

OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE LOCAL LEADERS ROUNDTABLE ON DECARBONIZING BUILDINGS

This statement gathers calls from Local and Subnational government leaders brought together during the closed-door Local Leaders Roundtable of the Buildings and Climate Global Forum and will inform the final Déclaration de Chaillot of the Forum. The Local Leaders Roundtable is supported by UNEP and UN-Habitat, in partnership with OECD, C40, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, WRI, FMDV, Under2 Coalition, Climate Chance.

The Buildings and Climate Global Forum brings together ministers and high-level representatives of key organizations in an effort to spur the decarbonization of the buildings sector. The event is the first of its kind and will follow up on progress made at the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28).

On March 7th, the **Local Government Roundtable** brought together 20 local and subnational government leaders in a closed-door roundtable to showcase the strong engagement of local governments to decarbonize buildings, including Mayors and leaders from 12 different countries. This Outcome Document gathers a call from these leaders from around the globe for better international cooperation, and for national governments to support local governments in financial and technical capacity to accelerate action on building decarbonization. It is to be delivered at the opening of the Ministerial plenary on 8th March 2024.

There has been an increasing global awareness that the climate battle will be lost or won in cities. The narrative of cities and buildings are interlinked as the need for buildings is increasing – and much of this will be in and around cities. Today, more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas and the urban share is expected to grow up to 68% by 2050. In 2021, the buildings and construction sector accounts for 37% of energy and process-related CO₂ emissions^[1]. The climate impact of buildings is likely to increase in the coming decades due to rapid growth, especially in urban areas in the Global South. Yet, the buildings and construction sector is not on track to achieve decarbonization by 2050. It is therefore more urgent than ever to change the way humanity constructs and uses buildings.

The Local Leaders Roundtable presented a strong mobilization to showcase the importance of local governments to decarbonize the built environment in an equitable and inclusive way. The outcomes are put forward below:

1. *Recognizing* the fast-growing responsibility of buildings and embodied carbon in global CO₂ emissions, and the need to decarbonize the buildings sector to advance sustainable urban development in line with the 2030 Agenda. Also *recognizing* that sustainable buildings and

urban development need to be just, inclusive, and equitable, particularly to meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups.

2. *Recognizing* the leadership of local governments in the fight against the climate crisis, implementing climate action on the ground, using levers including procurement, policy-making, integrated urban planning and financial incentives. Also *recognizing* that local governments have taken action to improve the sustainability and resilience of buildings, adapted to the specific local contexts, climatic conditions, and climate vulnerabilities.
3. *Recognizing* the 28 countries which endorsed the Buildings Breakthrough initiative, championed by France and Morocco and committing to turning near-zero emission and resilient buildings into the new normal by 2030, further strengthening collective action for climate change in the buildings sector.
4. *Recognizing* the increasing role of local and subnational governments in international processes:
 - a. *Welcoming* the multilateral agreements, including the Paris Agreement, the UAE Consensus (including agreement by leaders to double energy efficiency by 2030), the Sharm-El-Sheikh Implementation Plan and Glasgow Pact as well as the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, that recognize the importance of engagement of all levels of governments and the urgent need for multilevel and cooperative action towards the achievement of the Paris Agreement objectives.
 - b. *Welcoming* the inclusion of local and subnational governments in international events, such as the Local Climate Action Summit at COP28, the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP27 and COP28 and the Sixth UN Environment Assembly Cities and Regions Summit.
 - c. *Recognizing* also the multiple initiatives advocating for and accelerating the engagement of local governments in the Paris Agreement implementation, including the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) and the Subnational Climate Action Leader's Exchange (SCALE) initiatives launched at COP27, as well as the political commitment of 72 Parties to the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) at COP28 to enable local governments to contribute to further enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions ahead of COP30 in 2025 and the Global Cooling Pledge for subnational governments.

5. *Welcoming* the 158 countries mentioning buildings in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and 118 of them referring to energy efficiency as part of their emissions reduction strategy and the 30 countries building Roadmaps towards a zero-carbon and resilient buildings and construction sector.
6. *Encouraging* multilevel climate action to ensure that buildings contribute to reducing global emissions, while adapting to the impacts of climate change
 - a. *Encouraging* all national governments to involve local and subnational governments, alongside other stakeholders in dialogues and multilevel collaboration in the buildings and construction value chain and, where applicable and appropriate.
 - b. *Encouraging* national governments to ensure policy coherence between the different levels of government and to develop and implement policies that facilitate local action on the ground, address operational and embodied emissions in buildings and that help to decarbonize and build a resilient buildings and construction sector.
7. *Encouraging* national governments and international finance institutions to accelerate deployment of climate finance to support local climate action and strengthen financial, technical and workforce skills capacities, as well as looking for civil society support.
8. *Encouraging* decision makers in the government, industry and finance sectors to embrace the transformation of their sectors and to invest in innovation, technologies, products, materials and services that promote energy-efficiency, low-carbon and sustainable construction to accelerate building decarbonization.
9. *Encouraging* all parties to consider these outcomes as inputs for the Ministerial plenary on 8th March 2024 and as a continuity of the global efforts to achieve decarbonization and climate change resilience in the buildings sector along with WUF12 in Cairo, COP29 and beyond.
10. *Welcoming* a proposal for a global engagement mechanism for local and subnational governments and other stakeholder to facilitate exchanges of experiences and best practices on building decarbonization in an integrated, equitable and inclusive way; embedded within the GlobalABC and SURGe initiatives, using tools such as sustainable procurement and urban planning.

[1] From the 2022 Global Status Report for Buildings and Constructions of Global ABC
<https://globalabc.org/our-work/tracking-progress-global-status-report>