

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES (LGMA)
CONSTITUENCY OF SUBNATIONALS, TOWNS, CITIES AND REGIONS
AT UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE BAKU (COP29), NOVEMBER 2024

LGMA SUBMISSION TO THE SECOND ANNUAL HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE ON JUST TRANSITION

Following the [Second High-Level Annual Ministerial Roundtable on Just Transition](#), the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities constituency (LGMA) provides the following written remarks, initially prepared for oral delivery but not presented due to time constraints and the consequent lack of opportunities for observers to share their perspectives. This was disappointing to see that there is strong consensus on a just transition requiring a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach and the need for all voices to be involved to be successful and effective in both delivering equity and confronting the climate challenge.

Nonetheless, the LGMA remains supportive of efforts on Just Transition under the UNFCCC and commends the work of the Just Transition Work Programme over the past year for bringing attention to the fact that for climate action to be effective, it is essential that it reduces inequalities and supports decent work. This resonates with our members including municipalities, cities, states, regional governments and city or municipal networks – like C40 Cities, the South African Local Government Association, ICLEI and Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy representing over 13,000 local governments and over 1 billion people – who are already [implementing](#) policies and programmes.

The role of subnational governments to deliver a just transition

Subnational governments bring a unique perspective and experience to the table, being the closest level of government to residents, and having knowledge of local dynamics, opportunities and vulnerabilities as well as powers over key sectors. Subnational governments can drive the creation of green jobs and skills opportunities, especially for those who need them the most, including informal workers, women and youth. As [recognised](#) by Celeste Drake, Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization at the recent U20 (Urban 20) Mayors Summit in Rio de Janeiro ahead of the G20, “local governments are uniquely positioned to tailor policies that meet the specific needs of their communities, making cities powerful agents of equitable and sustainable change” (as delivered, panel event *Unleashing the Power of Urban Just Transitions*, 16 November, 2024).

Embedding local actors in national processes

This was acknowledged by the President of Brazil, Ignacio Lula da Silva, at the U20 Mayors Summit on 17 November 2024, the day before the High-Level Ministerial. President Lula commended [the role cities play in reducing inequalities and confronting the climate crisis](#), a recognition that is also reflected in the [new Nationally Determined Contributions of Brazil](#) where both a focus on a just transition and ‘climate federalism’ under the Coalition of High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships,

CHAMP, are prominent. As highlighted today by the Brazilian representative in the Just Transition Ministerial Roundtable at COP29, ‘the implementation of a just transition in Brazil will require all branches of the government including national, regional and local’ (as delivered, please refer to webcast of the Just Transition Ministerial).

Similarly, subnational governments are a recognised and valued part of [South Africa’s Presidential Climate Commission](#) (PCC), tasked with overseeing and facilitating a just transition in South Africa. This Commission has recognised cities and municipalities for their role in achieving a fair transition within the [Just Transition Framework](#), with the benefit of substantial dialogue with cities, including the [South African Cities Dialogue](#) hosted with PCC by LGMA members SALGA and C40 in March this year, and ongoing work with ICLEI. South Africa’s Just Energy Transition Municipal Conference and Just Energy Transition Investment Plan outlines the imperative roles of municipalities in steering local just transition to ensure opportunities are localised and risk mitigated. The collaboration between the PCC and municipalities resulted in the Municipal Just Energy Transition Support Programme aimed at assessing municipalities’ readiness for implementing a just transition, developing a pipeline of bankable projects and mapping existing resources within municipalities.

Key elements for COP 29 outcomes

LGMA welcomes the [Annual Summary Report](#) highlighting the importance of involving subnational governments in designing and implementing just transition measures, as seen in examples like Brazil. It also emphasises the value of including subnational governments in consultative bodies, such as PCC, to ensure the process is inclusive and local expertise is applied to deliver results for people and planet and to prevent the deepening of inequalities at the local level.

In line with that, we encourage all Ministers and the Secretariat to consider these best practices and collaborate with subnational governments to establish similar frameworks and bodies and recognise the role of cities and other subnational governments in the Just Transition Work Programme. It was disappointing not to see this recognition reflected in the ministerial discussions today and hope that this will not limit the critical role of subnationals being recognised and also involved in next year’s Just Transition Work Programme sessions and outcomes.

As national governments prepare their new Nationally Determined Contributions, LGMA encourages them to a) leverage the [Coalition of High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships \(CHAMP\)](#) to work with your local governments on planning and implementation of their new NDCs b) ensure robust urban just transition commitments in these NDCs.

The transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient, and thriving economy requires local action for global impact. As a constituency, we are ready to support national governments in designing and implementing a just transition - one that improves the lives of those impacted, addresses systemic injustices, and accelerates climate action.

LGMA submission to the [draft text](#) on SBSTA 61 agenda item 8, SBI 61 agenda item 8, *United Arab Emirates just transition work programme*, published on November 18,

invited the parties to reflect the above points in the final text of the decision to facilitate a whole-of-government effort to deliver a just transition. The submission is available [here](#).

The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency has been representing local and regional governments at the processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since the first Conference of Parties (COP) in 1995. The LGMA also represents the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability acts as the Focal Point of LGMA.

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