



Urban 20 Joint Statement

To the Group of 20 (G20):

We, the mayors of the undersigned cities, come together as Urban 20 (U20) to commit to actively engage with the G20 process and to take action in our cities to respond to existing and future global challenges. We hereby call on the leaders of the G20 to consider our experience and contributions as we explore policies for a better world, together.

Cities are major economic, innovation and demographic hubs: worldwide, they represent 54%¹ of the population and produce more than 80%² of global GDP. Globally, cities are responsible for more than 70% of global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions³. Diversity, creativity, solidarity and inclusive forms of democracy also flourish in cities, proving that although the challenges faced by cities are great, their individual and common capacity to incubate solutions and yield a better future for all is greater.

The profound transformations generated by globalization, urbanization and digital innovation hold the potential to boost large-scale well-being, resource efficiency and economic growth. However, leveraging these opportunities can be challenging unless cities are part of the conversation. In these trying times for international cooperation, U20 can harness the experience of successful city mobilization in global processes. It builds on the successful engagement of cities in the discussions on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Habitat III, facilitated by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) through the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, as well as on the role played by the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency in the adoption and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

U20 is proposed by the Mayors of Buenos Aires and Paris, convened by C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group in collaboration with UCLG, and readily supported by 25 cities. It seeks to highlight the expertise of cities in a range of global development issues, to contribute solutions to the G20 and to formulate clear recommendations to our national leaders. Since few policies are created or executed at a single level of government, we affirm that our intention to promote dialogue between cities and the national governments within the G20 is both necessary and opportune. The U20 effort will address several global challenges reflected in the theme for Argentina's G20 Presidency: "Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development", including climate change, the future of work, and social integration and inclusion, as well as the broader issues of equality, prosperity and well-being.

To this end, the cities that comprise U20 are committed to:

- Contributing their unique perspectives and best practices to the G20 agenda on relevant urban issues;
- Proposing joint solutions and experience-based recommendations to enhance and achieve the objectives of the G20 agenda;
- Promoting dialogue and cooperation between G20 nations and cities through a regular effort; and
- Delivering detailed recommended actions to achieve the priority areas of U20.

We hope that the 2018 U20 process encapsulated in this joint statement will inaugurate an ongoing practice of engagement between cities and the G20 and emphasize our unique role in the global agenda. We stand ready to work constructively and collaboratively with G20 leaders to find solutions for our common global challenges. Our joint position on the priorities of the 2018 G20 Presidency is detailed below.

¹ [The World Bank \(2018\)](#). "Urban Development. Overview" [online] [Accessed March 5, 2018]

² *Ibid.*

³ [UN Habitat \(2011\)](#). "Global Report on Human Settlements 2011: Cities and Climate Change". *United Nations Human Settlements Program, Earthscan*

U20 priorities during the 2018 G20 Presidency

Summary

Climate action: building sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities

1	Develop national and local strategies and plans for the rapid and effective implementation of global urban and climate frameworks.
2	Improve access to finance for cities from diverse sources (public, private, multilateral and development banks).
3	Decarbonize the energy grid at the national and local levels by 2050.
4	Increase the availability and transparency of data to support accountability, decision-making and long-term planning.
5	Support the implementation of the global research agenda on cities and climate change .
6	Reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience at the city level.

The future of work: preparing citizens for a shift in the labor market

1	Empower citizens and workers with the skills needed for future labor markets and solutions to bridge the digital divide.
2	Distribute equitably the opportunities for economic growth and job creation of a just transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy.
3	Mitigate the negative effects of the decline in manufacturing and production of goods and the loss of jobs in the shift to services and knowledge-based economies .
4	Address unemployment and underemployment , including through access to financial services.
5	Optimize the opportunities and address the challenges that may be generated by the sharing and gig economies .
6	Ensure the safety and integrity of networks and platforms that provide the digital infrastructure for many jobs in the digital economy.
7	Achieve more compact and better connected cities to maximize access to employment and business-to-business connections.
8	Encourage the formalization of informal jobs , while also recognizing their existence and societal benefits.

Social integration and inclusion: delivering opportunities, safety and equality for all

1	Support fair and inclusive labor markets and services , including quality, affordable education and healthcare (including mental healthcare), and social mobility.
2	Develop and implement strategies and policies that support infrastructure for development (housing, transport, sustainable land use), enhancing access to subnational financing.
3	Pursue gender equality and consequently, poverty eradication and inclusive growth.
4	Develop and implement just and inclusive long-term climate strategies to reinforce resilience, social integration and inclusion.
5	Support integration in activities at the workplace, leisure and community centers, school and child care settings.
6	Implement violence prevention programs.
7	Foster citizen empowerment through the development of participatory planning and processes.

Climate action: building sustainable, inclusive and resilient cities

Climate change is a challenge for cities around the world: cities consume over 75% of the world's energy and more than 70% of them declare that they are already experiencing the adverse effects of climate change. However, our experience proves that effective solutions can be implemented at the municipal level to address climate change.

As Mayors we are committed to delivering ambitious and inclusive climate strategies to decarbonize the electricity grid, optimize energy efficiency in buildings, enable next-generation mobility, and improve waste management and integrated food systems. We are also committed to reinforcing our cities' resilience, disaster preparedness and capacity to adapt to climate-related impacts and implementing effective response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction strategies. We know these strategies will help mitigate the impacts of climate change and drive economic growth, competitiveness, innovation and job creation whilst improving the well-being of our residents and making our cities safer, healthier, and more equitable for all. In 2017, 67 cities signed the Chicago Climate Charter at the North American Climate Summit committing themselves to emissions reductions equal to or greater than those required of their nations by the Paris Agreement. Another 25 pioneering cities committed to becoming emissions neutral by 2050 to deliver on their share of the Paris Agreement and the 7,500 signatories of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy have also committed to ambitious emissions reductions.

The actions of cities should therefore give confidence to G20 leaders that national governments can increase their pre-2020 ambitions, starting with the ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, revise and enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through collaborative processes that include cities and that they must develop and implement national long-term, net zero-GHG and climate-resilient strategies by 2050 to ensure that global emissions trajectories and climate preparedness are consistent with the long-term objectives of the Paris Agreement. Finally, G20 leaders should enhance financing and partnership for climate action.

To collectively achieve these goals, we call on G20 leaders to work with us on:

1. Developing strategies and policy frameworks to support the full and rapid implementation of the Paris Agreement before 2020, in accordance with the G20 Hamburg Climate and Energy Action Plan for Growth, including, but not limited to, enhanced and integrated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that reflect and support urban contributions, 2050 decarbonization strategies at all levels of government, and national urban policies that recognize cities as integral actors in national development agendas;
2. Improving access to financing for cities by creating predictable national fiscal and investment frameworks, increasing financial contributions to the Green Climate Fund to achieve \$100 billion/year by 2020, scaling and shifting infrastructure funds, creating new financing vehicles for cities, and easing the conditions to access financing from sovereign funds, Multilateral Development Banks and other public and private sources, particularly in Global South cities, for long-term low-carbon, resilience and adaptation strategies as well as sustainable urban infrastructure and transport;
3. Working closely with local and regional governments, the private sector, and other key stakeholders to decarbonize the energy grid at the national, regional and local level by 2050, including through, equitable and accessible national policies for energy efficiency, the efficient use of land, land value capture mechanisms (where appropriate) and the reduction or removal of perverse incentives to unsustainable urban development including fossil fuel subsidies;
4. Increasing the availability and transparency of data, especially on the wider benefits of climate action such as health, jobs and growth opportunities of the emerging green economy, to support accountability, decision-making and long-term planning, while ensuring a high level of data protection and privacy;
5. Encouraging and supporting research and generation of knowledge on cities and climate change in G20 countries, in line with the global research agenda on cities and climate change prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018, to improve our understanding of climate threats and solutions at the urban level, and encourage science-based and evidence-based climate action in cities;
6. Reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience - with particular consideration for the impact of climate change on women and the urban poor - by enhancing climate change adaptation in cities and fostering the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the New Urban Agenda at the city level.

The future of work: preparing citizens for a shift in the labor market

Automation, artificial intelligence and machine learning, gig and sharing economies and other technological advances are disrupting the nature of work in our cities. Understanding and responding to these shifts will be essential in determining the nature and quality of 21st century jobs and addressing inequality in our cities. While digitization will create new industries and employment opportunities, these shifts also often create challenges for young people, the elderly, women, people living with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations. Cities form a part of residents' everyday lives, and we can help generate tailored and innovative solutions to the challenges and opportunities stemming from increasing digitization.

As centers of productivity and innovation, cities are the key sites of this economic transformation and will play a central role in developing decent work and productive livelihoods in our interconnected world. We are committed to working with partners in civil society, the private sector, secondary cities and rural communities to shape an equitable future of work for our citizens. In doing this, we will focus on harnessing new technologies to close the digital divide and ensure greater social inclusion.

Cities are engines of economic growth that are affected by macroeconomic forces and structural economic shifts. As such, and in order to help fulfill equitable distribution of benefits produced by technological advances, we call on G20 leaders to work with us on:

1. Developing education, economic and fiscal policies, and training programs that empower citizens and workers with the skills needed for future labor markets, as well as solutions to bridge the digital divide (a result of gender, age, disability, spatial or resource inequalities, among others) in order to build a sustainable economy (through the creation of sustainable jobs), reduce inequalities, achieve diversity and foster social inclusion through work opportunities;
2. Facilitating through local and national policies a just transition enhancing an equitable distribution of new jobs and a renewed social dialogue between workers, communities, employers, civil society, cities, regional and national governments whilst fully seizing the opportunities for economic growth and job creation of the transition to a low-carbon and resilient economy, energy efficient technologies and innovation;
3. Mitigating the negative effects of the decline in manufacturing and production of goods and the shift to services and knowledge-based economies, and the consequent loss of lower- and middle-income jobs at the profit of skills-based, technology-intensive and labor-saving jobs, particularly in Global South cities with large populations;
4. Working to address unemployment and underemployment through development-oriented policies that support local manufacturing and entrepreneurship, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and the social and solidarity economies, including through access to financial services;
5. Developing solutions to optimize the opportunities and address the challenges that may be generated by the sharing and gig economies, which may include new social protection programs and encouraging new employer-employee relationships;
6. Working with cities to ensure the safety and integrity of networks and platforms that provide the digital infrastructure for many jobs in the digital economy;
7. Encouraging the use of rapid transit to achieve more compact and better connected cities, maximizing access to employment, but also supporting the business-to-business connections that will underpin the economies of the future;
8. Recognizing the existence and societal benefits of informal jobs, particularly in Global South cities, while also encouraging their formalization.

Social integration and inclusion: delivering opportunities, safety and equality for all

Our cities are characterized by economic, cultural, religious and other aspects of social diversity. However, diversity and proximity of citizens alone do not guarantee the sustained inclusion and economic prosperity of all, particularly of women, the elderly, people living with disabilities, young people, migrants, the LGBTQ community or other socially and economically vulnerable groups. Governments at all levels must work together to encourage inclusive growth: creating opportunity for all segments of the population and distributing the dividends of increased prosperity, both in monetary and non-monetary terms, fairly across society. This can be achieved by encouraging gender empowerment, solidarity, social integration and inclusion to foster and support the cultural, social and economic benefits of a truly inclusive and culturally diverse society. Cities are collectively and individually pursuing this goal to make our societies more stable, safe, just and tolerant, and respect diversity, equality of opportunity and participation of all people. The New Urban Agenda adopted in Quito recognizes a prominent role for local governments both as proponents and implementers of sustainable and inclusive urbanization.

U20 is guided by the notion that living together is critical to building a safer, more stable and just society for all and our cities recognize that social cohesion and inclusive growth do not simply happen organically but must be encouraged through explicit public policies and targeted investments. Local policymakers have a responsibility to implement policies that boost economic and social opportunities for all residents and promote diversity in economic and social life, and the integration of new and long-established residents alike, including migrants and refugees. This is especially important given the economic benefits of diverse and vibrant societies and current trends indicating that cities become more unequal as they grow. National and municipal governments must respond to demographic trends and their effect on cities, taking into account the diverse range of scenarios across U20 members, which include but are not limited to immigration, birthrate shifts and aging populations.

This century has been characterized by rapid urbanization and the growing impact of global phenomena such as migration, digitization, climate change, energy and clean water shortages, economic crisis, and rising inequality. In light of these trends, we call on G20 leaders to support social integration and inclusion in cities by:

1. Supporting fair and inclusive labor markets, access to quality and affordable education and healthcare (including mental healthcare) and improved social mobility as vehicles for urban resilience and prosperity;
2. Developing and implementing integrated urban strategies and policies and enhancing access to subnational financing to promote infrastructure for development, including safe, adequate and social housing, sustainable land use and quality public services such as transport to minimize the effects of spatial and economic inequalities that contribute to social exclusion;
3. Pursuing public policies geared towards gender equality and consequently, poverty eradication and inclusive growth; allowing women to contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways that recognize the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth;
4. Developing and implementing just and inclusive long-term climate, adaptation and sustainable development strategies - that include nationally consistent energy and climate policies - to reinforce resilience, social integration and inclusion and share the economic opportunities, health benefits and distributional impacts of climate action;
5. Implementing smart city solutions, including improving access to quality sustainable public services and working to increase opportunities for entrepreneurship to play central roles in achieving these goals;
6. Supporting integration in residents' day-to-day activities at the workplace, leisure and community centers, as well as school and childcare settings, particularly fostered early on by educational institutions as those often determine the composition of social networks during adulthood;
7. Implementing violence prevention programs to ensure that citizens are free from threats of crime, violence and conflict, and feel safe in both public and private spaces;
8. Fostering the development of participatory planning and processes, whereby communities are empowered to play a key role in designing and delivering inclusive cities, also increasing transparency and production of reliable data.

Global cities must be central to the discussions that shape the global economic and development agenda. **As such, we, the undersigned, urge you to consider our unique urban contributions and the priorities highlighted in this Joint Statement at the 2018 G20 Summit and beyond.** Moving forward, U20 will share further contributions laying out how to achieve our common goals and detailing our recommendations to G20 leaders, as we reiterate our readiness to work with our national leaders.

We look forward to future dialogue and cooperation to achieve our shared objectives.

Yours sincerely,

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Mayor of Paris

Katharina Fegebank
Acting Mayor of Hamburg

Miguel Mancera
Mayor of Mexico City

Virginia Raggi
Mayor of Rome

Park Won-soon
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Yuriko Koike
Governor of Tokyo

Bill de Blasio
Mayor of New York

Valérie Plante
Mayor of Montréal

Anies Baswedan
Governor of Jakarta

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London

Horacio Rodríguez Larreta
Mayor of Buenos Aires

Gumede Zandile
Mayor of Durban

João Doria
Mayor of São Paulo

Giuseppe Sala
Mayor of Milan

Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney

Solly Msimanga
Executive Mayor of Tshwane

Marcello Crivella
Mayor of Rio de Janeiro

Manuela Carmena
Mayor of Madrid

Michael Müller
Governing Mayor of Berlin

Rahm Emanuel
Mayor of Chicago