



UNACLA
COMITÉ ASESOR DE AUTORIDADES LOCALES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS



**Statement from Ms. Atishi Marlena,
Member of Legislative Assembly,
National Capital Territory of Delhi, India
and
ICLEI Vice President
At UNACLA 2021 Session as UNACLA Vice-Chair**

Honorable Co-Chairs, Vice-Chair and all Mayors and leaders as members of UNACLA,

1. My name is Atishi Marlena. I am the Member of Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory of Delhi in India.
2. I have the honor to represent ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in my capacity as its Vice-President for the period 2021-2024, as announced at ICLEI World Congress on 12-15 April 2021.
3. ICLEI is the global network of more than 2500 cities, towns and regions in more than 130 countries committed to sustainability through low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. I am happy to note that ICLEI network constitutes up to 80% of all Voluntary Local Reviews submitted as of 2021.
4. I am truly delighted to join this 2021 Session of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) as its Vice-Chair on behalf of ICLEI.
5. ICLEI warmly welcomes this new and more inclusive UNACLA leadership and composition as a concrete progress of its efforts since 2013.
6. COVID-19 pandemic has already costed millions of lives and in continuing to introduce numerous impacts in our communities as well as in our interactions and advocacy with the UN institutions. Therefore, current UNACLA Strategy, which was adopted in February 2020 before COVID-19 was announced as a pandemic, should be updated as appropriate.
7. We have to note that globally we still need to improve the collaboration and solidarity in dealing with COVID-19 pandemic. But we should also use these experiences in dealing with other emergencies on climate and biodiversity by spreading sustainable lifestyles in all our communities.





UNACLA
COMITÉ ASESOR DE AUTORIDADES LOCALES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS



8. Therefore, ICLEI invites UNACLA to actively join the roadmap of local and regional governments towards biodiversity COP15 in Kunming in October and climate COP26 in Glasgow in November, both facilitated by ICLEI as the focal point on behalf of Global Task Force.
9. Regarding the UN advocacy, let's remember that our last effort was in 2017 which sadly did not result in concrete outcomes. Therefore, the work of the UN Task Force on Future of Cities to be concluded in 2022 is a valuable opportunity. I count on the leadership of Ms. Sharif in that regard, as a fellow ICLEI leader back in 2017 who is now sitting at the driver seat of the process now.
10. But let's make no mistake; all these noted above depend on our success in dealing with COVID-19 at the local level. Our experience in Delhi shows that till universal vaccination is achieved, there will be recurring waves of Covid-19. Delhi is just emerging from its most devastating 4th wave, where despite extensive health infrastructure and well managed home isolation protocols, we have seen much suffering. There was a point in the third wave where we had more than 28,000 cases in a day and positivity rate was at 33%. While this wave is on its way out, we have already started preparing for potentially another wave. However, we should not be under any illusion that the COVID-19 pandemic is the only crisis that we may suffer from. At this very moment many parts of India are battling Cyclone Taukte. And if anything, the past year has taught us is that we need to be prepared for resilient development, where as a society we can absorb shock and challenges.
11. The Urban October in 2021 with a focus on climate, together with the UNHabitat Executive Board Meeting should both be effectively utilized by UNACLA as important tools to address all the issues I mentioned above and I am ready to support these efforts in my capacity as UNACLA Vice-Chair and ICLEI Vice-President.