

DARING CITIES 2024

KEY FINDINGS

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CITIES
2024**



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

BACKGROUND

With the conclusion of the first-ever Global Stocktake at COP28, a stark reality emerged: we are falling short of the Paris Agreement's goal to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C. But COP28 also showed a different path - that by including cities, regions and other subnationals into their climate planning, financing and action, Parties can advance the ambitions of their new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by COP30 in 2025.

For cities and regions, waiting for multilevel action is not an option. They must take the lead in bringing all stakeholders together and showing why policy alignment is crucial. As COP29 approaches, the spotlight on finance and multilevel collaboration intensifies, with initiatives like the [Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships \(CHAMP\) for Climate Action](#), Town Hall COPs, the [COP29 Joint Position](#) from the [Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency](#) and the COP29 Presidency's Multisectoral Actions Pathways (MAP) driving deeper engagement and impact.

Recognizing this critical need for multilevel action, Daring Cities 2024, co-convened by [ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability](#) and the [Federal City of Bonn](#), has provided a platform for cities and regions boldly tackling the climate emergency.

Under the theme "Powering collective action to respond to the climate emergency," the forum has facilitated exchanges among policymakers, technical experts, and leaders from around the world to share knowledge, showcase innovative climate actions, and foster ambitious collaborations, advocating for integrated solutions that address the interconnected challenges of the climate emergency.

These exchanges led to a set of key findings. As the event transitions to its final phase, "Advocate", we will extend the reach of [Daring Cities 2024](#) beyond our community, empowering representatives to carry the event's key findings to major international environmental platforms. We call on our fellow local and regional governments, communities and stakeholders at large, national governments, and the intergovernmental community, to engage with and work towards these key findings.





CITIES AND REGIONS HAVE THE POWER - AND THE SUCCESS STORIES - TO DEMAND BOLD MULTILEVEL PARTNERSHIPS AND GOVERNANCE FOR MORE AMBITIOUS CLIMATE ACTION

1. Cities and regions must step up and demand bold, unified action at every level of governance. They must lead the charge by driving vertical collaboration across government tiers and forging horizontal partnerships between sectors—bringing together ministries, the private sector, and civil society -including indigenous people and youth- and academia. Now is the time to break silos and create the collective action needed to tackle the climate emergency head-on.
2. Multilevel collaboration and early engagement with financial institutions, combined with capacity-building and cross-sector partnerships, are critical for driving inclusive and impactful climate solutions. This is particularly true for vulnerable regions, such as Small Island Developing States and cities from the Global South.
3. Cities and subnational governments must push for ambitious local action to be included in the next round of NDCs, aligning with COP28's CHAMP initiative, which promotes multilevel partnerships for enhanced climate targets.
4. The principles of multilevel partnerships and governance enshrined in the CHAMP initiative are applicable beyond COP30 and the 2025 NDCs and may be transferable to other multilateral processes and environmental conventions.
5. COP29, as the 'finance highway,' will be the opportunity to bridge multilevel action and introduce financial resources and mechanisms to implement technical and political commitments, such as the CHAMP initiative.
6. Town Hall COPs are an innovative mechanism linking local climate emergency action to national and global efforts, by accelerating multilevel collaboration and community engagement in NDCs preparation and implementation ahead of COP30.



CITIES AND REGIONS MUST EMBRACE A BOTTOM-UP APPROACH TO CREATE TRULY INCLUSIVE URBAN SPACES FOR ALL

7. Successful climate action implementation is centered around people. All voices should be considered equally important and social equity should be at the core of sustainable urban development and the climate emergency response.
8. By collaborating and co-creating policies with diverse groups and stakeholders, cities can reshape their approach to climate action. Involving frontline staff and community members from the outset is crucial to overcoming technical and cultural barriers and shifting underlying structures.
9. Cities and regions must promote just and equitable urban environments by guaranteeing and encouraging participation from diverse groups, particularly addressing inequalities related to gender, ethnicity, migration, and social status.
10. Engaging the private sector in climate action is essential, but must be done thoughtfully, with investments that align with cities' needs and prioritize sustainable, equitable, and long-term solutions.





CITIES AND REGIONS ARE IMPLEMENTING HOLISTIC AND INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

11. Cities worldwide are leading the way in climate action by integrating solutions that address health, well-being, access to nature, housing, transport, energy, and waste, creating cohesive policies that transform urban living and pave the way to a sustainable future.
12. Circular economy principles are being integrated into urban planning, involving diverse stakeholders to transform multiple sectors and improve residents' quality of life.
13. Climate solutions should be innovative, expanding the scope of thinking beyond traditional approaches to create co-benefits rather than simply solving the problem. Co-benefits enable consensus building and economic case building and can empower actors to take action to make cities more sustainable.
14. Climate finance is crucial in addressing the climate emergency, but cities face barriers like governance gaps, limited technical capacity, lack of resource control, and inconsistent policies. To overcome these, they are exploring innovative financing mechanisms that complement traditional public and private investments.

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Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Foundation for International Dialogue
of the Savings Bank in Bonn