

Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change

COP27 Solutions Day, 17 November 2022

Supported by United Nations Human Settlements Programme

- Host:** COP27 Presidency, represented by Honourable Assem Abdelhamid Hafez El Gazzar, Minister for Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities, Arab Republic of Egypt
- Date:** Thursday, 17 November 2022, 10:00 - 12:00 UTC+2
- Location:** UNFCCC COP27 – Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, Blue Zone, Area E, Meeting Room 20.
- Invitees:** Ministers for Housing, Urban Development, Environment and Climate Change, representatives of local and regional governments through the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency to the UNFCCC, as well as non-party and non-state actors such as academia, civil society, non-governmental organizations, think tanks, the private sector, urban networks, multilateral banks, UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations, and other UNFCCC Observers, and international and national media and press.
- Streaming:** <https://unfccc.int/event/ministerial-meeting-on-urbanization-and-climate-change>

Foreword by Honourable Assem Abdelhamid Hafez El Gazzar, Minister for Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities, Arab Republic of Egypt

As we gather at COP27, we recognize the urgent need to address the challenges of climate change, which threaten the sustainability and resilience of our cities and regions. Climate change affects not only the physical environment but also the social and economic systems that support human well-being. Therefore, we need to adopt a holistic and integrated approach to climate action, one that engages all levels of governance, all sectors of society, and all regions of the world.

The Egyptian Ministry of Housing has been a key partner of the UN-Habitat and other stakeholders in promoting sustainable urbanization, resilient housing, and green infrastructure in Egypt and beyond. Through its national policies, programs, and projects, Egypt is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, and enhancing the adaptive capacity of its cities and communities.

At the same time, Egypt recognizes the importance of global cooperation and multilateralism in addressing climate change. As a member of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, Egypt has pledged to contribute to the global effort to limit the temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and to support developing countries in their adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Through its participation in COP27, Egypt reaffirms its commitment to multilevel and multi-stakeholder engagement, which is essential for achieving the ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement. Egypt also welcomes the opportunity to showcase its SURGe Initiative, which aims to promote sustainable urban regeneration and green entrepreneurship in disadvantaged areas.

Looking forward to COP28 and beyond, Egypt calls for greater cooperation and solidarity among all actors, in order to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon, resilient, and equitable future. We need to mobilize more resources, technology, and knowledge to support the most vulnerable and the most affected by climate change. We need to promote innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship as drivers of sustainable development. We need to ensure that no one is left behind in the transition to a sustainable future.

Eventually, I would like to thank all the participants who attended this event, and who share our vision and commitment for a sustainable future. Your presence this day was a testament to the importance of global engagement and multilevel action in addressing the urgent challenges of climate change.



Honourable Assem Abdelhamid Hafez El Gazzar
Minister for Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities
Arab Republic of Egypt

Foreword by Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Last year, the world's population crossed the 8-billion mark. More than four billion of us live in cities today. Each week, the urban population adds around 1.5 million. And it is expected that almost 70 percent of the population will live in cities by 2050.

This growth means greater diversity, infinite opportunities, and endless possibilities. However, it also means more challenges as cities contribute 70 percent of all carbon emissions. Already today, groundwater depletion, food shortages, sea-level rise, extreme temperatures, and the increased frequency of natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, and storms, affect cities and their residents. Moreover, Climate, with the other current crises of COVID-19, Conflict, and Capital, take an extraordinary toll on cities and the most vulnerable populations.

It all starts with cities. Our solutions can be delivered by cities, too. We need to change the current narrative about cities and stop seeing them as solely the source of problems. Instead, let's remember that cities offer innovative solutions. Cities are at the core of reducing emissions and adapting to climate change.

However, they cannot do it alone. We need an all-house approach and collaboration or local, regional, national, and international systems. The very future of humanity is at risk if we do not act now.

Our first-ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at a global climate change conference, COP27, convened as part of Solutions Day, was a significant step in delivering alignment for the multilevel climate action. The meeting brought together the ministers of housing, urban development, environment, and climate change. More than 50 states were represented. We also had a strong representation of local and regional governments, civil society, non-governmental organizations, urban networks, multilateral banks, UN agencies, and intergovernmental organizations. It was a strong message that a global multilevel climate change response is critical to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

During the same meeting, we launched the COP27 Presidency Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) Initiative, with the vision to build on effective multilevel governance to transform cities to be healthy, sustainable, just, inclusive, and resilient. I want to congratulate the COP27 Presidency for their leadership and thank ICLEI, our partners, and 170+ organizations who endorsed the initiative over the last months. I look forward to collaborating with all partners to turn the vision of SURGe into reality.



Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Executive Summary

On 17 November 2022, the Egyptian COP27 Presidency convened the first-ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at a UN Climate Change Conference of Parties, focusing on housing, urban development, multilevel action in relation to climate change.

The Ministerial Meeting reinforced the commitment of the Paris Agreement for multi-level climate action and committed to accelerated climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation action and local climate finance. Further the COP27 Presidential [Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation](#) (SURGe) Initiative was launched at the event.

The Meeting brought together Ministers of Housing, Urban Development, Environment and Climate Change, with representatives from around 50 Member States in attendance. Additionally, representatives of local and regional governments, as well as civil society, non-governmental organizations, urban networks, multilateral banks, UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations participated in the event. In total, over 300 participants were in attendance in person. The event was also live streamed.

Overall, 16 countries, five representatives of the LGMA delegation, and four non-state actors made statements at this Ministerial Meeting and pointed to the urgency of addressing climate change within the urban development, housing and built environment agendas and of advancing multilevel climate action more comprehensively. In seven statements, speakers endorsed regular ministerial meetings on urban development and climate change at future COPs. In nine statements of government delegations and in five statements of non-state actors the SURGe initiative was endorsed, echoing the endorsement of the SURGe initiative by over 170 global partners, including national and local governments, urban networks, international organisations, NGOs and academia, among others.

The main takeaway from this Ministerial Meeting is the need to strengthen multilevel climate action as a critical framework for addressing the climate crisis and the need to enable cities and local governments as solutions providers for climate change adaptation, resilience and mitigation. This aspect has been highlighted especially in the speech of the Mayor of Utrecht stating: “It is Solutions Day today, and the involvement of cities is the solution”. With this statement being echoed by all attendees, delegations further expressed the urgency to localize climate finance, adaptation, and mitigation finance.

1. Background: Cities, Regions and Climate Change

Cities are key actors in the climate crisis. By 2050, towns and cities are expected to grow by 2.5 billion people raising the urban share to 68% of the global population. Growing urbanization and population growth, coupled with economic development and rising prosperity are expected to contribute to rising emissions in cities. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has warned that without drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, global warming will not be held to the target of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. With global warming comes extreme weather events that are acutely felt in cities. Never before has the IPCC highlighted the role of cities for climate change mitigation and adaptation to the extent done in its two most recent reports¹². Summary reports for Urban Policymakers of the current round of IPCC assessment were launched at COP27 and, given the importance of cities, the IPCC will embark on the development of a Special Report on Cities and Climate Change in the next Assessment Cycle.

Cities are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Groundwater depletion, fires, food shortages, sea-level rise, spikes in energy use due to extreme temperatures, and the increased frequency of extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and storms affect city infrastructure and the livelihoods and health of residents. More than 90% of the world’s urban areas are located along coastlines, where rising sea levels and storms threaten inhabitants and infrastructure with flooding and strong winds. More than 10% of the world’s physical assets and population are located in urban centers and clusters in low elevation coastal zones (less than 10 meters above sea level). Sea-level rise is already affecting more than 25 megacities severely. The more than 1 billion people who live in urban slums and informal settlements are particularly vulnerable to climate impacts, as many live along waterfronts and riverbanks that are prone to flooding.

There is growing international awareness that the climate battle will be won or lost in cities. Cities are committing to climate action. Around 11,500 local governments have committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change through the Global Covenant of Mayors. At COP26 more than 1,000 cities and local governments joined the Cities Race to Zero. The more than 1,000 cities and local governments signing onto the Race to Zero represent 722 million people and will pursue ambitious climate action in line with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C – the global standard for climate action. New estimates from Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy show that this collective action has the potential to reduce global emissions by at least 1.4 gigatons annually by 2030.

But investments in urban climate resilience infrastructure are not enough. As of now, just 21% of climate finance goes towards adaptation and resilience (equivalent to USD 16.7 billion annually); and only around 10% of climate investments reach the local level. This is not enough: by 2030, the UN Environment Programme estimates that the developing world will have to spend up to USD 300 billion a year just to cope with exacerbated climate impacts.

¹ IPCC (2022a): Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-ii/>)

² IPCC (2022b): Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change (<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/>)

2. Why a Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP27?

National governments are increasingly supporting local climate action: 84% of the updated NDCs now have strong or moderate urban content compared to 69% in the initial NDCs. National governments play a pivotal role to accelerate subnational climate action and to provide an enabling environment for urban and local stakeholders to develop new climate commitments and implement these.

Against this backdrop, at UN-Habitat's Executive Board meeting, member states, based on the Secretariat's report³, requested UN-Habitat's Executive Director to "explore with the Presidency of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change the possibility of the convening of a **housing and urban development ministerial meeting on cities and climate change** to be held on the margins of COP27."⁴

In order to ensure that climate action at the cities, towns, communities and at the building level is taken and to ensure that all key stakeholders (local government; the private sector, including construction companies, developers, financial institutions as well as urban professionals and their institutions; researchers, academia and communities) are engaged, national frameworks need to be strengthened. This would include the stronger integration of Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in NDCs and NAPs and other priority climate change policies, strategies and plans. Further Housing and Urban Policies, National Spatial Plans, Planning Frameworks, Building Codes and Standards etc. need to be completely revised to support Net-Zero emission targets and Urban Climate Resilience Development. National frameworks are also critical to ensure that climate finance reaches cities and local governments. Strong international commitments from national governments, backed by cities, the private sector and other urban stakeholders need to be in place.

Many countries, and cities, and companies have taken bold steps towards climate action. These, as well as cities that have not yet given climate change the needed attention, will be able to take faster climate action if the right framework conditions are put in place.

What do we mean by multi-level climate action, why is it important, and why does it deserve more attention?

In its preamble, the Glasgow Climate Pact recognizes "the important role of ...local communities and civil society ... in addressing and responding to climate change and [highlights] the urgent need for multilevel

³ HSP/EB.2022/5 - Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat B. Climate action in 2021: English: <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/03/english-hspeb.20225.pdf>; Arabic: <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/03/arabic-hspeb.20225.pdf>

⁴ Outcomes: at the moment the final edit has not been uploaded. Neither the draft nor the final decision are translated into English. However, the linked version was approved by the Executive Board: <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/04/hsp-eb-2022-crp2-rev.3.pdf>

and cooperative action”. Commensurate to the global commitment, 84% of revised NDCs now include strong or moderate urban content, up from 69% in the first generation of NDCs.⁵

The IPCC 2022 Assessment reports⁶ leave no doubt that local and urban climate action is absolutely essential to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement yet lagging. General consensus has emerged and is confirmed in the above quote from the Glasgow Climate Pact, that multilevel climate action is becoming increasingly important for cities to realize their potential in climate adaptation, and mitigation, implementing the Paris Agreement and achieve nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Through collaboration, communication, and stakeholder engagement across all levels of government, multilevel climate action can create an enabling environment that can turn climate commitments into policy commitments across various sectors, strategies.

More specifically, multilevel climate action can enable the development of regional and local contributions which complement and feed into NDCs. “Breaking down” NDCs into lower spatial-scale commitments requires access to data at national, regional, and local levels, which can help track the progress on climate commitments and enable their monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and verification. Specifically, multilevel climate action can include:

- Integrated climate adaptation/mitigation, all levels of government and across sectors.
- **Climate Change integration into National Urban Policies, sector policies, guidelines, standards, plans, instruments, incentives and codes.**
- Integrate urban development dimensions in NDCs, National Climate Change Policies and Strategies and provide localization frameworks.
- Conducive governance structures, stronger institutions, stakeholder engagement strategies.
- Strategies for city and local-level climate finance
- Strengthened vertically and horizontally integrated capacity development and communication
- Integration of local climate data and monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) systems into national frameworks

⁵ [Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\) White Paper | UN-Habitat \(unhabitat.org\)](#)

⁶ Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, [Working Group II — IPCC](#), and Mitigation of Climate Change [Working Group III — IPCC](#)

3. Overview and Statistics of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change

Confirmed ministers or designated country representatives counted by the door that attended the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change: 47*

*Considering the European Union: 48

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|--|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Commonwealth of the Bahamas | 16. Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal | 34. Republic of Panama |
| 2. Democratic Republic of the Congo | 17. The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria | 35. Republic of Rwanda |
| 3. Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste | 18. Plurinational State of Bolivia | 36. Republic of San Marino |
| 4. European Union* | 19. Republic of Angola | 37. Republic of Sierra Leone |
| 5. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia | 20. Republic of Azerbaijan | 38. Republic Slovenia |
| 6. Federal Republic of Germany | 21. Republic of Bulgaria | 39. Republic of South Africa |
| 7. Federal Republic of Somalia | 22. Republic of Cameroon | 40. Republic of South Sudan |
| 8. French Republic | 23. Republic of Côte d'Ivoire | 41. Republic of Sudan |
| 9. Independent State of Papua New Guinea | 24. Republic of Fiji | 42. Republic of Tunisia |
| 10. Islamic Republic of Iran | 25. Republic of Finland | 43. Republic of Uganda |
| 11. Islamic Republic of Mauritania | 26. Republic of Guinea | 44. Republic of Zimbabwe |
| 12. Japan | 27. Republic of Guinea-Bissau | 45. State of Libya |
| 13. Kingdom of Morocco | 28. Republic of Indonesia | 46. State of Palestine |
| 14. Kingdom of the Netherlands | 29. Republic of Italy | 47. Togolese Republic |
| 15. Kyrgyz Republic | 30. Republic of Kenya | 48. United States of America |
| | 31. Republic of Lithuania | |
| | 32. Republic of Malta | |
| | 33. Republic of Mauritius | |

Interventions from stage and floor at the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change: 25 (By category and in order of participation)

Country Delegations: 16

1. United States of America
2. Slovenia
3. Egypt
4. Palestine
5. Kenya
6. Uganda
7. Papua New Guinea

LGMA delegations: 5

17. Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco
18. Mayor of Oakland, California, United States of America
19. Governor of South Sinai, Egypt

Other non-state actors and International Organizations: 4

22. Debra Roberts, Co-chair of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
23. Mahmoud Mohieldin, High-Level Climate Action Champion of Egypt COP27

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 8. Rwanda | 20. Mayor of Utrecht, the Netherlands | 24. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization |
| 9. Italy | 21. Mayor of Palmas, Brazil | 25. Heike Harmgart, Managing Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development on behalf of the Multilateral Development Bank City Group |
| 10. The Netherlands | | |
| 11. Côte d'Ivoire | | |
| 12. Democratic Republic of the Congo | | |
| 13. Cameroon | | |
| 14. Japan | | |
| 15. Mauritius | | |
| 16. Malta | | |

Stakeholders that provided a written statement: 6

(By category and in alphabetical order)

Country Delegations

1. Indonesia
2. Lao People's Democratic Republic
3. Lithuania

LGMA delegations

4. Mayor of Dhaka North, Bangladesh
5. European Committee of the Regions
6. Climate Heritage Network

An annual Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change was endorsed or welcomed by the following national and local governments: 19 mentioned it and 7 endorsed it including the Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities from Egypt

(In order of intervention; written statements in alphabetical order)

1. Egypt: *"This ministerial meeting, which [is] based on the request presented by the Member States during the first session of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Habitat in 2022, is adherent to our common international desire to implement the goals that are the same for COP27. Also, this meeting comes in response to the results of COP26, which highlighted the significant delay in translating global pledges and commitments into actions that will be implemented in the context of "Together for Implementation" ... We expect the outcomes of this meeting to be as follows... a call for the institutionalization of the ministerial dialogue."*
2. The United States of America: *"This ministerial meeting provides an opportunity to focus on the critical role that our communities play in combating climate change."*
3. Slovenia: *"We first thank Egypt for hosting this meeting and recognizing that cities and towns are crucial players in reaching global climate goals."*

4. Palestine (Originally in Arabic): *“I have the honour to extend expressions of appreciation and thanks to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for its kind invitation and for hosting the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change.”*
5. Kenya: *“We call upon the COP Presidency to make a consideration for having urbanization as an outstanding alone thematic area in the subsequent COP agenda, to enhance the issues of building climate resilience for the urban poor, which are a majority within the urban area.”*
6. Uganda: *“I want to thank UN-Habitat for having given us this platform... I want also to thank the Egyptian Government for having organized this important meeting.”*
7. Papua New Guinea: *“Today’s timely and welcomed Ministerial Meeting reinforces our commitment under the Paris Agreement to work together and at all levels to address climate change and to ensure that the 1.5 degrees Celsius global climate goal is attained.”*
8. Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco: *“We commend the COP27 presidency for convening this very first Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Egypt and supported by UN-Habitat. We welcome this first Ministerial as a unique event that reinforces the commitment of the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact for multilevel climate action. We sincerely hope that the first Ministerial dialogue will take place from now onwards every year at the UNFCCC COPs.”*
9. Mayor of Oakland, California, USA: *“We are deeply grateful to the COP27 presidency for convening this very first Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change that reinforces the commitments made in Paris and Glasgow for multi-level climate action... Through this ground-breaking dialogue, we hope that you will formalize an increased role for urban communities in the NDCs and other formal agreements as well as provide localization frameworks... Today, we respectfully request that you institutionalize this joint ministerial dialogue and commit to holding it every year.”*
10. Rwanda: *“It gives me pleasure and honor to be part of this first ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change as part of this very important COP27.”*
11. Mayor of Utrecht, the Netherlands: *“This first ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change is a milestone in the history of COP... As the Special Envoy of ICLEI and LGMA, my first statement is that this Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change should be given a permanent and formal place in this agenda of COP.”*
12. The Netherlands: *“It’s a great honour for me to speak at the first COP Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change...”*

13. Côte d'Ivoire (originally in French): *“This Ministerial Meeting represents a framework for dialogue for action around our realities that we know well but which had no institutional place in the debates at the COP.”*
14. Mauritius: *“It is a privilege for me to participate in this first Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change.”*
15. Malta: *“It is such a fascinating opportunity to contribute to the first ever ministerial meeting on urbanization and climate change at COP.”*
16. Mayor of Palmas, Brazil (Originally in Portuguese): *“We welcome this Ministerial as a unique event that reinforces the commitment of the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact for multi- level climate action.”*
17. Mayor of Dhaka North, Bangladesh (written statement): *“It is an honor for me to be invited to this inaugural Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change.”*
18. European Committee of the Regions (written statement): *“We very much welcome the first ever COP meeting on urbanization and climate change and encourage urbanization as well as multilevel cooperation to be integrated in future COPs – as essential elements to reach the Paris agreement ambitions. We invite the UNFCCC secretariat to label urbanization as a standing agenda item under the UNFCCC topics... The outcomes of this ministerial meeting need to be reflected in a paragraph of the final outcomes of COP27.”*
19. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic (written statement): *“We strongly hope to retain the topic of urbanization and climate change for Ministerial Meetings at future COPs... We will overcome many challenges if we join hands. This Ministerial meeting provides that opportunity.”*

Stakeholders also endorsed the SURGe initiative during the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change: 21 (including the statements from both Egyptian ministries)

(In order of intervention; written statements in alphabetical order)

1. Egypt (Ministry of Housing): *“It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this first Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change convened by COP27 Presidency to coincide with the launch of the global initiative SURGe, Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation, as a timely global initiative launched in cooperation with the United Nations Programme for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat) and facilitated by the Local Governments for Sustainability ICLEI... We expect the outcomes of this meeting to be as follows... a call for the monitoring of the SURGe initiative, with the goal of implementation.”*

2. The United States of America: *“We look forward to identifying ways to collaborate through SCALE and with the SURGe initiative also being launched today. One of our missions is to create urban resiliency, in particular, for those at the greatest risks of climate change. For this reason, and for others, the US government experts look forward to seeing the SURGe initiative take shape.”*
3. Egypt (Ministry of Local Development, originally in Arabic): *“Without a doubt, Egypt’s active participation in this [SURGe] initiative aligns with the state’s direction led by President AbdelFattah ElSisi, to improve environmental and climate action and make it the focus of the national action agenda to achieve the SDGs, in line with Egypt’s Vision 2030, the National Strategy for Climate Change 2050, and the New Urban Agenda... Our presence here to launch the global SURGe initiative, during Solutions Day, is the best evidence that the sustainability of cities in general and the integration of the environmental dimension into the development process is the most feasible and effective solution to achieve multi-dimensional sustainability to confront the effects of climate change through achieving urban governance and building the capacities of local administrations and agencies, as well as increasing competitiveness at the local level and its ability to attract investment and improving the environmental condition of cities, which ensures the improvement of the quality of life of citizens... The Ministry of Local Development will spare no effort in supporting the implementation of the global initiative SURGe not only at the national level but also at the African level...”*
4. Papua New Guinea: *“I extend my appreciation to Honorable Minister Gazzar for the kind invitation to this Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, and to witness the launching of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the New Generation initiative, which I know is an integral part of the COP27 Solutions Day.”*
5. Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco: *“We sincerely hope that the first Ministerial dialogue will take place from now onwards every year at the UNFCCC COPs, and we look forward to the new SURGe initiative.”*
6. Mayor of Oakland, California, the United States of America: *“Through this ground-breaking dialogue, we hope that you will formalize and increase the role of urban communities in NDCs and other formal agreements and provide localization frameworks.”*
7. Rwanda: *“I will surely come the request extended to Republic of Rwanda to co-chair the working group of Urban Energy in the Sustainable Urban Resilience for Next Generation initiative being launched today.”*
8. Food and Agriculture Organization: *“We need to integrate urban and peri urban forestry, agriculture and food systems into urban planning policies and action. The SURGe initiative can help accelerate this process.”*
9. The Netherlands: *“SURGe is a valuable initiative that will help deliver on the 1.5-degree goal. Cities are at the forefront of climate change and at the same time, in cities, there are many opportunities to speed up the transition. To seize these opportunities, we need initiatives, such as SURGe, to share best*

practices... My main message to all of you, to the SURGe initiative, is to expand the global network of climate neutral and smart cities so that we can build on each other's experience and so that we, together, can close the ambition and the implementation gap to 1.5 °C."

10. Côte d'Ivoire (originally in French): *"[Allow me to] congratulate my counterpart Assem El Gazzar, the Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, for having done everything possible with the presidency of COP27 to ensure the smooth running of this historic Ministerial Meeting in the wake of the SURGe initiative which we, of course, support."*
11. Cameroon: *"I would like to say now our willingness to join the Global Alliance... as well as to endorse the 10 guiding principles that govern [this initiative]."*
12. Japan: *"Japan is happy to participate in the SURGE initiative and to share the experience of Japan with you. We believe that the SURGe initiative gives a concrete boost to climate action of the cities on the ground... I'd like to express my sincere expectation of the evolvement of SURGe initiative."*
13. Mauritius: *"It is a privilege for me to participate in this first Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, which will also see the launch of the presidency initiative on Sustainable Urban Resilience for Next Generation."*
14. Mayor of Palmas, Brazil (Originally in Portuguese): *"We see in the SURGe Initiative, the potential for a well-structured, multi-level collaboration, communication and engagement framework with the UNFCCC Parties in this second phase of the Paris Agreement implementation. Through this initiative, we see a potential to strengthen national frameworks, to integrate urban sustainable development more strongly in the NDCs and NAPs and to seek alignment for action at all governmental levels. We express our full support to the SURGe Initiative and commit to collaborate with the Presidency, the supporting Parties, UN-Habitat, the LGMA and all partners. We are ready to contribute and to further co-create with the Presidency, the Parties, and UN-Habitat this initiative in the coming months. We ask all Parties to support the Initiative and provide for the needed coordination and financing."*
15. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development: *"As the MDB group, we support putting cities to the heart of the climate discussion, and we welcome the SURGe initiative and look forward to participating as an active observer."*
16. Climate Heritage Network (written statement): *"The Climate Heritage Network is proud to be a founding partner in the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) Initiative... Through a focus on locally led and culture positive action, SURGe aims to support customised approaches depending on local contexts of rapidly developing cities, while recognising that culture and heritage represent both an asset to be protected from climate impacts and a resource to strengthen communities' transformative change. These elements put SURGe on the forefront of recognizing and acting on the cultural dimensions of transformative climate action. The Climate Heritage Network looks forward to realizing this potential*

in the coming months and commits to active participation across SURGe by cultural actors, with an initial focus on the buildings and housing, and urban waste and consumption work streams.”

17. Mayor of Dhaka North, Bangladesh (written statement): *“I applaud the Egyptian Presidency and UN Habitat for launching the groundbreaking SURGe Initiative and am proud to join my fellow mayors in supporting this program... I believe that the SURGe Initiative – and its critical recognition of climate-related migration – is a groundbreaking step towards ensuring that the urban agenda remains front and center in climate negotiations and that we leave no one behind in the green and just transition... I am committed to continue working with my national counterparts and my fellow mayors to make sure that cities are kept at the center of these conversations, and I am glad to see that the SURGe Initiative is finally providing a high-level space for this interaction to develop.”*
18. European Committee of the Regions (written statement): *“We thank the COP27 Egyptian presidency for the launch today of the SURGe initiative.”*
19. Indonesia (written statement): *“I salute each working group leader of these five tracks within the Global SURGe Alliance. Let us collaborate further to ensure a better future for our children and our only one earth.”*
20. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic (written statement): *“As a Landlocked Least Developed Country, we seek assistance from partners to realize our aspirations of urban adaptation and mitigation while leveraging nature-based solutions, enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable communities to leave no one behind. We, therefore, extend our strong support to the SURGE initiative.”*
21. Lithuania (written statement): *“We see the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) Initiative launched by the Egyptian Government as an additional tool for our local and regional governments to be more actively committed in achieving sustainable and resilient urban development... We join the SURGe Initiative believing that a holistic framework to achieve sustainable and resilient urban systems has been established.”*

4. Summaries of Statements

(In chronological order)

Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation of Egypt (Opening Remarks), on behalf of Assam El Gazzar, the Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities

Participants were welcomed to the first Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change convened by the COP27 Presidency which coincided with the launch of the global initiative SURGe, Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation. The ministerial meeting’s adherence to common international desires to implement the same goals as COP27 was underscored. The role of the ministerial meeting as a response to the results of COP26 was restated, highlighting the delay in translating global pledges and commitments into actions

that will be implemented in the context of “Together for Implementation”. The unprecedented focus on the importance of localizing climate action in urban areas and providing a place for full accessibility was highlighted. The urgency to achieve and exceed the goals and commitments presented so far and the need to develop necessary partnerships to accelerate that work was emphasized. The importance of the criteria of “damage and loss” resulting from climate change, as well as the need for both mitigation and adaptation, were restated. The high vulnerability of Africa to climate change and the needs of the Global South were stressed. The intention to establish constructive partnerships with members and institutions of the international community to achieve common goals was highlighted. The message that COP27 should be primarily about implementation was restated. The expected outcomes of the meeting were listed as (1) the need to improve multi-level climate action, (2) a call for the institutionalization of the ministerial dialogue, and (3) a call for the monitoring of the SURGe initiative, with the goal of implementation. Participants were invited and encouraged to consider their governments’ support and the participation of the Ministries of Housing and Urban Development, and other relevant Ministries, in the dialogue and the SURGe initiative.

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat's Executive Director underscored key global challenges, such as the world’s population which passed 8 billion, rising greenhouse gas emissions as a result of urbanization, economic development and rising prosperity, and the high share of the urban population. The toll of “the big Cs” (i.e., climate change, Covid-19, conflict, and the crisis of capital) are taking on cities and vulnerable populations in human settlements was highlighted. In this context, the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change supports the role of cities in the fight against climate change. The need to develop a global multilevel climate change response to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and the role of local action were underscored – UN-Habitat's support to the Member States and Local Governments was restated. The work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in highlighting the need for urban action and evidence-based decision-making was emphasized. The UN 2023 Water Conference taking place in March 2023 and the UN-Water Action Agenda were mentioned as great opportunities for leveraging water to improve climate change resilience. The hope that Ministerial Meeting will continue at COPs every year was expressed.

Ambassador Ayman Tharwat, COP27 Presidency of Egypt

Ambassador Ayman Tharwat highlighted the collaborative work required for the success of the SURGe Initiative. The expectation for participants to lead the work surrounding the Initiative’s five working groups (Buildings and Housing, Urban Water, Urban Mobility, Urban Waste/Consumption, and Urban Energy) was restated. The correlation of the different workstreams to previous initiatives launched at COP was remarked. For the Urban Waste and Consumption working group, the 50 by 50 initiative was referenced; for Urban Water, AWARE was mentioned; for Buildings and Housing, previous work at Glasgow was reminded; for Urban Mobility, the launch of the LOTUS initiative was stated. The Initiative’s aim to include all civil society and other stakeholders was restated. The hope to receive additional support from different countries to build momentum towards “Together for Implementation” and SURGe was expressed.

Debra Roberts, IPCC Co-chair of Working Group II

Debra Roberts, the co-chair of Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and local governance official in the city of Durban, South Africa, stressed the importance of science-based communication, societal action, and financial leverage for urban development. In the Summary for Urban Policymakers based on three IPCC reports, it is noted that cities and urban areas provide a global scale, but a time-limited opportunity for transformative climate action that reduces risk through adaptation, and emissions through ambitious mitigation. Collaboration opportunities between governments and businesses are also underexplored. At the Ministerial meeting, these gaps are responded to by bringing together ministers, urban developers, and thinkers. Facilitating a local dialogue around the science that is relevant to urban areas and cities and enabling finance for following actions is key.

The United States of America

Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the US Department of the Interior represented as well as Secretary Marcia Fudge from the Department of the Interior and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The representative sees the Ministerial meeting as an opportunity to focus on the critical role that communities play in combating climate change. Under the leadership of President Biden, the United States of America is prioritizing the development of sustainable communities. The Ministerial Meeting comes as communities, nations, and the world continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The SCALE and SURGe initiatives will both help cities, states, and regions develop and implement Net Zero climate resilient targets and roadmaps.

Slovenia

The representative from Slovenia expressed gratitude for the first Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change and further noted that cities are crucial players in reaching global climate goals. Impacted by floods and droughts and the lack of water, Slovenia is committed to strengthening multilevel cooperation under the EU and the UN. As such, three Slovenian cities participate in the EU Commission 400 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities. The government will also launch around 40 million Euros of European Commission policy funds for the development and management of green urban infrastructure.

Egypt

The representative from Egypt re-emphasized COP27's aim, namely the implementation of initiatives to adapt and address the effects of climate change. The launch of the SURGe initiative during Solutions Day thereby demonstrates cities' potential as feasible and the most effective solutions to achieve multi-dimensional sustainability, attract investments, and improve the lives of citizens. The initiative is holistic and also aims at raising environmental awareness among the private sector and business owners, bringing together different parties and states, and achieving sustainable development sectorally and geographically. Both the Ministry of

Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities and the Ministry for Local Development will engage in SURGe and foster regional development in Africa. One key step will be the support in the organization of the Afri-Cities Conference in 2025.

Palestine

The keenness of Palestine to participate in international forums and engage in global agreements that shed light on many global issues, such as climate change, was highlighted. The climate in Palestine was stated as a phenomenon as well as a geopolitical issue – as the Palestinian environment in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem are suffering from the effects of environmental pollution, occupation practices, waste management issues, and water depletion. Palestine restated their keenness to confront the negative impacts of climate change and contribute to reducing its challenges at the national and international levels. The focus of Palestinian urban and environmental policies on sustainable economic and social development, ensuring adequate living standards, the preservation of natural resources and biodiversity, and the sustainable and optimal use of natural resources, was underscored. Palestine restated its support for efforts related to the circular economy and green buildings as a national priority and its commitment to collaboratively address the phenomenon of climate change. The hope for the success of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change was expressed.

Kenya

The representative from Kenya sees cities as built environments that include socioeconomic aspects of roads, pathways, urban basic services, buildings, houses, and management of governance structures. Kenya thus recalls the UN Climate Action Summit held in 2019 and supports the SURGe initiative in providing a life in dignity for the urban poor. To accelerate the BCRUP implementation in Africa, Kenya is collaborating with the Cities and Local Governments of Africa, ICLEI, and UN-Habitat.

Uganda

Judith Nabakooba, Minister of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development stressed the importance of urban development for both the fight against the climate crisis and for the future population of Uganda. Already today, 35% of its population is living in urban areas. With that number increasing to 50% by 2040, the minister called for the Uganda's National Climate Change Act 2021 and African commitment to be leveraged and enacted through SURGe and the New Urban Agendas' regional track. Both require that districts and cities devolve climate action.

Papua New Guinea

The representatives from Papua New Guinea defined SURGe as integral to Solutions Day at COP27. Cities are at the forefront of the climate crisis. For that reason, words must be transformed into action. The Ministerial

Meeting reinforced the collective commitment under the Paris Agreement, meaning that resources at all levels must be made affordable, accessible, and timely. Papua New Guinea aims to restore trust and confidence in the government and heal land and ecosystems to deliver the future all want.

Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco

Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen in Morocco, welcomed the first Ministerial Meeting as a unique event that reinforces the commitment to the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact. He highlighted that he represents all the local and regional governments at COP27 through the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency on behalf of the global task force of local and regional governments. Cities and subnational governments are committed to continue to support the implementation of the second phase of the Paris Agreement with and through our own climate actions and urban frameworks on the ground, such as the recently adopted UCLG Pact for the Future. He further stressed the local and regional governments' need for structural support from the international community, human capital, as well as direct access to finance. Sustainable urbanization and the local level should be included in Article 6.8. The mayor concluded his contribution by expressing the relevance of a yearly Ministerial Meeting at COP27 and reminded participants that LGMA has been calling for such a meeting since COP18 in Warsaw in 2013.

Mayor of Oakland, the United States of America

Libby Shaft, Mayor of Oakland, California in the United States, sees in the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change a groundbreaking dialogue for multi-level climate action. As the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy estimates that this collective action by cities could reduce global emissions by at least 1.4 Giga tons per year until 2030, the mayor highlights that cities and subnational entities must take the actions needed to implement the second phase of the Paris Agreement. The role of sub-nationals should be recognized more formally in climate actions and the ministerial dialogue should be institutionalized for every COP.

Governor of South Sinai, Egypt

Major General Khaled Fouda, Governor of South Sinai, presented the achievements of Sharm El-Sheikh to date. The commitment to transform the city of Sharm El-Sheikh into a center of resilience in the face of disasters and a smart green city was stated. On 12 November, Sharm El-Sheikh was declared by the United Nations as a resilience hub, which comes in the context of the vision of Egypt in the road map from Glasgow to Sharm El-Sheikh.

Rwanda

The representative from Rwanda sees the current context as the momentum for climate action. With urbanization being a big challenge for LDCs and the COVID-19 crisis, responding to different crises may remain a big challenge, but also an opportunity for the international community. All partners need to come together to issue a call to action on sustainable urbanization across Africa and the entire world. Rwanda offered to co-chair the working group of Urban Energy in the Sustainable Urban Resilience for Next Generation initiative.

Italy

The representative from the Ministry of Infrastructure highlighted the role that urban development plays in the EU with cities hosting two-thirds of the EU population. To leverage the role of urbanization for climate change and social justice, policies should focus on air quality, circular economy, climate adaptation, culture and heritage, digital transition, energy transition, housing, innovative responsible public procurement, the inclusion of migrants and refugees, jobs in the local economy, sustainable use of land and nature-based solutions, urban mobility and accessibility, and urban poverty.

Mahmoud Mohieldin, High-Level Climate Action Champion of Egypt COP27

The High-Level Climate Action Champion of Egypt COP27 sees the issue of cross-cutting finance to be an important and obvious topic that needs to be addressed. The Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda is the first step to responding to the cities' need for more investment in infrastructure. However, 100 billion is only a fraction of what's required – as 1 trillion dollars is the actual sum needed to be leveraged for climate resilience in cities. Partnerships with the private sector in the Race to Zero and the Race to Resilience are therefore key, as much as partnerships with initiatives like C40, CDP, and WRI are. In all instances, the maximum cost should not exceed 1%, for a grace period of 10 years and a payback period of 20 years after the grace period.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The representative from FAO stressed the potential of agri-food systems as leverages for green urbanization, more resilience, and social inclusion for urban dwellers. FAO launched the Green Cities Initiative in close cooperation with UN-Habitat and other partners. The initiative focuses on restoring ecosystem services, promoting affordable and healthy diets, and fostering new job opportunities by circular economy practices linking cities to their surrounding rural areas. The SURGe initiative comes in and complements this already existing commitment by strengthening the role of cities in the provision of a life in dignity. FAO, therefore, looks forward to supporting cities to become more resilient and sustainable with sustainable agri-food systems.

Mayor of Utrecht, the Netherlands

Sharon Dijkma, Mayor of Utrecht and Special Envoy of ICLEI and LGMA, stressed the importance of multi-level governance and highlighted the milestone that SURGe represents. As, since 1990, the international community reached roughly 20% to reduce emissions with 80% of time used, there is a big urgency to achieving the Paris Agreement goals. By 2050, almost 70% of the world's population will live in cities – they are the key to driving change. Therefore, the mayor states that cities should be included in the National Determined Contributions and that countries should be obliged to cooperate with cities and regions in the climate transition so the cities can have more financial and organizational means to live up to their potential. The involvement of cities is the solution to the climate crisis.

The Netherlands

Rob Jetten, Minister for Climate and Energy, as representative of the Netherlands, sees the role of cities as both “the forefront of climate change” and also as an opportunity to address it. This should be done by sharing best practices through initiatives such as SURGe. As the representative of a national government, he stressed the importance of working closely with local authorities especially in “developing, implementing and monitoring climate policies”.

Côte d'Ivoire

Bruno Nabagné Koné, Minister of Construction, Housing and Urban Planning stated that the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change provided “a framework for dialogue for action that had not yet found their institutional place in the COP debates.” In dialogues such as this was the Abidjan Declaration *Unleashing the transformative potential of urban transition and development finance* adopted by Côte d'Ivoire. The Declaration commits “to the establishment of a multi-level and multi-stakeholder Pan-African Framework for Action, bringing together urban development actors with sources of finance”. The importance of localized and accessible climate finance was further highlighted.

Cameroon

The representative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development of Cameroon sees the Ministerial Meeting of Urbanization and Climate Change as an opportunity to materialize the finance needed by the Global North and, especially, by the Global South in their common fight against climate change. It was restated that the so-called “African COP” must enact an effective transition for concrete action. It was highlighted the importance of working together for strengthening the implementation of the climate agenda in cities, unlocking urban climate finance, strengthening the regional and local government capacities, and accelerating technology and innovation in cities. Cameroon offered its willingness to join the SURGe Global Alliance and to endorse the ten guiding principles that govern the initiative. Further, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development committed to supporting the implementation of the Abidjan declaration.

Japan

Japan stated its willingness to participate in the SURGe initiative as it gives a concrete boost to climate action for cities. The importance of local governments and the incorporation of biodiversity and resource regulations in the city's development programs was emphasized. Japan expects to replicate best practices across the country and also beyond borders through international and city-to-city collaboration and the support of the SURGe initiative. The evolution of the SURGe initiative is highly welcomed and expected.

Mauritius

The representative from Mauritius highlighted the role of the Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 13 for the sustainable development of the Small Island Developing States, especially in terms of effective land use planning. Against this backdrop, Mauritius aims to promote sustainability by enhancing ecosystem services, protecting environmentally sensitive areas, and environmental planning. Some of the strategies included in a new national land development framework to achieve these objectives are to ensure harmonized, inclusive, and participatory land use and environmental planning aligned to SDGs, to promote resilient development through the protection of environmentally sensitive areas, to empower the authorities and stakeholders involved in planning, implementation, enforcement, and monitoring, and to increase green cover and human well-being through inclusive and nature-based solutions.

Malta

The representative of Malta noted a shift in direction which acknowledges how central urban areas are and the gap between advanced economies and developing ones in implementing actions against climate change. The Minister of Housing stated that only aligned regulation and collaboration between public and private actors to unlock climate finance could address the increasing housing demand while ensuring sustainable development. The Maltese government has introduced fiscal measures to promote restoration, recycle building materials, and reduce the need for new buildings to guide the construction industry. The Minister called for international collaboration between public and private actors with robust financial means to promote green innovation in financial products and support programs.

Mayor of Palmas, Brazil

Cintya Ribeiro, Mayor of Palmas and Vice President of the Brazilian National Front of Mayors, welcomed the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change as a unique event that reinforces the commitment of the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact for multi-level climate action. The SURGe initiative was highlighted for its potential for a structured, multi-level collaboration, communication, and engagement framework with the UNFCCC Parties in the second phase of the Paris Agreement. The mayor expressed her support for the initiative to strengthen national frameworks, to integrate urban sustainable development in the NDCs and NAPs, and to seek alignment for action at all governmental levels – asking all Parties to sum up by

providing the needed coordination and financing. The statement emphasized the role of cities and subnational governments in the implementation of the second phase of the Paris Agreement.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Heike Harmgart, Managing Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and representative of the Multilateral Development Bank City Group welcomed the SURGe initiative as an opportunity to put cities at the center of the climate discussion. The EBRD Green Cities program was highlighted for its investment in helping the climate agenda. Specific to urban transportation, the Egyptian government has committed to invest in the Nexus of Water, Food and Energy (NWFE) transport program.

Rania Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation of Egypt (Closing Remarks)

The Minister of International Cooperation of Egypt presented two examples were Egypt put finance forward: The Egypt country platform for the Nexus of Water, Food and Energy (NWFE) that avails concessional finance to draw the private sector in and the Sharm El-Sheikh Guidebook for Just Financing as a collective effort that explores how to create innovative tools to draw in private sector investments. On behalf of Dr. Assem El Gazzar, the Minister of Housing and Utilities in Egypt, the minister thanked all participants for their contributions and efforts, urged governments to announce their commitments and voluntary actions, and called for international, multi-stakeholder and intergenerational cooperation and joint actions to support climate action to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. The SURGe initiative objectives were restated as follows: (1) to increase the integration of urban climate action into the Nationally Determined Contributions, (2) to strengthen the commitments and actions of cities and local governments in the face of climate change, (3) to build on the science and findings of the IPCC reports and ensure that all planned activities are grounded in scientific and technical understanding, (4) to address the lack of access to finance, local capacities, innovation and justice, and (5) to ensure that national governments support local governments in demobilizing climate action. The convening of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change in future COPs was encouraged with UN-Habitat as focal point. The link between the Ministerial Meeting and the World Urban Forum was emphasized. Once more, the Minister urged for a collaborative effort to achieve common goals and to take the necessary practical steps.

Written statements (in alphabetical order):

European Committee of the Regions

The European Committee of the Regions thanked the COP27 presidency for the launch of SURGe and welcomed the first Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change. Noting the importance of urbanization, the delegation emphasized the crucial contribution of yearly ministerial meetings as well as urbanization as a standing agenda item under the UNFCCC topics for the international community's fight against climate change. To further strengthen this commitment, subnational governments shall be given a formal advisory role in international climate negotiations such as COP28. In addition, funds and technical assistance, alongside a global

system of local and regional determined contributions to complement Nationally Determined Contributions, should be created.

Indonesia

The statement from Indonesia highlighted the country's vulnerability to climate change while also stating the increase of its GHG emission reduction target. The strong commitment required from various stakeholders, across sectors, and levels, was emphasized. The Ministry of Public Works and Housing stated its goals, commitments, and aspirations regarding public spaces, urban mobility, waste, and energy – Indonesia intends to focus on housing, urban development, and multilevel action in the fight against climate change.

The Lao People's Democratic Republic

Khamjane Vongphosy, Minister for Planning and Investment, thanked COP27 for putting urban development at the center of the Ministerial Meeting. In addition, cooperation with UN-Habitat at the inaugural Lao National Urban Forum, on World Cities Day, was pledged. Lao PDR's first urban forum chose resilience and inclusivity as its theme – in recognition of the importance of the nexus of urbanization and climate change. Lao emphasized the multidimensionality of natural hazards and climate change, given its position as a landlocked country, and therefore expressed its support for the partnership that SURGe represents as well as future Ministerial Meetings on Urbanization and Climate Change.

Lithuania

Lithuania committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 under the umbrella of the Paris Agreement and Green Deal. With its commitment to further reach the 70% GHG emission reduction target by 2030 and achieving a circular and climate-neutral economy by 2050, SURGe represents an additional tool for its local and regional governments. In 2022, its Ministry of the Environment initiated the development of the Greening Index that evaluates the sustainable development of Lithuanian municipalities. Together with "ClimAdapt-LT", a Norwegian financial mechanism, and the "New European Bauhouse" initiative of the European Commission, Lithuania will leverage SURGe to push forward the holistic dimension of sustainability in urban development.

Mayor of Dhaka North, Bangladesh

Mohammad Atiqul Islam, Mayor of Dhaka North, stated his support for the SURGe initiative as a step towards ensuring that the urban agenda remains at the center of the climate negotiations. The interconnection between urbanization and the climate crisis in the Global South was highlighted in his statement with a local example. Working horizontally and vertically was mentioned as essential to building better urban futures – the Climate Prosperity Plan of the Government of Bangladesh emphasizes locally-led adaptation. As co-lead of the C40-Mayors Migration Council Task Force on Climate and Migration, and of the Cities Race To Resilience campaign,

the mayor restated his support for the SURGe initiative as a high-level space to work with national and local counterparts.

The Climate Heritage Network

The Climate Heritage Network, as a founding partner in the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) Initiative, highlighted the role of locally-led and culture-positive action for low-carbon, just, and climate-resilient futures. Climate science, like the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report and the International Meeting on Culture, Heritage and Climate Change, is increasingly recognizing the link between culture and heritage and climate action – culture and heritage represent both an asset to be protected from climate impacts and a resource to strengthen communities’ transformative change. In this context, the Climate Heritage Network committed to active participation in the Buildings and Housing, and Urban Waste and Consumption working groups.

5. Key Media Coverage

The Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change and the launch of the SURGe initiative were both covered by different media sources and several press releases including:

- Climate Heritage Network:
 - [Climate Heritage Network lauds landmark Culture Outcomes at COP27; Redoubles Efforts to Win More Holistic Recognition](#)
- COP27 Presidency:
 - [Four Initiatives Launched During COP27’s Solutions Day](#)
 - [Focus on Solutions Concludes COP27’s Thematic Days Program](#)
- Eurocities:
 - [COP 27: Local governments must be empowered to deliver climate agreement](#)
- European committee of the Regions
 - [EU Cities and Regions at COP27: Thursday, 17 November 2022](#)
- Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA)
 - [COP27 Presidency Launches Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation \(SURGe\) as Integrated, Holistic, Multilevel Initiative to Accelerate Climate Action](#)
 - [SURGe – Home to the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency \(LGMA\) in the UNFCCC \(cities-and-regions.org\)](#)
- U. S. Department of the Interior

- [Assistant Secretary Trujillo Showcases All-of-Government Approach to Tackling Climate Change at COP27](#)
- U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:
 - [Press Release HUD No. 22-236](#)