



## Overview: Ministerial Meeting(s) on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP29

A High-Level Opening on Multilevel Climate Action, followed by four High-Level Thematic Roundtables, bringing together Ministers, Mayors, Parliamentarians and Financing Institutions

### Event summary

#### Event description

The 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29) in Baku, represents a pivotal moment to concentrate efforts for transformative climate action. Cities, sustainable urbanization, multilevel and multisectoral climate action and urban climate finance will be front and centre of COP29, with 20 November 2024 dedicated to Urbanization and Climate Change.

The third **Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change** will be the high-level opening event of 20 November in Baku, Azerbaijan. It is not just one Ministerial Meeting – but multiple high-level meetings throughout the day, acknowledging that the actions needed to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement, and the SDGs require multilevel and multisectoral climate actions and collaboration and scaling up of urban climate finance.

It will commence with a **High-Level Opening Plenary Session on Multilevel Climate Action**, which is co-hosted COP29 Presidency, United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan and United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion on COP29 with the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies. The High-Level Opening will take stock of progress on sustainable urbanization and multilevel and multisectoral climate action and will be followed by four thematic **High-Level Roundtables** on 1) Green Construction and Buildings; 2) Urban Transport and Infrastructure; 3) Nature, Health and Agriculture in Cities; and 4) Urban Climate Finance.

The Ministerial Meeting(s) including the High-Level Opening and the High-Level Roundtables are co-hosted by a broad range of partners, including the COP29 Presidency, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of (SCUPA) the Republic of Azerbaijan, United Nations Climate Change High-Level Champion on COP29, Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO), the International Transport Forum (ITF), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Multilateral Development Banks with the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA) to UNFCCC.

#### Why Ministerial Meeting(s) at COP29?

**As COP28 concluded, a clear message emerged:** cities are not just the culprits and victims of climate change, they are dynamic leaders driving action. They are the battleground where the climate crisis will be won or lost, which was also reflected in two high-level events: 1) The second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP28 (building on the inaugural Ministerial Meeting at COP27) which brought together Ministers of Housing, Urban Development, Environment and Climate Change, with 60+ member states represented, 200+ local leaders and 1000+ participants present; 2) the first-ever **Local Climate Action Summit** co-hosted by the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies, which saw the launch of the **Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP)**. To date CHAMP brings together 74 Parties, pledging to enhance cooperation with subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of climate strategies.

**This builds on a growing international awareness that the climate battle will be won or lost in cities.** Encouraged by the work and contributions of non-party stakeholders, including cities, towns, states and regions to the Paris Agreement process since its adoption and the work of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency to the UNFCCC, the importance of cities for climate action is not only referenced in the Paris Agreement, but also the COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact, and the Sharm-El-Sheikh Implementation Plan, recognizing the need for multilevel and cooperative action beyond national level engagement.

**COP29 culminates a critical year for climate action**, especially as Parties are revising their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the lead up to COP30. Currently only 27% of NDCs have strong urban content and are prioritizing cities and urbanization in their climate plans. Collaboration between national and subnational governments is critical to bridge the gap between climate commitments and scaling up the action and implementation in cities and regions that is essential to deliver on the Paris Agreement to keep global temperatures under 1.5°C, while advancing sustainable urban development, bolstering resilience and addressing the needs of the millions of urban poor.

**These efforts will be reflected at COP29.** The Ministerial Meeting(s) on Urbanization and Climate Change overall offer an opportunity to take stock of progress, consolidate efforts, and facilitate the conversations that need to happen to strengthen multilevel and multisectoral climate action to achieve global climate goals and the SDGs – as well as broader national climate and sustainability strategies.

## Objectives and outcomes

### Objectives

The COP29 Ministerial Meeting(s) on Urbanization and Climate Change will build on the momentum on cities and urbanization. Specifically, it will:

- Highlight importance of multisectoral and multilevel actions by conducting High-Level Thematic Roundtables, while connecting them to a broader narrative
- Showcase how stronger collaboration between local and national governments can advance climate action in support of the goals of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Discuss how multisectoral actions are necessary to scale up climate action in and with cities and regions;
- Taking stock of progress on existing initiatives and pledges, including CHAMP and SURGe and identify the roadmap ahead in view of the NDC revision process and provide a platform for announcements in support of multilevel climate action
- Showcase what challenges exist on scaling up urban climate finance and what kind of financing mechanisms and partnerships are needed
- Pave a way forward for stronger partnerships in support of multisectoral and multilevel climate action
- These Meetings also present an opportunity for first movers to present their new and enhanced NDCs.

### Outcomes

- Launch of the Multisectoral Action Pathways (MAP) for Resilient and Healthy Cities declaration as a vehicle to inform and influence the broader climate negotiations and inform the road to COP30
- Signing ceremony of the **Baku Continuity Coalition on Urban and Multilevel Climate Action** between the COP27, COP28, COP29, COP30 Presidency and UN-Habitat, dedicated to i) ensuring a continuity between past and future COPs on urban issues; ii) encouraging future COPs to include urban topics as part of their action

agenda.

- Create synergies between global events, given that the next World Urban Forum (WUF13) and World Environment Day will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan in 2026
- The recommendations generated from these meetings will be carried forward to inform and influence the broader climate change negotiations and inform the road to COP30.

## Logistics

### Participants

In the spirit of multilevel and multisectoral climate action, the Ministerial Meeting will bring together different decision-makers responsible for sustainable urbanization, including:

- Ministers of Environment who are responsible for negotiating global climate agreements and leading the NDCs revision process;
- Ministers of Urbanization and Housing who will then need to translate these NDCs into action in their Urbanization strategies;
- Ministers of Health, Transport or other relevant Ministers (depending on the High-Level Roundtable)
- Local leaders and Parliamentarians who are responsible for implementing strategies at the local level
- Multilateral Development Banks, International Financing Institutions and Multilateral Climate Funds
- UN Agencies and intergovernmental organizations
- Other key non-state actors

### Time and venue

- *Date:* 20 November 2024, Urbanization Day
- *Time:* 09:00 - 10:30 High-Level Opening on Multilevel Climate Action, 11:00 – 14:30 High-Level Roundtables
- *Venue:* UNFCCC COP29 – Baku, Azerbaijan;
- *Room:* High-Level Opening in the UNFCCC plenary room, High-Level Roundtables in preliminary agenda below
- Online streaming will be available [Link TBC]

### Logistics

- Interpretation will be provided in UN languages [TBC]
- *Seating arrangement:* TBC
- *Accreditation:* The Ministerial Meeting will take place in the Blue Zone of the UNFCCC COP29 venue. Accreditation for the Blue Zone will be necessary to access the venue.
- Additional information is also available at: <https://cop29.az/>

### Contacts

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## Overview of preliminary agenda

| Preliminary Agenda for the High-Level Opening on Multilevel Climate Action |  |  |
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| Time   | Content  | Speakers (all TBC)   |
| 08:30 – 09:00  | Room opens, family picture of Ministers, Local Leaders and Parliamentarians  |  |
| High-Level Opening on Multilevel Climate Action (UNFCCC Plenary Room)      |  |  |
| 09:00 – 09:15  | Welcome remarks and scene setting  | Secretary General of the United Nations<br>COP29 President<br>Chairman, SCUPA<br>Executive Director, UN-Habitat<br>UN Climate Change High-level Champion for COP29 |
| 9:15 - 9:20  | Taking stock of progress on multilevel climate action and identify how to consolidate efforts in the lead up to COP30, including CHAMP | Michael R. Bloomberg<br>Minister(s) reporting back from U20/ G20<br>Mayor(s) reporting back from U20/G20   |
| 09:20 - 10:25  | Open roundtable, with interventions from Ministers, Subnational Leaders and Parliamentarians   | Ministers of Urbanization<br>Ministers of Environment<br>Local Leaders & Parliamentarians  |
| 10:25 - 10:30  | Next steps and closing<br>Launch of MAP declaration  | Minister of Cities, Brazil<br>Subnational representative, Brazil   |

| Preliminary Agenda for the four High-Level Roundtables   |   |  |
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| <p><b>Note:</b> concept notes exist for each of the High-Level Roundtables. These will be provided to speaker and participants and will be made available on the COP29 website</p> |   |  |
| Time   | Content   | Speakers (all TBC)   |
| 11:00 – 12:30 High Level Roundtables   |   |  |
| 11:00 – 12:30  | <b>High Level Roundtable 1: Green Construction and Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Climate Resilience in Cities</b><br>(Venue: Hirkan) | State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan<br>Ministers of Urbanization<br>Ministers of Environment<br>Ministers of Energy |

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|--|---|--|
|  | <p>Deep-dive roundtable dedicated to transforming ambition into action in the buildings and construction sector, as well as in energy efficiency and building urban resilience.</p> <p><b>Hosts:</b> State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA), UNEP, with the support of UN-Habitat and IFC</p>   | <p>UN and partner agencies<br/>Local Leaders &amp; Parliamentarians<br/>CEOs</p>   |
| <p><b>11:00 – 12:30</b></p>                        | <p><b>High Level Roundtable 2: Transport and Infrastructure in Cities</b><br/>(Venue: Mugham)</p> <p>This high-level deep-dive roundtable will explore how to transition to a green and sustainable urban transport system and build resilient infrastructure. The roundtable will explore the importance of vision-led planning and how to work across all levels of government and industry stakeholders to deliver this. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do we work across all levels of government to develop, deliver and fund / finance a green urban transport system?</li> <li>• How do we ensure the urban transport system and infrastructure is resilient to climate shocks?</li> </ul> <p><b>Hosts:</b> Ministry of Digital Development and Transport, International Transport Forum (ITF), UN-Habitat</p> | <p>Ministers of Transport<br/>Ministers of Urbanization<br/>UN and partner agencies<br/>Local Leaders &amp; Parliamentarians<br/>Financial institutions</p>  |
| <p><b>13:00 – 14:30 High Level Roundtables</b></p> |   |  |
| <p><b>13:00 – 14:30</b></p>                        | <p><b>High Level Roundtable 3: Nature, health and agriculture in cities</b><br/>(Venue: Hirkan)</p> <p>This high-level deep-dive roundtable will explore how to tackle extreme heat in cities, build climate resilience and improve public health, including through nature-based solutions, sustainable cooling, urban afforestation and urban agriculture and climate change adaptation measures.</p> <p><b>Hosts:</b> Ministry of Ecology,</p>   | <p>Ministers of Environment<br/>Ministers of Urbanization<br/>Ministers of Health<br/>Ministers of Agriculture<br/>UN and partner agencies<br/>Local Leaders &amp; Parliamentarians</p>  |
| <p><b>13:00 – 14:30</b></p>                        | <p><b>High Level Roundtable 4: Financing urban climate action</b><br/>(Venue: Mugham)</p> <p>This high-level deep dive will explore the challenges and opportunities that exist in accelerating finance for urban climate action. In addition, it will discuss what innovative finance mechanisms exist and how they can be scaled up to deliver more climate action in cities.</p>   | <p>State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan<br/>Ministers of Finance<br/>Ministers of Urbanization<br/>Multilateral Development Banks<br/>International Finance Institutions<br/>Multilateral Climate Funds<br/>Local Leaders &amp; Parliamentarians</p> |