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# Innovate4Cities - A Global Climate Action Accelerator

## Edmonton Declaration



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**We, Mayors of cities and communities of all sizes and from around the world,**

Meeting initially in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada for the Change for Climate – Global Mayors Summit March 3-4, 2018 on traditional indigenous territory of the Treaty No. 6 First Nations and Metis Nation Zone 4; Convened by the City of Edmonton, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and Federation of Canadian Municipalities,

In advance of, and with the aim of providing input to, and building on the momentum of, the inaugural CitiesIPCC Cities and Climate Change Science Conference as a significant convening of the scientific community on the issues of cities and climate science,

And additionally, providing input to the Mission Innovation Ministerial, which brings together innovative governments to deploy existing and new clean energy strategies at scale,

Building through a series of consultative processes organized with global and local city networks throughout the course of 2018, including a pivotal discussion between mayors and ministers alongside the 2018 Mission Innovation Convening in Malmo in May 2018,

With city commitments collected to culminate at the ICLEI World Congress in Montreal June 19-22 2018,

To be then carried forward to the September Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco, California September 12-14, 2018 in line with a new Innovate4Cities initiative Agenda as announced on March 22 by Global Covenant of Mayors Co-Chairs UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to Global Climate Action Michael R. Bloomberg and European Commission Vice President Maroš Šefčovič, Recognizing that extraordinary efforts are being undertaken by cities, towns and regions around the world today to respond with urgency and solidarity to the threat of climate change;

**DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:**

**WHEREAS** the Paris Agreement calls for the application of the best available science in the pursuit of its objectives of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change;

**WHEREAS** there is scientific consensus that climate change is happening at a rapid rate, that a central cause is the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) from human activities, and that its social, economic and environmental consequences will be severe if left unchecked;

**WHEREAS** there is scientific consensus that limiting the average of global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;

**WHEREAS** scientific analysis strongly suggests that the current overall, globally aggregated and nationally determined contributions are inadequate to achieve the 1.5°C goal, but most likely puts the world on at least a 3°C to 4°C pathway;

**WHEREAS** the economic benefits of strong, early action on climate change far outweigh the costs, and the significant cost of inaction would not be evenly distributed - recognizing the greatest impacts of climate change are felt by the world's poorest countries and peoples, including indigenous communities;

**WHEREAS** there is expert consensus that cities, towns and regions must play a central role in adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change to reduce GHG emissions, given that more than half the world's population lives in urban areas today and produces more than 70% of energy-related GHG emissions;

**WHEREAS** cities, towns and regions have significant influence through their public procurement practices which can be a strong driver of innovation, while at the same time achieving economies of scale and raising the quality of public services in markets where the public sector is a significant buyer of goods and services;

**WHEREAS** significant declarations and agreements are in place today, involving cities, towns and regions from around the world, and led by organizations working together in solidarity at both the global and local levels to support cities such as Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), C40 Cities, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Cities Alliance, United Cities and Local Governments, and others, including:

- **The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy** (June 2016) – the leading global alliance of cities and local governments, representing more than 7,500 cities and municipalities, supported by global and regional city networks, with a shared long-term vision of an inclusive, just, low-emission and climate-resilient future, helping to meet and exceed the Paris Agreement objectives.
- **One Planet Charter** (December 2017) – a new commitment campaign that will help cities swiftly implement actions to ensure Paris Agreement goals are met and will build upon the achievements of the 23rd UN Climate Change Conference, in particular the Bonn-Fiji Commitment of Local and Regional Governments to Deliver the Paris Agreement At All Levels and the forthcoming renewable energy campaigns to scale the number of cities making ambitious and sectoral-specific commitments.
- **Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues** (February 2018) – a series of facilitated dialogues between local leaders and government scheduled throughout 2018, supported by ICLEI, as the focal point for the local governments & municipal actors within the UN’s climate change convention, UN-Habitat and Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, to explore ways that all stakeholders might work collaboratively to implement the Paris Climate Agreement.
- **C40 Cities Deadline 2020** (December 2016) – have agreed that by 2020 all member cities will have a climate plan that ensures compliance with the ambitious 1.5°C Paris pathway (holding the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels).
- **Canadian municipal support for the Paris Agreement** (June 2016) – the nearly 2,000 local governments that make up the FCM adopted a resolution recognizing the need to pursue efforts to limit global temperature increases to 1.5°C, including the 340 municipalities which are part of the FCM-ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection network, and which have individually made political commitments to act on climate change.

**WHEREAS** through these declarations and agreements, cities, towns and regions around the world are making important strides to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change through use and application of improved long-term planning and management systems, clean energy systems and more efficient and resilient urban form, transportation and buildings;

**WHEREAS** in spite of these advances, cities, towns and regions continue to face major challenges in: (a) measuring and managing greenhouse gas emissions caused by both the activities taking place within their boundaries, as well as the production of goods and services that are consumed within their boundaries but produced outside their boundaries; and (b) assessing climate risks and vulnerabilities due to the lack of current and forecasted information at an adequate geographical and temporal scale;

**WHEREAS** the scientific community has signaled an interest in city-specific research by hosting the CitiesIPCC Cities and Climate Change Conference, but needs up-to-date data from cities, towns and regions on their targets, actions and impacts in order to design research that more accurately responds to local government needs;

**WHEREAS** the finance, technology, private sector and government research and development communities have signaled an interest in increased investment in clean technologies, they have not yet identified a specific deployment strategy within cities, towns and regions;

**WHEREAS** these data, research and innovation gaps could be filled by building stronger linkages and ongoing dialogues between climate science, urban policy, practice, and government to advance coherent policy frameworks and technology deployment strategies driven by hard data and scientific evidence, and informed by practitioner and government expertise;

**WHEREAS** the complex social, economic and environmental challenges facing cities of all sizes across all regions of the world, as well as states and national governments require science-based approaches and solutions;

**IN SIGNING THE INNOVATE4CITIES INITIATIVE – EDMONTON DECLARATION, WE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INDICATE OUR COMMITMENT TO ACT IN COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL AND OTHER SUBNATIONAL COUNTERPARTS AND:**

1. **CALL UPON** all national and other subnational governments to formally recognize the immediate and urgent need for action that will limit global warming to 1.5°C;
2. **CALL UPON** all national and other subnational governments to coordinate and integrate their efforts in developing and achieving increasingly ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions committed to under the Paris Agreement through co-developing tools, resources and governance structures in support of local governments;
3. **CALL UPON** all national, other subnational and local governments to establish formal, rigorous processes to understand and minimize the greenhouse gas emissions caused by the consumption of goods, services and products within their boundaries and along the full supply chain;
4. **COMMIT TO AND CALL UPON** all national, other subnational and local governments to establish, implement and maintain GHG inventories, targets, action plans and reporting mechanisms consistent with the Paris Agreement and commitments made through Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and provide that data to the global community;
5. **COMMIT TO AND CALL UPON** all national, other subnational and local governments to undertake climate risk and vulnerability assessments to guide their planning and investment decisions, increase climate resilience and minimize the exposure of people and assets to the impacts of climate change;
6. **COMMIT TO AND CALL UPON** all national, other subnational and local governments to establish formal, science-based policy and decision-making processes within their organizations; and
7. **TO ENSURE THE INTENT OF THIS COMMITMENT IS REALIZED, CALL UPON** the scientific and academic community assembled at the CitiesIPCC Cities and Climate Change Science Conference to work collaboratively with cities and city organizations to assess knowledge gaps pertinent to cities and climate change (including those identified in this declaration), as well as the technology and innovation community to improve current knowledge and data gaps, and make available better analysis of local climate data in order to deliver solutions impacting climate change policies and decisions, and develop research & development approaches aimed at deployment of new technologies, particularly within city boundaries.