



Call for Action for Sustainable Cities

Cities around the world are battlegrounds for our fight against climate change. The latest IPCC report highlights that integrated urban planning can reduce emissions by 23-26% by 2050. The opportunities for retrofitting and transforming how the cities of the future will be planned and built are enormous. With 60% of the urban space we will need in 2060 yet to be built, the risks of business as usual are also major.

What is needed is clear: sprawl and low density urban development needs to be tackled to limit the consumption of natural land and reduce car dependency; urban models based on monocentric development must be transformed into polycentric cities made of connected, mixed-use neighbourhoods that provide access to key services, amenities and public transport to all; car-dominated roads and highways must give way to people-centric streets and nature-friendly neighbourhoods; pollution needs to be rapidly reduced and a low carbon future needs to be built in our cities of today and tomorrow.

Such transformation requires convergent action at the local, national and global level. All too often, cities are not supported by national frameworks or statutory tools, and are barely reflected in global guidance and mechanisms for financing. This needs to change

During this session, a number of commitments and announcements were made, which will support our collective efforts towards better urban planning and the management of our cities. The actions we take now will play a key role in supporting initiatives scaling up climate action in cities:

- Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP)
- Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation Initiative (SURGE)
- The report and recommendations of the Secretary General's High-Level Expert Group on Net Zero Emissions.

Within these frameworks, we want to contribute to the growth and empowerment of the global movement of cities for climate action.

The session has in particular highlighted the following promising developments:

Production of evidence and data to elevate integrated planning solutions into the global guidance by the IPCC, and in the Paris Agreement mechanisms for financing.

- To promote this agenda more systematically and within the framework of the COP and IPCC, UN-Habitat and C40, in collaboration with Chair ETI/Sorbonne and UCLG, are further developing proximity indicators through the **Global Observatory of Sustainable Proximities**. The Observatory will also share the different tools and training modules developed by the partners to support this agenda.

- C40 and Novo Nordisk's *Cities Changing Diabetes program* are launching **the Healthy Neighbourhoods Explorer**, a tool that measures the GHG emissions and health impact of 15-minute city/proximity planning policies and actions.

Accelerating action at the local level through tools and support.

- C40 and Urban Partners are entering into a new and extended partnership to grow the **Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods programme** that supports more than 40 cities to adopt better urban planning policies and design practices and turn the 15-minute city concept into reality. The programme includes a forum of cities that facilitates exchanges of knowledge and best practices, as well as a pilot programme that provides deep support to cities to implement neighbourhood pilots on the ground.
- UN-Habitat's online platform, **Our City Plans**, is being strengthened to incorporate full modules on climate change and infrastructure (as requested by the Member States at the last UN Habitat Assembly), specifically targeting intermediate cities (in support of the CHAMP and SURGE initiatives).
- To further change the way cities are planned and built, C40 and Community Jameel are launching a **Jameel C40 Urban Planning Climate Lab** to support Middle East and South Asia cities, especially Amman and Chennai, to integrate and mainstream the objectives of their Climate Action Plan in their Statutory Master Planning document.

Implementation requires better access to financing.

- UN-Habitat commits to support the SURGE initiative with **Integrated Capital Investment Planning tools**, which prioritize climate criteria across sectors, shifting the way investments are assessed and prioritized.
- Collectively building on the indicators and evidence being created, we will contribute to the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary General's High-Level Expert Group on Net Zero Emissions, by improving **Zero-Carbon integrated plans and work with carbon markets actors** to leverage those to incentivise the city transformation we need.

As we proceed, we call for stakeholders to join in these efforts, and we commit to reviewing progress in one year on:

- how urban plans have scaled up their contribution to climate action,
- how cities have taken up truly integrated approaches and started align urban planning and investments with international climate and sustainability goals, and
- how such commitments have translated into transformative urban plans and their implementation.