

U20 cities call on the G20 to prioritize an urban perspective in tackling global issues

An official communiqué from Urban 20 (U20)





We, the representatives of the largest and most economically powerful cities in Group of Twenty (G20) member states, believe the G20 should work hand in hand with us to achieve our collective goal of fair, inclusive, and sustainable development. The major challenges addressed annually by the G20 are everyday realities in large, medium and fast-growing cities around the world. As engines of growth and innovation, cities often lead the way in formulating and implementing solutions to tackle global issues ranging from climate change to social integration.

Launched in December 2017 by the Mayors of Buenos Aires and Paris, the Urban 20 (U20) brings our cities together to contribute our knowledge and advice to G20 forums; to ask the G20 to formally recognize the broad, ongoing efforts at city-level to address the most pressing global challenges; and to call on the G20 to translate the recommendations in our Joint Statement and Communiqué into action.

Our ambition, commitment to action, and collaborative spirit must match the challenges of today. We therefore urge the G20 to acknowledge urban experiences and contributions as essential tools and components of the solutions to the global challenges of our time.

To the 2018 Argentina G20, we call on G20 member states to:

Step Up Climate Ambition

01

Fully and rapidly implement the Paris Agreement, to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial level and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial level, and increase our resilience to the impacts of climate change, by stepping up climate ambition and preparing comprehensive long-term strategies to achieve carbon neutrality in the second half of the century, that integrate cities' contributions and align policies across sectors and levels of government.

02

Provide support to diversify the financial resources available for mitigation and adaptation solutions at the local level, giving cities the power to undertake ambitious climate action that will drive the global implementation of the Paris Agreement.

03

Support city commitments to build resilience and achieve an inclusive and equitable low-carbon transition by advancing zero-carbon buildings, zero-waste, and green and healthy streets in urban areas by lending political support, resources and capacity, specifically for those cities disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change.

04

Consider the specific challenges faced by cities as a result of air pollution, disasters, poverty, inequality, and climate-induced migration when determining policy, programming and budgeting at the national level, since inclusive climate action can generate opportunities and benefits including, but not limited to, economic growth, job creation, improved health and gender equality.

05

Support policy to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and accelerate a global shift away from fossil fuels toward clean and renewable energy, including carbon pricing that reflects the social cost of carbon, increasing investment in climate solutions, the reduction or removal of fossil fuel subsidies, and other measures, as appropriate.

Empower Citizens for Future Labor Markets

06

Collaborate with cities in developing and implementing education, training, skill-building, apprenticeship systems, and employment programs. Coordinate development-oriented policies to support and empower employers, workers, and citizens to shape future labor markets and adjust to changing paradigms. Adapt to advances in digital technologies and new models of production and consumption and harness the opportunities stemming from these new technologies.

07

Promote entrepreneurship, support micro, small, and medium-sized businesses, and foster the development of enterprises with specific focus on youth opportunities and gender empowerment, by promoting targeted employment and entrepreneurship programs.

08

Improve women and girls' access to education, skills, training and financial support to enhance their economic empowerment.

Achieve Social Integration and Inclusion

09

Work proactively to make our societies more inclusive, welcoming, peaceful, safe, and discrimination-free by providing spaces and opportunities for all people to interact, build connections, and form meaningful relationships together.

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Foster civic participation in policymaking, neighborhood planning, and city governance to ensure all citizens are represented in decision-making processes. It is particularly important to improve the civic participation of women, given that their under-representation has profound implications for society.

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Ensure that cities have the funding and power to secure access to safe, genuinely affordable housing near community services including clean, efficient and comfortable public transportation, education, and healthcare, in diverse, culturally-vibrant neighborhoods where new and long-established residents can live together as neighbors.

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Support the social integration of migrants and refugees, by helping them overcome specific barriers to participation and inclusion, such as pathways to citizenship and residency rights. Additionally, implement violence prevention programs to protect the safety of minority groups and all individuals victim of discrimination or hate crimes.

Develop a Safe and Sustainable Food Future

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Address food security, particularly in a rapidly urbanizing world, in order to ensure the access, availability, stability, and utilization of food to overcome challenges such as childhood obesity/undernutrition, and “food deserts” in urban neighborhoods.

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Ensure that sustainable production, distribution, retail, and consumption patterns are supported throughout urban-rural food systems to provide citizens with adequate resources to make sustainable and healthy consumption choices.

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Improve access to quality food supply, facilitate recovery and redistribution channels for surplus food and further implement the “3Rs” – reusing, reducing and recycling food.

Enable Wider Access to Finance for Infrastructure

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Collaborate with cities to improve access to bilateral, multilateral and private sources of capital to implement sustainable infrastructure projects. In some instances, these are among cities’ biggest challenges due to high costs, potential financing gaps, regulatory obstacles, and governance challenges.

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Simpler and more direct access to financing should be accompanied by joint efforts to strengthen good governance and promote transparent, participatory, and research-based planning processes that advocate for solutions to meet citizens’ needs and expectations.



Our perspectives and recommendations can help to address the most urgent global challenges. We thank the Argentine Presidency for the support given to our initiative. We further thank the City of Buenos Aires for facilitating the inaugural year of Urban 20 and successfully hosting the First U20 Mayors Summit. The U20 Communiqué is shared with the G20 Presidency as a result of the leadership of the City of Buenos Aires. We will build on this legacy and continue to strengthen synergies between global diplomacy and urban communities when we meet again in Tokyo, under the Japanese Presidency of the G20 in 2019.

Endorsed by the following U20 mayors:

Mayor Chen Jining, City of Beijing
Mayor Michael Müller, City of Berlin
Mayor Horacio Rodríguez Larreta, City of Buenos Aires
Mayor Rahm Emanuel, City of Chicago
Mayor Zandile Gumede, City of Durban
Mayor Peter Tschentscher, City of Hamburg
Mayor Sylvester Houston, City of Houston
Governor Anies Baswedan, City of Jakarta
Mayor Herman Mashaba, City of Johannesburg
Mayor Sadiq Khan, City of London
Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles
Mayor Manuela Carmena, City of Madrid
Mayor José Ramón Amieva, Mexico City
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Mayor Valerie Plante, City of Montreal
Mayor Bill de Blasio, City of New York
Mayor Anne Hidalgo, City of Paris
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Mayor Virginia Raggi, City of Roma
Mayor Bruno Covas, City of São Paulo
Mayor Park Won-soon, City of Seoul
Governor Yuriko Koike, City of Tokyo
Mayor Solly Msimanga, City of Tshwane
Mayor Clover Moore, City of Sydney

And by the following U20 observer mayors:

Mayor Yousef Shawarbeh, City of Amman
Mayor Femke Halsema, City of Amsterdam
Mayor Mike Rawlings, City of Dallas
Mayor Sami Kanaan, City of Geneva
Mayor Jan Vapaavuori, City of Helsinki
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