



COP28
UAE

PRESS RELEASE

COP28 Presidency brings together leaders to chart new path forward on urbanization and climate change

- The COP28 Presidency has hosted a Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, joining with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and Bloomberg Philanthropies. During the Ministerial, government ministers, regional leaders, financial institutions and non-government stakeholders were urged to support the 'Joint Outcome Statement on Urbanization and Climate Change'.
- The Statement, supported by over 40 Ministers of Environment, Urban Development and Housing, proposed 10 outcomes to support and integrate climate action across every level of government, while accelerating local climate finance to ensure adequate adaptation finance reaches cities.
- The meeting, attended by 1000 attendees and over 200 subnational leaders, marked the second time that ministers for housing, urban development, and environment have convened during a COP, with delegates now calling for continued inclusion in the COP process.
- The Ministerial followed the first-ever 'Local Climate Action Summit' to take place at a COP, where the 'Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP)' – which calls for local and regional leaders to play a greater role in the formation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) was published. It has since been endorsed by over 60 national governments.

Dubai, December 6, 2023: Today, the COP28 Presidency joined with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, and Bloomberg Philanthropies to call on housing, urban development, environment, and finance ministers to back the 'Joint Outcome Statement on Urbanization and Climate Change' (the Statement).

The Statement, which was supported by over 40 Ministers of Environment, Urban Development and Housing was put forward at COP28 during the second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change.

At the event, the COP28 Presidency reiterated its call to national governments to fully integrate climate action among all levels of government and collaborate with subnational governments on the design and implementation of new climate plans and policies, including the next round of NDCs ahead of COP30 in 2025.

The Statement sets out a ten-point plan to boost the inclusion of cities in the decision-making process on climate change, drive multilevel climate action and accelerate the deployment of urban climate finance so that cities are prepared and supported to respond to the climate crisis.

Currently, as many as 90 percent of cities are threatened by rising sea levels and storms, and their residents are exposed to ten degrees higher temperatures than their counterparts in rural areas.

“COP28 is a paradigm shift to action. We are empowering and supporting cities on the frontlines of climate change to seize the initiative,” said Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, the COP28 President.

“We have brought over 450 mayors and governors to COP28 and their hyperlocal knowledge is crucial in informing our global solutions. When we talk about inclusivity this is what we mean, we need all voices at the table. I thank and commend those involved for their leadership,” added Dr. Al Jaber.

“Each city has individual needs and solutions but fundamentally this is a global problem, which this Statement shows. We have brought over 1,000 mayors and governors to COP28 as, when we talk about full inclusivity this is what we mean. We know we can need to learn from and support those on the frontlines. I thank and commend those involved for their leadership,” added Dr. Al Jaber.

The Statement builds on the ‘Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships’ (CHAMP), which was launched at the Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS) on 1 December at COP28 and aims to inform and empower Ministers. CHAMP aims to identify and strengthen levers to increase and accelerate the deployment of climate finance to enable cities and local governments to respond to the climate crisis. It also aims to enable the inclusion of local and regional leaders in the formation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). To date, CHAMP has been endorsed by over 60 national governments.

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), said, “The Ministerial Meeting was a key moment in our work toward inclusive and climate-resilient cities and communities. A diverse range of stakeholders gathered including leaders from the national and local level, underscoring the shared priority of supporting urban environments to withstand climate challenges.”

Though cities, which are home to most of the world’s population, contribute over 70 percent of CO2 emissions, immediate action could bring down their emissions to near net-zero. Recognizing cities’ role in climate action, two-thirds of the updated NDCs feature moderate or strong urban content. However, finance remains a critical bottleneck, with only 21 percent of climate finance allocated to adaptation and resilience, and only 10 percent reaching the local level.

The Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change represents the second time Ministers responsible for Housing, Urban Development, and Environment have convened during the COP process. The first was during COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh with the support

of UN-Habitat, which marked a significant first step in coordinating different levels of government to address the climate crisis in support of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

During the COP28 Ministerial today, delegates called for the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change to remain a feature of future COP meetings.

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Notes to Editors COP28 UAE:

- COP28 UAE will take place at Expo City Dubai from November 30-December 12, 2023. The Conference is expected to convene over 70,000 participants, including heads of state, government officials, international industry leaders, private sector representatives, academics, experts, youth, and non-state actors.
- As mandated by the Paris Climate Agreement, COP28 UAE will deliver the first ever Global Stocktake – a comprehensive evaluation of progress against climate goals.
- The UAE will lead a process for all parties to agree upon a clear roadmap to accelerate progress through a pragmatic global energy transition and a “leave no one behind” approach to inclusive climate action.