

Briefing COP30 for States: Towards an Urban COP – A Pavilion Is Not Enough!

Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates and colleagues,

On behalf of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency, we at the Global Cities Hub—an organization based in Geneva that supports the interests of local and regional governments at the international level—welcome this opportunity to reflect on the urban and multilevel outcomes of recent COPs and to look ahead. We work closely with all interested partners, most notably ICLEI, the largest environment-focused network of cities and regions, which has been instrumental in all the initiatives described in this statement.

We also recognize the continuous efforts of COP organizers in recent years—Egypt (COP27), the United Arab Emirates (COP28), Azerbaijan (COP29), and now Brazil (COP30)—to include local and regional governments (LRGs) in the process. These efforts demonstrate a growing awareness of the importance of multilevel action in responding to the climate crisis.

First, we would like to reaffirm that the LGMA constituency continues to organize itself strategically around each COP. From previous COPs through to Belem, local and regional governments have remained a consistent force, advocating for ambitious and inclusive climate action. Initiatives such as the Town Hall COPs and, most prominently, the CHAMP initiative ensure that local voices are embedded in the global process as integral partners. [The CHAMP \(Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships\) initiative](#) is a global effort launched two years ago to formalize collaboration between national and subnational governments in implementing climate goals. It aims to accelerate multilevel action by COP30 and beyond, encouraging States—already numbering 75 signatories—to embed local governments in their climate decision-making processes.

Second, COP30 marks a major milestone: ten years since the Paris Agreement. Its implementation is also significant because many cities took the lead—with or without their national governments—in delivering on this vital commitment and contributing to global efforts.

We call for, and expect, increased access for LRGs to climate finance, stronger implementation mechanisms, and full recognition of subnational contributions in the next generation of NDCs and national reports. Among ourselves, we are already speaking of an “Urban COP30.”

We welcome and encourage Brazil to continue demonstrating a strong commitment to involving local and regional governments in climate discussions and actions. In November 2024, the Brazilian government emphasized the need to integrate all levels of government into climate action, directly referencing the CHAMP initiative when publishing its latest update to Brazil’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). UN-Habitat is currently working on the NDC 3.0 model, which aims to better include cities

and regions. Why not also launch the concept of Locally and Subnationally Determined Contributions as of today?

This approach seeks to enhance cooperation with local and regional governments to collectively pursue efforts to limit global temperature rise. We also highlight the importance of recent frameworks such as the [COP29 Declaration on Multisectoral Actions Pathways \(MAP\) to Resilient and Healthy Cities](#), which supports integrated urban resilience across the region, and other global coalitions of cities and local leaders that are aligning with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Additionally, initiatives such as the Alliance for Climate Action Brazil are mobilizing subnational leaders—including governors, mayors, and local organizations—to collaboratively advance the country's climate agenda. We are pleased to announce that a delegation of Brazilian mayors intends to actively participate in the forthcoming UN Forum of Mayors here in Geneva, next October, to further emphasize this Brazilian and international mobilization toward COP30.

In conclusion, we stand ready to support multilevel collaboration, to ensure that the urban agenda remains central to climate discussions, and to contribute to a successful and inclusive COP30. Having a pavilion is not enough—Member States should ensure the inclusion of local and regional governments and their constituency in all COP30 activities.

I thank you.