

# #Listen2Cities



## OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAJOR GROUP (LAMG) ENDORSED BY THE GLOBAL TASKFORCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (GTF) at the UNEA-7 Cities and Regions Summit



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### **Preamble**

**We, mayors, governors, and subnational leaders gathered under the organised constituency of the Local Authorities Major Group (LAMG),** convened at the Cities and Regions Summit of the Seventh Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7),

**Recognizing** that humanity stands at a defining crossroads in the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution, which deepens inequalities and threatens peace and prosperity everywhere,

**Acknowledging** that cities and territories are where these crises converge, and where the solutions are being tested every day,

**Affirming** our role as local and regional governments being innovators and service providers responsible for over forty percent of global public investments and for delivering essential public goods and care systems,

**Calling** for the institutionalisation of the Cities and Regions to UNEA, a recurring associated event organized since UNEA-4 in 2019, bringing together mayors, governors, and other representatives from cities and regions worldwide to engage in a collaborative dialogue on the pressing issues of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution; and for establishing a formal reporting mechanism to relay the voices of the local and regional governments to the Member States participating in the UNEA;

**Further recalling** UNEA Resolution 6/4 on strengthening cooperation with local authorities, and building on the outcomes of UNEA-6, the Summit of the Future, the UN80 reform process, and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), as well as the recent outcome from the COP30 Local Leaders Forum in Rio de Janeiro from 7 November 2025; as well as COP30 in Belem;

**Reaffirming** our collective commitment as organised constituency to act as a driving force for an inclusive, and effective multilateral system able to deliver the promises of the Pact for the Future, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

**Further acknowledging** that multilateralism requires stronger connections between global commitments and territorial realities. Inclusive and coordinated action across all levels of government, rooted in proximity and shared responsibility, is essential to translate international agreements into tangible results for people and the planet.

## **Our Vision**

We envision a world where social, environmental and climate justice, and meaningful participation of local communities and indigenous peoples in decision-making at different levels of governance, are at the heart of policy making and long-term strategies and programmes for sustainable development. A world where knowledge, finances and other resources reach the local communities in a way that turns global commitments into real actions. In this future, wellbeing, equality, and healthy ecosystems are treated as interconnected priorities that shape public policy at local, regional, national and international levels; through a strong and institutionalized multilevel governance approach.

## **We call on Member States gathered under UNEA-7 to:**

### **1. Reform the Global Financial Architecture for Localized and Inclusive Environmental Finance**

- By ensuring long-term, equitable finance for local and subnational governments, moving beyond catalytic grants.
- By expanding direct access windows for local and subnational governments across multilateral and bilateral funds, including the Global Environmental Facility, the Green Climate Fund, and future biodiversity and environmental funds.
- By strengthening national systems for localizing finance through creating country platforms, promoting fiscal decentralization, establishing stable transfers, and accountable local revenue frameworks.
- By using public finance strategically for de-risking and guarantee mechanisms, enabling responsible subnational borrowing and private investment aligned with public purpose.
- By guaranteeing specific mechanisms to promote territorial equity

### **2. Institutionalize Multilevel Environmental Governance**

- By recognizing subnational governments as key actors across environmental policy processes.
- By promoting structured mechanisms for co-design, implementation, and monitoring of global environmental commitments with subnational actors.
- By supporting harmonized subnational data, reporting systems, and transparent inclusion of local contributions in national and global submissions.

- By strengthening UNEP–UN-Habitat cooperation and capacity-building platforms with city networks.

### **3. Integrate Environment, Climate, Nature, and People through Place-Based Action**

- By embedding integrated, cross-sectoral urban and territorial planning linking ecosystem protection with essential city- or region-level services.
- By recognizing that environmental justice and social inclusion are inseparable in effective environmental action.
- By scaling nature-based solutions that strengthen livelihoods and resilience, especially in informal settlements.
- By developing new metrics of bankability based on avoided losses and long-term resilience benefits to prioritize adaptation finance for the most vulnerable populations and territories.
- By ensuring that environmental policies strengthen social cohesion and foster community participation, while preventing environmental inequalities.

### **4. Elevate Subnational Diplomacy and Partnerships for Implementation**

- By acknowledging local and subnational governments as global actors connecting global goals with territorial realities.
- By encouraging formal participation of local and subnational governments in multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) conferences and review processes.
- By supporting cross-border cooperation, regional networks, and city-to-city partnerships.
- By maintaining the Cities and Regions Summit of UNEA as a permanent multilevel dialogue platform between Parties and local and subnational leaders.

### **5. Advance the Just Transition**

- By putting care, gender equality, and social protection at the centre of ecological transition policies.
- By recognizing culture as the backbone of belonging and peace, the enabler of a just transition, and the driver of the living fabric of identity, creativity, and diversity.
- By supporting the formalization and protection of local informal and frontline workers — including waste pickers and community caretakers — as key actors in circular and green economies.
- By working with local and subnational governments to guarantee universal access to essential public services (water, sanitation, energy, housing, digital connectivity, mobility).
- By mainstreaming the economic principles of gender equality into local, national and international environmental budgets, recognizing care work as part of environmental action.

## Our Shared Commitment

UNEA-7 must mark a turning point: from commitment to capability, from fragmentation to cooperation, and from catalytic funding to systemic transformation. As an organized constituency of local and subnational governments, we stand ready to co-lead this new phase of multilateral environmental action, rooted in our territories, powered by our people, and guided by care for the planet. This requires that commitments be matched with mandate, finance and capacity, enabling cities and regions to act as local laboratories where transformative, people-centred and place-based public policies—and the public services that sustain them—advance environmental justice, community involvement and the protection of all territories.

