

UN-Habitat and Brazil's Ministry of City co-host Ministerial Meeting in Belém as COP30 places cities and regions at the heart of climate action

The fourth **Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change** closed in Belém with a clear message: without cities and regions, there is no credible path to the Paris Agreement. Bringing together ministers, mayors, governors, community leaders, and international leaders, the meeting highlighted that multilevel partnerships and urban climate action are now central pillars of the climate agenda.

Co-hosted by the COP30 Presidency, Brazil's Ministry of Cities and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the meeting marked the culmination of the COP30 Urban Days and reflected a collective effort – inspired by the Presidency's guiding spirit of Mutirão – to integrate science, finance, housing and informal settlements, resilience, and multilevel climate action. Building on initiatives from previous COPs – including SURGe (COP27), CHAMP (COP28) and MAP (COP29) – the discussions pointed to the fundamental role of urban areas to deliver on the Paris Agreement.'

The Ministerial Meeting comprised of a series of high-level engagements with leaders from all levels of governments, starting with the Mutirão for Science and Research for Actionable Policies, followed by the Ministerial Panel on Multilevel Governance for the Paris Agreement, the roundtable on Financing the Implementation of NDCs 3.0, the Mutirão for Cities, Nature and Climate and the dedicated roundtable on Housing and the Transformation of Informal Settlements, each highlighting critical dimensions of urban climate action. The day culminated in the High-level Closing Plenary of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change. **The outcomes of this plenary were published on the Summary of the Chair, a document shared with ministers and representatives.**

UN-Habitat Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach stressed that global climate goals depend directly on local implementation: "We know that the goals of the Paris Agreement cannot be achieved without local, urban, and multilevel climate action – and without the commitment from you: governors, mayors, and communities."

High-level Closing Plenary: Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change

The closing plenary brought together ministers, mayors, governors, community leaders, and international partners to consolidate the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting and reaffirm the central role of cities and regions in delivering the Paris Agreement. In the spirit of a global *mutirão*, the session highlighted strong national–subnational alignment, the need to strengthen the institutional architecture for multilevel climate action, and the importance of embedding urbanization and NDCs 3.0 implementation at the core of future COP processes.

Key concluding points:

- **Multilevel and multisectoral cooperation is essential:** Delivering on the Paris Agreement requires strong alignment between national climate governance and urban development policies, with cities recognized as central actors.
- **Urbanization as a foundation for global climate frameworks:** Sustainable urbanization and multilevel governance are critical to achieving the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda, and the Sendai Framework, guided by the New Urban Agenda.
- **Strengthening the institutional architecture:** Participants supported institutionalizing the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at future COPs and enhancing the role of local and regional governments in UNFCCC processes.
- **Embedding urban content in global climate instruments:** The plenary called for deeper integration of sustainable urban development and multilevel climate action into the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Global Stocktake, just transition pathways, and long-term strategies.
- **Advancing local access to climate finance:** There was strong consensus on the need for global and national climate funds to effectively support city-scale projects and frontline communities.
- **Promoting equity and inclusion:** The plenary emphasized that climate action must prioritize the urban poor and residents of informal settlements, addressing disproportionate risks and ensuring a just transition for all.
- **Call for continued collaboration and follow-up:** Local and regional governments must be present at all levels to develop formal mechanisms for measurable multilevel implementation and proposed reporting progress at the 13th World Urban Forum in May 2026.



Mutirão for Science and Research for Actionable Policies

Building on key milestones from the Urban Roadmap to COP30, including the Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science, this roundtable focused on the intersection of science, research, and urban policy to strengthen local climate action. It explored how data, traditional knowledge, and science-policy interfaces can inform the next generation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0), and how to translate evidence into policy and measurable results at the city level.

Key concluding points:

- **From data abundance to being smart about implementation:** The challenge is no longer the lack of data, but the need to use existing urban data more effectively – improving governance, coordination, and capacity to turn knowledge into policy-relevant insights. Cities require better data ecosystems linking national institutions, research bodies, and local governments.
- **Bridging science, policy, and participation:** Governments and researchers emphasised the importance of co-producing knowledge with local communities and integrating traditional and citizen-generated data into formal decision-making. Strengthening public participation was recognised as key to ensuring locally grounded and socially inclusive climate policies.
- **Toward NDCs 3.0 informed by cities:** The roundtable reaffirmed that scientific knowledge – when locally embedded – is crucial to advancing multilevel climate governance. Participants called for sustained investment in city-level research partnerships and open data systems to inform the IPCC's Special Report on Climate Change and Cities (2027) and to support NDC implementation in the years ahead.



High-level Ministerial Panel on Multilevel Governance for the Implementation of Climate Strategies

This high-level panel positioned multilevel governance as the structural foundation for translating Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies into robust subnational action. It officially launched the COP30 Presidency's Acceleration Plan on Multilevel Governance under the COP30 Action Agenda and emphasized Brazil's climate federalism approach as replicable and call for more alignment between finance, science, and institutional capacity to strengthen local readiness – ensuring that climate solutions emerge from territories through multilevel, multistakeholder, and participative governance.

Key concluding points:

- **Official launch and endorsement of the Acceleration Plan on Multilevel Governance:** The session launched the Acceleration Plan on Multilevel Governance, recognized as a replicable framework to strengthen vertical and horizontal coordination, build subnational capacities, and operationalize CHAMP commitments.
- **Post-COP30 roadmap for CHAMP:** Participants called for a clear roadmap to guide CHAMP beyond COP30, shifting it from political endorsement to an implementation platform with coordinated support and monitoring through 2026–2027.
- **Knowledge exchange on Brazil's climate federalism mechanisms:** Brazil's climate federalism tools were highlighted as effective mechanisms for national–subnational cooperation, with interest in documenting and sharing these practices for broader replication.
- **Political alignment across levels of government:** Leaders reaffirmed strong national–subnational alignment and the need to embed local data, capacities, and priorities into future NDCs, NAPs, and long-term strategies to ensure credible and sustained climate delivery.



Roundtable on Financing the Multilevel Implementation of NDCs 3.0

This roundtable examined mechanisms to strengthen climate finance for cities and regions, with a focus on bridging national and local financing gaps, aligning urban climate investment with the New Collective Quantified Goal, and advancing just and inclusive transitions.

Key concluding points:

- **Multilevel finance as the foundation of NDC delivery:** Cities are where most climate investments are implemented, yet remain poorly equipped to access funds directly. A clear consensus emerged that empowering local governments through multilevel partnerships — linking national, subnational, and financial institutions — is critical to translate NDCs into action.
- **Aligning financial systems for local readiness:** The discussion highlighted the need for harmonized frameworks across multilateral banks and vertical funds to accelerate funding access and reduce bureaucratic barriers. Participants welcomed models such as the Green Climate Fund's locally led coalitions and called for a "readiness scoreboard" to assess and fast-track subnational investment capacity.
- **Financing just and inclusive transitions:** Speakers underscored that climate finance must prioritize fairness, social inclusion, and economic resilience — particularly for vulnerable groups and informal economies. Examples from Côte d'Ivoire, Scotland, and Chile illustrated that climate investments must safeguard jobs, promote equity, and support new forms of local industry to prevent another "unjust transition."
- **Bridging national–local finance and planning systems:** Speakers highlighted that forward-looking regional and city climate planning, coupled with structural reforms to channel capital flows directly to local governments, is essential to ensure investments translate into measurable environmental and social outcomes.



Mutirão for Housing and Transformation of Informal Settlements

This roundtable placed housing at the centre of the climate agenda. With over 1 billion people living in informal settlements and 300 million experiencing homelessness, the roundtable called for housing to be seen not as a crisis, but as a building block for just urban transition pathways rooted on climate and urban justice.

Key concluding points:

- **Housing is climate action:** The climate and housing crises are inseparable. Transforming informal settlements can cut emissions, strengthen resilience, and drive inclusive growth — aligning the sector with NDC 3.0 priorities.
- **Justice and inclusion:** Ending forced evictions and discrimination — by gender, ethnicity, or orientation — is essential for fair, low-carbon development. Housing must be treated as infrastructure for equality, not as a speculative commodity.
- **Community-led solutions:** The session showcased local knowledge, architecture, and culture as catalysts for sustainable design — proving that community-built, circular, and nature-based housing is both climate-smart and socially just.



Other events

From Neglect to Action: Multilevel Solutions to End Open Waste Burning

This session addressed the urgent need to eliminate open waste burning, highlighting its significant yet often overlooked climate and health impacts. The discussion showcased multilevel solutions linking local data, regional roadmaps, and global cooperation. Speakers presented new evidence on black carbon emissions and health risks, underscoring that policy reform, targeted infrastructure investment, and coordinated action are essential for advancing sustainable and inclusive waste management systems.

Key concluding points:

- **Unchecked open burning of waste in Africa** is harming health, causing premature deaths and accelerating climate change.
- In 2022, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) passed a **landmark resolution to end the open burning of waste in Africa by 2040** and reduce it by 60% by 2030. To turn this resolution into action, the Africa Roadmap outlines key steps for stakeholders to eliminate the open burning of waste.
- **A collaborative effort is being spearheaded to eliminate open burning of waste** by UN-Habitat, the Royal Academy of Engineering, together with Practical Action, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, International Solid Waste Association, UNEP/Climate and Clean Air Coalition.
- **The African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP)**, supported by JICA serves as an inspiring example to promote sustainable development goals on waste management. The session called for a further upscaling of efforts.

Putting Water and Sanitation for Climate Adaptation at the Heart of Sustainable Cities

This session highlighted water is the primary medium through which climate change affects people, and fragile environments are where the stakes are highest. Local examples from the Amazon illustrated how floods and droughts are already overwhelming drainage, water supply and sanitation systems, exposing communities to cascading health and livelihood risks.

The event recalled the **Baku Water Declaration**, adopted at COP29, **recognising water and sanitation as central to climate change adaptation** and called on governments to embed them in National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions and climate financing frameworks.

Key concluding points:

- In analysing the Urban Content in NDC 3, urban water emerges as one of the most consistently prioritised climate concerns – referenced in nearly two-thirds of the latest Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Many of these reports highlight **urban water systems and related utility issues such as drainage, wastewater management and flood control**.
- Practical examples showcase how to translate the **Baku Water for Climate Action Declaration into tangible progress on the ground**. The next step is implementation – and this is where water and sanitation service providers are on the front line, translating national climate commitments into tangible resilience and better services for communities.

- Stronger visibility is required on water and sanitation as **essential urban basic services to ensure adequate housing, within climate negotiations**, with people at the centre.
- **Climate change is a daily reality for water and sanitation utilities.** From droughts and floods to rising energy costs, utilities are on the frontline of mitigation, adaptation and resilience building.
- **Water and sanitation utilities are indispensable to the achievement of national climate goals**, yet they remain underrepresented in climate discourses.
- The partners agreed to take this momentum forward by shaping a clear roadmap towards the **World Urban Forum** and the **United Nations 2026 Water Conference**.

