

## BRIEFING ON CITIES RACE TO RESILIENCE

Cities wishing to join please go to Cities Race to Resilience: [www.citiesracetoresilience.org](http://www.citiesracetoresilience.org)

For more information contact [racetoresilience@iclei.org](mailto:racetoresilience@iclei.org)

### Race to Resilience

The Race to Resilience is a global campaign run by the COP26 Presidency and High-Level Climate Champions to rally leadership and support from cities, regions, businesses and investors to help frontline communities build resilience and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Race to Resilience aims to catalyse action by non-state actors to build the resilience of 4 billion people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risks.

### What is the Cities Race to Resilience

C40 Cities, CDP, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Making Cities Resilient 2030, Resilient Cities Network, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) have come together to mobilize an **unprecedented coalition of cities** committed to prioritizing resilience and implementing inclusive and resilient climate action ahead of and beyond the COP26 in Glasgow.

The Cities Race to Resilience is one of the initiatives under the Race to Resilience campaign, focused on driving cities to join and pledge their commitment to the global fight against climate change. **The Cities Race to Resilience offers cities themselves the unique opportunity to showcase action and drive ambition, according to their own contextually relevant local landscape.**

Cities are invited to take this crucial step, be a catalyst for change, and join the Race to Resilience to demonstrate your commitment in being part of the most decisive year in climate action history.

**We, as cities, need to go further, faster, and deliver on the goals of the Paris Agreement in full. Working collaboratively, we can win the race to resilience.**

### How to join Race to Resilience

To join us please visit the Cities Race to Resilience website ([www.citiesracetoresilience.org](http://www.citiesracetoresilience.org)) and electronically sign the Cities Race to Resilience pledge and commit to specific actions that will lead to improving the resilience of your population, and/ or contact us via the website's [contact page](#).

The pledge ask that you commit to do the following:

1. Pledge to integrate climate change adaptation and resilience in all aspects of urban planning and undertake a community-wide climate risk and vulnerability assessment that includes all vulnerable communities;
2. Plan to use available climate change knowledge and scientific evidence, including data and spatial analysis, for decision-making and action, and outline interim targets and milestones as part of a long-term commitment for citywide climate action;
3. Immediately proceed to taking action by committing to at least one of the resilience actions as listed on [www.citiesracetoresilience.org/](http://www.citiesracetoresilience.org/) by COP26; and,
4. Report commitments by COP26, and progress annually thereafter, to an existing or recommended reporting platform.

Cities and local governments with existing commitments compliant with the Cities Race to Resilience requirements are invited to sign the pledge and report those. Cities or local governments who are not sure if their existing commitments meet the Cities Race to Resilience requirements are also invited to sign the pledge and report them for validation. For more information on reporting, please refer to the FAQ or Step-by-Step guide for cities.

## Benefits of participating

Joining the Cities Race to Resilience will bring the following direct benefits to your city or sub-national government:

- **Access to the Race to Resilience:** Joining automatically qualifies your city to be a part of the Race to Resilience led by the COP26 Presidency and High-Level Climate Champions, ensuring formal recognition for your efforts by the UNFCCC.
- **Leadership and visibility:** This is a unique opportunity to join and shape a global movement capable of changing the world. The stories of cities that have committed to the Race to Resilience will be showcased leading up to, during and post COP26.
- **Endorsements by partners and access to resources:** the Cities Race to Resilience is the sum of its partners. Joining is compatible with the following partner initiatives, tools and resources:
  - **CitiesWithNature:** CitiesWithNature is a unique initiative that recognizes and enhances the value of nature in and around cities across the world. It provides a shared platform for cities and their partners to engage and connect, working with shared commitment towards a more sustainable urban world.
  - **The C40 Urban Nature pledge:** C40's Urban Nature Declaration positions cities as leaders in increasing publicly and equitably accessible nature in their urban environments to support regional biodiversity and reduce climate risk and vulnerability. The Declaration will amplify and support the delivery of urban nature by setting greening targets and accelerating actions focused on delivering solutions for equitable climate resilience, building an inclusive economy and ensuring healthy communities — setting cities on a pathway where people and nature support one another.

- **Cities4Forests:** Cities4Forests is a coalition of 69 cities from around the world that are using their political, economic, and cultural power to protect and restore forests, both within cities and beyond. The coalition is managed by World Resources Institute and Pilot Projects. Cities4Forests helps its network of cities better conserve, manage, and restore their inner forests (such as city trees, urban parks and natural areas), nearby forests (such as watersheds), and faraway forests (especially tropical forests).
- **The City Climate Finance Gap Fund:** The 'Gap Fund' provides a range of technical and advisory services as well as capacity building support to cities and local governments in developing and emerging countries to prioritise and prepare climate-smart investments and programmes at an early stage, with the goal of accelerating preparation, enhancing quality, and ensuring they are bankable.
- **The CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting Platform:** By reporting your local climate action, your city will be part of over 800 climate-ambitious local governments that measure impact and share their progress with peers, citizens, businesses, investors, and the global community. This will help accelerate the global transition to a sustainable future and inspire others to take even more ambitious action. Race to Resilience reporting can be done through the free-to-use CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System.
- **Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) Commitment:** your pledge meets the GCoM requirements for the adaptation target and may be paired with mitigation and energy access commitments for full compliance with the Common Reporting Framework.
- The ICLEI **GreenClimateCities (GCC) Programme**, offers cities and towns guidance to progress step-by-step toward climate neutrality.
- **Making Cities Resilient 2030:** MCR2030 offers cities a clear, three-stage roadmap to implementing resilience building actions with the goal to ensure cities become inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by 2030, contributing directly to the achievement of the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG11), the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction and the New Urban Agenda.
- **The WWF One Planet City Challenge (OPCC):** with your pledge and progress reporting we invite you to participate in this global competition where frontrunners are recognized. Here you will also receive support on science-based targets, and strategic feedback on your climate action package.
- **Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities):** Resilient Cities Network is a global city-led non-profit organization that brings together knowledge, practice, partnerships, and funding to empower cities to help them build a safe, equitable, and sustainable future for all. R-Cities is the world-leading urban resilience network, supporting 100 city governments worldwide to impact more than 220 million urban dwellers by 2030.
- **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG):** The World Organization of UCLG promotes resilience as a fundamental building block for the ecological transformation of cities and territories. UCLG developed dedicated Learning Modules on Resilience, in order to build capacities of local and regional governments, and their associations, on disaster risk reduction and management, under a broad understanding, which includes social conditions, gender and many others.
- **1000 Cities Adapt Now:** The [1000 Cities Adapt Now](#) initiative is a 10-year global program to accelerate climate adaptation in 1000 cities worldwide. The program helps cities implement adaptation measures - including investment in nature-based solutions, [urban water resilience](#) and resilient upgradation for the urban poor. The 1000CAN initiative will scale implementation of the strategic solutions by leveraging key city networks and institutions and their overlapping geographies, city relationships, data expertise and knowledge resources.

- **Africa Urban Water Resilience Initiative:** The [Africa urban water resilience program](#) is set to develop and implement urban water action plans at the city-region scale in 20 cities by 2030 starting with an initial cohort of 6 cities in 2021 and build a catalytic instrument to support scaled action and investment in water resilience in 100 cities.

## Join today

To join, go to <http://www.citiesracetoresilience.org> and sign the online pledge (only mayors, council leaders or equivalent individuals at the head of their city or local government should sign the pledge. Staff members may fill the online form on their behalf with their authorisation. For example, please upload an approval letter from the mayor, CEO, governor or equivalent to prove their endorsement). After signing the pledge you will be shown relevant guidance to begin delivering it:

- Start developing your climate risk and vulnerability assessment that includes all vulnerable communities.
- Commit to at least one action before COP26.
- Report the information you have in 2021, even if incomplete. No later than 2022 report your target and thereafter report progress annually on your usual reporting platform or the recommended one (CDP-ICLEI Unified Reporting System or MyCovenant). If you have not reported before, you will be contacted by partners for support.