

DECLARATION OF CITIES

The undersigned cities have joined forces on behalf of the South American region with the ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability network to commit to actively participating in tackling the climate crisis and dealing with the urgent challenges we face as a region.

We ask participants at the ICLEI World Congress in 2024 in São Paulo, Brazil, to share this joint statement, which aims to contribute to addressing this issue in a unified, fair, and equitable way.

The climate crisis requires a collective response and cities are not receiving the finance needed to face the challenges of climate change. Although the effects are being felt globally, in South American cities these are not future threats but currently a **critical challenge** with devastating consequences. The geography, together with inequality, inadequate infrastructure or the lack of, rapid urbanization of informal settlements, and the lack of adequate resources, **position us at greater risk and challenge our response capacity**. Our cities and regions are often hit by extreme weather events. Floods, droughts, severe storms, heat waves and wildfires have become more frequent and intense, with catastrophic consequences for the population, local ecosystems, and the economy, reversing local and national development gains.

Therefore, and considering first of all that climate finance is a fundamental tool to address climate change and move towards sustainable, just and equitable development, the signatory cities propose new **climate finance mechanisms to increase the resources allocated to the fight against climate change, both for mitigation and adaptation. As a result, we put forward a “New Global Financing Pact for Subnational Governments” to be agreed with other constituencies, with the following points:**

- A comprehensive restructuring of the financial system and global financial mechanisms to enable public funds to optimize the utilization of private funds and ensure the most efficient allocation of resources in different levels of government.
- Direct funding through existing green funds and new funds such as Loss and Damage funds for specific groups and constituencies, such as local governments, needs to be easily available and mechanisms for accessing such funds need to be in place.

- Strengthen the LGMA constituency presence in global and regional forums to influence sustainable development, climate change and risk management agendas by allowing local and regional leaders to sit at the decision-making table, emphasizing the indispensable role of subnational governments in combating climate change.
- Encourage initiatives aimed at reshaping both multilateral and national development banks to adopt a more programmatic approach, providing assistance to cities through collaboratively formulated climate action strategies and facilitating urban climate transformation.
- Support the collaboration between the public and private sectors to combine their knowledge and resources in addressing challenges that are too immense and intricate for either sector to tackle independently.
- Promote the establishment of robust monitoring and evaluation systems to guarantee transparent, efficient, and effective utilization of climate funds.

Therefore, the undersigned cities emphasize the importance of prioritizing **urban resilience** as an urgent adaptation and urban development strategy. The climate crisis must be addressed by a proactive and comprehensive resilience strategy at the international level; a strategy that generates long-term sustainable adaptation measures and effectively includes local communities, protecting them and preserving their future.

For the above reasons, and considering these priorities, we:

- Demand that the voice of cities and regions in global processes are heard and spaces to speak are provided, particularly in the Climate (COP 29 and 30) and Biodiversity (COP 16) Conferences, with emphasis on: the Ministerial Meetings on Urban Development and Climate Change convened by the COP Presidency; the Local and Regional Government Forums, and the spaces promoted by the Constituency of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA).
- Advocate fundamental reforms of MDBs and NDBs to focus more on addressing global and local crises in fields such as climate action, biodiversity conservation and pandemic preparedness.
- Support the development of disaster risk management climate change adaptation mechanisms, including risk transfer and others, to support financial preparation for different types of disaster risk and use of funds effectively and efficiently by Local and regional Governments.

- Strengthen cooperation between cities and regions of all scales (small, intermediate and mega) to exchange knowledge, experiences and good practices in dealing with climate change with the support and collaboration of city networks as articulators and promoters of sub-national diplomacy.
- Generate new networking opportunities to share resources and work on joint projects to tackle climate challenges more effectively and as a priority, taking as a reference: 1) the SURGe initiative, launched by the COP27 Presidency in collaboration with UN-Habitat and ICLEI, to boost urban resilience projects with a multidimensional approach, 2) the CHAMP Initiative launched by the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies to raise the urban agenda in the revision of the NDCs and accelerate funding for local climate action.
- Promote the creation of monitoring and evaluation systems to measure progress in the implementation of urban resilience measures, allowing the identification of areas for improvement and continuous feedback on the efforts made.
- Promote the conservation and restoration of ecosystems as an integral part of resilience strategies, as they are fundamental to climate regulation and disaster risk reduction.

This declaration represents a joint commitment by South American cities and regions towards a more sustainable future and recognizes the imminent need to act with urgency and determination in the face of the current threat posed by the climate emergency in our region. We encourage you to join in this collective effort to ensure a safer and fairer world for generations to come. We can turn our cities and regions into examples of resilience and sustainability, leading the way to a climate-stable, prosperous, and inclusive present and future.

List of participating cities:

Argentina Avellaneda
Ayacucho
Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires
Córdoba
Corrientes
Despeñaderos
Esteban Echeverría
Godoy Cruz

Jujuy
Mar del Plata
Marcos Juárez
Mendoza
Pérez
Río Grande
Rosario
San Jorge
Santa Fe
Tandil
Tolhuin
Vicente López
Villa Gobernador Gálvez

Brasil

Belém
Belo Horizonte
Caxias do Sul
Campo Grande
Curitiba
Porto Alegre
Rio de Janeiro
Salvador
São José dos Campos

Chile

Arica
Cerrillos
Cerro Navia
El Monte
Huechuraba
Independencia
La Granja
La Reina
Las Condes
Lo Barnechea
Lo Prado
Maipú
Pedro Aguirre Cerda
Peñalolén
Providencia
Pudahuel
Puerto Montt
Quilpué
Recoleta
Renca

San Bernardo
San Joaquín
Santiago
Talagante
Vitacura

Colombia Área Metropolitana De Bucaramanga
Bogotá
Bucaramanga
Cali
Envigado
La Estrella
Medellín
Medellín - Cartama
Medellín - La Paz
Penderisco Sinifaná
Sonsón
Villavicencio

Ecuador Cuenca
Quito
Portoviejo

Perú Iquitos
Lima

Uruguay Canelones
Montevideo