



Joint Statement on Accelerating Climate Adaptation in Cities

**To be launched 25-01-2021 at Climate Adaptation Summit 2021
Rotterdam, The Netherlands**

Cities and their growing populations are impacted by climate change on a daily basis. The need to accelerate adaptation in cities and to invest in solutions with multiple benefits is higher than ever before. It is for this reason that the first ever 10-year global program, 1000 Cities Adapt Now (1000 CAN), has been established to accelerate and scale climate adaptation in 1000 cities worldwide.

*1000 CAN is initiated by a new and unique Coalition to accelerate adaptation in cities, installed by the Global Commission on Adaptation at the launch of their flagship report, "Adapt Now" (Sept 2019), wherein the Commission called for redoubling the effort to build more resilient and equitable cities. The Coalition will create impact on the ground **in** cities and is endorsed and supported **by** cities.*

*In this Joint Statement the Coalition, and a first cohort of Partners and Cities, **confirm** the urgency to act now and **commit** to support further development and implementation of 1000 CAN. The Coalition and others also **call** on city leaders, heads of states, NGO's and the private sector participating in CAS 2021 to support and facilitate this global program laying the foundation for a decade of action toward a climate-resilient future of 1000 cities in 2030.*

A Resilient Recovery

As cities recover from COVID-19, smart investments and policies on resilience can create a triple dividend: helping cities boost their economies; improving equity; and preparing communities for inevitable climate and health threats. According to the Global Commission on Adaptation's *Adapt Now* report, adaptation investments consistently deliver high returns, with benefit-cost ratios ranging from 2:1 to 10:1. Plus, when compared to traditional investment, adaptation investments often create more jobs, many of which are at the local level. The health and economic impacts of COVID-19, climate change and inequality are deeply intertwined. The need to accelerate inclusive adaptation in cities and to invest in solutions is higher than ever before. Cities *must* and *can* make a difference, we have no time to waste!

To help cities recover from COVID-19 and build a more climate-resilient and inclusive future, solutions must deliver immediate benefits to our most vulnerable communities, while also strengthening cities' individual and collective capacities to adapt and thrive in the face of climate change contributing to and in line with the COP26 High Level Climate Champion's Race to Resilience.

Five Principles of Accelerating and Scaling Urban Climate Adaptation

We (the *Coalition* and the first cohort of Partners) commit to support the most vulnerable urban communities and help accelerate and scale urban climate adaptation globally during the Decade of Action by implementing the following five principles:

- 1. Strengthen and prioritize urban adaptation and climate resilience in cities with a focus on equity and the most vulnerable and poor communities and settlements in the world;***
- 2. Build water-resilient cities and scale nature-based solutions to address climate risks;***
- 3. Advocate for more devolved mandates and funding for cities and advance coordinated leadership to gain political leverage and financing at scale;***
- 4. Enhance knowledge and capacity on urban adaptation and support peer-to-peer collaboration for deep, long-term and systemic change;***
- 5. Coordinate methods and (smart) innovations, partners and investments to maximise synergy and impact and accelerate implementation.***



1000 Cities Adapt Now – global program

The main goal of the 1000 Cities Adapt Now global program is to accelerate adaptation in 1000 cities by 2030. To achieve this, the program is promoting a comprehensive package of measures including the implementation of nature-based solutions, urban water resilience solutions and a transformative capacity building program. An alliance of core delivery partners will start implementation in a first batch of 100 cities. This program will focus on climate adaptation in cities as leverage for an inclusive and resilient COVID-19 recovery, while creating a pathway to reach the Paris climate adaptation goals.

Impact of the 1000 Cities Adapt Now global program:

By 2030 reducing climate risks and improving the quality of life of 500 million – 1 billion citizens.

To deliver on these commitments and generate the speed and scale we must work with cities, community groups, international organizations, financial institutions, city networks and knowledge partners. To kick off, the program has initiated several actions and related partnerships to start creating impact in cities.

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) and World Resources Institute (WRI) are co-leading the Resilient Cities Action Track to build a 10 year program and a growing coalition to accelerate urban resilience.

The lead coalition partners, GCA, WRI, the Resilient Cities Network and UN-Habitat respond to the needs of the cities to start adapting to climate change now, and commit to operationalize the Global Program through:

- A. System Change:** A growing coalition of global organizations will coordinate technical support and investments, share knowledge and networks to maximize impact and accelerate implementation on the ground in cities;
- B. Strategic Solutions:** Adaptation as driver of resilient recovery to advance three high impact adaptation solutions: nature-based adaptation, urban water resilience, inclusive and locally led adaptation for the urban poor;
- C. Scaling Strategy:** Transformative capacity building – by building an urban adaptation practice and by supporting local and global knowledge partnerships on adaptation;

Launched by

Francis X. Suarez, Mayor of Miami

Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris

Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of Rotterdam

Patrick Verkooijen, CEO Global Center on Adaptation

Andrew Steer, CEO World Resources Institute

Supported by

PARTNERS

(Role: Act as implementing partner for related sub-deliverables, be an ambassador for the 1000 Cities Adapt global program, connect to donors and other City programs)

Lead Coalition Partners

Global Center on Adaptation; World Resources Institute; Resilient Cities Network; UN-Habitat

Global Knowledge Partners

Slum Dwellers International (SDI); Deltares; the IHE/IHS/TU Delft-coalition; CURE (Collaborative on Urban Resilience and Effectiveness); BLUE21-Foundation; Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water; Global Environment Facility (GEF); GCOM Global Covenant of Mayors

Global Support Partners

ICCCAD (International Centre for Climate Change and Development); LUCCC (Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change); Global Network for Advanced Management; Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Rotary International; Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation Germany (BMZ); Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Canada; UN Environment

INFLUENCING CITIES

(Role: Endorse and support the 1000 Cities Adapt Now global program, share knowledge, advocate for climate resilience regionally and globally and connect to relevant networks and partners)

Accra – Mayor Adjei Sowah

Antwerp – Mayor Bart de Wever

Athens – Mayor Kostas Bakoyannis

Beira – Mayor Daviz Simango

Christchurch – Mayor Lianne Dalziel

The Hague – Mayor Jan van Zanen

Greater Manchester – Mayor Andy Burnham

Groningen – Mayor Koen Schuiling

Istanbul – Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu

Jakarta – Governor Anies Baswedan

Khulna – Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque

Milan – Mayor Giuseppe Sala

Miami – Mayor Francis Suarez

Paris – Mayor Anne Hidalgo

Rotterdam – Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb

Surat – Commissioner Shri Banchhanidhi Pani

Tirana – Mayor Erion Veliaj



APPENDIX 1: GLOBAL PROGRAM STRUCTURE TO ACCELERATE ADAPTATION IN 1000 CITIES BY 2030

A. Cities Action Track Coalition

Leads:

Global Center for Adaptation (GCA), World Resources Institute (WRI), Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities), UN-Habitat

Deliverables:

- i. A unique platform of key resilience leaders combines forces to provide donors and cities a defragmented offer, both institutional and programmatic to accelerate climate adaptation in cities.
- ii. By 2030, 1000 cities will have a comprehensive Climate Resilience Strategy and have started implementing their related adaptation action plans.

B. Transformative Capacity Building for Adaptation and Rigorous Learning

1. Scalable Practical Transformative Capacity Building

Lead: GCA

Co-leads: R-Cities, WRI, Deltares, Partners: SDI, Blue21

Deliverables:

- i. Development of **Cities Adaptation Accelerator (CAA)**, including new modules on e.g. vulnerable communities and on Floating Urban Development in coastal cities;
- ii. By 2030, through partners apply CAA in **300 cities** to build climate adaptation strategies and action plans and parallel start implementation;
- iii. Dissemination to and exchange between **1000** regional cities, supported by the Community of Water Adaptation Practice.

2. Knowledge and Learning network

Leads: WRI (i), GCA (ii)

Co-leads: CURE, ICCCAD, LUCCC, R-Cities, IHE-Delft

Deliverables:

- i. By 2030, support **100 cities** and **100 communities** develop and implement 200-300 inclusive climate adaptation initiatives in partnership with global network of 40 universities;
- ii. By 2030 Providing education and knowledge for students in **200 cities** through MSC Climate Resilient Cities run by IHE/IHS/TU Delft-coalition.

C. Accelerate and Scale Solutions for Urban Adaptation

1. Advance nature-based solutions (NBS) in cities to reduce climate risks

Lead: WRI

Co-lead: Cities4Forests (C4F)

Deliverables:

By 2030, a coalition of **65** cities have integrated NBS into spatial planning, investments, and infrastructure implementation to reduce their climate risks.

2. Urban Water Resilience Initiative

Africa Lead: WRI

Co-leads: R-Cities, tRS, Arup

Deliverables:

By 2030:

- i. An urban water resilience program has been set up to implement and scale urban water action plans in cities across sub-Saharan Africa.
- ii. The Africa Urban Water Resilience program has been scaled from **6 to 20 cities** with catalytic impact in at least **100 cities**.
- iii. A pan-African finance coalition supporting urban water resilience has been established.

India Lead: WRI

Co-leads: WaterAid, BMGF, Water.org, Biome Trust, MHT, Take a Stake Fund, ihs, NIUM, GUDI, Dasra

Deliverables:

- i. An accelerate access to WASH and healthy spaces coalition has been setup in India
- ii. The coalition develops key research products and implements learning labs for the urban poor communities across India
- iii. The coalition implements demonstration projects advancing placed based integrated WASH and healthy spaces solutions in **8 cities and 18 communities**

3. Build the climate resilience of the urban poor

Leads: UN-Habitat, WRI, GCA

Deliverables:

- i. By 2023, implement climate resilience pilot projects in **12** hotspot cities, and mainstream pro-poor resilience in national and local climate policies.
- ii. By 2027, scale up climate resilience to **50-70** hotspot cities through planning and investment finance.
- iii. By 2030, enhance capacity among all levels of government and core partners to coordinate action towards resilience of the urban poor globally in at least **140** cities.

D. DATA

Lead: WRI

Co-lead: GCOM

Deliverables:

- i. Establish an M&E plan and develop indicators for the 1000 Cities Adapt Now Program to track progress.
- ii. By 2030, add the resilience data of 1000 cities to GCOM's climate data portal for cities.