



JOINT ICLEI/UCLG STATEMENT at the UNHabitat Executive Board 2024/1 Meeting

Distinguished Members of the UNHabitat Executive Board, and UNHabitat Secretariat,

My name is Pablo Fernandez, Head of Partnerships at the UCLG and I am delighted to deliver this statement on behalf of ICLEI and UCLG, building on the ICLEI statements at UNH ExBoard meetings in 2021, 2022 and the video message of ICLEI Secretary General at UNH ExBoard meeting on 29 November 2023.

The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency to UNFCCC and on behalf of the Global Task Force recognized the Climate COP28 in Dubai in December 2023 under the UAE Presidency as:

- the most *ambitious* in terms of climate commitments,
- the most *inclusive* in terms connecting climate to a broader development agenda and its innovative stakeholder engagements
- and the most *fruitful for multilevel action and urbanization*.

The key COP28 outcomes in terms of multilevel action and urbanization include;

- para.161 of the COP28 Global Stocktake decision that urges Parties for multilevel action and other specific references in the UAE Consensus,
- the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnership (CHAMP) launched at the COP28 Local Climate Action Summit and further strengthened at the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate, which resulted 72 national endorsements to CHAMP,
- and the Multilevel Action and Urbanization Pavilion which is co-convened by ICLEI as LGMA Focal Point and for the first time with UNHabitat.

The historic 2nd UNHabitat Assembly resolution on climate in June 2023, which recognized SURGe as the only UNFCCC specific initiative, was instrumental in these achievements.

ICLEI and UCLG strongly believe that the SURGe initiative can still continue to play the much critical role to ensure a strong linkage between sustainable urbanization and climate action agenda.

The SURGe initiative with a strong UNHabitat engagement and an active LGMA collaboration can create the necessary synergy of the UNHA2 Resolution with the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Agenda under the Marrakech Partnership, the whole-of-government approach for climate action through the NDC Partnership and the political commitment of UNHabitat Member States and UNFCCC Parties for the design and implementation of multilevel climate action plans by COP30 in Belem in 2025 and beyond, as the COP28 Outcomes, including, but not limited, to those supported by the COP28 CHAMP Initiative.

On behalf of the LGMA Constituency and the Global Task Force, ICLEI and UCLG once again express its readiness to collaborate with the UNHabitat in facilitating such synergetic partnerships in this new climate action era of the Urban World.

Kind regards,