



SURGe

SUSTAINABLE URBAN RESILIENCE
FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) Initiative



**SURGe – a COP27 Initiative
dedicated to connecting local,
national and global levels for
climate action**



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Support a global alliance of partners
Financial support proposal for four SURGe work packages

Why SURGe?

Current national pledges are not sufficient to reduce harmful emissions to avoid a global climate disaster. National climate action often focuses only on priority sectors, addresses these in a siloed manner, lacks ambition and does not effectively guide local climate action in cities, considering these account for 70% of emissions and are at the forefront of adaptation action.

What is SURGe?

We need to equip cities to accelerate local climate action and contribute to global climate goals – while at the same time transforming cities to be healthy, sustainable, just, inclusive, low-emission and resilient urban systems for a better urban future for all. To achieve this vision, the COP27 Presidency in collaboration with UN-Habitat and facilitated by ICLEI has launched the SURGe Initiative.



Objective: equip cities to accelerate local climate action and build more strategically on cities and sustainable urbanization as allies to help deliver the targets of the Paris Agreements and the SDGs.

Why join?

The SURGe Initiative has been developed under the leadership of the COP27 Presidency in collaboration with UN-Habitat and facilitated by ICLEI. It was officially launched at the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP27. It has been endorsed by 180+ global partners. SURGe is open for endorsement and support to a global community, including national and local governments, city networks, academia, private sector and international organizations. Partners can support setting up national SURGe Secretariats, implementing climate action in cities and help spread the word on the importance of cities to achieve the Paris Agreement!

Why SURGe?

Cities are **at the forefront** of climate change



Climate change and growing urbanization are intertwined megatrends. Rising global temperatures have caused extreme weather events including flash floods, storms, droughts, and heatwaves in cities. All of these have impacts on urban services, housing, infrastructure, livelihoods, urban ecosystems, cultural practices, as well as the health and wellbeing of city residents. Rising food and energy prices exacerbate these impacts, with the most vulnerable being hit the hardest.

Cities

55%

of the world's population lives in urban areas

7 out of **10**

people are expected to live in cities by 2050

80%

of GDP is generated in cities

Cities are drivers of climate change ...

Cities are responsible for
~3/4
of global energy demand

~70%

The urban share of GHG emissions in 2020 continues to grow, up from 62% in 2015

With no urban mitigation efforts, urban emissions could more than

double
by mid-century

... but are also very vulnerable to climate change

70%
of cities report impacts of climate change

1 billion
live in informal settlements

3.3 to 3.6 billion
live in hotspots vulnerable to climate change

900 million
people live in low-lying coastal zones

Why SURGe?

Local climate action increasing, yet challenges remain

Cities are key to delivering climate solutions

- **12,500 +** cities have committed to reducing GHG emissions and adapting to climate change.
- Around **65%** of the **169** targets of the **17 SDGs** cannot be achieved without the engagement of local and regional governments.
- **Two-thirds** of NDCs have urban content.



If cities take aggressive and immediate mitigation efforts to limit global warming below 1.5°C, urban emissions could approach net zero.



Net zero emissions in cities require an urban deep decarbonization and systematic transformation. Cities must reduce their energy consumption, prioritize compact and efficient urban forms and electrify their end-using services, expand their urban forests, trees and green roofs.

Challenges to accelerate local climate action

1

Multi-level governance

Cities are not sufficiently anchored in international climate agreements

2

Finance

In recent years, around USD 384 billion of climate finance has been invested in urban areas annually. Yet this is less than 10% of what is needed.

3

Local capacity

Cities lack human and technical resources to accelerate local climate action.

4

Technology and innovation

GHG emissions in cities could be reduced by almost 90% by 2050 with technically feasible and available measures. Yet, technologies and innovation do not reach the local level.

5

Equity

Urban vulnerable groups are disproportionately and adversely affected by climate change while they contribute the least to urban emissions.

Why SURGe?

Cities are not sufficiently anchored in climate agreements

The importance of cities for climate action is referenced in the **Paris Agreement**, the **COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact**, and the **Sharm-El-Sheikh Implementation Plan** recognizing the need for multilevel and cooperative action beyond national level engagement.

The latest **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** report has highlighted the role of cities and communities as critical for responding to the climate crisis.

Cities in multilateral environmental agreements (MEA)

Multilateralism recognizes cities as actors in the planetary crisis

National governments are committed to strengthen the urban lenses in national climate policies

Multilateralism supports for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through cities

By 2022, around two-thirds of updated **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, had at least moderate urban content in their NDCs. Of these, most were from high-emitting countries.

Through the adoption of the **New Urban Agenda** by Member States, multilateralism helps localize the **SDGs**. In 2022, the **G7, G20, Commonwealth and Belt-Road Initiative** emphasized the importance of cities, urbanization, and multilevel climate action for sustainable development.

Yet, **cities are not anchored enough**

Current **international climate frameworks are not sufficient** to deliver and accelerate urban environmental action, transform cities and effectively scale up good practices from local to global level.

Cities are not strongly enough anchored in the Paris Agreement. Current climate frameworks lack a mandate for an engagement mechanism with cities and non-state actors in the COP process.

What is SURGe?

Connecting local, national and global levels for climate action



SURGe is a COP27 Presidency Initiative dedicated to connecting the local, national and global levels to achieve its objective: equip cities to accelerate local climate action and build more strategically on cities and sustainable urbanization as allies to help deliver the targets of the Paris Agreements and the SDGs.

Communication and partnership building

4

1 Local to Global

Bridging the local to the global: connecting local action to global climate processes and building on multilevel climate action to help deliver the targets of the Paris Agreements and the SDGs.

2 Local to National

Support enhancement of national multilevel action effort, strengthen the urban content in NDC and support the implementation through city and climate change officers/teams

3 Local

Accelerate local climate action and strengthen city-level roll-out a sectoral – yet holistic and cross-cutting - approach for implementation.



Vision

Achieve global climate goals by using effective multilevel governance to transform cities to be healthy, sustainable, just, inclusive, low-emission and resilient urban systems for a better urban future for all.

7

Buildings and Housing

Advancing energy efficiency, low-carbon materials and processes, circularity, land-use; adaptation, resilient informal settlements



Urban Energy

Advancing renewable energy and energy efficiency to provide energy access and tackle energy poverty



Urban Waste and Consumption

Enhancing municipal solid waste management systems that enable zero waste cities and circular economies



Urban Mobility

Accelerating and supporting the uptake of public transport and active mobility use in cities



Urban Water

Improving equitable access to year-round portable water and gray and wastewater management



What is SURGe?

Four priority actions **connecting** local, national and global levels

1 Local to Global

Bridging the local to the global: connecting local action to global climate processes and building on multilevel climate action to help deliver the targets of the Paris Agreements and the SDGs.

- Working with national governments to enhance the recognition of local climate at national level in the global context. This includes strengthening the link between sustainable urbanization, local climate action and impact.
- Enhanced visibility for local leaders at UNFCCC COPs
- Encouraging annual Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at UNFCCC COPs
- Aligning calls for inclusion of local governments and enabling mechanisms into COP outcomes, via LGMA Constituency and in collaboration with the Parties

2 Local to National

Support enhancement of national multilevel action effort, strengthen the urban content in NDC and support the implementation through city and climate change officers/teams

- Support national governments with tailor-made approaches to strengthen the urban content in their NDCs, identifying opportunities for local governments in achieving sector-specific targets
- Rally support for a global pledge of national governments to strengthen the urban content of NDCs to raise ambition
- Support the implementation of local climate action through building the capacities of national-level city and climate change officers/ teams –to be part of a growing network
- Develop toolkit and capacity for action

3 Local

Accelerate local climate action and strengthen city-level roll-out a sectoral – yet holistic and cross-cutting - approach for implementation.

- Link global goals to local implementation: raising level of local climate action by guiding a holistic and cross-cutting sectoral approach on project support, tailored to local context and needs
- Capacity building and technical expertise: support improvement of cities multi-sectoral climate action plans with clear processes, actions and impacts
- Enable implementation by expanding the pipeline of local priority climate infrastructure projects
- Leverage support of exiting partnerships to collectively upscale guidance and action

4 Communication, and partnership building

Cross-cutting communication to expand the global partnership and disseminating clear messages on multilevel climate action

- Build a SURGe website to showcase SURGe developments, portray 180+ endorsers, rally support and disseminate local climate action support stories
- Build a “Partner portal” integrated into the website, allowing for track partners to cooperate, share, and exchange, as a “technical” resource for project implementation. This will also provide an opportunity to collaborate on national level climate implementation plan
- Communication campaigns, including social media and newsletter to support SURGe narrative

What is SURGe?

Delivering by **connecting** local, national and global levels through five integrated tracks



SURGe is a COP27 Presidency Initiative dedicated to connecting local, national and global levels to achieve its objective: Equip cities to accelerate local climate action and build more strategically on cities and sustainable urbanization as allies to help deliver the targets of the Paris Agreements and the SDGs.

SURGe builds on existing work in this space, on commitments of local and regional governments, adds momentum to existing initiatives, and provides a holistic framework to achieve sustainable and resilient urban systems.

The SURGe objective is achieved by **connecting local, national and global levels** for climate action and delivering through five integrated tracks and track partners



Buildings and Housing



Urban Energy



Urban Waste and Consumption



Urban Mobility



Urban Water

How do the tracks contribute to SURGe?

1 Local to Global

Track partners unify their voices to support strengthening the voice of cities in global climate agreements. Track partners provide guidance on how to strengthen COP outcomes with a sectoral lens

2 Local to National

Track partners provide tools, capacity building and guidance on how to strengthen the urban content of the NDCs with a sector-specific lens.

3 Local

Track partners help cities translating global goals into local action through the implementation of sector-specific (yet integrated projects), including providing capacity building and technical expertise

4 Communication, and partnership building

Tracks partners are at the core of the Global SURGe Alliance and help to spread the word, represent SURGe at events, help showcase success stories on the SURGe forthcoming portal

What is SURGe?

Delivering on the SDGs by **connecting** local, national and global levels



- 7.1** Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2** Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix



- 6.1** Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.
- 6.3** Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally



13.B Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

SURGe – connecting to global goals



Buildings and Housing



Urban Energy



Urban Waste and Consumption



Urban Mobility



Urban Water



11.1 Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

11.2 Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

11.3 Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

11.6 Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management



12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

Governance

Global SURGe Alliance, open to participation by interested stakeholders. Currently, 180+ global partners are part of the Alliance. This provides an advisory function and will convene regularly at major events, with a view to providing inputs to outcomes of COPs.

SURGe is governed by **the interim Steering Committee**, consisting of 10 partners who are also co-leads of the five thematic tracks. Several national governments have also expressed interest in joining the Steering Committee as co-chairs. Day-to-day operations of SURGe are managed by UN-Habitat, with the support of ICLEI until a more permanent governance structure is put in place at COP28.

Five tracks with track partners. Tracks build on/consider existing work, initiatives, and commitments in the respective field, convene key stakeholders and existing networks relevant to the track. While working groups are sector-specific, they also address crosscutting issues.

Interim Co-leads and Steering Committee Members of the Initiative



180+ Members of the Global SURGe Alliance, including:



What is SURGe?

Multi-stakeholder engagement



World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland

First open stakeholder consultation workshop convened by the COP27 Presidency

50+ participants



Briefing to National Governments and partners by UN-Habitat Executive Director, **Nairobi**

SURGe Launch at Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP27

300+ participants

50+ member states represented

2022



SURGe stakeholder consultation workshop convened by the COP27 Presidency in Cairo

120+ participants



Open online review process of the SURGe draft

Virtual meetings with track leads and SURGe partners

300 + people/organizations involved

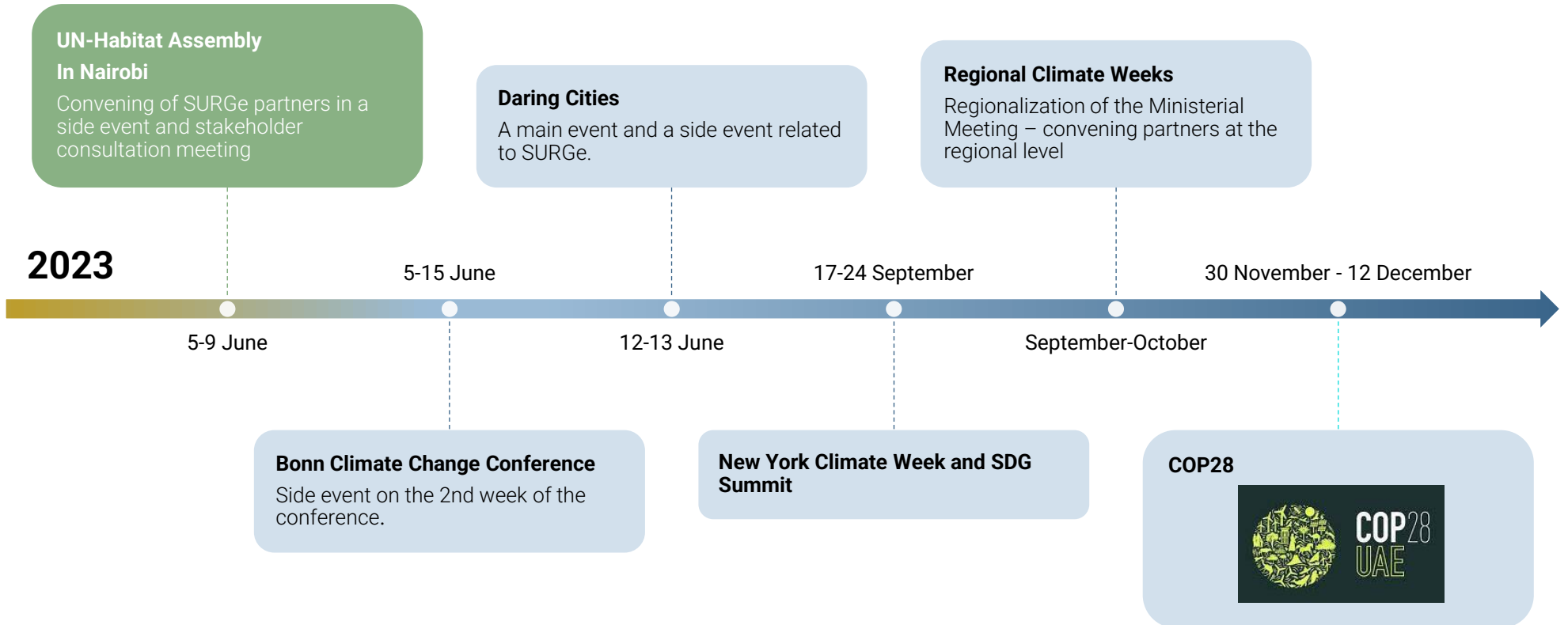
180 + organizations have signed up and endorsed

Ministerial Meeting Report



What is SURGe?

Next steps on the Road to COP28



Any other events that should be on the SURGe agenda?
Feel free to reach out to collaborate

Why **join**? Support a global alliance of partners

Ways of supporting

For national governments:

- 1 Help build national-level SURGe momentum by joining the network of city and climate change focal points.
- 2 Pledge to strengthen the urban content of your NDCs.
- 3 Support to strengthen climate action in cities around the world.

For everyone:

- 1 Endorse SURGe to show your support to our vision and objective.
- 2 Join a working group to help shape SURGe.
- 3 Spread the word to help grow the global SURGe Alliance.

Next steps

City and climate change focal points

Setting up a network of city and climate change focal points, in close collaboration with partners and the national level

Urban content of the NDCs

Working with interested national governments to strengthen the urban content in their NDCs.

Global pledge

Rallying support for a global pledge on strengthening the urban content of the NDCs, in the lead up to the second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP28.

Partnership building

Strengthening the partnership by rallying support from endorsers.

Website

Setting up a SURGe website and partner portal to showcase success stories and rally further support

Events

Collaborate and come together during events, in particular the SBs in Bonn, Daring Cities, Regional Climate Weeks, UNFCCC COPs and World Urban Fora

Why join?

Financial support proposal for four SURGe work packages

Global Secretariat

Staff coordinating the day-to-day work, partnership engagement, link to COP processes

Staff for each track partner, coordinating sector-specific input into SURGe

Note: Global Secretariat will work across all four work packages, track and report on progress

Estimated costs: USD 500,000/ per year

4 Communication and partnership building

Cross-cutting Outputs:

Communication campaign on cities and climate change, including social Media and newsletter and showcasing success stories

Creation of SURGe website and webportal

Organization of partnership and outreach events

* Most of these functions will be carried out by the Global Secretariat

Estimated costs: USD 100,000/ per year

Outputs

1

Local to Global

Outputs:

Organization of an annual Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change; including travel support for LDC Ministers

Travel support for local governments to global climate events, including COPs

Estimated costs: USD 500,000/ per year

2

Local to National

Outputs:

Strengthening and supporting city climate change officers/team at the national level

Providing capacity building, tools and guidance on how to strengthen the urban content of the NDCs in a sector-specific way

Setting up regional Secretariats to support regional-level coordination

Country-level estimated costs: TBC for participating countries

Regional-level estimated costs: USD 500,000/per region/per year

3

Local

Outputs:

Providing capacity building and technical expertise to help local governments in accelerating implementation at the local level

Supporting project development in cities for climate implementation

Estimated costs: USD 500,000/ per year



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Full concept note



Registration

Questions?
Reach out to: lea.ranalder@un.org

