

DARING CITIES 2024

POWERING COLLECTIVE ACTION
TO RESPOND TO THE CLIMATE
EMERGENCY

**DARING
CITIES
2024**



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BONN.**

DARING CITIES 2024: POWERING COLLECTIVE ACTION TO RESPOND TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

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Created by ICLEI and the Federal City of Bonn, Daring Cities is a recurring, action-oriented forum to recognize and empower bold urban leaders – including mayors and other decision-makers, technical staff, researchers, private sector representatives, and community organizers – to disrupt business-as-usual and shift towards business-as-possible. Daring Cities showcases and catalyzes exemplary local climate action to tackle the climate emergency, including ambitious resilience-building and climate mitigation efforts.

For more information, visit: <https://daringcities.org/>

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1 INTRODUCTION

The conclusion of the first-ever Global Stocktake at COP28 in Dubai revealed a harsh reality: We are falling short of the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C target. Yet, 2023's annual climate summit also brought hope, sparking a new momentum for climate action by elevating cities as key partners through the launch of the initiative known as the [Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships \(CHAMP\) for Climate Action](#).

Seventy-four countries have endorsed the initiative, committing to integrate cities, regions, and other subnational actors into climate planning, financing, and implementation. By embracing this initiative, Parties can strengthen the ambitions of their new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) due by COP30 in 2025.

Throughout 2024, Daring Cities has been instrumental in building this momentum, bridging gaps, and engaging directly with national governments to foster multilevel collaboration. Here, key mechanisms such as the Town Hall COPs have emerged as a transformative model, empowering communities and subnational governments worldwide to drive meaningful climate commitments and act as catalysts for local-to-global climate action ahead of COP29 and COP30.

Under the theme “Powering collective action to respond to the climate emergency,” Daring Cities 2024 has facilitated exchanges among policymakers, technical experts, and leaders from around the world to share knowledge, showcase innovative climate actions, and foster ambitious collaborations and unlikely connections for climate action, advocating for integrated solutions that address the interconnected challenges of the climate emergency toward resilient, inclusive, sustainable urbanization.

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. Leading up to COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, Daring Cities 2024 has served as a critical platform for local governments to understand and engage with global climate processes and amplify their role in achieving international climate goals.

This year, we have strengthened our vision for what cities, towns, and regions can become by 2030 and beyond. The solutions to the climate crisis already exist – what we need now is daring leadership and unwavering support to bring them to life.

FIVE YEARS OF ADVANCING LOCAL AND GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

Daring Cities 2024 marked the fifth iteration of the annual event, building on the legacy established since its inception in 2020. The heart of the event has always been celebrating and promoting local climate action, and connecting that action to national and global climate goals and action.

Co-convened by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and the Federal City of Bonn, Germany, Daring Cities is designed to empower urban decision-makers – such as mayors, city councilors, administrators, and urban thought leaders, as well as national government representatives, researchers, technical staff, business leaders, civil society decision-makers and community organizers – to lead in the climate emergency.

Many daring cities, towns, and regions are already responding to the climate emergency, but they need support and action from fellow local and regional governments, communities and stakeholders, national governments, and the international community. Their demands have been documented in the [Daring Cities 2021: Call for Transformation](#).

To advance progress on these demands, we designed Daring Cities 2024 to serve as a pivotal platform for advancing multilevel and collective climate action. The forum explored a holistic and integrated approach to tackling the climate emergency, promoting leadership, knowledge exchange, and the implementation of ambitious climate strategies and collaborations through a rich agenda of in-person and online dialogues, workshops, and roundtables designed to bridge gaps between national and subnational climate action.



OUR APPROACH: KNOW MORE, ACT BETTER, LEAD TOGETHER

Daring Cities showcases and catalyzes exemplary local climate action to tackle the climate emergency, including ambitious resilience-building and climate mitigation efforts. Focusing on powering collective action to respond to the climate emergency, Daring Cities 2024 applied the Know-Act-Lead approach to empower participants to:

KNOW MORE	ACT BETTER	LEAD TOGETHER
Without the most up-to-date data on the climate emergency, both globally and at a local scale, urban leaders cannot make effective, science-based policies or decisions. Daring Cities underscores cutting-edge knowledge as an essential component of effective climate action policy.	Knowledge alone will not tackle the climate emergency. Urban leaders can strongly benefit from actual examples of ambitious climate action effectively implemented in other cities, towns, and regions around the world. Daring Cities provides a platform to showcase those exemplary cases so that other local and regional governments may learn from them and adapt them to their own local context.	By sharing their examples of concrete actions and pushing for better collaboration and more ambitious work on climate, governments become leaders. Daring Cities is about showcasing and raising the voices of bold leaders tackling the climate emergency.



Daring Cities representatives, along with national and local government leaders and partners, gathered on 4 June for the kickoff of the Daring Cities 2024 Bonn Dialogues in Bonn, Germany.

THREE CORNERSTONES TO DRIVE ACTION: REFLECT - EXCHANGE - ADVOCATE

Combining the best of in-person and virtual interactions, the framework of Daring Cities 2024 was anchored in the three pivotal cornerstones.

CORNERSTONE I: REFLECT

In March and April, two in-depth webinars gathered local leaders and climate representatives to discuss past climate actions and outcomes, especially those stemming from COP28. This cornerstone served as the foundation, facilitating a period of introspection and assessment to ensure a seamless transition into 2024 initiatives, leading up to UNFCCC COP29 and COP30. Watch our “Reflect” webinars [here](#).

CORNERSTONE II: EXCHANGE

This cornerstone fostered dialogue and knowledge-sharing among local, regional, and national governments, high-level participants, technical experts, policymakers, and other key stakeholders. It emphasized the importance of multilevel collaboration and the dissemination of innovative knowledge and effective climate action practices.

Cornerstone II - Exchange was built upon two key events:



Daring Cities 2024 Bonn Dialogues

Held from 3 to 5 June in Bonn, Germany, alongside the UNFCCC SB60 sessions, this in-person event offered high-level dialogues and roundtables allowing participants to revitalize partnerships and explore effective multilevel collaboration.



Daring Cities 2024 Virtual Forum

Spanning from August to October, these 10 online sessions offered a globally accessible program on solution-oriented discussions, workshops, and technical training. From sharing best practices to deep diving into regional and sectoral insights to tackle the climate emergency, all these sessions are publicly available [here](#).

CORNERSTONE III: ADVOCATE

Since the first UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP) in 1995, ICLEI has served as the focal point for the [Local Governments and Municipal Authorities \(LGMA\) Constituency](#). This has given more prominence to the voice of cities, towns and regions at the UNFCCC process, coordinating inputs to negotiations,

mobilizing delegations, and bridging dialogue between the UNFCCC Secretariat and subnational governments. In this role, we brought the key findings from Cornerstone II “Exchange” to COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, to help guide the climate agenda forward into 2025 and beyond.



On 3 June, the SB60 reception hosted by UNFCCC, the Federal City of Bonn, and the German Government marked the launch of the Daring Cities 2024 Bonn Dialogues.

OUR 2024 PARTNERS

Daring Cities is an initiative led by ICLEI, supported by major contributions from:

ICLEI Member since 2000, the [Federal City of Bonn](#), Germany, is the seat of the ICLEI World Secretariat, and Lord Mayor Katja Dörner currently serves as Chair of the Climate Action Governance Portfolio for the ICLEI Global Executive Committee. The City is constantly working on improving its sustainable performance by adopting local action programs, successfully establishing forms of cooperation with cities all over the world, and by launching activities that advance sustainable development.

The [Foundation for International Dialogue of the Savings Bank \(Stiftung Internationale Begegnung der Sparkasse in Bonn\)](#) promotes international discussion and fosters cooperation in the Federal City of Bonn. The Foundation supports the activities of institutions and associations committed to working for international understanding and intercultural dialogue.

The [Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\)](#) is responsible for formulating the principles and strategies of German development policy, which form the basis of cooperation with partner countries and international organizations.

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Foundation for International Dialogue
of the Savings Bank in Bonn



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Katja Dörner, Mayor of Bonn, Germany, at the launch of the Daring Cities 2024 Bonn Dialogues.



2 RESULTS OF DARING CITIES 2024

SETTING OUT OUR GOALS IN CORNERSTONE I: REFLECT

How can cities and regions leverage COP28 outcomes? This was the central question of our Cornerstone I “Reflect” webinars, where discussions focused particularly on the CHAMP initiative and advancing multilevel action through effective multilevel governance as we looked to the upcoming COPs in Baku and Belém.

REFLECTING ON HOW TO ELEVATE THE MOMENTUM ON MULTILEVEL CLIMATE ACTION BEYOND COP28

[Read our “Reflect” recap blog](#)

Local leaders and climate representatives explored strategies to engage and advocate for inclusive, multilevel, and gender-responsive cooperative climate action. They emphasized the need for cities and regions to build momentum for CHAMP, ensuring its impact extends not just to COP30 but well into the future.



“CHAMP serves as a conduit for accessing vital resources; it opens doors to financial, technical, and knowledge-sharing networks, all vital for implementing our climate mitigation and adaptation strategies effectively.”

Abigail Binay | Mayor of Makati, Philippines, and ICLEI Global Executive Committee Member

“We are on a deadline to submit updated NDCs by COP30. The multilevel action agenda is very keen on translating this urgency into NDC commitments, ensuring they aren’t lost through the hype of a COP or a local climate summit. Integrating multilevel governance into action guarantees effective implementation of climate transition plans—our collective mission this year leading up to COP30.”

Jamila El Mir | Senior Adviser to COP28 High-Level Champion H.E. Razan Mubarak

CORNERSTONE II: EXCHANGE - DARING CITIES 2024 BONN DIALOGUES AND VIRTUAL FORUM

BONN DIALOGUES: MULTILEVEL DISCUSSIONS

Mayors, subnational leaders, national representatives, and strategic partners engaged in insightful dialogues to enhance multilevel climate action and propose concrete solutions. Significant milestones shaped the Bonn Dialogues with customized target audience events, focusing especially on the implementation of the CHAMP initiative and linking the climate agenda to sustainable urbanization:



INSIGHTS FOR MULTILEVEL ACTION

Held on 4 June, our kickoff event featured a plenary with COP29 UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, Nigar Arpadarai, exploring how to drive ambitious, inclusive, and multilevel climate action toward achieving the Paris Agreement’s goals. The event also featured four roundtable discussions focusing on Nationally determined contributions, just transition, the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, and connecting climate-land-nature.

[Watch the kickoff session replay](#)

[Read the insights](#)



CHAMP ENDORSES FIRST ROUNDTABLE

On 4 June, we supported this closed meeting, convened by the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency. Twenty endorsing national governments alongside mayors and strategic partners shared progress on the initiative and strategized on fulfilling their commitments ahead of COP30.

[Read more](#)



DIALOGUES AT THE SB60 SESSIONS

On 5 June, we hosted [discussions on NDCs](#) under the UNFCCC Marrakech Partnership, featuring COP28 and COP29 UN High-Level Champions Razan Al Mubarak and Nigar Arpadarai, respectively. In addition, we held an [LGMA Dialogue](#) with the Co-Chairs of the UNFCCC Mitigation Ambition and Implementation Work Programme focusing on cities, buildings, and urban systems, as well as an [Urban Loss and Damage Dialogue](#).

[Read our recap blog](#)

ICLEI ANNOUNCED NEW PRESIDIUM AT WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

On 5 June, World Environment Day, as local and subnational leaders gathered in Bonn, Germany, for the SB60 sessions and Daring Cities 2024 Bonn Dialogues, ICLEI announced its new leadership for the 2024-2027 term. Elected by ICLEI Members, these leaders will serve as powerful advocates in the multilateral global sustainability arena. Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, Mayor of Malmö, Sweden, was elected as the new ICLEI President.

[Read about the ICLEI Presidium](#)



LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION FROM NITERÓI TO THE WORLD

Axel Schmidt Grael, Mayor of Niterói, Brazil, and Chair of the Climate Action Support Portfolio for the ICLEI Global Executive Committee shared his experiences and strategies for leading local climate initiatives and aligning them with national and global goals.

[Watch the video](#)



Plenary on multilevel action at the Daring Cities 2024 Bonn Dialogues.



VIRTUAL FORUM: EXCHANGING INTEGRATED AND HOLISTIC SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

From August to October, policymakers, urban practitioners, technical experts, researchers, private sector stakeholders, NGO representatives, and the entire Daring Cities community, engaged in our dynamic virtual offerings and training workshops. These sessions explored diverse topics on integrated and holistic approaches to tackling the climate emergency, such as the interconnected factors between food and nature within urban policies, with insightful discussions and real-life city examples.

ICLEI'S INITIATIVES ON MULTILEVEL CLIMATE ACTION

We hosted two dedicated sessions spotlighting the **Town Hall COPs initiative** as an innovative mechanism linking local climate emergency action to national and global efforts, empowering communities and subnational governments worldwide to make meaningful contributions to climate commitments on local, national, and global levels ahead of COP30 in 2025.

[Read more and watch the sessions](#)

During the session, **"No One Left Behind: Equity-Focused Tools for an Inclusive Transition,"** we highlighted the [Malmö Commitment on Inclusive and Equitable Communities](#)—a pledge to embed social equity at the heart of local urban sustainable development. Jointly created by ICLEI and the City of Malmö in 2022, the Commitment initially included eleven pioneer cities. The City of Turku, Finland, became the latest city to join during the [ICLEI World Congress 2024](#), held in June in São Paulo, Brazil. This Daring Cities session marked the debut of Turku as part of the Commitment.

[Read more and watch the session](#)

KEY FINDINGS FROM CORNERSTONE II

Hundreds of city representatives and their partners convened at Daring Cities 2024 to exchange solutions and discuss strategies for addressing the climate emergency. These exchanges have produced a set of [key findings](#), which emerge from three core pillars: Multilevel climate partnerships and governance, bottom-up approaches for inclusive cities, and holistic and integrated climate solutions.



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

Waiting for multilevel action is not an option. Cities and regions must take the lead, bringing all stakeholders together to push multilevel initiatives like CHAMP and Town Hall COPs, connecting local climate action with national and global efforts.

ROSARIO, ARGENTINA: PIONEERING THE LOCAL STOCKTAKE IN LATIN AMERICA

In 2023, Rosario, Argentina, was one of the 26 cities across 18 countries –and the only municipality in Latin America– to host a local stocktake. Led by ICLEI as the focal point of the LGMA Constituency, this [local stocktake pilot initiative](#) incorporated a critical local perspective into the broader UNFCCC Global Stocktake exercise, which concluded at COP28. Rosario's local stocktake gathered civil society, NGOs, and municipal authorities, to discuss how to address the climate emergency and the [Local Climate Action Plan Rosario 2030 \(PLAC 2030\)](#). The city plans to continue gathering residents' input through the Town Hall COPs initiative to accelerate multilevel collaboration and community engagement ahead of COP30.

▶ Watch the session “CHAMP & Town Hall COPs: Connecting local climate action to national and global goals”



Rosario's local stocktake gathered residents and municipal authorities to discuss the Local Climate Action Plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 22% by 2030. Photo credit: Municipality of Rosario.



“The local stocktake was an opportunity to strengthen residents' participation to come together to discuss how we act in the face of the climate emergency and how we can influence global processes from the very local context.”

Andrea Paoloni | General Director of Climate Action and Environmental Quality, Rosario Municipality

U.S. CITIES ARE RAISING CLIMATE AMBITION THROUGH SUBNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

During our virtual event on CHAMP and Town Hall COPs, Barbara Buffaloe, Mayor of Columbia, USA, who serves on the ICLEI Regional Executive Committee for North America, shared how she co-sponsored the [United States Conference of Mayors](#) resolution supporting CHAMP.

▶ Read more in this article by Smart Cities Dive



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

Climate action is people-centered. Cities must promote equity by engaging diverse voices and collaborating across communities, overcoming technical and cultural barriers to ensure that climate actions meet local needs in sustainable, inclusive ways.

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND: SHAPING PLAY WITH YOUTH VOICES

“What does play mean to you?” This is one of the questions of Glasgow City Council's innovative [Play Sufficiency Assessment \(PSA\)](#). Piloted in 2023, this interactive survey was co-designed with high-school students aged 12-16 to give them a voice in shaping their city's play spaces. The results showed over 5,000 responses from 18 high schools, reaching 17% of Glasgow's youth population. This represents a staggering 1714% increase in response rate compared with traditional methods.

However, the findings revealed surprising insights: Shopping centers are the most popular hangouts for young people. The main barrier to outdoor play isn't lack of space but feeling unsafe due to other people's presence. Moving forward, Glasgow aims to expand the PSA to all secondary schools and co-design spaces with young people based on these insights.

▶ Watch the session “Thriving cities: Celebrating climate action through health, nature and culture”



“Including young voices in the design process has been key not only to develop the assessment but to share their lived experience stories and to increase the response rates. The PSA proves that when we listen to youth, we can create cities that truly work for everyone.”

Etive Currie | Senior Spatial Planner, Glasgow City Council



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

By interconnecting strategies that address health, housing, transport, energy, and waste, cities drive sustainable urban transformation. Incorporating circular economy principles and innovative financing creates co-benefits that support economic and social goals, overcoming governance and resource challenges.

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES: EXTENDING THE LIFE OF TEXTILES TO SUPPORT EDUCATION

In April 2024, Quezon City launched the Kilo/s Kyusi Kilo Store—its first permanent shop selling preloved and new clothes donated by residents. Items are sold either by weight or individually, with higher-quality goods priced separately. All proceeds fund the city's Zero Illiteracy program, which provides student tutorials to improve reading and math skills. This initiative follows the establishment of two successful pop-up stores in 2023, which raised enough to hire 137 tutors, helping 1,272 students across 25 public schools, each receiving 50 hours of tutoring.

▶ Watch the session “Beyond the bin: Circular solutions for urban waste in Southeast Asian cities”



Quezon City's Kilo/s Kyusi Kilo Store is the first permanent shop selling preloved and new clothes donated by residents. Photo credit: Quezon City Facebook.



“With fast fashion becoming a huge problem, used textiles are now seen as the ‘new plastics’.”

Andrea Villaroman | Head of the Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Department, Quezon City Hall



MAKING THE CASE AT COP29 IN CORNERSTONE III: ADVOCATE

At the UNFCCC COP29, held from 11 to 22 November in Baku, Azerbaijan, we collaborated with urban leaders to further the Daring Cities 2024 key findings through the [Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion](#), co-convened by ICLEI and UN-Habitat as the global stage for the city climate agenda in the Blue Zone.

Mayors, councilors, governors, and local leaders, including ICLEI Members, advocated for more ambitious climate goals, collaborative action, and funding to support on-the-ground climate action.



At COP29, we brought the key findings from Daring Cities 2024 at the Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion during a special session on the Town Hall COPs initiative.

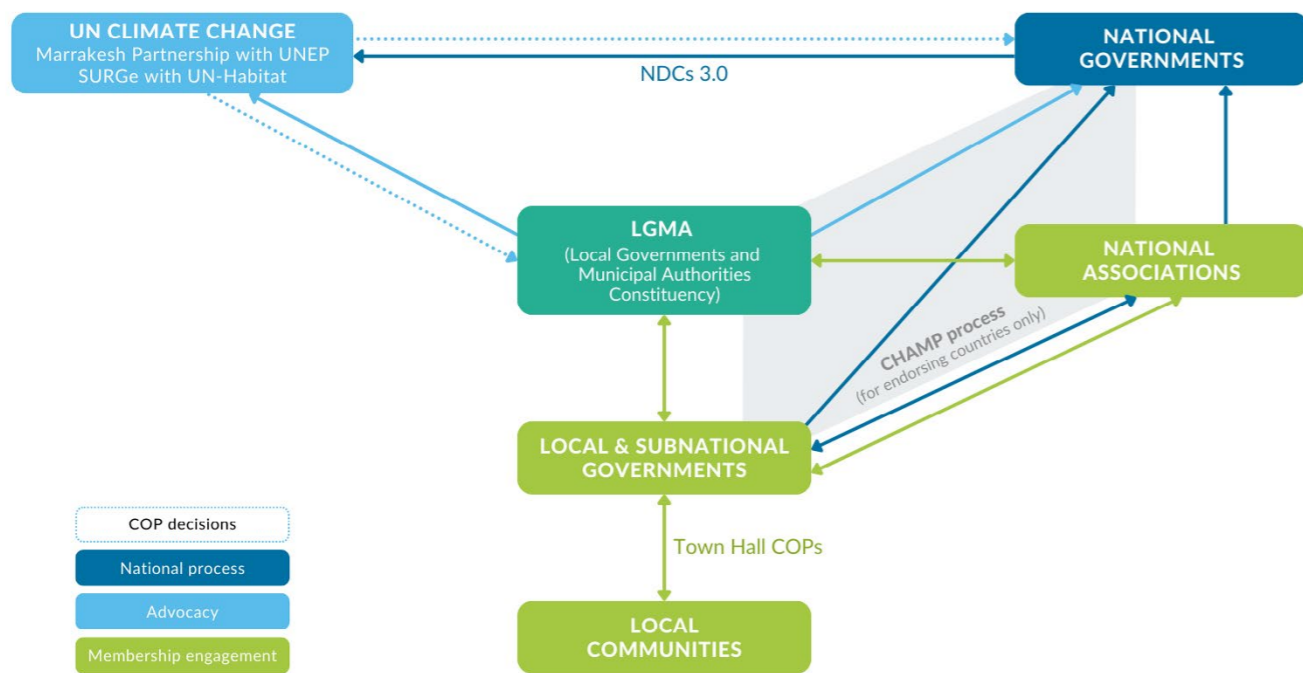
FROM DARING CITIES TO TOWN HALL COPs

[Read more](#)

During COP29's 20 November session, "Town Hall COPs in the new era of local-global climate action and advocacy," Daring Cities brought its key findings to a broader audience, particularly connecting the Town Hall COPs initiative to accelerate multilevel collaboration and community engagement in NDCs preparation and implementation ahead of COP30.

The event explored how Town Hall COPs fit into the current global climate arena and how local and subnational governments can drive this initiative forward, paving the way for impactful local climate action that resonates worldwide.

During the session, ICLEI and [EARTHDAY.ORG](#) announced a new partnership to kickstart the Earth Day Global Conversation. It aims to engage mayors, city governments and their communities worldwide in public dialogues about the benefits of renewable energy. Starting in April 2025 and continuing through the year, these 'Conversations' will unite communities in a collective push for renewable energy, aiming to strengthen the Town Hall COPs initiative as a tool for local and regional governments to connect their communities for climate emergency action at all levels.



How Town Hall COPs fit into the current global climate arena.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ON DISPLAY AT COP29

Local and regional leaders at COP29 highlighted the vital role of cities and regions in driving local, national, and global climate goals. Hear from them directly in exclusive interviews from the Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion.

[Watch our playlist](#)



ICLEI LEADERS COP29 OUTCOME STATEMENT

[Read full statement](#)

ICLEI leaders who attended COP29 welcomed the first climate finance agreement in 15 years, tripling the current investment. However, they emphasized that it still falls short of what's needed for global climate action and adaptation. They underscored the importance of cities in tackling the climate crisis at the third [Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change](#) and COP28's CHAMP initiative, which influenced Brazil's updated climate goals. Looking ahead to COP30, ICLEI leaders call on cities and regions to participate in Daring Cities 2025 during the Bonn climate talks and host Town Hall COPs to align national goals with local action. Despite COP29's challenges, ICLEI's network remains committed to advancing ambitious, multilevel and multilateral solutions to the climate crisis.

LGMA COP29 OUTCOME STATEMENT

[Read full statement](#)

The LGMA Constituency welcomed the first major climate finance deal. However, they stated that the deal is inadequate to ensure that communities around the world can protect themselves and represents the absolute floor of finance that is needed. They celebrated outcomes such as the [Multisectoral Action Pathways \(MAP\) for Resilient and Healthy Cities Declaration](#), the inclusion of LGMA recommendations in the Mitigation Work Programme and the extended mandate of High Level Champions until 2030. Looking ahead, the LGMA is committed to support the CHAMP initiative and convene Town Hall COPs to connect communities into climate emergency action and national climate plans.

ICLEI LEADERS INTERVENTIONS AT COP29

On behalf of the LGMA Constituency, ICLEI First Vice President Minna Arve, Mayor of Turku, Finland, called for speeding up multilevel action, fair urbanization financing, and integrated climate action at the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change on 20 November.

[Read the intervention and watch the recording](#)



On the same day, during the Resumed High-Level Segment, ICLEI Vice President Marjorie Kauffman, State Secretary for Environment and Infrastructure, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, delivered a Statement reflecting on the devastating 2024 floods in her State, emphasizing the need for coordinated disaster response. She also highlighted the CHAMP initiative and Brazil's updated NDC, urging COP30 to prioritize resilient and sustainable urbanization.

[Read the intervention and watch the recording](#)



LGMA COP29 JOINT POSITION

For COP29, the LGMA Constituency advocated for three main asks through its COP29 Joint Position which was endorsed by nearly 100 local and regional governments and their global networks: the development, financing, and execution of ambitious NDCs and other key strategies leading up to 2025 and beyond.

[Read the LGMA COP29 Joint Position](#)



OVER 500 DELEGATES MOBILIZED AT COP29 TO ADVANCE MULTILEVEL CLIMATE GOALS

Local and regional governments sent more than 100+ political leaders and mobilized more than 500 delegates to advance city and region climate goals at COP29. The delegation of the LGMA Constituency was one of the largest at COP29 with delegates participating in more than 170 events across the negotiations space, plenary sessions, Pavilions and Green Zone.

[Read more](#)



Daring Cities 2024 Bonn Dialogues at the SB60 sessions.

3 CITY OF BONN

LEADING THE WAY AS HOST CITY FOR DARING CITIES 2024

The Federal City of Bonn, Germany, stands as a pivotal force in the fight against climate change, hosting Daring Cities annually since 2020 while marking more than twenty years as a UN stronghold. Over this period, Bonn has evolved into a global sustainability and resilience hub, housing over 20 UN agencies, including the UNFCCC headquarters.

Recognized as a Resilience Hub by Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) at the Daring Cities 2023, Bonn's sustainability initiatives set a powerful example for other cities worldwide. Noteworthy is the city's commitment to international cooperation, evident in its [sustainability-oriented partnerships with cities across the globe](#), showcasing its dedication to real-world solutions. Additionally, its [Bonn4Future Plan](#) engaged citizens and stakeholders in climate action, contributing to the city's Climate Action Plan for achieving climate neutrality by 2035.

BONN MAYOR CALLS ON CITIES TO BRING CHAMP TO LIFE

At the ICLEI World Congress 2024 closing plenary on 21 June in São Paulo, Brazil, a call to action deriving from Daring Cities 2024 resonated loud and clear: Katja Dörner, Mayor of Bonn, Germany, and Chair of the Climate Action Governance Portfolio for the ICLEI Global Executive Committee, urged mayors to proactively engage with their national governments and national associations of local governments to enhance multilevel NDCs by 2025 and support CHAMP. Mayor Dörner also invited urban leaders to share progress at Daring Cities 2025 Bonn Dialogues and report to UNFCCC.

[Watch Mayor Dörner's call to action](#)



GERMAN CITIES PIONEERING SUPPORT FOR CHAMP

On 5 June, the Association of German Cities ([Deutschen Städtetag](#), DST) pledged support for CHAMP through a [resolution](#) that expresses DST's willingness to actively shape European and international developments in climate protection and climate adaptation. The resolution calls on the Federal Government to initiate a permanent and structured dialogue process where all relevant actors, especially cities, must be involved.

Mayor Dörner, Vice President of the DST, spearheaded this effort, marking the first national position of local governments supporting CHAMP and encouraging cities to convene annual Town Hall COPs. Representing around 3,200 cities and municipalities and 53 million inhabitants, DST stands as the largest association of local governments united to support the initiative, kickstarting a global movement to push for stronger local involvement in national climate plans.



"Daring Cities has grown into a pivotal platform for local and regional government leaders who are spearheading concrete action and multilevel collaboration. We are actively shaping the future of our cities, towns, and regions for 2030 and beyond. Together, we are daring to make a difference."

Katja Dörner | Mayor of Bonn, Germany; Chair of the Climate Action Governance Portfolio for the ICLEI Global Executive Committee and Vice President of the Association of German Cities (DST)

LED BY ICLEI LEADERS, CITIES IN BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES FOLLOW THE LEAD

Following the resolution adopted by the Association of German Cities, on 17 June, during the ICLEI World Congress, Brazil's National Front of Mayors ([Frente Nacional de Prefeitas e Prefeitos](#), FNP) pledged support for CHAMP through a [commitment letter](#), urging swift action to establish Multilevel Climate Governance in Brazil. This effort was led by Axel Graef, Mayor of Niterói, Brazil; Chair of the Climate Action Support Portfolio for the ICLEI Global Executive Committee and Vice President of the FNP.

Similarly, the [United States Conference of Mayors](#) adopted a [resolution](#) encouraging cities to update their 2030, 2040, and 2050 climate targets and communicate them to the federal government. It also called on the U.S. Government to act on its endorsement to CHAMP and invited cities to promote Town Hall COPs. Co-sponsored by Barbara Buffaloe, Mayor of Columbia, Missouri, USA, who serves on the ICLEI Regional Executive Committee for North America, the resolution was adopted at the 92nd annual meeting in Kansas City, held from 20-23 June.

[Read more](#)

FINLAND AND THE UK JOINED CHAMP, BECOMING 73RD AND 74TH ENDORSERS

In September 2024, Finland and the UK endorsed COP28's CHAMP initiative, marking the first endorsements by Parties in the year. ICLEI First Vice President Mayor Minna Arve, Turku, Finland, was critical to the effort to advocate for CHAMP, emphasizing that cities are on the frontline of the climate emergency.

[Watch Finland's announcement](#)

4 CONCLUSION

LOOKING TOWARDS DARING CITIES 2025

Daring Cities 2024 showcased that cities are not just at the forefront of climate action—they are catalysts for global change, boldly daring to lead and drive ambitious national and global climate goals. However, cities and nations cannot succeed alone. True progress requires strong, multilevel collaboration to meet the Paris Agreement’s goals.

This is aligned with our key findings, which revealed that **cities and regions have the power –and the success stories– to demand bold multilevel partnerships and governance for more ambitious climate action.** Waiting for multilevel action is not an option—cities and regions must lead by uniting stakeholders to push for progress.

Climate action is people-centered. **Cities and regions must embrace a bottom-up approach to create truly inclusive urban spaces for all.** By promoting equity and engaging diverse voices, cities ensure that climate actions meet local needs in sustainable, inclusive ways.

Cities and regions are implementing holistic and integrated solutions to tackle the climate emergency. By interconnecting strategies that address health, housing, transport, energy, and waste, cities unlock co-benefits that advance social and economic goals, overcoming governance and resource challenges.

The mixed outcomes of COP29 have left a gap in climate leadership, and cities and regions must step up to fill this role. As a result, 2025 becomes a critical year for action in the lead-up to COP30 in Belém, Brazil — which we will work to make the “COP of the Cities.”

As we carry the momentum from Daring Cities 2024 into 2025, we remain committed to advancing multilevel action through the CHAMP initiative and amplifying local climate perspectives via Town Hall COPs to ensure that local climate action continues at speed and scale. Together, we can chart a path to creating a just, equitable, and thriving future for all.



Belém, Brazil, will host COP30 from 10 to 21 November 2025.