

ARISE Cities Forum 2025: From Bharat to Belém

Delhi Declaration on Local Action for Global Climate Goals

We, the Mayors, city leaders, and representatives of national, state, and subnational governments, together with partners from civil society, academia, youth, the private sector, and multilateral development organisations, as custodians of our collective future in the Global South, having convened in New Delhi, India, from 8 to 9 October 2025.

RECALL the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the New Urban Agenda, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the outcomes of previous UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties such as para161 of the COP28 UAE Consensus as a result of the Global Stocktake which urges Parties for multilevel collaboration, COP30 Action Agenda Axis-4 and other relevant outcomes on multilevel collaboration and urbanisation in the UNFCCC process.

AFFIRM our collective resolve to contribute beyond the success of COP30 in Belém by amplifying urban voices and presenting concrete commitments from cities of the Global South from the Indian subcontinent and beyond.

ENDORSE, the LGMA Constituency as the voice of subnationals in the UNFCCC process and its COP30 Vision¹ to enhance multilevel collaboration and urbanization in the climate action before, during and beyond COP30 in Belem, including mobilization through Town Hall COPs, and good practices such as the Kuala Lumpur Call to Action for COP30 announced by the President of the UN Habitat Assembly

STRIVE towards limiting global warming, as envisaged by the Paris Agreement, and protecting our environment and citizens from the impacts of climate change by accelerating local climate action in the cities of the Global South (the Indian Subcontinent and the Asia Pacific)

ACKNOWLEDGE and support India's proactive efforts to host COP-33, with a hope for its acknowledgement as the first COP to fully integrate urbanisation into the UNFCCC process, building on the expected outcomes of COP30 multilevel and urban legacy, together with the response of the UNFCCC to the IPCC Special Report on Cities expected by COP32 in 2027, creating a historic opportunity to place cities at the climate action forefront. ARISE will build a committed cohort to advance this opportunity of global importance.

RECOGNISE that the decisive decade for climate action demands accelerated ambition, scaled finance, and transformative governance, and that cities are indispensable partners in the achievement of the Paris Agreement.

PLEDGE to strengthen cooperation across cities, borders, sectors, and levels of government in the Global South, to ensure that the priorities of urban resilience, equity, and sustainability are integrated into global climate outcomes at COP30;

¹ LGMA* COP30 Vision Letter - as of 3 June 2025 Rallying for Local-to-Global-COP30 and beyond

We Hereby Declare Our Shared Commitments:

1. Advance Local Climate Action

Support the preparation and implementation of enhanced multilevel **NDCs 3.0**, ensuring that subnational contributions are fully recognised, measurable, and resourced, in alignment with the Global Stocktake.

2. Drive Inclusive and Equitable Urban Resilience

Integrate disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation measures, nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration, and circularity into urban policy and planning, adopting a systemic and whole-of-economy approach, ensuring the resilience and continuity of critical infrastructure services, and addressing the urban-peri urban continuum.

3. Adopt Participatory Green Transitions

Advance just and inclusive net-zero pathways that include and are not limited to decarbonising the energy sector, promoting energy efficiency and clean mobility; adopting relevant multi-stakeholder and participatory approaches.

4. Citizen, Community, Women and Youth Leadership

Institutionalize platforms for citizen, youth, women and community participation in climate governance. Recognize and scale community led and driven innovations while building long-term capacities for local governments and civil society to sustain resilient climate action beyond individual projects and strengthen their partnership.

5. Enhance Multi-Level Governance and Innovative Data Systems

Commit to deepening collaboration between national, sub-national and local governments, underpinned by robust, transparent, and participatory data, reporting and monitoring systems, to accelerate implementation and accountability.

6. Mobilise Climate Finance for Cities

Commit to enhancing local government financing for integrated climate action and call upon national and international financial institutions to establish dedicated mechanisms for direct access to climate finance, close the adaptation finance gap, and expand accessible funding for loss and damage.

7. Champion Global South Climate Urban Leadership

Assert the leadership of Global South cities in shaping global climate policy, foster South-South and triangular cooperation, and present scalable, inclusive and just urban solutions that bridge local realities with global ambition.

Conclusion

From **Bharat to Belém**, we bring forward the collective voice of cities: a call for ambition, a demand for equity, and a pledge for local climate action. The **Delhi Declaration** embodies the spirit of solidarity, partnership and a whole of economy and society approach that must define COP30, offering cities' commitment to co-create a climate-safe, just, and sustainable future for all.

We present this declaration as our collective contribution to COP30, affirming that we, the people of the world, will build a future that is resilient, equitable, and low-carbon.

ADOPTED this Ninth Day of October in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, in New Delhi, India.