



## Paris Declaration

As mayors of major cities and members of the C40, GCoM, Eurocities, AIMF and ICLEI cities networks, we are determined to lead the transition to a more sustainable, inclusive and prosperous future for our communities. Cities are the sentinels of climate change. They directly face its effects and are trying to adapt to better meet current and future challenges.

We know that taking decisive action to address the climate crisis will save lives, create better economic and social conditions, and reduce the cost of living, but we also know that the transition has a cost. This investment must be borne by those responsible—oil and gas companies, the most polluting industries, and the ultra-rich, as suggested by the G20.

Science tells us that to avoid climate breakdown, we need to cut global fossil fuel usage. According to the UN Secretary General, leaders in the fossil fuel industry are the Godfathers of climate chaos—spreading false messages, running misleading campaigns and spending billions of dollars to distort the truth. Such untruths are flourishing on social media.

The engineers of chaos are building echo chambers for fallacious theories with no scientific basis. The proliferation of fake news on climate change is worrying. Phasing out fossil fuels is an existential imperative for humanity. The next five years are the most crucial in history for the health and prosperity of our planetary ecosystem. Now is the time that everything hangs in the balance, that choices must be made, that cities must be given the resources they need to drive change on a human scale.

We, mayors of the world, want to see states and supranational organisations mobilise to:

- Strengthen their commitment: Secure ambition and give a clear signal to all stakeholders on how climate action can deliver benefits for the economy and the environment while giving everyone resources to move forward. The cornerstone of multilateral climate action must be accelerating the move away from fossil fuels, building climate resilience and delivering an ambitious, science-based target. At the same time, states and supranational organisations must provide stronger support for local communities, workers, low-income families, and economic stakeholders at the forefront of implementation.
- Put fairness and climate justice at the centre: Future climate policies must have law, justice, inclusion and fairness as their fundamental values. They must help to contain inflation and guarantee health, affordable housing and economic security for all. Mayors stand united with workers and families and are committed to ensuring that the benefits of the climate transition are accessible to all, especially those who need them most. This includes supporting a just and inclusive transition, improving labour rights, and ensuring social dialogue. By building local capacity, we can speed up the delivery of climate-neutral projects.



- Boost funding for climate and the just transition: A socially just and competitive transformation towards carbon neutrality cannot be achieved without additional resources. The reform of international financial institutions must be an opportunity to mitigate unfair constraints on cities' access to finance. Today, national regulations prevent more than half of the world's cities from accessing finance, while a substantial proportion of those that can are faced with dissuasive rates that are partly based on exogenous factors, notably exchange rates.
- Stop fossil fuel subsidies: National governments must reallocate fossil fuel subsidies to green innovation, including renewable energy storage, clean energy systems, and skilled workforce development. The Global North should also step up its role as world climate leader and encourage international cooperation. This includes developing partnerships and collaboration to tackle cross-border challenges such as climate breakdown, biodiversity loss and social inequalities. The effort to support the rest of the planet is not simply a choice to show humanity, it is also a rational choice.
- Recognise cities as crucial implementation partners: Cities and regions have the biggest responsibility in implementing global climate action. However, their participation in its design and the support provided have been insufficient. Cities can be effective partners, but we cannot do it alone. We need to strengthen multilevel governance solutions and give mayors a more direct voice in policymaking. Globally, the Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments launched by the UN Secretary-General serves such a purpose. The Coalition for Highly Ambitious Multi-Level Partnerships (CHAMP) formed at COP 28 in Dubai is also a catalyst for alignment to get governments, cities and regions working together.

We, mayors of the world, hope that this Declaration can inspire and contribute to developing political priorities. We also fervently hope that COP 30 in Brazil will ratify its commitments. This COP is particularly important because there, governments will set out their new goals (nationally determined contributions). We expect it to be as productive as possible on these issues, which are suffering at a time of multiple crises and challenges.

We, mayors of the world, are driven by the need to provide those who live in or pass through our cities with the most favourable and inclusive urban environment possible.