United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Fourth Global Dialogue and Investment

-focused Event -

Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme

UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments

Enhance carbon storage through green and blue infrastructure:
The role of Cities and Governance

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ENHANCE CARBON STORAGE THROUGH GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE,

The potential role of Cities and Governance

Where do we stand in terms of Mitigation efforts?

Mitigation from the Local and Subnational Governments perspective

What is the deadline for planet earth?

The IPCC scenarios and deadlines

What is the ambition that we should target?

Is there a realistic best scenario?

What tools and what means do we have for it?

The role of Cities and their Governance

A proposal from UCLG

Mitigation - Setting the right ambition - *Where do we stand with mitigation efforts?*

From the Local and Regional Governments Constituency side

- An important initiative is **Cities Race to Zero**, which is part of the broader Race to Zero campaign. This global effort rallies leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, and investors for a healthy, resilient, zero-carbon recovery.
  - **13.000 Cities and Regions with key commitments that include pledging to reach net-zero by 2050**, setting an interim target for 2030, taking immediate action towards achieving these targets, and publishing a plan within 12 months of joining while reporting progress annually.
  - **Integrity Matters** is an integral aspect of the Race to Zero campaign. It emphasises the importance of transparent reporting and accountability in climate action.

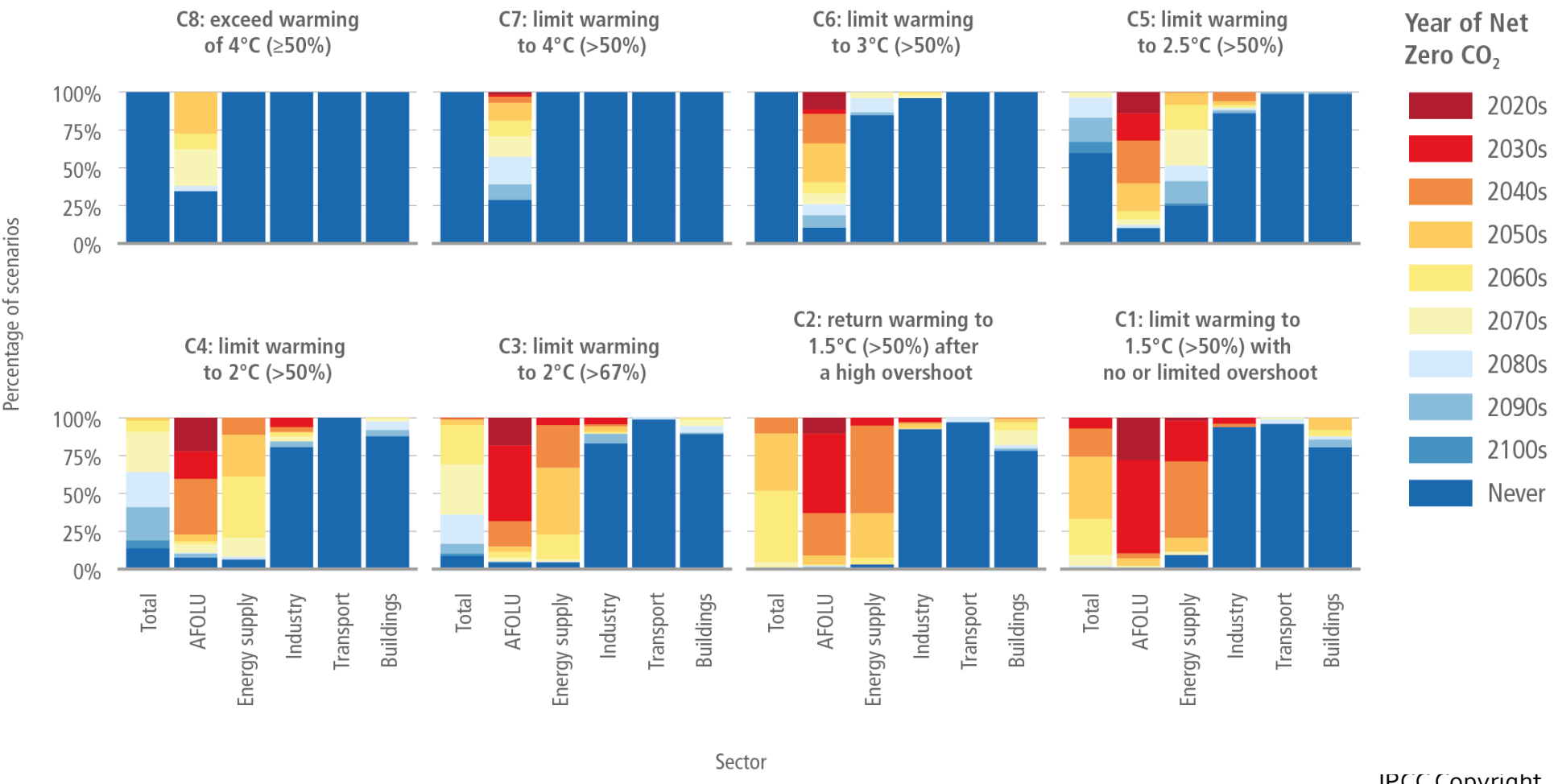
- **Local authorities Major Group through Governance and Cities' Strategical planning through different UN agencies**
  1. Be taken into consideration in the definition of the processes
  2. Ensure that the local conditions are taken into account in the design of the processes and solutions

  For example:
  - Ensuring the **capacity building** for municipality's teams to implement and understand the stakes that are behind the requested implementation
  - Request **means and financial support** for projects that are defined on the basis of local diagnosis of BGIs
  - **Multilevel dialogue** to ensure that the BGIs defined at national level are aligned with a territorial realities and balance that allows low impact development, environmental site design and low-carbon infrastructure

UN definition of green infrastructure:
a network providing the "ingredients" for solving urban and climatic challenges by building with nature - including stormwater management, **climate adaptation, less heat stress, more biodiversity, food production, better air quality, sustainable energy production, clean water and healthy soils..**

Territorial management and governance

Mitigation - Setting the right ambition - *What is the deadline for planet earth?*



IPCC Copyright

The IPCC sectorial and cross sectorial frame of measurement:

- **Cross-sector**: Supply and demand, bioenergy, timing of net zero CO2
- **Energy supply**: Energy resources, transformation (e.g., electricity generation, refineries
- **Buildings**: Residential and commercial buildings, other non-specified
- **Transportation**: Raod, rail, aviation and shipping
- **Industry**: Industrial energy use and industrial processes
- **AFOLU**: Agriculture, forestry and other land use
- **Other CDR**: CRD options not included in individual sectors (e.g., direct air carbon capture and sequestration, enhanced weathering)

The most effective tool here is the urban world – Cities and their governance

Mitigation - Setting the right ambition - *What is the ambition that we should target?*

The role of Cities and Governance : a systemic potential

1- Blue and Green Infrastructure
Buildings, Transportation, Industry and AFOLU : what part of governance is deciding on the kind of ecosystems that is restored, the kind of costal investment and decision-making, etc. The decision making must go beyond economic advantages, but bring at the forefront the Mitigation lens.

2- Carbon Storage and Sequestration at all scales in systemic components of life on the planet
The world seems to go towards a planet that is a juxtaposition between urban life and Natural life : a systemic perspective with the objective to build a balance of Carbon Capture and storage through the earth seems a realistic solution in today's conditions, seeking:

- **a balance between the Nature/Wild life and the Urban life** should be studied at different scales :
  global – national – territorial - local
- a specific attention to **the rural and urban components and their interdependence**
- **the urban components and its decision-making/management to be seen as a tool,** a critical set to play with
- Regaining space and soil for **the wild life boundaries to restore itself is critical to save ecosystems and the Carbon storage** they allow : stopping extraction in the Global South, enhancing Indigenous way of life (beyond protecting) to help their ecosystems to be restored,

3- A Whole of Governance approach on Cities will help capture and inverse the impact of Energy supply actors, Buildings, Transportation, Industry and AFOLU
A new perspective on Governance : that could encompass public sector, private sector, structured citizenship organizations centered around the urban systems and cities

Act-Time: All actors must be mobilized

There is no room for experiencing and testing and thinking – time to open all channels and pathways at the same time: all possible actors, taking into consideration the structured citizens tissue as well to ensure more responsibility when BGIs are designed and defined, for *environmental benefits and contribution to our quality of life.*

Mitigation - Setting the right ambition - *What is the ambition that we should target?*

Cities account for over 70% of global CO_2 emissions, most of which come from industrial and motorized transport systems that use huge quantities of fossil fuels and rely on far-flung infrastructure constructed with carbon-intensive materials

Versus

Blue-green infrastructure : BGI, includes the 'green' and 'blue' features of our towns and cities that can provide environmental benefits and contribute to our quality of life.

The role of Cities and Governance : a systemic potential

The cost of not having decided and acted in time may cost us too high, us as a global community

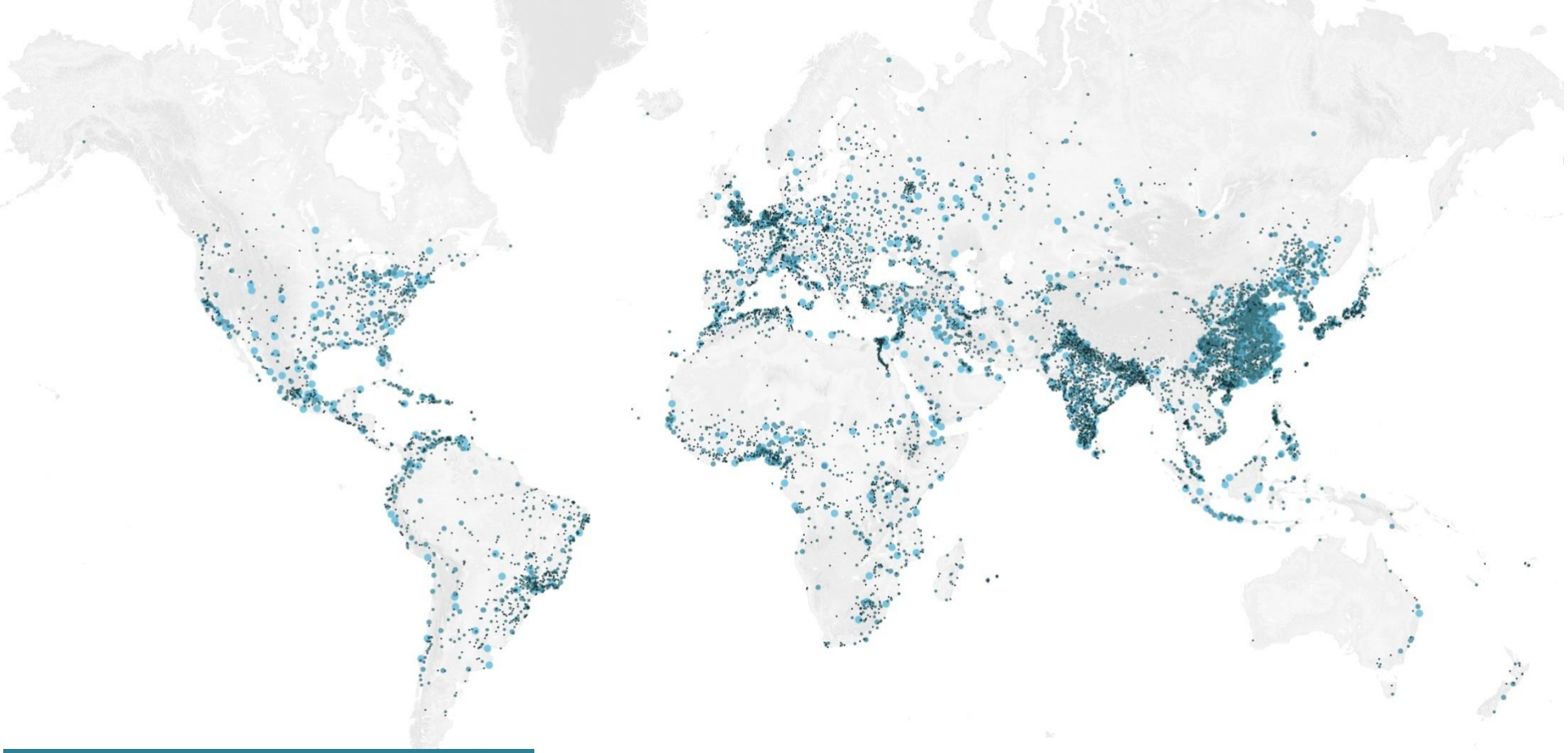
From UCLG, urban systems are:

- Metropolis / Megalopolis
- Intermediary Cities
- Small cities and towns

In other terms:

- **Metropolis / Megalopolis**: strong attractive markets
- **Small cities and towns**: part of a rural world that should be taken care of: they have been seeking a transformation of model of living after COVID-19 together with Intermediary Cities
- **Intermediary Cities** are the recognized as the biggest potential for the planet's resilience: recognized by UN-Habitat and UNFPA
  - represent an invisible market for the global structured market
  - positioning as an impressive potential to help the mitigation efforts
  - Next stage of global urbanization will be there: how do we want these buildings to be ? Carbon

The proposal as part of the ambition to be set is to put Intermediary Cities as an official part of the Mitigation ambition program: as emissions-free nucleons: more than 50% of the population will be residing there in 2030.



Intermediary Cities

0,5 - 1 million* : **545** Cities	**370** millions inhabitants	**8.923** Cities
0,3 - 0,5 millions : **715** Cities	**271** millions inhabitants	**1.423** millions inhabs
0,1 - 0,3 millions : **2.571** Cities	**434** millions inhabitants	**36,06%** Word urb pop in 2019
0,05 - 0,1 millions : **5.092** Cities	**347** millions inhabitants	

UNESCO Chair of Intermediary Cities:
In 2050, Intermediary Cities are estimated to receive 65% of the world urban population

UNFPA is projecting the next stage of urbanization and development in Intermediary Cities, especially in the Global South

UCLG Forum of Intermediary Cities working on Life systems

Mitigation - Setting the right ambition - *What tools and what means do we have for it?*

Most carbon on Earth is stored in rocks and sediments. The rest is in the ocean, atmosphere, and in living organisms.

UCLG Forum of Intermediary Cities is:

- holding the 3rd World Forum on 23-24 January 2025, Cuenca, Ecuador
- Part of the tripartite agreement for the G20 Working Group on Intermediary Cities

A proposal : Intermediary Cities the second lung of the earth: as emissions' free nucleons

Blue-Green infrastructure includes:

- Coastal and marine ecosystems, such as mangroves, seagrasses, and tidal marshes
- urban water infrastructure,
- ponds, lakes, streams rivers and storm water provision
- Sustainable drainage schemes
- Urban forests
- Constructed wetlands
- Green and blue roofs
- Rain gardens
- Downspout disconnection
- Bioswales
- Green alleys
- Green school yards

A strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features, designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services, while also enhancing biodiversity, for example, water purification, improving air…

Intermediary Cities characteristics:

Advantages:

- Rural-urban linkages
- Management from Proximity
- Well-being cities
- Healthy cities
- Schools of Democracy:
  - accountability and transparency critical to it
  - Citizenship sensitization for way of life
- Governance close to the citizens
- Human scale of management
- Territorial impact of policies, territorial balance of Carbon Storage

Opportunities:

- Easy access needed: Green infrastructure
- Buildings to be developed
- Need talents attraction program
- A strategically planned cities to be built, especially in the Global South
- Basic services to be seen under Mitigation lens & Ecological transition lens

Thank you

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