2nd G7 Sustainable Urbanization Ministerial, and to the G7 Environment Ministerial for the first time.

In addition, in 2022 ICLEI and LGMA community also succeeded prominent role for cities, sustainable urbanization and multilevel action at the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework including Target:12 on urban green spaces with CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature as its reporting platforms and the 2nd 10 Year Action Plan of Biodiversity for Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities](#).

ICLEI sincerely recommends UNH ExB to welcome all these achievements at this first meeting in 2023 and to provide guidance for strategic next steps at the 2nd UN Habitat Assembly.

ICLEI, through its network of more than 2500 cities, towns and regions in more than 130 countries and its global mandate as the focal point of the Global Task Force in the Rio Conventions related process, reiterates its commitment to support and collaborate with UNH Secretariat and UNH Executive Board in our joint endeavor to promote cities, sustainable urbanization and multilevel action as a key enabler to reach all sustainability goals globally, ensure a decent life for all and preserve our one and only Mother Earth.