



"Green New Deal in the Capitals after the coronavirus"

## 2nd Forum of Local Environmental Authorities

August 17, 2020, Santiago, Chile

### Santiago Declaration

#### Background

On October 2, 2018, in the city of Quito, the "**DECLARATION PROMOTING ACTION**" was signed **CLIMATE IN LATIN AMERICAN CAPITAL CITIES**" called "Declaration of Quito" the environmental authorities of the capital cities to raise this Declaration to their respective leaders.

The environmental authorities of the capital cities committed themselves to manage and influence the formation of Climate and environmental management entities within the organizational structure of the Municipalities and Local Governments, with sufficient hierarchy and capacity for coordination, articulation, management and decisions on issues related to climate change and its effects. The proposal of a Secretariat, entity management commission or equivalent must be an objective to guide local sustainable development and climate change in each city.

The environmental authorities of the capital cities committed to design and validate a roadmap to guide the internal management of each Municipality and Local Government, to form an Action Plan City's Climate Change Program, which includes measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), measures to address risks associated with climate change and extreme weather events (adaptation), and measures for strengthening local capacities and financing climate actions in the city. The Climate Change Action Plan must meet proportionately (on the City scale) with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

We, the environmental authorities of the capital cities, committed ourselves to building the capacities and conditions necessary to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, and to drive significant reductions along with mechanisms for offsetting the local carbon footprint, and to declare as soon as possible concrete commitments to carbon neutrality.

At the same time, to develop the necessary capacities so that our cities communities, economies and ecosystems are resilient and adapted to meet the challenges of the events extreme weather conditions. By 2030 this carbon-neutral trajectory should be monitored, with a intermediate goal to reach a per capita carbon footprint of maximum 3 tons per person per year.

The environmental authorities of the capital cities committed themselves to promote the formulation of a The aim of the project is to create a regional network for the creation of local capacities, focused on the training needs of professionals in the environmental institutions of the cities, and to share joint learning in order to strengthen this gap in a homogeneous way. The participation in this platform will be sustained through the Forum of Authorities

The project will also promote the development of the environmental policies of the Americas annually, and other spaces for integration and exchange that, through strategic allies of cities, will prioritize both decision makers and career officials of municipal or sub-national agencies.



The environmental authorities of the capital cities committed themselves to promoting processes of dialogue with the national instances on access to climate finance for sustainability and urban resilience projects, in the framework of a vertical integration that can be considered in the formulation and implementation of actions consistent with the NDCs (National Determined Contributions, as opposed to the Paris Agreement).

The environmental authorities of the capital cities committed to design, formulate and manage the approval of local climate change regulatory frameworks in each of the cities, in order to support the fundamental guidelines of long-term climate planning, and the policies of the prioritized sectors, such as such as mobility, public services, disaster management, construction, planning and territorial planning, and an adequate and efficient management of water resources, according to the municipal or sub-national. Regulatory frameworks should regulate territorial dynamics focused on the sustainability, but also the behaviors of citizens to achieve balanced practices with the planet and the climate.

Continuing with the commitments in the "Quito Declaration" which already established the need to develop a agenda of issues that were identified as priorities. These are: a) environmental institutions, b) financing climate c), capacity building, d) environmental legislation, e) planning and land management with environmental and climate components, f) environmental services and climate footprints, g) solutions based on nature; always supporting the construction of more sustainable cities, h) Fulfillment of the Objectives of Sustainable Development.

Understanding the moment when the abuse of nature has generated the largest global pandemic of last century and that the planet is facing the worst crisis since World War II.

Emphasizing that the health crisis and the climate emergency are indivisible but that the first will be transitory and the The second will be permanent impacting the health of people in all countries of the world, especially the most vulnerable groups in our region.

Understanding that climate change affects the entire population, but it is the world's poorest people and who are in vulnerable situations, especially women and girls, who bear the brunt of consequences of environmental, economic and social tensions. Climate-driven disasters exacerbate ingrained gender inequalities, droughts can destroy crops, land, flora and fauna, exacerbate shortages and worsen their situation, especially for those in already fragile places.

Invoking that the Capital Cities of the nations of the Americas represent the voices of more than 55 million human beings who live in them are firmly committed to ensuring a green revival, sustainable and decarbonized through a new Green Agreement that guarantees a post-pandemic scenario, coordinated and sustainable.

Promoting that it is urgent to establish a style of dynamic growth that allows for the creation of jobs, to attend to the poverty and socio-economic inequality, and solve environmental problems simultaneously. This requires institutions and policies that favour expansive fiscal orientations and investments in technologies, services and low-carbon infrastructure. In particular, it involves applying technologies to preserve the environment environment and move decisively from fossil fuel-based energies to clean energies.

Through a consensus among our capital cities, we declare:



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- a) Recognize the work done by the General Secretariat of the (CC35) and the leadership exercised by the current presidency of Mayor Nasry Juan Asfura Zablah of the City of Tegucigalpa, Honduras and the Vice-presidencies for South America, of Mayor Felipe Alessandri Vergara, of the City of Santiago de Chile, and the Vice President for Central America of Mayor Ernesto Muyschondt.
- b) To welcome the principle of environmental integrity, as well as the principle of common responsibilities of all but differentiated, according to the level of capacity and responsibility of historical emissions, recognizing that Climate Change is the main challenge facing humanity.
- c) Responding to the challenge of climate change in Latin America, the Caribbean and North America involves important financial, economic, scientific, social, cultural, distributive and innovation efforts, but It also means a huge local opportunity for the hemisphere to move towards a more sustainable and inclusive, and of better quality.
- d) Recognize the vulnerability of the ecosystems and many areas of the Americas, especially small Island States, the Mesoamerican Isthmus, which is influenced by two oceans, the Atlantic and the Pacific, whose extreme events are most frequently generated in the last 25 years.
- e) To generate a joint regional strategy with common goals based on all the plans already published by each of the capitals and will be coordinated by the governments of Santiago de Chile and the city of Guatemala in permanent interaction with each of the authorities.
- f) Foster the creation of a climate platform that promotes digital exchange among all cities capitals with the aim of achieving an increase in technological and financial services with which each, including solutions to secure local carbon credit transactions for accelerate the commitment to carbon neutrality 2050 with knowledge of environmental services with that counts for every capital.
- g) Promote and generate state-of-the-art tools and information to make the best decisions based on science, as well as to generate knowledge of nature-based solutions as climate change adaptation measures useful for inclusion in the land use plans of the local governments.
- h) Support the CC35 "Alcaldes por el Clima" initiative which makes a binding commitment to carbon neutrality 2050, promoting the strategies defined in the LGMA dialogues and at the local level, consolidating the "Race to Zero" actions towards COP26 and in the framework of the Santiago-Glasgow route built together with the networks of ICLEI, the Global Compact of Mayors for Climate and Energy, C40, UCLG and WWF, among others.
- i) To call for new market-based financial mechanisms, bilateral and multilateral, that will increase the flow of resources needed by capital cities to accelerate the implementation of an infrastructure green building capable of meeting the 1.5C goal, as set out in the Paris agreement.



- j) We support the initiative "Sub-national Global Climate Fund" led by the Regions of Climate Action (R20) to increase the necessary resources our cities need to contribute to the goals of the Paris Agreement and to accelerate carbon-neutral commitments to 2050.
- k) Promote the CC35 "Capitals without Plastics" initiative that aims to end plastics that are not biodegradable and compostable certified by 2025 at the latest.
- l) Develop public policies aimed at gender equality and, consequently, at the eradication of poverty and inclusive growth; allowing women to contribute to and benefit from the processes the aim of the project is to promote growth in a way that recognizes the value of their contributions, respects their dignity, and makes it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. Sustainable development requires action on three fronts: social, economic, and environmental. Women are central to progress in each of these areas, which sets out commitments to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women. This requires the empowerment of women and the removal of discriminatory barriers in various areas, including agriculture, energy, health, education, employment, and disaster risk reduction.
- m) Develop and implement local climate change adaptation plans by collaborating among capital cities to achieve a homogeneous and articulated vision.
- n) To work on the development of financial mechanisms such as (insurance) that will succeed in reducing the effects of losses and damages associated with the effects of the climate crisis.
- o) Promote the development of a sectoral training program for technical authorities with the aim of to strengthen the capacities of cities to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.
- p) Promote strategies and synergies that drive the implementation of Mitigation and Adaptation measures to effects of Climate Change, for the fulfillment of the Objectives of Sustainable Development, in capital cities of the Americas.
- q) To promote the participation of city organizations in all known international agreements as MEAs, to establish the vision of LGMA, in the discussions of these global agreements linked to environmental issues.
- r) To confirm Guatemala City as the venue for the 3rd Forum of Local Environmental Authorities to be held next August 2021.

The Declaration will be sent to the governments of the 35 capital cities of the Americas in their respective official languages until August 16, 2021 for ratification and subsequently elevated for signature by the heads of local governments.



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