

2023 U7 Mayors Declaration *Final Draft for Approval*

19 calls and 2 commitments to action on Delivering Peace, Democracy and Sustainability in the Urban World Through Sustainable Cities, Urbanization and Multilevel Cooperation

The U7 Group calls the G7 to:

- **On local governments as custodians of peace and democracy**
 1. Acknowledge our role as champions of peace and builders of democracy.
 2. Work as partners with cities in the planning for sustainable reconstruction of the urban infrastructure and civil society in Ukraine.
 3. Facilitate access to public and private funding streams for sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient urban development in Ukraine.
 4. To mobilize all their diplomatic efforts to achieve "a world without nuclear weapons", as recognized at the UN General Assembly in October 2022.
- **On sustainable urban development as the engine for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and facing the global climate emergency**
 1. Recognize the role of local governments in the implementation of the sustainability agenda and embed them in the post-SDG agenda. We invite G7 Leaders to collaborate with the U7 Group and actively engage at the SDG Summit and UN Climate Action Summit in September 2023 in order to launch global initiatives for multilevel action to support, advance and deliver SDGs and transform into climate emergency mode of action, to be designed as an input to 2024 UN Summit of the Future.
 2. Exchange regularly on these topics beyond the G7 Sustainable Urban Development Ministers Meeting, at fora such as the G20 and Second UN Habitat Assembly.
 3. Strengthen local self-governance to provide the legal and fiscal frameworks that support and address the local needs and realities of local governments and to encourage greater procedures and processes of multilevel governance.
 4. Enhance access of local and regional governments to global and national finance including through increasing collaboration with the private sector, as well as multi-lateral development banks (MDBs).
 5. Actively use information technology to promote the digitization and smartening of public services to underpin the delivery and maintenance of sustainable, quality public services.
 6. Establish financing mechanisms that are more flexible and responsive to place-based climate neutrality strategies and investment plans from local governments with a mid-to-long term perspective.

7. Engage local governments actively in the global stocktake of the Paris Agreement towards and at COP28 in Dubai as an opportunity to embrace multilevel climate action as the new normal in the 2nd Phase of the Paris Agreement and rapidly raise ambitions regarding Nationally Determined Contributions through the transformative power of sustainable urbanization.
 8. Support the institutionalization of Ministerial Meetings Urbanization and Climate at UNFCCC COPs regularly and endorse partnerships for multilevel action such as the SURGE Initiative launched at COP27 in Sharm El Sheikh.
 9. Demonstrate leadership in operationalization of the funding arrangements and the fund for responding to loss and damage by engaging actively in the transitional committee toward COP28.
 10. Promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to improve human health and support biodiversity-friendly urban planning, and implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at Biodiversity CBD COP15, through collaborative action with local and regional governments, taking into account its Target 12 on urban green space and its Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2021-2030.
 11. Highlight the role of local and regional governments and circular development in the design of the new global plastics treaty.
- **On role of cities in disaster preparedness, response and resilience**
1. Strengthen significantly international cooperation and provide sustained support to countries, especially in the Global South, in coordination with local governments.
 2. Support the prevention of new disaster risks and the reduction of existing disaster risks in countries, especially in the Global South through international cooperation.
 3. Prevent and reduce the creation of disaster risks through “Build Back Better” strategies and increased education on and awareness of disaster risks during the post-disaster recovery and reconstruction phases.
 4. Devolve authority and financial resources to sites closer to the people in order to strengthen the capacity of local governments and local communities to reduce disaster risks.
- **On engaging the U7 Group as an emerging actor in multilevel governance and urban diplomacy**

The U7 commits to:

1. Institutionalize the U7's vision towards regular engagement with G7 as a good practice in multilevel collaboration. The U7 Secretariat, ICLEI and the Global Parliament of Mayors, will facilitate the integrity of the process whereas national associations will lead annual engagement and direct city input.
2. Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation through collaborating with all engagement groups involved in the G7 process, as well as in the Global South.

Announced at the 2023 U7 Mayors Summit in Tokyo, Japan on 2 March 2023 by;

U7 Group:

Canada: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) - [Taneed Rudyk, Councillor of Vegreville; FCM President]

France: France Urbaine (Urban France) – Johanna Roland, Mayor of Nantes Metropol; France Urbaine President

Germany: Deutscher Städtetag (Association of German Cities) – Markus Lewe, Mayor of Münster, DST President

Italy: Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani (ANCI, National Association of Italian Municipalities) – [Antonio Decaro, Mayor of Bari; ANCI President]

Japan: Japan Designated City Mayors' Association (JDCMA) – HISAMOTO Kizo, Mayor of Kobe City; JDCMA President

UK: Core Cities UK – Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol; Core Cities Chair

USA: The United States Conference of Mayors (USCOM) – Frank Cownie, Mayor of Des Moines; USCOM Trustee Board Member; ICLEI President

European Union: EUROCITIES – Dario Nardella, Mayor of Florence, Italy; EUROCITIES President

Network Partner:

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) – Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener, Canada; UCLG Co-President

U7 Secretariat:

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) – Minna Arve, Mayor of Turku, Finland; ICLEI First Vice President

Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) – Peter Kurz, Mayor of Mannheim, Germany; GPM Chair