CHAMP

Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships for Climate Action

A Joint Statement from the CHAMP Steering Group and Subnational Advisory Council

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For the first time, CHAMP's Steering Group and Subnational Advisory Council speak with one voice: a joint statement reflecting a shared commitment to translating climate ambition into delivery by strengthening cooperation between national, regional and local governments on climate policy, finance and implementation. Climate action requires speed and scale; multilevel partnerships are a critical enabler of both.

Until now, global climate efforts have centered on coordination between national governments, leaving cities, states and regions underrepresented, underfunded and their potential to accelerate climate action underutilized. Collaboration strengthens legitimacy and political acceptability, sharpens policy design, and enables cost-effective delivery — building stronger pipelines of climate action, boosting investor confidence and unlocking the finance needed to deliver.

Here at COP31, we set out how this collaboration must be strengthened around the three pillars of the CHAMP Implementation Roadmap:

Strengthening multilevel climate governance: The Second Global Stocktake (GST2) presents a unique opportunity to embed subnational governments in the evidence base that helps identify gaps, inform future climate action and shape the next generation of national climate plans. Recognizing that much of climate implementation happens locally, we support the LGMA constituency's call for GST2 to assess the contribution, implementation barriers and opportunities of cities, states and regions, drawing directly on their evidence during the technical assessment phase.

We look forward to the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, which is expected to offer the strongest evidence to date on the role of cities, states and regions in closing the ambition and implementation gap. We emphasize the importance of multilevel partnerships in the context of the IPCC Special Report and encourage relevant findings to be central to GST2's technical assessment.

Catalyzing partnerships for local delivery: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) can only be delivered through whole-of-economy, whole-of-society approaches that cut across sectors and administrative boundaries. Much of what these plans depend on — infrastructure, land use, urban planning, transport networks, energy systems and adaptation planning at scale — can only be achieved through genuine collaboration with cities, states and regions. We welcome the COP31 Presidency's focus on climate-resilient cities, clean energy and electrification, and zero

waste and methane reduction, and call on the Presidency to ensure that any sectoral targets and delivery plans agreed at COP31 identify how national and subnational governments will work together to implement them, including clear roles and delivery mechanisms.

Scaling up and unlocking finance: Turning climate priorities into financeable projects requires stronger support for cities, states and regions. We call on financial institutions to engage subnational governments from the outset, invest in their capacity for project pipeline development, and strengthen the link between project preparation and finance, including by mobilizing private capital alongside public resources. National approaches can help by aligning national climate plans, subnational investment priorities and financing decisions, and building on existing institutions and public investment systems. We welcome SURFF and call for country platforms to be used to connect national climate priorities with subnational investment pipelines, beginning with partnerships that can develop financeable projects and show measurable progress by COP32.

From COP28 to COP31, CHAMP has turned political ambition into a growing coalition for delivery. As this statement sets out, CHAMP is ready to bring its experience and insight to bear on the discussions and negotiations ahead — including through continued political and technical support for the Plan to Accelerate Solutions (PAS) on Multilevel, Multisectoral, and Participatory Governance, launched at COP30 — to embed multilevel governance within NDCs and NAPs, build institutional capacity, and unlock climate finance for subnational delivery.



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About CHAMP

The Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action was launched in 2023 by the COP28 Presidency in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies. CHAMP seeks to accelerate further emissions reductions and enhance resilience by strengthening cooperation between national and subnational governments — cities, states and regions — in climate policy, implementation and finance.

CHAMP's three-year Implementation Roadmap (launched June 2026) sets three goals:

- Strengthen multilevel climate governance to enhance the visibility, role and contribution of sub-national actors;
- Catalyze partnerships for local delivery of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs); and
- Unlock the means of implementation, including finance and investment, at the subnational level.

CHAMP operates under a country-led governance structure, guided by two Co-chairs (Brazil and Germany) and a nine-country Steering Group to provide strategic direction and elevate multilevel climate action in global policy and finance. A Subnational Advisory Council, consisting of 11 mayors and governors, provides strategic and policy-relevant advice to the Co-chairs and Steering Group from a subnational perspective.

Since its launch, CHAMP has grown rapidly, reflecting a growing global commitment to multilevel partnerships as a critical enabler of effective climate change. The coalition now counts 79 endorsing countries as well as the European Union, all of whom have pledged to strengthen cooperation with subnational actors in the design and implementation of national climate and investment plans.