



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES (LGMA)* CONSTITUENCY

Cities and Regions

at UNFCCC Virtual SB52 May-June 2021



SB52 JOINT OPENING PLENARY LGMA INTERVENTION

**Delivered by;
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UNFCCC LGMA Focal Point to**

Dear Chair, distinguished delegations,

At the outset, the LGMA Constituency congratulates the efforts of the Parties and the UNFCCC Secretariat to advance their deliberations on the negotiation agendas virtually. However, we would like to highlight that other UN processes including CBD-Convention on Biological Diversity, another Rio Convention like UNFCCC, have already advanced by creating contact groups and drafting Conference Room Papers virtually. Therefore we encourage UNFCCC community to embrace more proactively such innovative practices into the negotiations towards and beyond COP26 as well.

When COP25 concluded in December 2019, the LGMA Constituency called for a Multilevel Action COP26 in Glasgow. Over the past 17 months, we have wholeheartedly observed that when Parties engage their local and regional governments in the drafting and implementation of their NDC, it is much easier and possible to raise ambitions at the national and global levels and address challenges like COVID-19 pandemic, justice and biodiversity. We would like to underline the valuable contributions of global partnerships like NDCP CAEP, Marrakech Partnership, and High Level Climate Action Champions where ICLEI and many networks of local and regional governments are actively involved in these achievements.

We therefore congratulate pioneering Parties such as Chile, Rwanda, Dominican Republic, the UK, the US as well as Japan and S.Korea that demonstrated numerous models of multilevel collaboration for ambitious climate action. We commend the commitment of global support for subnational climate action through the US and Japan climate partnership agreement signed at the heads of states level as well as introduction of "collaboration" as the 4th priority of the UK COP26 Presidency.

All these imply that COP26 should be recognized as the moment when multilevel collaboration becomes the new normal to raise climate ambition in each and every country. At COP26 and beyond, the LGMA community would be eager to work with Parties and Secretariat to introduce a more systematic approach to engage with local and regional governments. The model being discussed in the biodiversity process through Edinburgh Declaration could be inspirational especially for the UNFCCC Global Climate Action and Action for Climate Empowerment related agendas.

And finally, in order to ensure an inclusive and safe COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021, we strongly encourage COP25 Bureau and UK COP26 Presidency to provide a clear and comprehensive guidance on the in-person and virtual elements before the end of this May-June sessions.

* <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/> The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency has been representing local and regional governments at the processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since the first Conference of Parties (COP) in 1995. The LGMA also represents the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. ICLEI acts as the Focal Point of LGMA.