From Talanoa Dialogue to NDCs: Shifting climate ambition through multilevel action

COP24 Report and 2019 Climate Advocacy Agenda
ICLEI – LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

GLOBAL ADVOCACY AT ICLEI

ICLEI aims to build a global policy environment that supports local and regional governments in their efforts to scale up sustainable urban development worldwide. Through our advocacy with our partners, we have reshaped the global sustainability landscape to ensure local and regional governments are recognized, engaged and resourced, and demonstrated their crucial role in translating global policy into action. Members of the ICLEI network are an integral part of our global advocacy. They represent ICLEI in intergovernmental processes and national dialogues that form the basis for implementing the global sustainable development agenda.

ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP

YUNUS ARIKAN - DIRECTOR, GLOBAL ADVOCACY

Yunus leads ICLEI’s global advocacy towards United Nations and multilateral environmental agreements. He also led establishment of the Bonn Center for Local Climate Action and Reporting – carbonn Center—and served as the Director of the Secretariat for the World Mayors Council on Climate Change. Since 2009, he serves as the Focal Point of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA) to the UNFCCC on behalf of ICLEI. He has a background in environmental engineering.

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Climate negotiations are much more than the annual Climate Conference of the Parties (COP). ICLEI, with our partners, works year-round to influence the details of implementing COP mandates and raise new points for discussion ahead of the annual gathering.
Local and regional governments are closest to the consumption and development patterns that generate the world’s greenhouse gas emissions and prone to the impacts of climate change. As such, they are the key to trigger many changes for transforming into a low-emission resilient human civilization.

The global climate advocacy of local and regional governments aims to ensure that their concerns, needs and inputs are reflected as appropriate into the design and implementation of the global climate agenda. With the recognition of the importance of the engagement of all levels of governments in the Paris Agreement in 2015, special attention will be paid to delivery of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2020 and raising the global ambitions through urban-climate nexus and multilevel action.

**WHAT IS THE LGMA CONSTITUENCY?**

At the Earth Summit in 1992, nine stakeholder groups, including local authorities, were designated as essential partners in society for the implementation of global sustainability agenda. The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency has represented 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. As of 2019, the LGMA Constituency includes more than 25 national, regional, global and thematic networks of local and regional governments that are admitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat. ICLEI acts as the LGMA Constituency Focal Point since its inception to facilitate the dialogue and collaboration of the constituency with the UNFCCC Secretariat, Parties and other stakeholders. Since 2013, LGMA is strongly connected to the work of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments.

Visit Annex I for the evolution of the LGMA Constituency
ENGAGING LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN GLOBAL CLIMATE ADVOCACY

SHOWCASE ACTION

Local and regional governments translate UNFCCC decisions into daily life through their policies and proposals. Networks and partners help through projects or initiatives.

Local and regional governments demonstrate their progress through reporting platforms such as that of CDP-ICLEI which then feed into Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) Portal of the UNFCCC.

PARTicipate in consultations

UNFCCC admitted networks of local and regional governments are invited as speakers or participants to UNFCCC thematic workshops or technical groups working throughout the year. ICLEI, as LGMA Focal Point, coordinates nomination process.

UNFCCC-led Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action convenes multi-stakeholder Thematic Groups. LGMA Members and partners can contribute in specific events and documents.

CONTRIBUTE TO DECISION-MAKING

On selected negotiation items, UNFCCC can invite Non-Party Stakeholders to submit their written views, individually or collectively.

Every mid-year in Bonn and ahead of the year end COP, UNFCCC convenes negotiation sessions or ad-hoc, time-bounded and them-specific negotitation sessions. ICLEI, as the LGMA Focal Point, coordinates drafting and delivery of interventions at each item or at the High Level Segments.

Learn more about how the LGMA has engaged historically in Annex I
UNFCCC-admitted networks of local and regional governments host side events at UNFCCC events. Host cities and regions can convene summits during the COP. ICLEI as the LGMA Focal Point helps collective promotion and coordination.

ICYI as the LGMA Focal Point coordinates regular online or in-person dialogues on relevant negotiation agendas with Friends of Cities at the UNFCCC, composing of negotiators of Parties that support multilevel action.

Dialogues and collaboration with Friends of Cities at the UNFCCC may feed into revisions or inputs to the negotiation texts that will be adopted at COP.

Visit Annex II on how to engage in the UNFCCC

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP)

Convenes annually. Ministers agree on decisions. Heads of States provide political guidance through UN Climate Action Summits.
LEGACY OF COP24

Each Conference of the Parties (COP) is unique due to political challenges, priorities of host countries, and the logistical hurdle of creating an all-inclusive global conference attracting tens of thousands of participants, ranging from activists to heads of state.

COP24 in Katowice represented the intersection of three important moments. The detailed rules and procedures for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement were drafted. Secondly, the Talanoa Dialogue, that was kicked-off at COP23 in Bonn in 2017 as a year-long, inclusive consultation to bring a new political momentum to deliver and advance the national plans under the Paris Agreement, concluded. Ahead of Katowice, the scientific evidence to limit global warming to 1.5°C was also released, in the form of a special report from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

With the “Katowice Rulebook”, the essential components for climate action are now in place, except some technical details on specific mechanisms which are pushed to next year’s COP in Chile. COP24 provided the legal doors to enhance NDCs by building on the multi-level and multi-stakeholder approaches demonstrated through the Talanoa Dialogues.

By the end of 2020, it is imperative to increase the number of NDCs that are connected to sustainable, integrated urban and territorial development policies and developed with the engagement of all levels of governments. Multilevel climate action is the recipe to ensure the success for 2030 Agenda and a full transformation to a carbon-neutral and resilient society before mid-century. The journey in 2019 will advance mainly along the avenues of the UN Climate Action Summit and SDG Summit in September 2019, discussions on financing sustainable cities, as well as the acceleration of efforts to mainstream biodiversity in all agendas.
**KEY COP24 OUTCOMES**

**KEY COP24 DECISIONS RELEVANT FOR CITIES AND REGIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TALANOA DIALOGUES</th>
<th>Paragraph 37 of Decision1/CP24 - “Invites parties to consider the outcome, inputs and outputs of the Talanoa Dialogue in preparing their nationally determined contributions and in their efforts to enhance pre-2020 implementation and ambition.”</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLIMATE FINANCE</td>
<td>Paragraph 9 of Decision 4/CP.24 - “Welcomes the decision of the Standing Committee on Finance on the topic of its 2019 Forum, which will be climate finance and sustainable cities”</td>
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<tr>
<td>PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</td>
<td>Paragraph 10 of Decision17/CMA.1: “Encourages Parties to foster public participation and collaborate with, inter alia, regional as applicable and local authorities to scale up the implementation of Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE).”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**RELEVANT REFERENCES TO CITIES AND REGIONS IN THE COP24 KATOWICE RULEBOOK**

**NDCs - ARTICLE 4 | COP24 DECISION**

- Annex I paragraph 4.a.1: Domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities and indigenous peoples, in a gender-responsive manner.
- Annex I paragraph 4.d.ii: Adaptation plans that also yield mitigation co-benefits, which may cover but are not limited to key sectors such as energy resources, water resources, coastal resources, human settlements and urban planning, agriculture and forestry.

**ADAPTATION - ARTICLE 7 | COP24 DECISION**

- Annex (h): Gender-responsive adaptation action and traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems related to adaptation, as elements of an adaptation communication.

**TECHNOLOGY – ARTICLE 10.4 | COP24 DECISION**

- Annex paragraph 19: Enhanced engagement of stakeholders at the local, regional, national and global level will be beneficial for the Technology Mechanism.
- Annex paragraph 20.a: Enhancing engagement & collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including local communities and authorities, national planners, the private sector & civil society organizations in the planning & implementation of Technology Mechanism activities.
TRANSPARENCY - ARTICLE 13 | COP24 DECISION

• Annex paragraph 109: Adaptation
  b: Adaptation goals, actions, objectives, undertakings, efforts, plans (e.g. national adaptation plans and subnational plans), strategies, policies, priorities (e.g. priority sectors, priority regions or integrated plans for coastal management, water and agriculture), programmes and efforts to build resilience.
  c: How best available science, gender perspectives and indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge are integrated into adaptation.
  h: Stakeholder involvement, including subnational, community-level and private sector plans, priorities, actions and programmes.

• Annex paragraph 114.a: Adaptation - Ownership, stakeholder engagement, alignment of adaptation actions to national and subnational policies, and replicability.

• Annex paragraph 141.c: Capacity Building - Support received at the national and, where appropriate, subregional and regional level, including priorities, participation and the involvement of stakeholders.

MOBILIZATION AT COP24

In Katowice, more than 100 political and technical representatives of cities and regions and their networks participated, hosted or supported around 50 events inside or outside the premises of COP24.

1. INTERVENTIONS

• COP24 Opening Ceremony of the High Level Segment
  - Marcin Krupa, Mayor of Katowice, Poland

• Wrap-up preparatory phase of Talanoa Dialogue
  - Nasry Tito Asfura, Mayor of Tegucigalpa, Honduras and Vice President of ICLEI Mexico, Central America and Caribbean

Left-to-right: Eri Nakajima, Vice-Governor of Nagano Prefecture, Japan; Hubert Bruls, Mayor of Nijmegen, Netherlands, European Green Capital 2018; Bill Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh, USA.
• Closing of Talanoa Dialogue
  - Cor Lamers, Chair of ENVE Commission of European Committee of the Regions

2. CLIMATE ACTION STUDIO
• Bill Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh, USA
• Eri Nakajima, Vice Governor of Nagano Prefecture, Japan

3. MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP
• High Level Opening
  - Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland, UK
• Human Settlements Thematic Event
  - Virginie Pfanner, Regional Councillor, Auvergne Rhône Alpes, France
  - Marcelo Elias, Deputy Secretary, Secretariat for Environment, Sao Paulo
  - Alderman Bill Harvey, City of Hobart, Australia
  - Yassine Daoudi, Mayor of Guisser, Morocco

4. TALANOA MINISTERIALS
• Lan Marie Nguyen Berg, Deputy Mayor, Oslo, Norway
• Mauricio Vila Dosal, Governor, State of Yucatan, Mexico
• Manuel Araujo, Mayor, Quelimane, Mozambique
• Marcelo Elias, Deputy Environment Secretary, State of Sao Paulo, Brazil

5. SIDE EVENTS
• UNFCCC Side Events: Paris Committee on Capacity Building, Action Hub, ICLEI-EBRD, C40-ISU, One UN-UNH, nrg4sd, Climate Alliance, Climate Chance
• Events in City of Katowice: Katowice Climate Shift, Sustainable Innovation Forum, Investment-COP, Transport Day, LESC Dinner and Dialogue

• COP24 High Level Segment Statement
  - Magnus Berndtsson, Regional Minister of Environment, Västra Götaland, Sweden; President, Assembly of European Regions

• Frederic Ximeno, Commissioner of Ecology, City of Barcelona, Spain
• María Elena Moreno, Deputy Minister for the Environment of the Basque Country Government, Spain

• Roundtable on Resilience
  - Ashok Sridharan, Mayor of Bonn, Germany; ICLEI President; Member of MP-GCA HL Leadership Network
• Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption
  - Manuel Araujo, Mayor of Quelimane, Mozambique
• Roundtable on Land Use
  - Veronica Geese, State Secretary of Energy of Province of Santa Fe, Argentina

• Raphael Edou, Deputy Mayor, Cotonou, Benin
• Mary Nichols, California Air Resources Board, State of California, USA
• Monika Bryl, City of Jaworzno, Poland
• Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor, Chefchaouen, Morocco

• Pavilion Events: EU-GCoM Day, EU, Germany, France, Japan, Indonesia, China, India, Nordic, WWF-We Are Still In, Poland, AfDB, GEF, Korea, GEIDCO-UNDESA, NDC Partnership, Multinational Development Bank
ICLEI AND LGMA IN 2018

In 2018, the LGMA constituency engaged in the year-long negotiations in the following ways:

COORDINATION OF GLOBAL ADVOCACY AND UPDATES

With 8 agenda-setting webinars, 60 mail updates, and daily coverage at SB48 and COP24, ICLEI was able to keep the LGMA well-connected to the UNFCCC intergovernmental process and aware of opportunities to provide input from cities and regions.

YEAR-ROUND MOBILIZATION

Members and partners of LGMA participated in below events throughout 2018.

- Marrakech Partnership workshops in Lisbon and Bonn and Yearbook of Climate Action 2018
- Regional climate weeks in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean
- Data provision to the Non-State Actors Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) portal
- PreCOP24 in Krakow
- Sessions of UNFCCC Bodies including; SB48 in June, Paris Committee on Capacity Building, Nairobi Work Programme on Adaptation, Technical Examination Process, Action for Climate Empowerment, Standing Committee on Finance, Suva Expert Dialogue

Left: Marcin Krupa, Mayor of Katowice, Poland, and Ashok Sridharan, Mayor of Bonn, Germany and ICLEI President.

Right: Group Photo of the NDC Partnership Pavilion Side event “Time for Multilevel Action” with representatives of Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Networks of Regional Governments for Sustainability, Climate Alliance, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
CITIES AND REGIONS TALANOA DIALOGUES: AMBITION AT EVERY LEVEL

Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues are developed as a bottom-up, pro-active and immediate response to the COP23 decision in 2017 to convene year-long, inclusive Talanoa Dialogues. The process was launched by ICLEI at the 9th World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in February 2018, in collaboration with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and UN-Habitat as special partners with a specific focus on:

• The importance of integrated (silo-free) management in the urban climate-energy nexus
• Creating enabling frameworks for multilevel action and access to finance
• Improving access to data, knowledge sharing and capacity building
• The need for facilitative interactions, like the Talanoa Dialogues, in the years ahead

Throughout 2018, Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues were convened through 60 sessions in 40 countries, more than 50 submissions were communicated to the Talanoa Portal of the UNFCCC and more than 15 representatives of local and regional governments and their networks participated at the official Talanoa Dialogues at the UNFCCC in Bonn on 6 May and in Katowice on 11 December.
AGENDA IN 2019

The decisions coming out of COP24 in 2018 represent major progress for both multilevel integration and the global effort to mitigate climate emissions and strengthen resilience, but there is still much work to be done to secure the future of sustainable development. In 2019, ICLEI will pursue three key advocacy goals:

1. **BUILD NDCs ON THE TALANOA SPIRIT**

WHERE WE WERE

COP24 in Katowice invited Parties to consider the outcome, inputs and outputs of the Talanoa Dialogue in preparing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and in their efforts to enhance pre-2020 implementation and ambition.

Since the beginning of the UNFCCC process in 1995, local and regional governments were asking for appropriate spaces and platforms that will enhance dialogue and collaboration with national governments on climate action.

The NDCs were prepared before the Paris Agreement was adopted. Therefore, they are not compatible with the vision of the Paris Agreement such as engaging all levels of governments or to pursue a pathway towards 1.5°C global warming and mid-century climate neutrality goals. Most NDCs do not take into account the potential of the sustainable, integrated urban and territorial development as a means of ambitious climate action as well.

The year-round, inclusive Talanoa Dialogue provided the unique opportunity to highlight the need to make NDCs fit for the purpose of the Paris Agreement, therefore local and regional governments demonstrated an immense mobilization in 2018.

Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, through 60 events in 40 countries, highlighted that multilevel collaboration can take advantage of expertise, knowledge and legislative mechanisms that ultimately accelerate action, reduce costs, improve results and raise ambitions.
WHAT’S NEXT

According to the Paris Agreement, by 2020 all national governments are expected to present their revised or second NDCs, presumably with more concrete actions and higher ambition levels.

With the relevant COP24 decision referring to the Talanoa Dialogue, local and regional governments have all the legitimacy to approach national governments and urge them to consider locally and regionally developed mitigation and adaptation actions, emissions reduction commitments and investment plans in the revision of the existing NDC or development of a second NDC.

Local and regional governments can also ask their national governments to inform the UNFCCC community about their progress on multilevel action at the intersessional meeting in Bonn in June or towards and at COP25 in Chile in December 2019.

Throughout 2019 and 2020, ICLEI will approach priority members and partners to explore active engagement for NDCs, starting with those who hosted Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues in 2018. ICLEI will also enhance its collaboration with NDC Partnership, Friends of Cities Group at the UNFCCC and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), to support these efforts.

The Paris Agreement, in its preamble, recognizes the importance of the engagement of all levels of government. The fact that 185 Parties out of the 197 Parties to the UNFCCC have ratified the Paris Agreement establishes a strong indication of the momentum towards strengthening multilevel governance on climate action.

Representatives of ICLEI and European Committee of the Regions (CoR) at the closing plenary of the Talanoa Dialogues
2. LOCALIZE CLIMATE FINANCE

WHERE WE WERE

COP24 approved the decision of the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) to focus on sustainable cities at its 2019 Forum. SCF was established in 2010 to support the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC with a view to support resource mobilization for the commitment of $100 billion per year by 2020 and disperse as appropriate. SCF Forum meets every year since for exchange of information among bodies and entities dealing with climate change finance in order to promote linkages and coherence.

WHAT'S NEXT

2019 SCF Forum is expected to be held in September 2019. 2019 SCF Forum has the potential to create an impact on climate finance community at the same level that CitiesIPCC Conference has created among the climate research community, complementing the recognition of local and regional governments at the Paris Agreement and their engagement in the NDCs through the Talanoa Spirit. In close collaboration with the Cities and Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, ICLEI and C40 act as the LGMA Focal Points in the SCF process.

ICLEI will continue to call for mechanisms that enable these goals while actively pursuing practical initiatives, such as the Transformative Actions Program (TAP), that address the financial gap between projects and the finance they need. The Global Climate City Challenge (GCCC) as a joint pilot initiative of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) will further help prepare and finance selected urban climate action projects on mitigation and adaptation.
WHERE WE WERE
The Paris Agreement confirmed that all levels of governments and all stakeholders must be engaged in an ambitious global action. Since then, the local and regional governments and their networks have responded to this spirit by actively leading and engaging in efforts such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), Cities and Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, Global Climate Action Summit and NDC Partnership, amongst others.

WHAT’S NEXT
The IPCC Special Report on 1.5 Degrees released in 2018 provided an explicit, data-driven call to action outlining ambitious action and commitments can help nations reach the goals of the Paris Agreement. The 2019 UN Climate Action Summit to be convened on 23 September aims to play a catalyzing role for new and additional actions which can support raising ambitions of NDCs expected by 2020. For advancing multilevel and collaborative climate action, the International Conference on Climate Action in Heidelberg, Germany will play a critical role. In this year of ambition, ICLEI will accelerate its actions with members and partnerships with partners by building upon 2018 Montréal Strategic Vision and Commitment with 5 pathways to sustainability, supported by its vision to climate neutrality.
KEY EVENTS FOR THE LGMA IN 2019

Towards COP25 in Chile, ICLEI and the LGMA constituency will be mobilizing at several key events in order to share our collective experience and call for greater climate ambition and better multilevel integration.

**LGMA**
1. GTF Retreat, Barcelona
2. Women4Climate, Paris
3. R-CAP, Delhi
4. U20, Tokyo
5. ICCA, Heidelberg
6. R20, Vienna
7. G20-EN, Nagano
8. RCC, Bonn
9. USCOM, Hawaii
10. LOCS, Africa
11. C40, Copenhagen
12. KIREC, Seoul
13. UCLG, Durban

**UNFCCC**
1. Africa Climate Week, Ghana
2. Workshops, Bonn
3. SB50, Bonn
4. Latin America CW, Brazil
5. Asia Pacific CW, TBC
6. SCF Forum, TBC
7. PreCOP25, Costa Rica
8. COP25, Chile

**OTHER-UN**
1. UNEA4, Nairobi
2. UNHA1, Nairobi
3. HLPF-ECOSOC, New York City
4. UN Climate Summit, New York City
5. HLPF-UNGA, New York City
6. UNCCD-COP14, India

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS: 26.05.2019**
1. JAN
2. FEB
3. MAR
4. APR
5. MAY
6. JUN
7. JUL
8. AUG
9. SEP
10. OCT
11. NOV
12. DEC

**2020**
Biodiversity COP15-China
Climate COP26
ANNEX I - THE EVOLUTION OF THE LGMA CONSTITUENCY

The Paris Agreement, reached at COP21, showed that local and regional governments have the right and responsibility to engage in the climate negotiations, but how did we get there? What are the issues that face these governments now? This annex illustrates the context around our current role.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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Visit cities-and-regions.org for videos, reports and all the news about cities and regions in the global climate advocacy space.

VISIT

ANNEX II - HOW THE UNFCCC AND ICLEI WORK TOGETHER

This annex provides an in-depth exploration of UNFCCC's structure. Learn about the bodies that work year-round to produce negotiation results and what opportunities there are for cities and organizations like ICLEI to engage.