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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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.

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.

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!

Launch: SURGe was launched during the first-ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP27.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>55% of the world’s population lives in urban areas</th>
<th>7 out of 10 people are expected to live in cities by 2050</th>
<th>80% of GDP is generated in cities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cities are drivers of climate change ...</td>
<td>Cities are responsible for ~3/4 of global energy demand</td>
<td>~70% The urban share of GHG emissions in 2020 continues to grow, up from 62% in 2015</td>
<td>70% of cities report impacts of climate change</td>
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<tr>
<td>... but are also very vulnerable to climate change</td>
<td>With no urban mitigation efforts, urban emissions could more than double by mid-century</td>
<td>1 billion live in informal settlements</td>
<td>3.3 to 3.6 billion live in hotspots vulnerable to climate change</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>900 million people live in low-lying coastal zones</td>
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</table>
Cities lack human and technical resources to accelerate local climate action.

**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.
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.

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.

- 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.

- 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.

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

- Multilateralism recognizes cities as actors in the planetary crisis.

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

- 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)
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.

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.

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

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.
### What is SURGe?

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>1 Local to Global</th>
<th>2 Local to National</th>
<th>3 Local</th>
<th>4 Communication, and partnership building</th>
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<td>Cross-cutting communication to expand the global partnership and disseminating clear messages on multilevel climate action</td>
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<td>➢ 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.</td>
<td>➢ 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</td>
<td>➢ 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</td>
<td>➢ Build a SURGe website to showcase SURGe developments, portray 180+ endorsers, rally support and disseminate local climate action support stories</td>
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<td>➢ Enhanced visibility for local leaders at UNFCCC COPs</td>
<td>➢ Rally support for a global pledge of national governments to strengthen the urban content of NDCs to raise ambition</td>
<td>➢ Capacity building and technical expertise: support improvement of cities multi-sectoral climate action plans with clear processes, actions and impacts</td>
<td>➢ Build a &quot;Partner portal&quot; integrated into the website, allowing for track partners to cooperate, share, and exchange, as a &quot;technical&quot; resource for project implementation. This will also provide an opportunity to collaborate on national level climate implementation plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Encouraging annual Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at UNFCCC COPs</td>
<td>➢ 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</td>
<td>➢ Enable implementation by expanding the pipeline of local priority climate infrastructure projects</td>
<td>➢ Communication campaigns, including social media and newsletter to support SURGe narrative</td>
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<td>➢ Aligning calls for inclusion of local governments and enabling mechanisms into COP outcomes, via LGMA Constituency and in collaboration with the Parties</td>
<td>➢ Develop toolkit and capacity for action</td>
<td>➢ Leverage support of exiting partnerships to collectively upscale guidance and action</td>
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What is SURGe?
Delivering by connecting local, national and global levels through five integrated tracks

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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 lense.

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 lense.

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

SURGe - connecting to global goals

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

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

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

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
What is SURGe?

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.
What is SURGe?
Multi-stakeholder engagement

World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland
First open stakeholder consultation workshop convened by the COP27 Presidency
50+ participants

June

July

SURGe stakeholder consultation workshop convened by the COP27 Presidency in Cairo
120+ participants

September

Fall

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

Open online review process of the SURGe draft
Virtual meetings with track leads and SURGe partners

November

December

SURGe Launch at Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP27
300+ participants
50+ member states represented

300+ people/organizations involved
180+ organizations have signed up and endorsed

Ministerial Meeting Report

2022
**What is SURGe?**

**Next steps on the Road to COP28**

**UN-Habitat Assembly**
In Nairobi
Convening of SURGe partners in a side event and stakeholder consultation meeting

**Bonn Climate Change Conference**
Side event on the 2nd week of the conference.

**Daring Cities**
A main event and a side event related to SURGe.

**Regional Climate Weeks**
Regionalization of the Ministerial Meeting – convening partners at the regional level

**New York Climate Week and SDG Summit**

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, DaringCities, 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

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

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

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

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