

Urban Highlight

CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: COP and CHAMP

Ten years after the Paris Agreement, global leaders have convened in Belém, Brazil, for the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework **Convention on Climate Change (COP 30)**. Following 11 days of complex negotiations, COP 30 has wrapped up on a final package termed the “[global mutirão](#)” which means “collective efforts”.

In the run up to this key annual climate summit (3-5 November), local leaders from across the world were called upon to meet in Rio de Janeiro for the **Local Leaders Forum (LLF)**, an initiative hosted by the COP 30 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies. The Forum brought together mayors and city leaders from around the world, underscoring their critical contributions to addressing climate change. The discussions revolved around enhancing urban resilience, advancing sustainable infrastructure, and fostering cross-city collaborations for effective climate interventions. The outcomes from this gathering included a [joint statement](#) to the UN Secretary-General, stressing the importance of local leadership in achieving climate objectives and urging global leaders meeting at COP 30 to support and amplify city-driven initiatives. As the document was presented to the UN Secretary-General, local leaders outlined three strategic commitments to accelerate global process in the next decade:

- 1. Partnering to deliver national climate goals (NDCs);**
- 2. Mobilising climate finance for local projects;**
- 3. Making COP a process of implementation and accountability.**

Also ahead of COP 30, the European Union took an important step underscoring the importance of coordinated multi-level climate action by [formally endorsing](#) the **Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action**, an initiative born at COP28 with the aim of strengthening collaboration across various governance levels. CHAMP represents a commitment taken by national governments on a new way of working in partnership with their subnational governments, and in particular, of approaching the development and implementation of the updated round of **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** that had to be submitted ahead of COP30. CHAMP members met in Rio at the LLF for a high-level ministerial dialogue to strengthen cooperation and ambition.

With its formal endorsement of CHAMP initiative, the EU has underscored the importance of effective collaboration at all levels of governance for the full implementation of the NDCs, and thus for the efficacy of global climate action. As stated by, EU Executive Vice-President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, **Teresa Ribera**:

“Effective climate action depends on every level of governance moving in the same direction. By endorsing CHAMP, the European Union reaffirms its conviction that close coordination between national, regional, and local authorities is essential to deliver the scale and pace of transformation our climate goals demand.”

Together, these events, statements, and initiatives illustrate a **stronger integration of urban development within the climate discourse**, highlighting the need for city-focused strategies for effective implementation of climate resilience measures. These efforts portray cities as vital actors in driving forward innovative solutions, reinforcing their commitment to sustainable urban development.