

RACE TO ZERO

Dialogues

Outcome Document

Cities and Regions

Wednesday, 18 November 2020

Organised by Science Based Targets for Cities, the Under 2 Coalition and the Global Covenant of Mayors, in collaboration with ACA, C40, the State or California, CUT, COSLA, ICLEI, Regions4, REN21, RMI, UCLG, UNEP, UN-Habitat and WWF



Key Messages

1. Cities and regions have a key role to play in addressing climate change, reaching net zero emissions, and building resilience. More cities and regions now understand how they can join the Race to Zero, the benefits of doing so, and what actions they can take to get to net zero.
2. Cities are invited to join the Race to Zero through the Cities Race to Zero initiative launched during the Race to Zero Dialogues.
3. Leading cities and regions are already taking ambitious actions across buildings, transport, energy, industry, nature-based solutions, adaptation and other sectors.
4. The sessions helped strengthen the dialogue between cities, regions, national governments, the private sector and others that all need to collaborate to achieve the radical systems transformations required to address climate change.

Supporting the narrative

1. More cities and regions understand how to get to net zero and the benefits of joining Race to Zero.

- A new guide “Science-based Climate Targets: A Guide for Cities” was launched during the first Cities & Regions session that makes it easier for cities set targets consistent with the 1.5C objective of the Paris Agreement and play a role in halving global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2050. The guide is designed for cities, which are responsible for over 70% of global emissions, and will help them understand the steps they need to follow to align with a 1.5°C level of ambition by indicating suitable methodologies for different types of cities. It was produced through the Science Based Targets Network by its core cities partners: CDP, C40, GCoM, ICLEI, the World Resources Institute (WRI), and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- The third session outlined and discussed the criteria and process for states and regions to join the Race to Zero. Many subnational government representatives participated to better understand the process and share their journey to net zero emissions and long-term pathway planning.
- Speakers discussed co-benefits of taking climate action, including for health (improved air quality, physically active urban lifestyles) and economic welfare (green jobs and growth).
- It so important to ground the Race to Zero global ambition raising effort into the broader context of climate justice and equity, as raised by David Miller, Director of International Diplomacy (C40) because the Race to Zero is also an opportunity to start focusing on emissions cut by building green and fair economies that work for everyone. This particularly true in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. Delivering a green & just recovery to this global crisis and realising the potential of the Paris Agreement are the same thing. Neither is possible without the other and success in both is the only way to secure the future we want.

2. Cities and regions are taking ambitious actions across sectors.

- Minna Arve, Mayor of Turku (Finland), spoke about Turku’s innovative initiatives on circular economy and waste reduction. Turku has already cut its emissions by half compared to 1990

levels while growing its economy, and is on track to become a negative emissions city by 2029, when the city turns 800 years old. Its circular economy initiatives will help to support scope 3 emissions reductions.

- Jasmine Shah, Vice Chairman of the Delhi Dialogue Commission (India), spoke about Delhi's ambitious policies on renewable energy (procuring 200 MW of renewable power) and electric vehicles (aiming for 25% of all newly registered vehicles to be electric by 2024).
- Sandra Julieth Muñoz Mejía, Secretary of Environment, Medellín (Colombia), spoke about Medellín's sustainable mobility and green space actions, including its light rail metro and temporary bicycle lanes. Its green corridors have created new urban spaces while addressing air pollution and sequestering carbon.
- Lauren McLean, Mayor of Boise (US), spoke about Boise's efforts with water and the city's water renewal program.
- Mohammed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchauen (Morocco), emphasized the importance of green spaces for building resilience, and the significance of resilience and adaptation and nature-based solutions for cities.
- Abigail Binay, Mayor of Makati (Philippines), announced a call for entries for this year's TAP (Transformative Actions Program) through which cities and regions receive technical and matchmaking support for climate-related projects. She highlighted how Makati is implementing its transport goal out to 2023 through the ongoing Makati subway project, which will reduce emissions by facilitating a shift to mass public transportation.
- Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for Environment of the Scottish Government (UK), stressed the importance of legislation that commits governments to net zero targets, such as the one introduced by her government. She mentioned that the Scottish Government will release its Climate Change Plan Update, a policy package to guide the region towards its 2032 targets, which will embed just transition principles in its approach.
- David Speirs, Minister of Environment of South Australia (Australia), outlined the region's ambitious actions on renewable energy, including its aim to be powered by 100% renewable energy electricity by 2030, which will help meet its goals of reducing emissions by 50% by 2030.
- Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency (US), discussed California's measures on nature-based solutions, including California's target to restore 30% of lands and coastal waters by 2030.

3. Multiple levels of government and other stakeholders are engaging in dialogue and collaborating with one another.

- Representatives from the United Nations, national governments, and cities and regions came together to discuss how multi-level collaboration is happening and can be strengthened.
- Takejiro Sueyoshi from the Japan Climate Initiative (the Alliance for Climate Action in Japan) spoke about the advocacy role that alliances of subnational actors in Japan had played behind the scenes in helping drive Japan's national net zero commitment.
- Lazare Dago, General Director of Decentralization and Local Development of Côte d'Ivoire, discussed the process of multi-level governance and collaboration in Côte d'Ivoire and the importance of trust in local citizens.
- Mariana Corvaro, Coordinator of International Affairs, Climate Secretariat, Argentina spoke about the process for Argentina including a section on subnational commitments in their planned NDC, which was facilitated by Argentina's national legislation.

- Mario Silva, Director General of the Metropolitan Institute of Planning of the Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara (IMEPLAN) (Mexico) spoke about the importance of metropolitan action and coordination across local actors cities to implement Guadalajara’s 1.5°C /net zero aligned climate action plan.
- Vera Rodenhoff, Head of Division, International Cooperation at German Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) spoke about the new City Climate Finance Gap Fund launched by the governments of Germany and Luxembourg that will help address the gap between cities’ plans and concrete progress by funding initiatives like feasibility studies.
- Glasgow proposed “Climate Justice and Social Equity” as the 7th Pillar of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities COP26 Roadmap, “Towards the Multilevel Action COP.”

Race to Zero Ambition

- The dialogues served as a useful engagement point to enable more cities and regions to understand how to join the Race to Zero and what they need to do to get to net zero. Some cities and regions that are exploring making net zero commitments and joining the Race to Zero participated in the sessions. Some cities, regions and networks are also calling for the Race to Zero campaign to acknowledge existing climate neutrality commitments adopted by legislative and/or executive bodies of local and regional governments. The Dialogues helped these cities and regions better understand the Race to Zero process to be able to make the required commitments over the coming months in the run-up to COP26.

Climate Action Pathways

- By outlining measures that cities and regions are taking across various different Climate Action Pathways, the Dialogues built support for the kinds of actions that subnational governments can take to move towards net zero.
- “Waste and Consumption” was launched as a new subgroup of the Human Settlements Climate Action Pathway. The three pillars, “Zero Waste Cities,” “1.5-degree Living” and “Social Equity” provide an excellent guide for human settlements to achieve holistic, inclusive and ambitious climate action under the Race to Zero campaign.

2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit

- The Dialogues scaled up the transformational outcomes of the UN SG Summit to accelerate a transition by showcasing and sharing lessons from actions taken by cities and regions to make net zero commitments, push sectoral action and build resilience – and to encourage other cities and regions to do the same. The Dialogues also encouraged collaboration among cities, regions, national governments, and the private sector on climate action.

Today’s Dialogues’ Session Highlights

Session name & lead partner	Highlights from the session
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<p>Session One - Cities Lead the Race to Zero, SBT</p>	<p>New guide launched that makes it easier for cities to help play a role in halving global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2050. The guide was produced through the Science Based Targets Network by its core cities partners: CDP, C40, GCoM, ICLEI, the World Resources Institute (WRI), and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).</p> <p>Delivering a green & just recovery to the global COVID-19 crisis and realising the potential of the Paris Agreement through Race to Zero are the same thing. Neither is possible without the other and success in both is the only way to secure the future we want.</p> <p>“Waste and Consumption” launched as new subgroup of Human Settlements Climate Action Pathway. The three pillars “Zero Waste Cities,” “1.5-degree Living” and “Social Equity” provide an excellent guide for human settlements to achieve holistic, inclusive and ambitious climate action under the Race to Zero campaign.</p> <p>Glasgow proposed “Climate Justice and Social Equity” as the 7th Pillar of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities COP26 Roadmap, “Towards the Multilevel Action COP.”</p>
<p>Session Two - Stronger Together: The Role of Multi-Level Collaboration, GCOM</p>	<p>Local and national governments, as well as the private sector, are already collaborating to reach the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C. This demonstrates that when cities, national governments and businesses work together, climate ambitions can be met – and these models for collaboration can serve as inspiration for other regions in the world to collectively raise ambition and deliver on bold climate action. Regional and local governments are key to supporting countries' commitments to decarbonization and adaptation. The acknowledgement and recognition of regional and local contributions will play a critical role in the implementation and enhancement of NDCs.</p> <p>The 4th Transformative Actions Program (TAP) was launched, calling to local and regional governments from all over the world to submit their climate resilient and low-emission infrastructure projects addressing any sector by 31 December.</p>
<p>Session 3 - States and Regions on the Path to Net Zero, Under 2 Coalition</p>	<p>Limiting global warming to 1.5°C depends on significant reductions in GHG emissions by subnational governments, including states and regions.</p> <p>Individually and collectively, states and regions control significant climate policy and investment levers that can move markets on a local, regional, and national scale. They can set net zero targets affecting</p>



millions of citizens, with direct responsibility for key areas of policy with deep decarbonization potential – and are thus able to show the many benefits of transformative action and spur further action globally.

Across the world, from South Australia to Navarra, states and regions are already stepping up and setting ambitious climate goals for 2050 or earlier, while others are planning to do so ahead of COP26 and are looking seriously at how they track progress and design a regional long-term pathway to net zero emissions. If all states and regions were to set net zero targets, this would make a huge difference for collective efforts and would give us a fighting chance of making the progress needed in this decade as the “Climate Decade” – and beyond.