

City Briefing on the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit

To: Cities and Local Governments committed to the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM)

From: Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat and ICLEI Oceania

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On 23 September 2019, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, hosted the [Climate Action Summit](#) in New York with the objective of boosting ambition and rapidly accelerating action to implement the Paris Agreement.

The Summit took place during the UN General Assembly where other complementary events like the Climate Week NYC (23-29 September), [Youth Summit](#) (21 September), Launch of the Coalition for Urban Transitions (CUT) Global Report (22 September), [High-Level Political Forum and SDG Summit](#) (24-25 September), [Bloomberg Global Business Forum](#) (25 September), [High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development](#) (26 September) also took place.

The United Nations Climate Action Summit held in New York is primarily a platform for some national governments to advance more ambitious commitments in line with meeting the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. These include new initiatives that will support greater city level action.

The following briefing includes background on the Summit, new initiatives to be announced, and ways you can take action to further enhance your ambitious climate commitments.

Included in this briefing you will find:

- Opportunities for cities including:
 - Joining the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
 - Declaring a climate emergency or carbon neutrality
- Show your support for cities in the Amazon Initiatives for cities and local governments
- Additional background on the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit
- GCoM's Approach Towards the Summit

In the appendix you will find:

- ✓ Overview of GCoM-associated Climate Week events in New York (Appendix 1)
- ✓ Toolkit to declare a **climate emergency** (Appendix 2)
- ✓ Toolkit to support **Amazonian cities** (Appendix 3)
- ✓ Overview of the Coalition for Urban Transitions global report (Appendix 4)
- ✓ Overviews of city-related UN Summit initiatives (Appendix 5)
- ✓ Call for Action to Member States initiated by the UN-Habitat Assembly (Appendix 6)

On behalf of the GCoM alliance, we thank you for your support amplifying the action of cities during Climate Week and beyond and your continued climate leadership.

Opportunities for cities and local governments:

- **Make a GCoM Commitment - Locally Determined Contributions:** Cities have been at the forefront of climate action for many years and are now calling on Nations to match their ambition. Over 10,000 cities and local governments, representing more than 800 million people, have already pledged to contribute to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement by taking ambitious climate action through the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM). The *GCoM 10,000* and the city networks that support them are strongly committed to the goals of the upcoming Summit and are working actively with national government, private sector and civil society partners to deliver new initiatives that will allow for even greater action at the local level.

If you have not already done so, you can join the GCoM Mayors4Climate now. [Go to the](#)

[GCoM Oceania website](#)

- **Commit to Carbon Neutrality or Declare a Climate Emergency:** In response to the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR1.5) and the Fridays4Future movement, over 1,000 jurisdictions in 19 countries have to date declared a “Climate Emergency”, committing to bold action and raising awareness on the urgency of the issue. **You can also declare a climate emergency** - included with this briefing is an all-encompassing “Climate Emergency Toolkit” for cities that includes a guide to declaring a “Climate Emergency” in your city, definition of Carbon Neutrality for cities and how to achieve it, and alternative actions for cities to join this effort. See Appendix for 2 for more information on how to Declare a Climate Emergency.
- **Support Cities in the Amazon:** In response to the recent outbreak of wildfires in the Amazon rainforest, 16 cities from the Amazon region, in collaboration with a number of other cities and organizations, signed an “Amazon Cities Pact” that proposes a number of immediate mitigating responses to the fires. All other cities in the Amazon region have been invited to endorse this Pact. These cities have additionally asked for support from global GCoM cities, networks and partners. **Our ask to you is to endorse this pact and amplify its calls to action.** See Appendix 3 for more information on how to lend your support.

New Initiatives for cities and local governments

- **Coalition for Urban Transitions Global Report:** The Coalition for Urban Transitions (CUT), will release a new report designed to give national governments evidence and confidence to enable greater urban climate action. This report sets the overall narrative for the key initiatives that will be announced for cities at the UN Climate Action Summit and will also outline a set of priority actions recommended for national governments to achieve this goal. We would greatly appreciate your support in bringing the messages of this report to key leaders and influencers.
- **Leadership for Urban Climate Investments (LUCI):** LUCI will accelerate, upscale and leverage climate finance for cities in low- and middle-income countries as a strategic priority. The initiative aims at creating a strong global architecture for subnational climate finance and its tracking, creating bankable projects and coherent pipelines at scale, improving financing options and approaches for cities and urban infrastructure projects, and establishing favorable national framework conditions and strong development banks.
 - **Cities Climate Finance Gap Fund:** As a component of LUCI, the Gap Fund will dramatically increase funding for early-stage project preparation. The Fund will provide grant funding

of more than EUR 100m to unlock a pipeline of EUR 4bn in climate infrastructure projects (leverage ratio 1:40), supporting the preparation of more than 500 low-carbon and/or resilient infrastructure projects in cities in low- and middle-income countries. This fund has been co-developed by GCoM and the German Government and aims to launch by early 2020.

- **Build the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor:** This initiative will focus on building the resilience of slum-dwellers in 140 ‘hotspot’ cities in 50 developing countries, identified according to informality and climate hazard criteria. Building the resilience of these populations - through community adaptation through city-wide planning, national policy reform including link to NDCs and NAPs, and global mobilization and capacity building - will represent a promising start towards assisting, by 2030, the estimated 600 million slum-dwellers who are currently at risk of the impacts of climate change. At the city level, partners will work to integrate the urban poor into city-level processes, while integrating informal settlements into the urban fabric.
- **Zero Carbon Buildings for All:** Zero Carbon Buildings aims to decarbonize the world's building stock through collaborative action by governments, industry and civil society. The initiative will aim to: 1) Secure national commitments to decarbonize new buildings by 2030 and existing buildings by 2050, and 2) mobilize up to \$1 trillion in Paris-compliant buildings investment in developing countries by 2030.
- **Action Toward Climate-friendly Transport:** The Action towards Climate-friendly Transport (ACT) initiative aims to address the fast-growing demand for mobility and transport while slashing GHG emissions, increasing climate resilience and promoting social and economic development. ACT uses the holistic sustainable transport approach that reflects the Avoid-Shift-Improve (A-S-I) framework, including actions to a) foster integrated planning and compact city development to avoid the need to travel; b) shift from the most energy-consuming and polluting urban transport mode (i.e. cars) to non-motorized and public transport, and c) improve existing modes of transport through zero-emission technologies. Cities are encouraged to join ACT by signing the Declaration of Intent in Annex 5.

Additional Summit Background

The Climate Action Summit also provides a platform for Member States to mobilize new partnerships, resources and actions that will motivate more ambitious national government commitments ahead of COP 25 and should garner new resources to support new and existing subnational climate ambition in line with the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

The Secretary-General has established that new commitments should be concrete, realistic plans to enhance Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020, addressing climate resilience and in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent over the next decade, and to net zero emissions by 2050. All commitments should raise national ambition, promote transformative changes, and generate political momentum.

In order to ensure that the transformative actions are as impactful as possible, the Secretary-General has prioritized nine action portfolios (Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action (ICLA), Finance, Energy Transition, Industry Transition, Nature-Based Solutions, Resilience and Adaptation, Youth and

Mobilization, the Social Transition, and Mitigation Ambition), which are recognized as having high potential to curb greenhouse gas emissions and increased global action on adaptation and resilience.

The Infrastructure Cities and Local Action (ICLA) Track is being built bottom-up by five sub-tracks, led by Member State governments together with UN-Habitat Executive Director (and GCoM Board Member) Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif and NGO partners. The GCoM Secretariat has been named a focal point for the subnational mobilization sub-track of the ICLA track along with the governments of Canada and Mexico and working closely with city network partners, particularly global city networks C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, ICLEI and UCLG. The ICLA track initiatives that have been launched in New York are:

- Action towards Climate-friendly Transport (ACT)
- Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor
- Leadership for Urban Climate Investment (LUCI)
- Zero Carbon Buildings for All

GCoM's involvement in the Summit

As the umbrella alliance of city networks, the GCoM has lead coordination and input for partners to the Summit, and highlighting the considerable leadership cities of all sizes have taken on climate action. To date, over 10,000 cities and local governments committed to the GCoM, representing more than 800 million people, have already pledged to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement by taking ambitious climate action. The *GCoM 10,000* and the city networks that support them are strongly committed to the goals of the upcoming Summit and are working actively with national government, private sector and civil society partners to deliver new initiatives that will allow for even greater action at the local level.

While this year's UN Summit offers the tremendous opportunity to showcase the progress of cities to date and bring forward new opportunities and resources in buildings, transport, resilience, and decentralized finance to increase ambition and accelerate action, we have advocated that cities and local governments are not positioned to make new political commitments when so many are already working to meet targets more ambitious than those of national governments and often without full authority or sufficient resources to fully realize ambition.

Instead, the GCoM Alliance has approached the Summit as an important opportunity for national governments to help unlock barriers to city climate action – such as poor alignment and collaboration between levels of government, insufficient municipal finance infrastructure, or lack of data, knowledge, expertise and innovation at the city-level – necessary to close the implementation gap at the local level and accelerate our shared responsibility in the global delivery of the Paris Agreement.

Appendix 1: Overview of GCoM-associated Climate Week Events

Saturday, 21 September

- **Science for 1.5C Cities: Actions towards 1.5°C from a Global Network of Scientists, Practitioners, and Decision-Makers:** Organized by the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN), this discussion will explore how cities are using science to take action towards reaching the 1.5°C goal and include a focus on recently released [Second Assessment Report on Climate Change and Cities \(ARC3.2\)](#), an compendium of global, science-based reports to examine climate risk, adaptation, and mitigation efforts in cities. Participating cities include: eThekweni, Marseille, Quito, Victoria, Turku
- **Local Leadership for Climate: Solutions to the Climate Emergency: Organized by GCoM, this session will bring mayors and local leaders together with ministers and national government representatives, and will highlight subnational mobilization, progress and action and discuss areas for alignment, collaboration and investment to accelerate and support ambitious climate action.** Participating cities include: Chefchaouen, Victoria, Tirana, Port Moresby, Manaus, Al Hoceima, Montpellier

Sunday, 22 September

- **Partnerships for Ambition: Unlocking the Full Potential of Local Climate Action:** Organized by the Infrastructure Cities and Local Action (ICLA) coalition, this event aims to reinforce the message that climate action at the local level by all stakeholders is critical both for climate and development, including carbon neutral and resilient cities will mean better livelihoods and new opportunities for billions of people while averting climate catastrophe. Participating cities include: Bonn, Santa Fe, Lisbon, Quelimane

Monday, 23 September

- **Preparing for Disasters: Urban Climate Resilience in Action:** Organized by the International Urban Cooperation program, the European Commission and the Global Covenant of Mayors, this event will explore how, by anticipating risks and preparing for disasters, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation enable local actors to bring significant and immediate benefits to inhabitants, to harness local activism, and to facilitate cooperation across sectors, while protecting people and their assets.
- **Inclusive Climate Action: How Cities Lead the Way:** Organized by the New York City Mayor's Office and Columbia University's Earth Institute, this panel and networking event for city leaders will share experiences delivering local climate action and Green New Deal policies that promote equity and demonstrate the Green New Deal in action.

Tuesday, 24 September

- **Launch of the Global Alliance for Subnational Development Banks and its African Chapter** organized by FMDV, RIAFCO, and the Government of Cameroon

Wednesday, 25 September

- **Driving ambition and scaling finance for sustainable infrastructure in cities:** Organized by the Climate Policy Initiative, Germany, GCoM, and the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, together with the World Bank Group, Global Infrastructure Facility, and UNDP, this event is designed for leaders in city-level climate finance, including cities, regulators, companies, financiers and other stakeholders to discuss new major initiatives actively working to mobilize public and private investments and close this financing gap in sustainable and resilient infrastructure in cities. Participating cities include: Pittsburgh, Quito

Toolkit to Declare a Climate Emergency

ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit is designed to help cities declare a climate emergency.

In this “Climate Emergency: Toolkit for Cities” you will find:

- [Top line background](#) on the rise of climate emergency declarations and why they are relevant for cities
- The practical steps of [how to declare a climate emergency](#), including templates
- [Alternative to declaring a climate emergency](#)
- [Key messages](#) for use in on and offline communications
- [Q&A](#) for use in media engagement

The GCoM Board and partners have collaborated on a climate emergency toolkit as a response of the networks of local and regional governments towards the UN Climate Action Summit under the Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action Track. It also brings together resources and practical experience from those cities that have already declared an emergency (or similar declarations) to be shared with other cities.

BACKGROUND

Reaching to climate neutrality by the mid-century through a multilevel collaboration is one of the most unique, innovative and strong provisions of the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015.

Currently, over 900 jurisdictions in 18 countries have [declared](#) a ‘climate emergency’.

While this initiative started in 2016, the wakeup calls through the [IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C \(SR1.5\)](#) (lets also give link to IPCC 1.5SR Summary for Urban Policy Makers as well) and grassroots mobilization in particular like the Fridays4Future movement played a key role to trigger this initiative into a global movement. In doing so they have committed to bold action and awareness raising of the urgency of the issue in their community.

The vast majority of cities that have declared a climate emergency are in Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. Although there are many resources for jurisdictions in these regions, there is a gap in experience and best-practice sharing with other regions of the world, where emergency declarations are being made in different ways. There is therefore a need for greater coordination, to ensure cities speak with one voice on this emerging trend.

HOW TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Most Climate Emergency Declarations call for zero carbon by 2030. As individual municipalities cannot achieve zero carbon without other cities and levels of government joining the effort, some have chosen to simply commit to local action compatible with IPCC recommendations for keeping warming under 1.5°C.

There are [three key steps](#) to declaring a climate emergency:

1. [Pass declaration\(s\) of Climate Emergency with commitment to reach zero emissions and begin decarbonization at emergency speed \(i.e. within 10 years\).](#)
 - The European City Network [Climate Alliance](#) has produced an emergency declaration [resolution template](#) as a resource for cities.

- The US grassroots advocacy group [Climate Mobilization](#) has a series of open source templates on declaring a climate emergency, where you can find templates for a [Local Government Declaration](#) and a [Green New Deal Climate Emergency Resolution](#).
2. Local elected leaders become advocates for emergency climate mobilization to the public, media, other cities, and towards state and national governments.

The key messages and Q&A provided below are intended to serve as a resource for advocacy communications activities. Given that every city's media landscape, public media consumption habits and relationship with national governments are unique, these will necessarily be adapted to fit the local context. As such, cities are advised integrate this advocacy into their existing communication strategies.

3. Develop and implement mobilization policies locally, after the declaration has been passed.
- The C40 Guideline on '[Defining Carbon Neutrality for Cities & Managing Residual Emissions](#)' provides a comprehensive overview of potential approaches and policies for achieving carbon neutrality from a city perspective.
 - ICLEI has compiled a 4-step guide to achieving climate neutrality based on the principles of GoLow/Divest/Invest/Offset, with real life examples from the cities that adopted these approaches. Consult the full guide [here](#).
 - ARUP has developed a guide for local authorities on the next steps for action after the declaration [You've declared a climate emergency... what next?](#)
 - As a city committed to the Global Covenant of Mayors, you can register, implement, and monitor your strategic action plans and make the information on your efforts and results publicly available through [GCoM's reporting platforms](#)

The City of Darebin, Australia was the first to declare a climate emergency. Since the declaration they have created a climate action plan and resources for other cities on how to declare and steps to take after the declaration.

DAREBIN: MOVING BEYOND TOKENISM

"In 2016 Darebin Council became the first government body in the world to declare a climate emergency. Our leadership and initiative, spurred on by local community members, sparked a global movement, with hundreds of councils across multiple countries now calling for a climate emergency response." - Mayor's Foreword

Five key processes to declaring a climate emergency:

- **Take Leadership:**
 - Recognize that we are in a state of climate emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government, including by local councils
 - Committing to tackling climate change, by taking urgent action at a scale and speed that will restore a safe climate.
- **Embed climate emergency action in all council strategies, plans and actions:**
 - After declaring a climate emergency your council should develop a Climate Emergency Plan.
 - This should outline all actions your council will take to embed a climate emergency response into its operations.
- **Mobilize and build the climate emergency mandate:**
 - Councils can support our communities to take action, through raising awareness about the climate emergency; providing targeted programs to make homes and businesses powered by renewable energy; or mobilizing volunteers to spread the climate emergency message to neighborhoods, families, and workplaces.
- **Reach out to other councils:**
 - We now need to act strategically and collaboratively to figure out the key challenge: how we can make an effective and meaningful response beyond the declaration
- **Advocate to state and federal government**
 - Advocate for effective action and significant changes to state, federal and international government policy, legislation and funding

More information can be found in the [DCC Climate Emergency Resource](#)

ALTERNATIVE TO DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

An alternative approach to declaring a climate emergency is to declare [poor air quality conditions to be a disaster](#). Poor air quality is related to climate change in that the source of the problem, high emissions and pollutants in the atmosphere, are the same. Unlike climate change, however, when air quality index levels reach high pollution levels, there is an immediate impact on public health. There is a need for the general public to adapt their behavior to limit harmful exposure to these environments. This direct impact on daily life activities can potentially bring about broader public acceptance of the need to drastically reduce the causes of this environmental degradation. Seoul, South Korea was the first city in Korea to use the term "disaster" in reference to problematic levels of particulate matter (including both PM10, PM2.5). The Seoul Metropolitan Government officially declared PM as a disaster by revising Seoul Metropolitan Government ordinance to include PM as a natural disaster and providing 'Action Manual' to the vulnerable citizens in July 2017¹² Since then the national government has followed, and declared PM as a disaster in national law.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/13/social-disaster-south-korea-brings-in-emergency-laws-to-tackle-dust-pollution>

² <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190313000434>

Air quality has been a serious issue for the public and has only gotten increased attention as the awareness of the impact of unsafe PM levels increases among citizens. Both Mayor Won Soon Park and his predecessor committed to improving air quality and came under pressure to take serious action.

SEOUL: DISASTER CASE STUDY

Public engagement process:

- When the Seoul Metropolitan Government decided to declare PM as a disaster, they first held citizen public hearings to gather feedback from;
- They gathered feedback through public roundtables and 10 major measures that should be put in place in the event of high PM concentration levels;
- The new measures were also posted on the website for the public to see.

New measures put in place after declaring PM as a “Disaster”

- Emergency text alerts when PM levels are dangerous for the public asking to wear masks and refrain from outdoor activities;
- High-emitting vehicles are refrained from entering the city. SMG worked with the Ministry of Environment to send out an information note to the vehicle owners who possess high emitting cars (i.e. diesel cars without DPF device) to provide necessary information (such as when they cannot drive their cars into the city) and warning that they will be subject to penalty if they operate the vehicle in the city.

Communicating on the “Disaster”

- Distributing a press release to the local media;
- Mayor Park held a press conference to inform of the new measures;
- Posted the new measures on the website;
- Local media responded positively to the new declaration and measures and good coverage was provided.

KEY MESSAGES

- With 2018 having brought all manner of record-breaking climate extremes, and global average temperatures projected to reach 3.2°C above the pre-industrial average based on current national pledges and targets for greenhouse emissions, our recognition of climate emergency is both highly appropriate and a major turning-point for our cities.
- Climate science, as well as increasing incidences of natural disasters around the world, demonstrate that climate change threatens devastating impacts for the whole of human civilization. From droughts and wildfires to rising sea levels and climate refugees,³ the potential cost of a slow, gradual approach to climate change cannot be overstated. Impacts at 2 Degrees of temperature rise above pre-industrial levels will be considerably more severe than at 1.5 Degrees. Every emissions reduction and resilience increasing action is important.
- Allowing global average temperatures to reach +2°C would be catastrophic. At the current level of global warming (+0.9°C above pre-industrial levels) are already having an enormous effect on our planet. If global warming continues at the current rate, the melting of the polar ice caps will mean sea levels will continue to rise by 3.2 millimeters per year, causing many coastal cities across the world to disappear within 80 years.
- Slow, gradualist policy has, in recent years, been more politically palatable than ambitious climate action. We are out of time for slow, gradualist policy. The emergency action call is increasingly being taken up by leading scientists and responsible leaders around the world as extreme events escalate.
- The global cost of inaction on climate change projected to reach a staggering 23 trillion USD per year by the end of the century (equivalent to around five 2008 global financial crises every year).⁴ In economic terms, we need to act now, and act quickly, to secure the future wellbeing of our people.
- You are not acting alone. Nearly 1,000 local authorities have done so. You can keep up to date with the global list of Emergency Declarations at:
<https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/climate-emergency-declarations-cover-15-million-citizens/>

³ http://www.earth-policy.org/images/uploads/press_room/SciAm-final.pdf

⁴ <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1029/2018EF000922>

City of [CITY NAME] Declares a Climate Emergency

As cities globally participate in climate strikes as the world's leaders prepare to meet at the United Nations for the Secretary General's Climate Action Summit and General Assembly, the City of [City Name] declares a climate emergency recognizing that climate change poses a serious risk and must be treated with urgency.

City of [City Name], [Day] September 2019

On [Day], Mayor [X] / [City] City Council unanimously voted to declare a climate emergency. With 2019 having brought all manner of record-breaking climate extremes, and climate disasters, including the recent forest fires in the Amazon rainforest and throughout Africa, and the global average temperatures projected to reach 3.2°C above the pre-industrial average based on current national pledges and targets for greenhouse emissions, [City Name]'s recognition of the climate emergency is both highly appropriate and a major turning-point.

[City Name] joins an international movement now with over 1,000 jurisdictions across 18 countries declaring a climate emergency. It recognizes that urgent action is required to reduce emissions and to address climate change impacts.

Citizens in [City Name] and around the world have a fundamental human right to clean, healthy and adequate air, water, land, food, education, healthcare, and shelter; and as a local government we are dedicated to making this a priority.

As a part of the climate emergency declaration, [City Name] has committed to (examples of potential actions as part of a climate emergency declaration):

- *Source 100% renewable energy by 20xx*
- *Support businesses to reduce emissions by xx% by 20xx*
- *By 20xx, xx% of trips will be made by active transportation and transit*
- *Make it affordable and easier for residents and businesses to get a permit for heat pumps (or other renewable energy infrastructure)*
- *Carbon neutral city by 20xx*
- *Build local engagement with climate emergency action broadly and deeply*

This declaration builds on [City Name]'s existing commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, where [City Name] has already committed to [insert existing climate actions/targets] and joins over 10,000 cities from 132 countries working towards a resilient and low-emission society.

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For more information:
[Contact Information]

Q&A

What is a climate emergency?

A Declaration of Climate Emergency is a resolution passed by a governing body such as a city council, a county board of supervisors, a state legislature, or even a national government. It puts the government on record in support of emergency action to reverse global warming. Resolutions vary around the world, with many governments including local climate impacts and new climate goals in their resolution. An official national declaration of climate emergency puts a government on a “climate mobilization” that places climate change at the center of policy and planning decisions.

What is climate mobilization?

Climate mobilization is an economic approach that directs the collective force of industry away from consumerism and profiteering towards a singular national purpose. In recent history these kinds of rapid mobilizations tended to occur during periods of conflict (e.g. World War II). It is not an indiscriminate use of government power, but a change in behavior to focus efforts towards an agreed national mission.

Why an emergency response?

According to the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR1.5) of the United Nations, we have until 2030 to limit a climate change catastrophe. This study shows that to exceed 1.5C would mean putting the very livability of our planet in jeopardy is dicing with the planet's livability. We are living in a climate crisis, which requires an emergency response.

What effect does zero carbon have on our economies?

There are many sectors of the economy that are set to grow rapidly in a state of climate emergency, namely those that contribute towards achieving our goal of carbon neutrality, e.g. agriculture, energy efficiency, construction. Emissions intensive sectors will necessarily be negatively affected as behaviors evolve and change. Studies show that it is in fact inaction on the growing climate change crisis that will have the biggest negative effect on our global economy – to the tune of 23 trillion USD per year by the end of the century (equivalent to around five 2008 global financial crises every year).

How do we achieve rapid emissions reductions?

Resource and energy efficiency standards will be established in order to substantially curb emissions in the most polluting sectors, such as manufacturing and transportation. We will need significant investment in energy efficient infrastructure (such as alternative modes of transport) and clean energy.

What will be the impact for citizens?

While the impact of climate change can often seem to be a distant issue for citizens, we know that we and the next generation are and will be facing severe consequences should we not act now on climate change. The impact of climate change is already being felt; from flash flooding to wildfires, climate change is already disrupting the daily lives of citizens. A climate emergency puts the climate at the center of policies going forward, but prioritizing climate action can only be done in conjunction with tackling the equality and socioeconomic circumstances citizens face, which necessarily has an impact on the effectiveness of climate action.

Toolkit to Support Amazonian Cities

AMAZON CITIES PACT: TOOLKIT
Endorse the Pact, Amplify the Message

OUR ASK

The Amazon rainforest, the largest and most diverse in the world, plays an unparalleled role in reducing the impact of harmful carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. The Amazon rainforest is spread across more than 2 million square miles in northern South America, predominantly in Brazil but also in parts of Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana.

Home to more than 30 million people, the rainforest is both a global and local resource. This is why 16 Brazilian cities from the Amazon region, in collaboration with a number of supporting partners, signed an “Amazon Cities Pact” that proposes a number of immediate actions to protect the Amazon region.

All cities in the Amazon region and around the world, including the networks and partners that support them, are now invited to endorse this Pact. **Our ask to you is to endorse this pact and amplify its calls to action.** This toolkit has been designed to provide templates for individual cities and partners to publicly show support and endorsement for this initiative.

HOW CAN YOU ENDORSE THE PACT AND CONVEY ITS CALLS TO ACTION?

In this “Amazon Cities Pact: Toolkit” you will find:

- [Top line background](#) on the Amazon fires and why this Pact is needed;
- [The Amazon Cities Pact](#) in full;
- [Press Release](#) for use in proactive or reactive media relations;
- [Five social posts](#) for use on social channels.

BACKGROUND

While the Amazon rainforest has long been regarded as being critically important to the fight against climate change, by filtering and reprocessing the harmful levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere, it is shrinking at an alarming rate. With rapid deforestation and increasingly devastating wildfires, Mayors are calling for urgent action to protect this irreplaceable natural resource.

A record number of wildfires have broken out in the Amazon rainforest this year. With over 74,000 fires having broken out since January: an 84% increase on the same period in 2018.⁵ The current surge in rainforest fires has a double impact on the environment, as any damage to the Amazon rainforest necessarily reduces its capacity to reduce the levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere through photosynthesis, but also because the fires themselves emit substantial amounts of CO₂ into the atmosphere.

While the recent fires in the region have attracted worldwide attention, they are not the only reason for coordinated, ambitious climate action in the region. Other factors compromise the region's socio-environmental quality, such as mining and illegal logging. It is in the local context that the degrading and predatory use of natural resources is most evident, and it is therefore at the local level that action is needed.

⁵ National Institute for Space Research (Inpe), <http://queimadas.dgi.inpe.br/queimadas/portal-static/situacao-atual/>

AMAZON CITIES PACT

Manaus, September 6, 2019.

Amazonian ecosystems are fundamental to the planet's environmental balance and are the local socio-economic bases. Its conservation takes on a huge and challenging complexity due to the diversity and the continental dimensions of the region.

It is essential for the regional development of the Amazon that public policies take into consideration the protection and conservation of biodiversity, the peculiarities of the Amazonian communities and harmonious strategies among the entities of interest.

The region's wealth demands the constant pursuit for sustainable development alternatives focused on science, technology, and innovation that encourage cooperation and new governance models that simultaneously bring prosperity to their populations and keep the forest standing.

For these reasons, strategically in the Amazon Day, we, mayors of the Amazonian cities, have gathered to exchange experiences and seek collective solutions for advancing in this scenario.

The Brazilian Legal Amazon, composed by the states of Acre, Pará, Amapá, Amazonas, Mato Grosso, Rondonia, Roraima, Tocantins, and Maranhão, represents about 60% of the Brazilian territory, concentrates 775 municipalities and a population of approximately 23 million inhabitants.

It is in the local context that the degrading and predatory use of natural resources is most evident. The recent fires in the region have attracted worldwide attention and concerns to a recurring situation in the Amazon summer, but other factors compromise the region's socio-environmental quality, such as mining and illegal logging.

Thus, our proposals are:

- ▶ Amazonian municipalities should position themselves as major references in sustainability, developing public policies harmonized with global milestones, which favor networking with governments, the productive sector, civil society organizations, and international partners.
- ▶ Creation of new socioeconomic models in the region capable of enabling the development of new technologies and products based on forest biodiversity.
- ▶ Develop strategies for municipalities to directly access financial resources for institutional strengthening of their environmental agendas.
- ▶ Promote the commercial potential of Amazonian municipalities for products and food from sustainable local and regional chains, encouraging their expansion.
- ▶ Promote private sector engagement to adopt measures towards more sustainable supply chains by tracking the origin of its inputs.
- ▶ Encourage the development of new business models, focused on solutions to the main challenges of the Amazonian cities, like the Manaus Free Trade Zone.
- ▶ Adopt nature-based urban solutions that contribute to climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, promote interventions inspired by healthy ecosystems and improve the well-being of the local population.
- ▶ Seek investments to universalize the supply of basic sanitation in the region and promote solid waste management that encourages the reuse of materials, the generation of income and the improvement of the population's quality of life.
- ▶ Encourage the development of the Amazon bioeconomy by applying science and technology in the search for solutions that reconcile the protection of ecosystems in forest areas and maximize the value-added in Amazonian municipalities, as Amazon 4.0 development model.
- ▶ Recognize and encourage local knowledge and potential as part of the region's socio-economic development model.

- ▶ Creation of a permanent forum of Amazonian cities to organize a common environmental agenda.
- ▶ Establish Amazon Day in the Amazonian cities and advocate for the global recognition of the date by the UN.

We will be engaged in forwarding these proposals until the next meeting, which will take place in Porto Velho, May 2020, during the Amazon +21 event. At the same time, we request an agenda with the President of the Republic, Jair Bolsonaro, to deliberately and concretely discuss this strategic agenda for Brazil, the continent and the world.

Prepared this document:

Municipality of Amaturá; Municipality of Barcelos; Municipality of Belém; Municipality of Boa Vista; Municipality of Boa Vista dos Ramos; Municipality of Careiro da Várzea; Municipality of Itamarati; Municipality of Jutai; Municipality of Macapá; Municipality of Manaquiri; Municipality of Manaus; Municipality of Maués; Municipality of Porto Velho; Municipality of Rio Branco; Municipality of São Sebastião do Uatumã; Municipality of Silves.

Collaborated:

Amazonian Association of Municipalities Conexsus; Amazon Federation of Industries; National Front of Mayors; Amazonas Sustainable Foundation; Konrad Adenauer Foundation; State Government of São Paulo; ICLEI South America; Alana Institute; National Amazon Research Institute International Institute for Sustainability (IIS); Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communication; Municipality of Salvador; Municipality of Recife; United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); Health and Joy Project. All mayors of the Amazon region will be invited to sign this document. Support and endorsement of this initiative are open and welcome.

PRESS RELEASE FROM GCoM

10,000+ Cities Join Amazonian Mayors in Calling for Immediate Action to Protect the Amazon Region

Largest global alliance of cities and local governments for climate leadership endorses Amazon Cities Pact

September 18, 2019, Manaus, Brazil — The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the largest global alliance for climate leadership, uniting a global coalition of over 10,000 cities and local governments, today endorse the Amazon Cities Pact which calls for concrete measures to be taken to protect the Amazon region.

Thousands of fires are burning in Brazil, many of them in the world's largest rainforest, sending clouds of smoke across the region and pumping alarming quantities of carbon into earth's atmosphere. The Amazon is a vast sink for storing carbon dioxide and a key element of any plan to restrain climate change.

It is of vital importance that we pause to consider the best path to sustainable development in the Amazon region. Amazonian municipalities should be at the center of this transition process, to strengthen their role of major references in local climate action and allow them to directly access financial resources for the implementation of their commitments.

Following the launch of the Amazon Cities Pact on September 6, 2019, the board of the Global Covenant of Mayors, which is comprised of representatives of the world's major city networks combatting climate change, has unanimously agreed to join the Mayor of Manaus Arthur Virgilio Neto and his colleagues in calling for these steps to be taken to help the Amazon region flourish:

- Awareness raising among the private sector of the impacts of their supply chains on the region and the adoption of new measures to achieve greater sustainability.
- The development of new social impact-driven business models focused on solutions to the challenges Amazonian cities face.
- The adoption of nature-based urban solutions that contribute to climate change adaptation and protecting biodiversity.
- A push toward investment in basic sanitation in the region, as well as a focus on solid waste management to limit contamination of rivers and soil and encourage the reuse of materials.
- An embrace of local knowledge and potential as an integral part of the region's economic development model.
- A focus on innovations in science and technology to support the development of the Amazonian bioeconomy, by safeguarding ecosystems in conservation units, protecting extractive reserves and indigenous lands through sustainable agriculture, limiting deforestation and the inclusion of local communities.

On the launch of the Pact, Arthur Virgílio Neto, Mayor of Manaus, said: "The construction of the Pact was a joint articulation work that brings concrete proposals for the sustainable development of the Amazonian cities."

"Our next step," he added, "with the support of ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability), the National Front of Mayors and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, will be the consolidation of a permanent Forum of Amazonian Cities that will lead this process."

The board of the Global Covenant invites mayors, cities and individuals around the world to show their support for this important step forward by sharing, using #AmazonCitiesPact on social media.

About the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

GCoM is the largest global alliance for climate leadership, uniting a global coalition of over 10,000 cities and local governments. The cities and partners of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy share a long-term vision of supporting voluntary action to combat climate change and towards a resilient and low-emission society. GCoM serves cities and local governments by mobilizing and supporting ambitious, measurable, planned climate and energy action in their communities by working with city/regional networks, national governments and other partners to achieve our vision. Led by UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Climate Action, Michael R. Bloomberg, and European Commission Vice President, Maroš Šefčovič, the coalition comprises cities across 6 continents and 132 countries, representing over 800 million people or 10% of the global population.

globalcovenantofmayors.org

For more information:

Global Covenant of Mayors Oceania

Bernie Cotter

Bernie.cotter@iclei.org