



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan



PRESS RELEASE

Outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting(s) on Urbanization and Climate Change

Baku, Azerbaijan – November 21, 2024 – At the COP29 Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, global leaders including ministers, city officials, parliamentarians, multilateral development banks, and UN agencies gathered to advance urban-focused climate solutions. This pivotal event underlined the importance of aligning national and local efforts to create resilient, sustainable cities capable of addressing the climate crisis.

Held under the theme "Building Resilient and Healthy Cities for a Sustainable Future," the Ministerial Meeting highlighted several critical commitments and strategic actions that will shape the pathway to COP30 and beyond:

- **Launch of the Multisectoral Action Pathways (MAP) for Resilient and Healthy Cities Declaration:** The newly launched MAP Declaration serves as a strategic guide to enhance resilience and health in urban areas. This framework will inform ongoing climate negotiations and shape climate policy discussions through COP30, underscoring the role of cities in addressing climate vulnerabilities and building a sustainable future.
- **Signing of the Baku Continuity Coalition on Urban and Multilevel Climate Action:** A formal signing ceremony marked the launch of the Baku Continuity Coalition, an initiative bridging the presidencies of COP27, COP28, COP29, and COP30 in partnership with UN-Habitat. This coalition is dedicated to:
 - Ensuring continuity in urban climate agendas across COP summits.
 - Encouraging future COP hosts to prioritize urban resilience and climate adaptation on their agendas.
- **Strengthening Global Event Synergies:** Recognizing the momentum around urban climate action, leaders emphasized the importance of aligning future climate and urbanization events. Notably, Baku will host both the 2026 World Urban Forum (WUF13) and World Environment Day, providing critical platforms for urban-focused climate dialogue.
- **Recognition of existing partnerships and initiatives,** such as the collaboration between the Slovak Ministry of Environment and UN-Habitat on the SURGe Initiative—formalized through a Letter of Intent signed earlier this month at the World Urban Forum (WUF12)—was highlighted as a key example of how national governments are advancing urban resilience through multilevel climate action.

The outcomes and recommendations of the COP29 Ministerial Meeting will be instrumental in shaping global climate strategies and urban policies. By bringing urban issues to the forefront, participants have reaffirmed the essential role of cities in achieving global climate targets and building resilient communities.

Speakers at the press conference included Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; Anar Guliyev, Chairman of State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture



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(SCUPA); Tomáš Taraba, Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic; Nigar Arpadarai, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29 and Member of Parliament, Republic of Azerbaijan; Minna Arve, Turku Mayor and ICLEI First Vice President and Gianpiero Nacci, Director Sustainable Business and Infrastructure, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Together, these leaders highlighted the urgent need for collaborative, cross-sector approaches to urban climate action.

“The Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change comes at a critical moment as countries are revising their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This meeting represents a key opportunity for dialogue that can help highlight the importance of aligning national strategies with local realities including the housing crisis, energy poverty, the loss of nature and biodiversity in cities and the challenge of financing development priorities. Ultimately, we believe this meeting will help maximize our collective impact in addressing climate challenges,” said **Anacláudia Rossbach, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat.**

Commenting on the launch of the COP29 MAP Declaration, **COP29 President and Azerbaijan’s Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Mukhtar Babayev** said, “Amid the urgent need to transform our cities into resilient, sustainable spaces, the COP29 Multisectoral Actions Pathway (MAP) Declaration serves as a catalyst for fostering cross-sector collaboration. By uniting experts from transport, infrastructure, urban planning, and environmental conservation, we can drive meaningful change that protects not only urban environments but enhances quality of life for all.”

“Today, I am proud to announce that, together with my colleagues from around the world, we launched the Multisectoral Actions Pathways (MAP) for Resilient and Healthy Cities at the COP29 Urbanization and Climate Day Ministerial Meeting,” said **Anar Guliyev, Chairman of the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA) of the Republic of Azerbaijan** at the press conference that took place on 20 November. “This groundbreaking document is the first of its kind, integrating the concept of healthy cities into the climate agenda and fostering stronger synergies between urban planning and climate action for sustainable development. Additionally, I am excited to unveil the creation of the Baku Continuity Coalition, a new initiative designed to build connections and synergies between COPs and the World Urban Forum (WUF). The signing of this declaration with Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Brazil, and UN-Habitat sends a powerful message, underscoring our shared commitment to shaping the future of cities through innovation, collaboration, and a strong focus on climate action. As we look forward to WUF13 in Baku, we remain dedicated to taking transformative steps toward building sustainable urban futures, guided by our collective efforts within these established platforms.”

“The Slovak Republic is proud to commit €5 million within the next 5 year’s period to the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe) initiative,” said **Tomáš Taraba, Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic.** Following the Ministerial Meeting(s) on Urbanization and Climate Change, which united representatives from over 50 countries, this commitment reaffirms our belief in the power of partnerships to drive effective climate action. Through SURGe, we aim to strengthen the connections between local, national, and global efforts, empowering communities to create resilient and sustainable urban futures.”



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“Sustainable urban development can bridge the gap between climate goals and concrete action if cities are fully integrated into climate planning, finance and implementation, and capacitated to implement them effectively on the ground. We know through the continued success of the CHAMP initiative, that nations are keen to strengthen collaboration across all levels of government to deliver effective climate action. Here at COP29, cities and other subnationals and nations together have an opportunity to create impactful outcomes through strong multilateral cooperation on urbanisation at the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change,” **said Minna Arve, First Vice President of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and Mayor of Turku, Finland.**

“Wednesday 20 November was an important day to highlight the important role of cities in combating climate change and with that, the immense need to support them, through the estimate of US\$800 billion in annual public investment by 2030 from national governments and development finance institutions,” said **Gianpiero Nacci, Director Sustainable Business and Infrastructure, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).** “On behalf of the MDB Cities Group, I would first like to acknowledge the call for action and emphasize that MDBs are committed to continue scaling up urban climate finance and technical assistance to support city climate efforts and to help achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, where local climate action is critical.”

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