

Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Americas, in Collaboration with Capacity4Dev, Celebrates World Car-Free Day on September 22

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, in partnership with Capacity4Dev, is gearing up to celebrate World Car-Free Day on September 22, 2023.

The action, supported by the European Union through the Global Covenant of Mayors Americas, will focus on promoting sustainable urban mobility. During this initiative, residents of cities will be encouraged to leave their cars at home and explore more environmentally friendly transportation alternatives, such as public transportation, biking, and walking. This campaign aims to raise awareness about the benefits of reducing car usage in our cities and foster a climate-friendly lifestyle.

Among the participating cities in this action are Despeñaderos and San Justo in Argentina, Serra Talhada and Salvador in Brazil, Independencia and Peñalolén in Chile, Tópaga in Colombia, Oreamuno in Costa Rica, Ambato in Ecuador, Comas in Peru, and Ahome in Mexico. These cities have demonstrated their commitment to sustainability by organizing a series of creative activities to engage their citizens and promote alternative forms of transportation.

It is important to highlight that this action represents the inaugural initiative of the Mayors Forum, and will be presented during the Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2023 – LACCW-. At this gathering, mayors and city leaders from across the LATAM will come together to share their experiences and strategies in the fight against climate change and the promotion of sustainable urban development. Presenting this action in this context will not only provide a unique opportunity to inspire other cities to join this effort but will also significantly amplify its visibility.

Mayor Testimonials:

Carolina Basualdo, Mayor of Despeñaderos, Argentina: "We are committed to addressing Climate Change because our cities must become leaders in Climate Action. Many of our local decisions have a direct impact on the global environment, and one such issue is the regulation of transportation and the promotion of sustainable, low-emission urban mobility."

Gonzalo Durán, Mayor of Independencia, Chile: "The fight against the climate crisis must be established collaboratively, as a network. Being part of this has allowed us to embrace this collaborative logic, which is a constant source of shared experiences, allowing us to optimize our own climate action. From local governments, we can support and contribute

to a global perspective, understanding that this has systematically been the product of our incorporation into the Global Covenant of Mayors."

Álvaro Barrera, Mayor of Tópaga, Colombia: "Our goal is to unite all these 11 cities in the same campaign to showcase what we are doing regarding urban mobility and invite more local governments to commit to serious planning and execution on this issue."

Viviana Ocampo, Vice-Mayor of Oreamuno, Costa Rica: "In Latin America alone, we are more than 900 cities that are already part of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, the largest global alliance of mayors against climate change. Now, we are calling from the Mayors Forum for us to continue joining and uniting our strengths to achieve significant changes in our region in the face of climate change."

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy – Americas- and Capacity4Dev are excited to lead this global initiative, showcasing the collective power of cities to address climate change and promote sustainable urban mobility. Together, they aim to inspire positive change and build a more sustainable, car-free future for all.

The World Car-Free Day campaign will set the stage for the Mayors and Mayors Forum's official launch during the Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week 2023. This significant event will bring together mayors and leaders from across the Americas to discuss sustainable urban development and climate action.

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About Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy is the world's largest coalition of mayors and city officials committed to addressing climate change. Supported by the European Union, the Covenant brings together over 10,000 cities and local governments across six continents, representing over 800 million people. By setting ambitious climate targets and implementing innovative solutions, Covenant cities are leading the way in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building resilience, and creating sustainable communities.

About Capacity4Dev

Capacity4Dev is a collaborative platform that brings together development practitioners from the European Union and partner countries. It facilitates knowledge exchange, learning, and collaboration among professionals working on a wide range of development issues, including climate action, urban development, and sustainable mobility.

Capacity4Dev aims to strengthen the capacity of individuals and organizations to achieve sustainable development goals worldwide.