



# BRINGING HOME THE PARIS AGREEMENT

**3 ways for local and regional  
governments to engage in  
global climate action**

## Local and regional governments have a key role in climate action and dialogues happening at the subnational, national and global levels.

**Local and regional governments are intent on advancing climate action across the world. They are transforming urban areas into low emission, climate resilient spaces that safeguard the long term interests of their citizens.**

Their efforts are crucial on a global scale and will help keep the global temperature rise well below two degrees Celsius – the global target set in the Paris Agreement. Currently, their collective climate commitments have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 5 to 15 gigatons by 2020 to 2030 and contribute to higher national target-setting. The actions local and regional governments take now, and in the years to come, will be crucial to delivering on this potential.

The Paris Agreement recognizes that local and regional governments as the key actors that they are, and calls for nations to engage all levels of government. That means direct collaboration between towns, districts, cities, metropolitan areas, counties, provinces, regions, prefectures and states.

Local and regional governments have already shown that they are both influencers and implementers in the global climate arena. They are positioning themselves to shape and strengthen climate policies and are translating global goals into tangible results on the ground.



**Now, local and regional governments need to quickly and visibly accelerate and scale up climate action worldwide and engage in national and global climate conversations.**

This document explains how local and regional governments can make this happen.

# 1. Engage in the international climate negotiations

## How ICLEI brings subnational governments to the global climate arena

ICLEI shapes global climate policy, placing local and regional governments in a better position to advance climate and sustainability goals. Over the years, we have reshaped the global climate landscape to achieve greater recognition, engagement and empowerment of local and regional governments. This process began in earnest as part of the Local Government Climate Roadmap launched in 2007, a coalition of local government networks advocating a robust global climate agreement. Our efforts continue actively today, with an increased focus on national level policy.

ICLEI represents the local and regional perspective in international climate negotiations. ICLEI holds accredited observer status to the UNFCCC, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and serves as the focal point of the LGMA – the constituency of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities – since 1995.

This is our entry point to engaging directly with national negotiators and intergovernmental bodies like United Nations Climate Change to ensure the interests of local and regional governments are understood and taken up in global debates and frameworks.

Through the LGMA, local and regional governments contribute in the UNFCCC negotiations by sharing their views on key negotiation topics. The work of the LGMA played an instrumental role in the adoption of specific international decisions related to local and regional governments, followed by the historic recognition of the importance of engagement of all levels of governments enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

Our current advocacy efforts focus on strengthening national policy. In 2015, when the Paris Agreement was adopted, approximately half of all Nationally Determined Contributions – or NDCs – foresaw action at the local and regional levels. Additionally, only around 60 percent of current NDCs consider the urban dimension of climate action, a notable gap in our increasingly urban world. We aim to change this through our advocacy.



## Opportunities for local and regional governments at the global level

By working with ICLEI, local and regional governments have the chance to:

- Engage in direct dialogue with national delegates.
- Speak at high level events attended by national negotiators, ministers and other key national and global decision makers.
- Provide written or oral interventions in to the negotiation process, representing the collective interests of local and regional governments.
- Nominate representatives to attend technical workshops.
- Work with LGMA partners to expand and strengthen the common front for climate action and ensure the breadth, depth and potential impacts of subnational climate programs and initiatives are captured and made visible.



## 2. Invite nations to conversations about climate action across the country

### How ICLEI sparked worldwide climate consultations connecting all levels of government

At the beginning of 2018, ICLEI launched the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues as a series of in-country climate consultations designed to kick off a collaborative process of shaping and implementing climate policy and action that involves all levels of government. They convene national, regional and local governments to take stock of, shape and strengthen NDCs, the national climate action plans submitted under the Paris Agreement.

These consultations are part of the Talanoa Dialogue launched at COP23, the 23rd United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2017. The Talanoa Dialogue serves as an initial stocktaking exercise in 2018 to inform future NDC submissions. Through the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, local and regional governments are engaging in stocktaking efforts and helping strengthen climate action at all levels, from global to local.

The word Talanoa itself refers a style of dialogue practiced in the Pacific, which fosters openness and inclusiveness. This is the spirit of the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, designed to help make climate action a more ambitious and collective global effort.

**The Talanoa Dialogue is an opportunity to fix-and-lift the NDCs. By linking sustainable urban development to climate action and engaging all levels of government we can make the NDCs fit for the Paris Agreement.**



**The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues are designed to kick off a collaborative process involving all levels of government. They convene national, regional and local governments to take stock of, shape and strengthen NDCs.**



Local and regional leaders can help nations bridge national urban development and climate policy as interconnected strategic priorities. Building on my support to the Fijian government as an island mayor to the success of COP23, I am delighted to announce Cities and Regions Multilevel Talanoa Dialogues as a timely opportunity to bring urban community and relevant ministries into the climate effort.

**Maimunah Sharif**  
Executive Director of UN-Habitat



The engagement of cities and regions, both in Europe and globally, is crucial to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Local and regional governments show leadership and determination to turn the ambition of a low-carbon economy and society into a reality... I am confident that these multilevel dialogues at the global level will deliver concrete, tangible results. Because concrete results is what we need in the months ahead.

**Maroš Šefčovič**  
Vice-President of the European Commission,  
Co-Chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)



Local and regional governments have become a powerful catalyst towards ever higher climate action. Their participation in the Talanoa Dialogue will be a key driver towards the New Urban Agenda and the accelerating global efforts to deliver the Paris Agreement at speed and at scale.

**Patricia Espinosa**  
UNFCCC Executive Secretary

Facilitated by



Special partners



## How the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues work

Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue events convene local and regional governments, host organizations and national ministries of climate, environment and urbanization, among others. The events are organized by local and regional governments and their networks.

At each dialogue, participants review the current NDCs and map out how to strengthen climate action at all levels using the three Talanoa questions - where are we, where do we want to go and how do we get there - as a guide. What distinguishes these dialogues is that they examine the urban dimension of climate action and look at how multilevel governance – coordinated action across all levels of government – strengthens the NDCs.

The global Talanoa Dialogue is guided by three simple questions. Throughout the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, these questions are tailored to look at the urban and subnational dimensions of climate action.

The dialogues build on the Bonn-Fiji Commitment of Local and Regional Leaders to Deliver the Paris Agreement At All Levels, which called for in-country consultations between national, regional and local governments. This call was subsequently taken up through the Talanoa Dialogue launched at COP23 by Fiji, designed to kick off multistakeholder climate dialogues throughout 2018, with the aim to raise national ambitions.

Fifty dialogues are scheduled to take place around the world throughout the course of 2018 and key outputs are already being seen from sessions hosted by cities as diverse as Jakarta, Indonesia, Montréal, Canada and Quito, Ecuador.

In Ecuador, the Ministry of Environment signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mayor Rodas of Quito and the Association of Cities to create a consultation mechanism that focuses on promoting vertical integration in their NDC.

In Canada, the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue created a platform to reflect the contributions of cities more visibly in the NDC alongside the provinces.



### 3. Report your climate actions and commitments

#### How reporting to the carbonn Climate Registry informs climate policy and action at all levels

The cCR system managed by ICLEI allows for integrated climate reporting that can advance subnational, national and global climate action.

With over 1,000 reporting cities, towns and regions, it contains valuable information that assists national governments in tracking subnational climate action and incorporating these efforts into national planning. Shaping robust climate policy and implementation infrastructure that supports action at all levels. It also enables subnational governments to track, assess and strengthen their own efforts on the ground.

At the international climate negotiations each year, ICLEI brings a synthesized report of collective climate commitments made by local and regional governments as proof of their potential and dedication to climate action worldwide. This sends an important signal to national delegates that subnational interests, needs and priorities need to be a central consideration in national planning, and that it will enable them to raise their own climate ambitions.

Under the Paris Agreement, nations are expected to submit targets every five years, and increase their level of ambition with each submission. For this process to be effective, the sort of robust data provided by the cCR, which gives an accurate and up-to-date picture of subnational climate action and risks, is crucial.

However, at present, national and subnational governments often use parallel, disconnected climate action and reporting systems. This means that in many cases, subnational climate commitments, actions and risk assessments are not factored into national planning. This disconnect makes it difficult for nations to plan and set targets and put implementation mechanisms in place that reflect and improve upon the real country-wide picture.

To address this, national and subnational governments need to work together to track performance and implement effective, coordinated climate action, with the aim to progressively raise local, national and global ambitions.

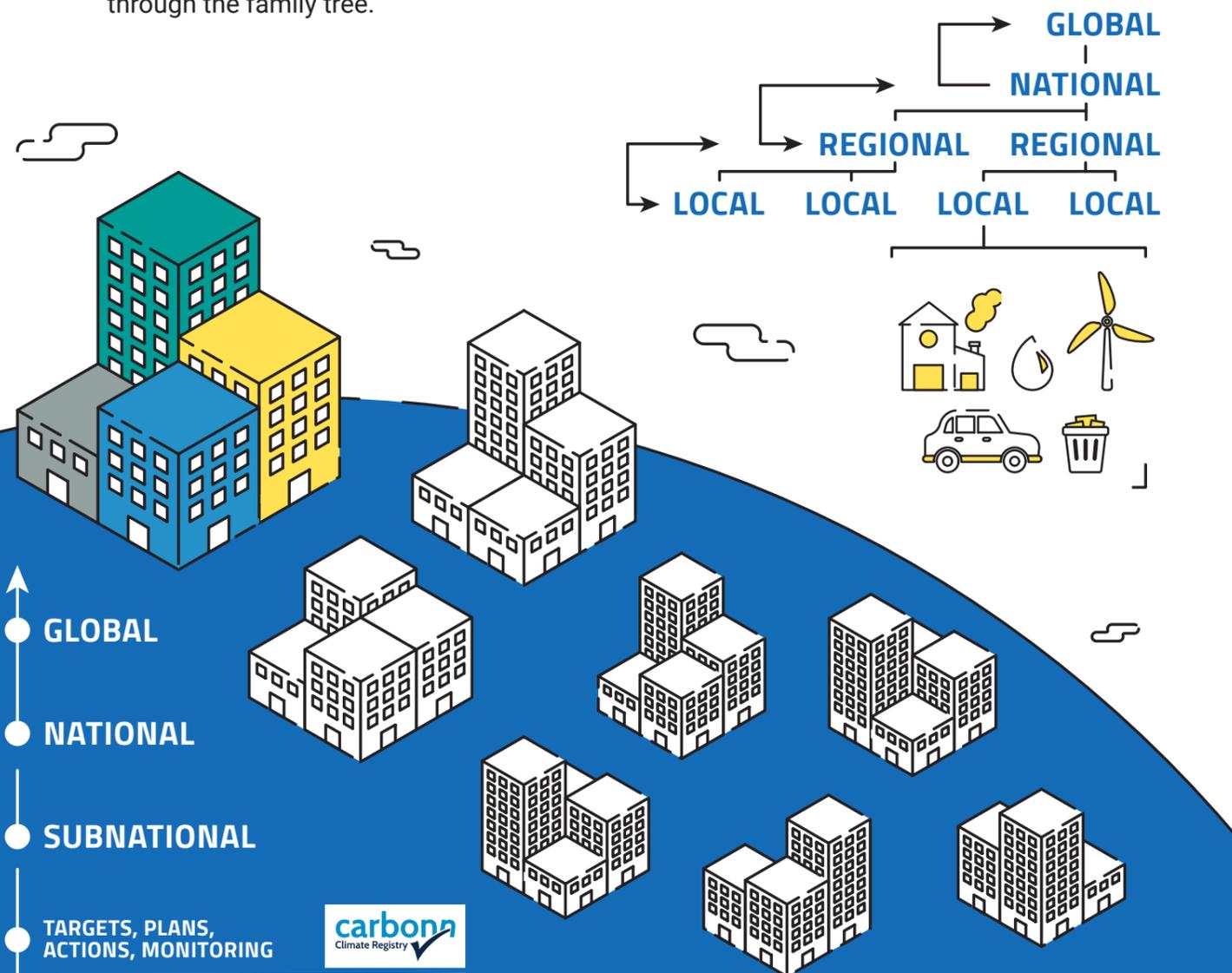


A key part of effective multilevel governance also involves tracking developments by using Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems that integrate climate action and reporting at and across all levels. We call this integrated MRV. Integrated MRV means that national and subnational governments work together, coordinating reporting methodologies and sharing data to build a holistic picture of mitigation and adaptation efforts at all levels. This allows for better analysis of current opportunities and challenges, and can help governments define critical action areas.

## How Integrated MRV Works

Data reported from the local and subnational level can be used to directly inform national and global climate policy. When brought together, these data form a more complete and accurate picture of how financial resources, capacity building and technology transfer systems should be set up to enable greater national and global climate ambitions.

Local and subnational government targets, plans, actions and outcomes are reported up through the family tree.



## How ICLEI supports integrated MRV



### Advocacy

In its role as focal point for the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities constituency at the UNFCCC, ICLEI is advocating greater involvement of local and regional governments in national climate plans.

### Integrated reporting platform

The carbonn Climate Registry is an integrated reporting platform designed to integrate data from local and other subnational reporting entities.

### Research and good practices

ICLEI supports research and the development of case studies to highlight good practices among local and other subnational governments.

### Technical assistance

ICLEI works with all levels of government to encourage coordination and collaboration, providing policy guidance and technical assistance.

### Recognition

The carbonn Climate Registry is a reporting platform that recognizes new entities and places them within a family tree with cities and local governments nested into regions or subnational states, which are subsequently organized under the national umbrella.



### Connection

Each reporting entity can connect with its "family members" and is notified when new entities register within the family tree. This national family tree builds an organized, interconnected team and a holistic picture of climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts within a region, a country and globally.



### Comparison

Different reporting entities and levels of government can now see their own performance and those of their family members as it relates to the whole. Higher levels of government can identify the strengths and weaknesses of subjacent reporting entities and give assistance or support accordingly.



### Coordinated action planning and implementation

Integrated MRV provides a holistic and accurate profile of reported emissions and climate change adaptation developments. This enables more effective and coordinated action planning and implementation. Based on the profile created by the national family tree, national climate action plans can be tailored to address key emissions sources and coordinated adaptation action through vertically linked actions and targets.





**#Cities4Talanoa**  
**#Regions4Talanoa**  
**[citiesandregions.org/talanoa](http://citiesandregions.org/talanoa)**



We are grateful for the financial support received from Bloomberg Philantropies via the European Climate Foundation - Grant Number: G-1709-01674, Grant Period: 01/04/17 – 31/03/18.

## Contact us

**ICLEI World Secretariat**  
Kaiser-Friedrich-Strasse, 7  
53113 Bonn, Germany

Phone: +49 (0) 228 976299 00  
Fax: +49 (0) 228 976299 01  
[iclei.ws@iclei.org](mailto:iclei.ws@iclei.org) - [www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)

