

KEY MESSAGES

FROM CORNERSTONE I: EXCHANGE

**DARING
CITIES
2023**



**NACHHALTIGKEIT.
SUSTAINABILITY.
DURABILITÉ.
BONN.**

BACKGROUND

Due to systemic inequalities that occur on local, regional, national, and international scales, some communities are disproportionately affected by climate change. These communities may include, but are not limited to, women, elderly people, children, racialized peoples, LGBTQIA+ people, and migrants. Additionally, which communities are disproportionately affected differ across regions, and thus each should be treated uniquely, recognizing that solutions must be adapted to meet the local context.

When responding to the climate emergency with the urgency that it requires, governments can overlook communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change and make long-lasting policy decisions that can further intensify already-existing inequalities. Just and equitable decision-making must be prioritized to ensure holistic policy development and implementation.

Throughout 2023, hundreds of representatives of cities, towns, regions and other subnationals, and the partners that work with them, have come together at Daring Cities 2023 to exchange on best practices, innovative solutions and creative approaches to a just and equitable transformation of our society in the face of the climate emergency. These exchanges have produced a set of key findings from Daring Cities 2023. As we turn our attention to Urban October and COP28, we will use these messages in the coming months and years ahead. We ask our fellow local and regional governments, communities and stakeholders at large and national governments and the intergovernmental community, to engage with and work towards these key findings:



JUSTICE AND EQUITY SHOULD BE AT THE CORE OF THE RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

1. In order to have a just and equitable future, we must address existing and historic injustices.
2. At the center of future climate emergency responses should be ensuring the ability of all individuals to lead flourishing lives in a globally sustainable world.
3. Not only are children and youth among the most vulnerable groups to climate change, but they are also often not included in the discussions, or when included, not heard. We need long-term solutions that empower and meaningfully engage young people in addressing the climate.
4. The inclusion and engagement of communities and voices disproportionately affected by climate change should be a key priority in climate emergency response. This should be paired with a robust assessment of climate risks and vulnerabilities with emphasis on those disproportionately affected communities, to show what the specific needs are and identify appropriate approaches for climate action.
5. Local communities must be included from the start in order for adaptation, mitigation and municipal food plans to be successful.
6. Strategies that address gender, ethnicity and age, especially policies addressing climate resilience, improve plans and policies.

7. We need to find the political will to include women and gender considerations in climate action. Women are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the climate emergency, so they should be engaged in the discussions early on, with informed considerations of local and cultural context.
8. Combatting the climate emergency is an opportunity to address energy poverty around the world. We have an opportunity to ensure that the energy transition will be just and equitable, and suitable to the needs of communities.
9. Climate action is about more than technical and implementation action - we must also engage our communities with effective communications that meet them where they are and provide a contextualized, compelling narrative for the better world we are creating together.



CITIES ARE ALREADY PROVIDING INNOVATIVE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ON THE GROUND

10. The climate emergency is asking for innovative solutions to create a pathway towards a just and equitable transition, such as using nature-based solutions that recognize interconnectedness of ecosystems, people, and climate, and can create vital partnerships, jobs and education opportunities.
11. Data collection and data sourcing needs to involve innovative techniques that include community participation. Data should not only be available, but also of good quality, easily accessible, understandable, contextualized and practical for sensible policy-making.
12. Climate finance is a vital part for the just and equitable transition. Local governments have a hard time understanding, mapping, and accessing climate finance, so it is critical to build capacity to access climate finance within local and regional governments. In particular, Small Island Developing States have national debt that makes designing financial instruments challenging and time consuming, but it is worth pushing through those barriers to ensure that the most vulnerable needs are met.
13. Digitalization can aid the response to the climate emergency through a radical transformation of our financial systems. Digitalization allows for transparency, efficiency, and speed to move capital; all vital for a swift climate emergency response.
14. Sustainable housing - both in a social and environmental sense - should be included in the discussion around a just and equitable climate transition. Cities should look to improve affordable housing stock as an opportunity for decarbonization.



MULTILEVEL ACTION IS THE NEW NORMAL IN THE GLOBAL CLIMATE AGENDA

15. The global stocktake process needs to be localized, and towns, cities, and regions should have a voice in the process. Multilevel governance needs to be part of the implementation and evaluation of the collective progress towards Paris Agreement goals.

- 16.** We urgently need horizontal and vertical collaboration at a greater scale worldwide to deliver just and equitable climate emergency response in our communities.
- 17.** Through the Marrakech Partnership and the Sharm el Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, the UNFCCC has prioritized and strengthened the collaboration of non-party stakeholders in the climate agenda. Cities, towns, regions and other subnationals play a vital role in these partnerships, and continued support, professionalization and alignment should be provided by the UN and parties to ensure that the partnerships provide meaningful feedback into the climate agenda.
- 18.** Radical collaboration and trust-based partnerships are essential to address the complex challenges and to amplify impact. Complex challenges, such as climate change, need dynamic solutions.
- 19.** Exchange between communities is necessary to develop innovative approaches. South-south knowledge exchange - similar emerging and developing economies learning from each other - can chart a new pathway, moving away from a purely Eurocentric model, towards achieving the 1.5 degree scenario.

