C40 CITIES
CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GROUP

INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION (ICA)
Climate change is unfair—it was created by the privileged few, but will hit the many hardest and strongest. In addition, climate action is not always equitable and does not share its benefits fairly. Our response to climate change needs to be just and inclusive: if addressing climate change does not meet the needs of city residents, mayors will lose the permission to act. The Inclusive Climate Action (ICA) programme provides cities with a clear roadmap and support to plan, build consensus and deliver bold climate action that is equitable and beneficial for all.

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CLIMATE CHANGE IS UNFAIR

Climate change does not treat everyone equally. The people who have benefited the least from our fossil fuel societies, and who are contributing the least greenhouse gas emissions, are suffering the most from the consequences. The actions of 10% of the world’s population are responsible for 50% of global emissions. At the same time, the poorest and most vulnerable in our societies are disproportionately at risk from rising seas, unprecedented droughts and climate related disasters. Women and children suffer more than men. In the United States, two-thirds of the jobs lost in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina were held by women.

According to the United Nations, “people who are socially, economically, culturally, politically, institutionally or otherwise marginalised are especially vulnerable to climate change.” Climate events are expected to force 100 million people into extreme poverty over the next decade and create over 200 million climate migrants by 2050.

RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE ARE ALSO UNFAIR

More than 50% of the world’s population now live in cities, and the trend is moving towards even more extreme inequality amongst those urban citizens. In many of the world’s fastest growing cities, one billion people now live in vast sprawling slums without access to land, housing or basic services. In this context, the response to climate change is often unfair and not capable of sharing its benefits equitably. Wealthier people have typically profited more from subsidies for renewable energy and home energy efficiency, while the experience of recent extreme weather events shows that citizens from the poorest communities are left without homes and jobs long after the rest of the economy has recovered. Also, access to low-carbon transportation or efficient waste management services tend to be higher in high-income districts, thus improving air quality and public health for the residents of these areas.
CITIES ARE LEADING THE WAY

Cities are at the centre of both the climate crisis and the search for solutions. Local leaders need to act quickly to protect and provide for all citizens, especially those most impacted by climate change and traditionally least represented in the corridors of power. Several mayors around the world are already leading the way, committed and engaged in jointly tackling social goals and climate goals with concrete practices on the ground. Examples include delivering electric car sharing schemes to low-income neighbourhoods, increasing portions of zero or low-carbon social housing, committing to a just transition by working with unions to set green job targets, involving informal waste pickers in landfill refurbishment or increasing resilience of informal settlements and slum dwellers. The ambitious climate action demanded by the Paris Agreement will not be fully effective and will not deliver the maximum positive impacts unless it is inclusive for all citizens. Delivering on the Paris Agreement thus presents a unique opportunity to create a more just urban society, with new protections for those that have been historically marginalised by the fossil fuel economy and with better jobs, improved health and better air quality for all.

ICA IS ABOUT BOLD LEADERSHIP

Inspired by leading mayors and cutting-edge urban practices around the world, the Inclusive Climate Action (ICA) programme provides mayors with customised support to help them deliver climate plans and actions that are inclusive for all communities and that bring forth equitable policy solutions. It aims at supporting mayors and city officials in involving groups that go beyond those “usual suspects” who are already environmentally aware, active and involved. It aims at supporting them in delivering services on transport, energy, waste, resilience that are accessible, affordable and well communicated, thus enabling citizens to understand and experience the benefits of a low-carbon transition. ICA provides mayors a clear roadmap to plan, build consensus and deliver bold climate action that is fair, accessible and beneficial for all citizens. Mayors have long been the most committed champions of urgent climate action to protect the health, prosperity and welfare of their citizens. Many more can be inspired by this leadership and act quickly. Together, we can create a city-led global movement for ambitious inclusive climate action.
ICA DELIVERS HANDS-ON SUPPORT

Strategic resources, exchange and support

The programme will be delivered by bringing to each city hands-on support including inclusivity reviews and benefits assessments of climate action plans, technical and collaborative trainings, knowledge on engagement and empowerment of communities, best practice exchanges, communication platforms, research and innovative partnerships.

More specifically, the programme will:

- Provide ground-breaking and innovative research on the links between climate change and inequality, wider benefits of climate action and inclusive climate action in cities.

- Provide technical assistance to cities to develop and deliver ambitious climate action plans (CAPs) that are compatible with the Paris Agreement and that are inclusive and fair. Cities will have access to customized support, training and resources focused on stakeholder and citizen engagement, inclusivity and benefits assessment of CAPs, inclusive mitigation and adaptation actions.

- Enhance best practice exchange between cities, using C40’s existing infrastructure of thematic initiatives and networks. Cities will be provided with a best practice guidebook on inclusive climate action and city officials will be able to attend webinars and workshops on inclusive climate action and exchange information online and offline.

- Enhance thought leadership of mayors, showcasing existing practices and new commitments at global and regional flagship events.

Key partnerships

Finally, as much as C40 is building on its strengths and experience, we are also aware that complex and city-specific challenges ambitiously addressed by this programme also call for new, undeveloped skills and knowledge. For this reason, we are building varied partnerships at a global level with key constituencies that are normally under-represented in climate action efforts and that can be absent or openly hostile when ambitious climate action hits the ground. Instead, if well managed and included in the institutional and political process these constituencies can actually become critical partners of local governments. At this stage the two key partnerships that C40 is developing are with: Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and with the Just Transition Centre (JTC) and the global union movement. The goal of these partnerships is to further support the work described above, with pilots in a small number of cities, which are interested and committed to engage with these constituencies.

A CITY-LED GLOBAL MOVEMENT

This progressive programme will help cities worldwide maximise reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and climate risk, while tackling economic inequality and social disparities and enabling greater knowledge sharing between cities. As a result, cities will deliver policies that help create equal job opportunities, higher living standards and improved public and environmental health for all. This will help mayors to build and strengthen consensus for the ambitious climate action needed to deliver on the Paris Agreement.
ICA SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES

INCREASED CAPACITY FOR INCLUSIVE CLIMATE PLANNING, ACTION AND ASSESSMENT

INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION EMBEDDED IN PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF CLIMATE ACTION

MAYORAL LEADERSHIP SHOWCASED NATIONALLY AND GLOBALLY

NEW SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR CITY TECHNICAL STAFF

ABILITY TO MEASURE OUTCOMES OF INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION

ICA LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

A GLOBAL MOVEMENT ON INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION

INCREASED SCALE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

INCREASED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE ACTION

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, POLITICAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Raised living standards
- Increased happiness
- Improved opportunity for low income residents to mobilize and benefit from climate action planning
- Improved public and environmental health outcomes
- Improved air quality
- Increased equal job opportunities
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