

# DARING CITIES 2025

## STRONGER NATIONAL CLIMATE PLANS THROUGH MULTILEVEL ACTION



**DARING  
CITIES  
2025**



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

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Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
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Foundation for International Dialogue  
of the Savings Bank in Bonn

## DARING CITIES 2025: STRONGER NATIONAL CLIMATE PLANS THROUGH MULTILEVEL ACTION

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Created by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability 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, with multilevel action at the heart of the forum.

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

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*Co-convened by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the Federal City of Bonn, Daring Cities 2025 marked the sixth edition of the annual event. Under the theme “Stronger national climate plans through multilevel action,” Daring Cities brought together mayors, governors, national representatives, and partners at a moment when the climate leadership gap following COP29 had made local and regional governments more essential than ever.*

Daring Cities 2025 created a platform where cities and regions stepped up, showing that multilevel governance belongs at the heart of ambitious climate action. Ahead of UNFCCC COP30 in Belém, Brazil, Daring Cities demonstrated that it is crucial for local and regional governments to be strategically included in the shaping of the global climate agenda. Drawing on the momentum from Daring Cities 2024, Daring Cities 2025 was designed as a catalyst for multilevel and collective climate action, taking a two-pronged approach to strengthen the inclusion of local and subnational governments in multilevel climate action.

First, Daring Cities worked from the top down: Building on the progress of the [Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnership for Climate Action \(CHAMP\)](#), Daring Cities connected local and subnational leadership with national climate planning processes, accelerating efforts to ensure that cities and regions are meaningfully reflected in the new NDC 3.0s or, at minimum, in the policies, governance arrangements, and financing frameworks that supported the delivery of their implementation.

Second, Daring Cities 2025 reinforced a bottom-up approach by supporting [Town Hall COPs](#) and elevating direct advocacy from cities and regions to their national governments. Through these locally anchored dialogues, Daring Cities sought not only to raise ambition, but to make climate commitments more inclusive, grounded in local realities, and implementable, while generating practical recommendations on how national governments can better enable and resource subnational action to achieve NDC 3.0 implementation.

Daring Cities 2025 played a key role by bringing these two approaches together in an integrated strategy. Through a rich agenda of in-person and online dialogues, Daring Cities helped bridge persistent gaps between national and subnational climate action, placing cities, regions and their bold initiatives at the heart of multilevel 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 strengthening national climate plans through multilevel action, Daring Cities 2025 applied the Know-Act-Lead approach to empower participants to:

## KNOW MORE

Raise awareness amongst local and regional governments on the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, and how cities, towns and regions can best leverage this resource to achieve their climate objectives.

## ACT BETTER

Strengthen climate emergency action by fostering dialogue with the private sector, and support the Town Hall COPs as an innovative model to accelerate local action and enrich NDCs 3.0 implementation beyond COP30.

## LEAD TOGETHER

Showcase countries that have signed on to the CHAMP initiative and the local and regional governments they work with, inspiring more national governments to join the Coalition, while highlighting bold city and regional leadership on Climate–Land–Biodiversity within the Rio Conventions framework.



Daring Cities representatives, along with national and local government leaders and partners, gathered from 16 to 18 June for the Daring Cities 2025 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 2025 was anchored in the three pivotal cornerstones.

## CORNERSTONE I: REFLECT

In March and April, local leaders and climate representatives came together in two in-depth webinars to discuss past climate actions and outcomes, especially those stemming from COP29. This cornerstone served as the foundation, facilitating a period of introspection and assessment to ensure a seamless transition into 2025 initiatives, leading up to 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 2025 Bonn Dialogues

Held from 16 to 18 June in Bonn, Germany, alongside the UNFCCC SB62 sessions, this in-person event offered high-level dialogues, roundtables and country deep dives allowing participants to revitalize partnerships and explore effective multilevel collaboration.



### Daring Cities 2025 Virtual Forum

Spanning from July to October, these 16 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](#), the official voice of cities, regions and other subnationals in the UNFCCC process. This has facilitated representation, coordinating inputs to negotiations, mobilizing delegations, and bridging dialogue between the UNFCCC Secretariat and subnational governments. In this role, we brought practical lessons from Cornerstone II “Exchange” to COP30 in Belém, Brazil, especially those stemming from the Town Hall COP Initiative, providing concrete examples of how to power multilevel climate action from the ground up.



On 16 June, the SB62 reception hosted by UNFCCC, the Federal City of Bonn, and the German Government marked the kick-off of the Daring Cities 2025 Bonn Dialogues.

# OUR 2025 PARTNERS

[ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](#) is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.



ICLEI Member since 2000, the [Federal City of Bonn](#), Germany, is the seat of the ICLEI World Secretariat, of which former Lord Mayor Katja Dörner served 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.

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BONN.**

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.



The [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit \(GIZ\)](#) GmbH is a federal enterprise with worldwide operations. It supports the German Government in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. It is also engaged in education activities around the globe. GIZ assists people and societies in shaping their own future and improving their living conditions.



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.



*Photo on the right: Katja Dörner, former Lord Mayor of Bonn, Germany, at the Daring Cities 2025 Bonn Dialogues.*

# DARING CITIES

Bold leaders transforming  
the climate energy




# 2 RESULTS OF DARING CITIES 2025

## SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY AHEAD OF COP30 IN CORNERSTONE I – REFLECT

Cornerstone I – Reflect, brought together local leaders and climate representatives virtually to discuss how to build on past climate initiatives, especially from COP28 and COP29. Discussions focused on climate action and governance in Brazil, progress toward multilevel NDCs 3.0 by COP30 –particularly in CHAMP-endorsing countries– and Town Hall COPs, highlighting the critical role of local and regional governments throughout 2025.

### ON THE ROAD TO COP30: REFLECTING ON HOW MULTILEVEL ACTION CAN STRENGTHEN NATIONAL CLIMATE PLANS

 [Read our “Reflect” recap blog](#)

Our Reflect webinars underscored that what cities and regions do before COP30 may matter even more than what happens at the conference itself. On the road to Belém, local and regional governments had a unique opportunity to engage with their national governments, shift the trajectory of the climate emergency, and push for truly inclusive, multilevel climate action.

### BRAZIL’S NDC 3.0, CLIMATE FEDERALISM AND CHAMP

Especially prepared for our first Reflect webinar, this video message featured André Corrêa do Lago, COP30 President; alongside national and local leaders, reflecting on Brazil’s multilevel climate action and governance.

 [Watch the video](#)



*“We must make concrete initiatives to give real meaning to this commitment to multilevel engagement—bridging the territorial level with the federal level, involving cities, municipalities, mayors, city councils, municipal chambers, and social movements.”*

**Antônio Da Costa e Silva**, Chief International Advisor, Brazilian Ministry of Cities

# CORNERSTONE II - EXCHANGE: DARING CITIES 2025 BONN DIALOGUES AND VIRTUAL FORUM

## BONN DIALOGUES: SCALING MULTILEVEL CLIMATE ACTION FOR STRONGER NATIONAL CLIMATE PLANS

Designed for interaction, knowledge exchange, and co-creation, the Bonn Dialogues reflected the inclusive, participatory, multilevel approach that Daring Cities 2025 embodied: Amplifying the voices of bold leaders tackling the climate emergency on the ground. While the SBs focus on negotiations, Daring Cities is all about action. From 16-18 June, worldwide local, regional, and national leaders, strategic partners, alongside key actors in the urban climate space, convened to discuss how to scale ambitious, inclusive, and multilevel climate action, linking the climate agenda to sustainable urbanization.

### DIALOGUES AT THE SB62 SESSIONS

On 16-17 June, at the UNFCCC headquarters in Bonn, we hosted key events, such as the [Second CHAMP UNFCCC Focal Point Dialogue](#), which assessed progress and guided CHAMP's implementation toward COP30. The meeting built on the success of [the first CHAMP endorsers roundtable in Daring Cities 2024](#). We also discussed [sustainable urbanization to deliver on the Paris Agreement](#), where leaders charted a path toward more ambitious, inclusive, and multilevel national climate plans.



Second CHAMP UNFCCC Focal Point Dialogue, held on 17 June at the SB62 sessions.

## FIRST ANNUAL REVIEW OF LOCAL AND SUBNATIONAL ACTION ON THE RIO CONVENTIONS


On 16 June, leaders from all levels of government convened for this first-ever Annual Review, which offered a new opportunity to elevate local and subnational experiences across all three Rio Conventions: Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)), Biodiversity ([CBD](#)), and Desertification ([UNCCD](#)).

 [Read our recap blog](#)



## SOUTH AFRICA BECOMES FIRST COUNTRY TO ENDORSE TOWN HALL COPS AS A MULTILEVEL CLIMATE SOLUTION

At the Bonn Dialogues, South Africa's Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment announced its official endorsement of the Town Hall COP Initiative, the first-ever national government to do so. In partnership, ICLEI and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) hosted a series of Town Hall COPs in communities across the country.

 [Find out more](#)



## CITIES AND REGIONS ON THE ROAD TO COP30

On 17 June, at the Daring Cities Bonn Dialogues reception, the [LGMA COP30 Vision Letter](#) was launched, outlining priorities and proposals towards, in, and beyond Belém.



Daring Cities community at our event Insights for multilevel action on 18 June.

## INSIGHTS FOR MULTILEVEL ACTION

Held on 18 June at GIZ headquarters in Bonn, our final event featured high-level panels, deep dive discussions on localizing Nationally Determined Contributions, with a special focus on the Town Hall COP Initiative, and interactive roundtables exploring how science and business can better contribute to climate solutions.

### LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVES EXCHANGED THROUGH HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUES

Delivered through four specially designed panels on multilevel action and strengthening cross-sectoral partnerships, the event featured insights from distinguished speakers, such as Niels Annen, State Secretary, German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); Philip Yang, COP30 Urban Solutions Envoy; Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven, Managing Director, GIZ, and Marjorie Kauffmann, State Secretary for Environment and Infrastructure, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, and ICLEI Vice-President.

[Watch the replay of all panels](#)

[Read the recap](#)



*"We need to support cities and encourage local governments to allocate the necessary funds. Cities don't just need to be consulted, they must be equipped."*

**Niels Annen**, State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)



*"Whenever we say things happen on the ground, in municipalities, in the countryside, in cities, we mean both that action comes from these territories and that the impact is felt there."*

**Marjorie Kauffmann**, State Secretary for Environment and Infrastructure, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil; ICLEI Vice-President



*"There's no future without the urban, without cities at the core of implementation. We must bring the New Urban Agenda into formal convergence with the UNFCCC."*

**Philip Yang**, COP30 Urban Solutions Envoy





## DEEPENING KNOWLEDGE AT THE BONN DIALOGUES

The event also featured four roundtable discussions focusing on how grey literature can inform the IPCC Special Report on Cities; the value of a shared, data-driven framework for strengthening multilevel governance; strategies to expand city-level energy efficiency; and innovative financing routes to COP30 anchored in nature-based solutions.

In addition, there were Country Deep Dive breakout groups focusing on the United States, Canada, Brazil and South Africa, as well as a Deep Dive on Town Hall COPs around the globe.



## DARING CITIES 2025 BONN DIALOGUES: MULTILEVEL ACTION FOR A THRIVING FUTURE

Watch our recap video and dedicated set of interviews, where bold leaders share their insights on the multilevel climate action we need — not only to face climate change, but to thrive in spite of it.



[Watch the recap video](#)



[Watch the interviews](#)

## ICLEI, WE DON'T HAVE TIME, AND ALFA LAVAL LAUNCHED LEARNING LAB: ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN CITIES

This free micro-learning series is designed to equip urban leaders with the tools they need to act on the energy transition. The first season featured a lineup of Daring Cities leaders.



[Find out more](#)



## DESIGNING FOR DELIVERY: NEW WHITE PAPER OFFERS ROADMAP FOR FUNDABLE CLIMATE TRANSITIONS

On 18 June, at the “Data-driven decision making” roundtable, ICLEI and ClimateView unveiled Version 1.0 of their new white paper, Designing for Delivery: How Cities Can Structure Fundable Climate Transitions.



[Find out more](#)



## THE BONN DIALOGUES BY THE NUMBERS

On 18 June, our full-day event, *Insights for Multilevel Action*, captured the spirit of multilevel collaboration, with participants across all levels of governments, the private sector, academia and civil society. This diversity of perspectives brought rich, dynamic energy to the day's discussions.

**170**   
DELEGATES FROM

**28**   
COUNTRIES

**51%** LOCAL AND REGIONAL  
GOVERNMENTS

**22%** PRIVATE SECTOR,  
ACADEMIA, CIVIL SOCIETY

**14%** NATIONAL  
GOVERNMENTS

**13%** INTERGOVERNMENTAL & YOUTH  
ORGANIZATIONS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

### PHOTO GALLERY

Explore our Flickr photo album capturing all the memorable moments we brought from 16–18 June.



Explore the photo gallery



## OUR KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

Thanks to the expertise and collaboration of our knowledge partners, the Daring Cities 2025 Bonn Dialogues marked a successful sixth edition of in-person engagements.



## VIRTUAL FORUM: EXCHANGING MULTILEVEL SOLUTIONS TO THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

From July 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, technical trainings and hands-on workshops, showcasing real city cases and exploring challenges and opportunities to tackle the climate emergency. These sessions explored diverse topics on Town Hall COPs, nature and governance, climate-driven migration, just and equitable transition, new technologies and more.

[▶ Watch all 16 sessions of the Virtual Forum](#)

### SUPPORTING THE TOWN HALL COPs

This year's edition featured four special sessions on the [Town Hall COPs](#), demonstrating how this initiative can accelerate local action and enrich NDC 3.0 implementation beyond COP30. Discussions ranged from how to engage national governments and meaningfully include youth to how to deliver effective community communications.

By supporting ICLEI's Town Hall COP Initiative, we equipped local leaders and their communities to drive climate action at home, showcasing our commitment to create and sustain a cycle that connects local, national, and global climate action, driving real change from the ground up.

[▶ Read more](#)

### WATCH THE SESSIONS ON TOWN HALL COPs

- ▶ [Ground up, national impact: Making Town Hall COPs matter for national climate action](#)
- ▶ [Climate and sustainability communications: A shifting vocabulary](#)
- ▶ [From dialogue to equity: Making Town Hall COPs more inclusive with the Malmö Commitment](#)
- ▶ [Strengthening national climate plans through multilevel action: Daring Cities & Town Hall COPs](#)

## THE VIRTUAL FORUM IN NUMBERS

Our insightful online events explored challenges and opportunities to tackle the climate emergency.

**16**   
ONLINE EVENTS

**1200**   
ATTENDEES

**60+**   
COUNTRIES

**70+**   
CITY LEADERS,  
PRACTITIONERS,  
RESEARCHERS,  
AND EXPERTS



## OUTCOMES FROM CORNERSTONE II - EXCHANGE: PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO RAISE CLIMATE AMBITION

The Bonn Dialogues and Virtual Forum showcased how cities and regions can forge bold multilevel partnerships and governance to raise national ambition. Drawing from these exchanges, we produced a compendium of good practices, featuring over 30 real-world case studies and ready-to-use resources that connect local solutions to national goals and global impact.

 [Download the Compendium of good practices and resources](#)



### MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND TOWN HALL COPS CAN SHAPE NATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION

Launched in early 2025, ICLEI's Town Hall COP Initiative is a powerful model to make climate action truly locally led, transformation-oriented, and, most importantly, nationally relevant.

#### NAIROBI, KENYA: A YOUTH-LED CLIMATE DIALOGUE

Hosted by [Ufanisi Research Network](#) – a research and policy think tank dedicated to advancing African youth climate leadership – the dialogue gathered 420+ participants under the Town Hall COP transformation-oriented principle, focusing on three pillars: Knowledge creation, inclusive decision-making, and clear pathways to influence. Using a reverse format – youth leaders speaking to decision-makers – the dialogue produced the Nairobi Youth Declaration on Urban Climate Justice, which fed into the Nairobi Climate Action Plan review process, demonstrating how youth voices can shape institutional action.



© Ufanisi Research Network

#### RECORDING ON THIS TOPIC

Watch the Virtual Forum session: [“Strengthening national climate plans through multilevel action: Daring Cities & Town Hall COPs”](#)

#### HELPFUL RESOURCE

Download the [Town Hall COP Toolkit](#): From event guidelines, stakeholder mapping to how to reach the national government, find all the resources to host a Town Hall COP in your community.



*“Nairobi’s Town Hall COP positioned young people as experts and knowledge producers, and not just advocates.”*

**Juliet Oluoch**, Co-founder and advisory, Ufanisi Research Network, Nairobi, Kenya



## EMBEDDING EQUITY FOR INCLUSIVE URBAN SPACES

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.

### TERESINA, BRAZIL: PLACING THE MOST AT RISK AT THE CENTER

Through the [Agenda Teresina 2030](#) – an innovation hub linking open government and smart-city strategies – the municipality prototypes solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals while tackling climate change. The city has secured funding from the [United Nations Population Fund](#) to conduct a research on how extreme heat affects maternal health, focusing on Afro-descendent and pardo pregnant women, to connect heat exposure with health risks and socioeconomic vulnerability and inform targeted public policy.



*“Our journey shows that it’s possible to combine science, social justice, and innovation to build cities that are more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable. That is exactly what the Teresina 2030 Agenda represents.”*

**Leonardo Madeira**, Coordinator, Teresina 2030 Agenda; Secretary, Planning and Coordination, Municipality of Teresina, Brazil



### RECORDING ON THIS TOPIC

Watch the Virtual Forum session: [From principles to practice: How to guide the Just Transition in your community](#)



### HELPFUL RESOURCE

Learn more about [The Malmö Commitment on Inclusive and Equitable Communities](#): A pledge to action that embeds social equity at the core of local sustainable development. It empowers local and regional leaders to foster safe, vibrant cities, towns, regions, and communities where everyone can live, work, and thrive.





## LEVERAGING FINANCE AND DATA FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Innovation in climate data tracking and sustainable finance generates co-benefits for economic and social goals, helps overcome governance and resource constraints, and enables informed, evidence-based decision-making.

### ALBUQUERQUE, UNITED STATES: REAL-TIME UTILITY TRACKING

The Balanced Resource Acquisition and Information Network (B.R.A.I.N.) is a citywide platform that provides real-time information on utility use across facilities to help the city quickly address issues and save on electricity, natural gas, and water. Since going live in 2023, it has delivered USD 6.2 million in combined energy and water savings. For instance, one early water-leak alert alone saved USD170,000 in a single month.



*"We're integrating smart city technologies, tracking all the data, and helping the community. Albuquerque has been a leader in New Mexico and nationwide, showing how a small local government can come up with these solutions to achieve our climate action goals."*

**Saif Ismail**, Energy and Sustainability Manager,  
City of Albuquerque, United States



### RECORDING ON THIS TOPIC

Watch the Virtual Forum session: [Keeping up with tech shifts for local climate action](#)



### HELPFUL RESOURCE

Learn more about [Google Environmental Insights Explorer \(EIE\)](#): Freely available data and statistics that use exclusive data sources and modeling features to help cities and regions measure emission sources, conduct analyses, and identify strategies to reduce them.



## SHOWCASING CITIES AND REGIONS AT THE HEART OF CLIMATE ACTION IMPLEMENTATION AT COP30 IN CORNERSTONE III - ADVOCATE

At UNFCCC COP30, held from 10 to 21 November in Belém, Brazil, we worked with urban leaders and experts to advance the Daring Cities 2025 good practices for fostering multilevel climate action. In particular, we highlighted lessons learned from the Town Hall COPs at the [Cities & Regions Hub](#), co-convened by ICLEI and UN-Habitat and hosted by Brazil's Ministry of Cities as the Home for Multilevel Action & Urbanization in the Blue Zone.

Mayors, councilors, governors, and local leaders, including ICLEI Members, spoke with one voice: Put cities and regions at the heart of the Paris Agreement's implementation phase, advocating for more ambitious, inclusive climate goals, collaborative action, and funding to support on-the-ground climate action.



At COP30, we brought practical solutions from Daring Cities 2025 at the Cities & Regions Hub during a special session on the Town Hall COPs initiative.

## DARING CITIES PROMOTED TOWN HALL COPs AS AN INNOVATIVE MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE MODEL AT COP30

During COP30's 13 November session, "Town Hall COPs: Connecting climate action at all levels," [Daring Cities spotlighted Town Hall COPs as a new model for multilevel action](#), highlighting the insights learned from leaders participating at the Bonn Dialogues and Virtual Forum.

First-hand contributions from local leaders on stage underscored the vital role of subnational leadership in driving climate ambition, showing how cities and regions are advancing innovative, locally grounded solutions that support national and global climate goals.



### TOWN HALL COPs IN 2025

Fifty-one Town Hall COPs were hosted by local governments and civil society organizations across 25 countries on six continents, gathering over 13,500 participants and even being recognized as an official model for multilevel action in countries such as South Africa, Malaysia, and Kiribati.

Ahead of COP30, local leaders met in Rio for the Local Leaders Forum, which delivered a [Joint Outcome Statement](#) referring to Town Hall COPs to engage communities and build momentum from the ground up.

- ▶ Watch a [recap video](#) on the Initiative and a [set of testimonials](#) featuring several leaders and experts who hosted Town Hall COPs.

### TOWN HALL COPs RESOURCES LAUNCHED AT COP30

- 📄 [Convening Town Hall COPs across Sub-Saharan Africa](#): Launched by ICLEI, the report provides key insights and actionable lessons from the 18 Town Hall COPs convened across six Sub-Saharan African countries in 2025, the most of any region globally.
- 📄 [LGMA Compendium of National Mobilization Strategies](#): Aiming to strengthen collaboration between all levels of government, the publication showcases practical examples of multilevel cooperation already driving implementation worldwide, featuring Town Hall COPs, CHAMP, among others.



*Convening Town Hall COPs across Sub-Saharan Africa report launch*

## CITIES AND REGIONS ON COP30 OUTCOMES

ICLEI also serves as the focal point for the [Local Governments and Municipal Authorities \(LGMA\) Constituency](#), the official voice of cities, towns and other subnationals in the UNFCCC process. In this role, we brought Daring Cities 2025 practical lessons to COP30, to help guide the climate agenda forward.

### ICLEI LEADERS COP30 OUTCOME STATEMENT

[Read full statement](#)

ICLEI leaders who attended COP30 welcomed key outcomes on the just transition and the promise of the COP30 Presidency-led fossil fuel transition and deforestation roadmaps, as well as recognition in the Mutirão text on cities and multilevel climate action. However, an agreement that only slightly moves the dial forward on climate is a deal that does not acknowledge the truth of the urgency of the situation.

What COP30 showed is that the path to scaling local and subnational action on climate will not only pass through the plenary halls of COP. Looking ahead, ICLEI is committed to support national engagement efforts via CHAMP and Town Hall COPs, and invites further collaboration and development on multilevel action at Daring Cities 2026.

### LGMA COP30 OUTCOME STATEMENT

[Read full statement](#)

The LGMA Constituency welcomed the Mutirão text on cities and multilevel climate action and the creation of a Just Transition Mechanism. The goal to make this the COP of implementation was the right one, but the final outcomes failed to deliver a mandated framework that includes local and other subnational governments. The Constituency commends the leadership of the COP30 Presidency, as well as High Level Champions from COP30 and COP29 and the fourth Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change.

Looking ahead, the LGMA will build on Belém's outcomes to put multilevel action and urbanization at the service of global climate implementation, in particular towards welcoming the outcomes of the IPCC Special Report on Cities in 2027.

### FROM RIO TO BELÉM, ICLEI PRESIDENT KATRIN STJERNFELDT JAMMEH PUTS CITIES ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Daring Cities 2025 showcased that cities and regions are already implementing climate solutions, a message ICLEI President Katrin Stjernfeldt Jammeh, Mayor of Malmö, Sweden, carried consistently across the global stage. From the Local Leaders Forum in Rio, where she served as one of 16 Co-Chairs, to defining moments for cities at COP30 in Belém – including the fourth Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change – she underscored that local and regional governments are delivering, and they're ready to scale. Now the global climate agenda must catch up with them.

[Read Mayor Jammeh's engagements](#)



### LGMA COP30 JOINT POSITION

More than 50 local and regional government networks – representing tens of thousands of local and other subnational governments worldwide – endorsed the LGMA COP30 Joint Position, supporting five clear messages for climate negotiators, committing to multilevel implementation and urbanization.

[Read the Position](#)

# 3 CITY OF BONN

## LEADING THE WAY AS HOST CITY FOR DARING CITIES 2025

*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.



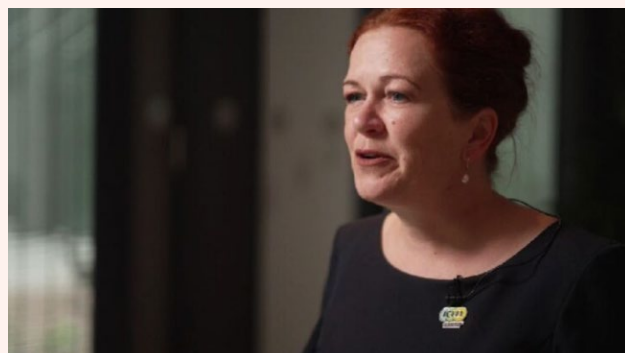
*"Daring Cities is about vision, ambition, and action. And while our common challenge is financing our action in difficult political framework conditions, we are set to overcome financial, political, and structural barriers. In times of rapid global change, Daring Cities is so much more than an event – we are a global community that dares to take on bold climate emergency action."*

**Katja Dörner**, former Lord Mayor, Federal City of Bonn, Germany

Hear from former Mayor Katja Dörner, as she reflects on how Daring Cities connects local leadership to the UNFCCC's Bonn Climate Talks, emphasizing on the importance of depend on advocacy and multilevel action, starting at home.



Watch the video





# 4 CONCLUSION

## LOOKING TOWARDS DARING CITIES 2026

*Daring Cities 2025 showcased that cities and regions are not waiting to act – they are already delivering bold, multilevel climate solutions on the ground. As COP30 drew to a close, local and regional governments spoke with one voice: Put cities and regions at the heart of the Paris Agreement’s implementation phase.*

While this demand was not fully reflected in the final outcomes, Daring Cities remains steadfast in its commitment to drive local solutions that power global climate action.

Carrying the momentum of Daring Cities 2025 into 2026, we see the coming years as a pivotal window to realign the conventions on climate, land, and nature in a truly circular world, by supporting the forthcoming IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities as a key tool to catalyze this shift.

Key outcomes from COP30 create space to advance multilevel climate governance. Brazil announced the launch of the Plan to Accelerate the Solution (PAS) on Multilevel Governance. Additionally, there was an announcement of a new co-chair governance framework for the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), to be jointly led by Brazil and Germany until 2027. Launched in 2023 during COP28, the coalition is a platform to enhance collaboration between national and subnational governments in climate policy and finance. As of today, 77 countries and the European Union have endorsed CHAMP, demonstrating a growing global commitment to multilevel governance.

This is the context in which we will develop Daring Cities 2026. Looking towards Türkiye and Australia, who will co-lead COP31, we will work for a community-driven future, grounded in data, digitalization, and innovation, with Town Hall COPs and Daring Cities leading the way.

*Daring Cities 2025 proved that cities and regions are ready. Now the world must dare to match their courage.*

