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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***THE CONSTITUENCY OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS CALLS FOR A
“MULTILEVEL ACTION COP26” WITH ROADMAP TO GLASGOW***

At COP25, cities and regions again showed their leadership in climate action through participation in the Climate Ambition Alliance

16 December 2019 (*Madrid, Spain – COP25*) – Based on a disappointing final result from this year’s United Nations climate negotiations, the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency called for increased climate ambition and action by national governments, including the full engagement of local and regional governments in the preparation of the second NDCs at home throughout the year on the road to the 26th meeting of the Convention of the Parties on Climate Change (COP26), in Glasgow in 2020.

“The second Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to be presented in Glasgow have to reflect the urgency of ambitious action to respond climate emergency and seize the opportunities of the transformative power of the Urban World The success of COP26 in Glasgow in 2020 depends on the full engagement of local and regional governments in the preparation of the second NDCs at home throughout the year,” said Ashok Sridharan, Mayor of Bonn (Germany) and President of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, which serves as the focal point of the LGMA.

“Multilevel and collaborative climate action should be the new normal in every community and in every country in the era of the Paris Agreement. This is why the Constituency is calling on COP26 to be the ‘Multilevel Action COP,’” said Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI. “More ambitious climate action can only be achieved through collaboration with and support of local and regional governments.”

The need for a multilevel action by the constituency is successfully demonstrated by a strong and broad commitment to raise global climate ambition, and partnerships with the private sector across sectors and geographies. Local, regional and other subnational governments should be actively engaged by national governments in the preparation of the second NDCs throughout 2020. Therefore, on the road to Glasgow, [local and regional governments are setting out six key priorities](#) for the Constituency, which should be enabled and supported by national governments and all other actors. The key priorities are:

1. Raise the climate ambition of local and regional governments

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2. Ensure NDC vertical integration and transparency
3. Localize climate finance
4. Take a balanced approach to mitigation and adaptation
5. Link climate to circular economy and nature
6. Amplify global climate action

On Wednesday, COP25 President, Minister Carolina Schmidt, along with High-Level COP25 Champion Gonzalo Muñoz, presented the Climate Ambition Alliance, a renewed alliance of countries as well as non-state, sub-national and local actors who are determined to follow the Paris Agreement and the recommendations of science as regards climate change. As of December 11, 398 cities and 14 regional governments are part of the Alliance, working to achieve net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050. The LGMA applauds the further inclusion of ambitious cities and regions into the Climate Ambition Alliance. Additionally, 73 Parties to the UNFCCC, 786 businesses and 16 investors are also a part of the Alliance. Chile has led the Climate Ambition Alliance at the request of the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, in the context of the 2019 Climate Summit.

At a COP25 event entitled “From Chile to UK – The Road to Glasgow” held on December 10th in the Chilean Pavilion, Minister Schmidt said, “In Chile, we are committed to including non-state and sub-national actors in the NDC revision process, and are implementing climate governance that includes a multi-level component, to assure that cities and sub-national governments work closely on implementing the actions we need to meet our ambitious goals. We call on all governments to strive for more inclusion of cities and sub-national governments in these processes.” The event was co-sponsored by the Chilean COP25 Presidency, Delegation of the European Union in Chile, the LGMA, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, WWF, UNEP-DTU Partnership, Fundación Avina and ECLAC.

Mohamed Boudra, President of **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**, on behalf of the LGMA said at a high level ministerial event at COP25, “We cannot underestimate the relevance of all spheres of governance, therefore, the territorialization of the NDCs and promotion of LDCs should be a priority for the next stage. The next ten years are our last opportunity - local and subnational governments need to be on board.”

Moderator Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, Head of **WWF** Climate and Energy Practice, and former COP20 President, said, “Humanity’s future is urban, with two-thirds of the world's population expected to be city dwellers in the next 30 years. Cities must lead the way in creating a liveable future for people within the limits that nature affords, by prioritizing integrated urban planning, increasing sustainable energy, and adopting nature-based solutions. National governments must recognize the important role of cities and local leaders and help them make these futures a reality as part of ambitious climate targets.”

“European Regions have showed their continuous commitment to the fight against climate change. Regions are key actors as they play a structural role in their territories, from cities to rural and peripheral areas. We will therefore push the COP26 in Glasgow to be more engaging and ambitious with the local and regional constituencies. National governments and international organizations, be bold and count on us,” said Magnus Berntsson, President of the **Assembly of European Regions**.

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"We must recognize the local, regional, national and international dimensions of climate change and the action undertaken by multiple actors across multiple levels of governance. As our [latest report has shown](#), subnational policy can be a laboratory for larger-scale efforts and cross-sectoral strategies focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation can be a potential source of economic development. Hence, COP26 must be a turning point for multi-level collaboration to effectively combat the climate emergency," said Elena Moreno, **Regions4** President for the North & Basque Deputy Minister for Environment.

Jordan Harris served as the Sub-National Governments for Climate Action Coordinator for the **COP25 Presidency**. He said, "In my role with the COP25 Presidency, I witnessed firsthand the strength and commitment of the LGMA constituency. The COP25 Sub-National Governments team looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Constituency and with the COP26 UK Presidency in order to ensure that the voice of local and regional governments is heard on the road to Glasgow."

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About 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. The LGMA Constituency has represented networks of local and regional governments at the UNFCCC process since 1995. For more information visit: <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/>

About ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability:

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. For more information, visit: <https://iclei.org/>

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