

PRESS RELEASE

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Urban 20 mayors call on G20 leaders to invest in a Green, Just, and Local Recovery ahead of the G20 Summit.

- **The Urban 20 Communiqué urges G20 leaders to accelerate climate action ahead of COP26 and invest in the core tenets of a green and just recovery**
- **The U20 Communiqué calls for strengthening health systems and public services to ensure global and equitable access to vaccines**
- **The Communiqué calls on the G20 to foster social cohesion and equity and to move towards inclusive and prosperous societies**

Cities from G20 countries, gathered as the Urban 20 (U20) met today for the U20 Mayors Summit 2021. The virtual meeting was hosted by the U20 Chairs, Virginia Raggi, Mayor of Rome and Giuseppe Sala, Mayor of Milan.

Mayors representing the world's largest economies presented their vision for a green and just recovery from COVID-19 and urged their national leaders to work together to foster greater collaboration with cities and local governments to accelerate solutions to the climate, health, economic and social crisis.

The Summit included the official presentation of the U20 Communiqué to the G20 Presidency. The 2021 Communiqué, first released in June by 28 mayors, now counts an additional 13 signatories, including the Indian cities of Mumbai and Delhi, who are joining the U20 initiative for the first time.

Specifically, in the Communiqué, 41 Mayors and Governors outline their vision for a new sustainable development paradigm and the road towards a resilient recovery from the global humanitarian crisis precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. They ask the G20 leaders to guarantee the right to health for all by supporting strong public institutions and service provision, which are vital to the cohesion of our communities and to guaranteeing universal vaccine access equally for all. They call on the G20 to accelerate climate action ahead of COP26 by investing in halving global emissions by 2030 and shifting investments from fossil fuels to clean energy. Finally, the mayors are asking the G20 to increase equity and good governance, both by enabling cities to make the transition to a net zero economy, a just transition for all, as well as by protecting citizen's digital rights.

This high level diplomatic event is expected to raise the stakes on the international stage in the lead-up to not only the G20 Summit in October, but also the COP26 in Glasgow in November and other key international policy processes by bringing together some of the most ambitious leaders.

QUOTES:

“U20 cities send a joint message to the G20: there is no recovery that is not green, just and local. Cities’ recommendations around the People, Planet and Prosperity priorities indicate to G20 governments that we can and want to help. Cities are the best allies to achieve the G20 ambitions as we host the majority of people, have proven to be seriously committed to a sustainable planet and are the beacons of innovation for future prosperity. We expect the G20 to value the role of cities in their proceedings particularly this year, at such a challenging as well as promising juncture in the history of humanity.”

- **Giuseppe Sala**, Mayor of Milan and U20 Co-Chair

“To create a resilient, green and equitable society must be our common post-pandemic objective. Cities are where the majority of people live, and Mayors are the most accountable to the citizens, being the closest level of Government to the people. The Italian Presidency of the G20 brought about the closest cooperation between cities and governments yet, and we shall keep on working together to achieve our common objectives. We call on the Italian Presidency to value the contribution U20 Cities give to the creation of a society that will be more inclusive and green.”

- **Virginia Raggi**, Mayor of Rome and U20 Co-Chair

“Cities are home to a growing majority of the world’s population and they hold the key to addressing many of the big challenges we face, including climate change,” said Michael R. Bloomberg, UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions, Founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies, and C40 Board President. “It’s encouraging to see national governments increasingly recognize the role of cities and look to them as partners – and the recent communique from G20 ministers in charge of Energy and Climate is just one example. The more we do to support and empower cities, the faster we can make progress on global issues, and that is especially important because of the enormous challenges cities are facing from the pandemic. I applaud the Urban 20 for their work advocating for the world’s cities and amplifying their voices.”

- **Michael R. Bloomberg**, UN Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions, Founder, Bloomberg LP & Bloomberg Philanthropies

“Bringing the voices of local and regional governments to the international arena is more important than ever. The vital role that they have played in protecting both our people and our planet through local public service provision has proven to be crucial. As co-convener of the Urban 20, and

facilitator of the Global Taskforce, United Cities and Local Governments stands ready to ensure that the vision and experiences of cities impact policy at all levels.”

- **Mohamed Boudra**, President of UCLG, Mayor of Al-Hoceima, and President of the Moroccan Association of Mayors (AMPCC)

"Jakarta encourages all U20 city leaders to collaborate, unite, and extend our best efforts while enhancing vertical integration in policy-making and action implementation with the national governments to meet our collective targets of the Paris Agreement and SDGs."

- **Anies Baswedan**, Governor of Jakarta

"By their very nature, cities are not just frontlines in the climate and covid-crisis, but also breeding ground for creative solutions. As we have no time to lose, I call upon the G20 leaders to empower mayors to accelerate our efforts for tangible impact."

- **Ahmed Aboutaleb**, Mayor of Rotterdam

"As Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, we did not hesitate even for a second to sign the call that will be presented to the G20 leaders and invite our governments to partner with cities for a human-centred, green and equitable recovery."

- **Ekrem IMAMOGLU**, Mayor of Istanbul

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About U20

Urban 20 is a city diplomacy initiative that brings together cities from G20 member states under a common framework to discuss global economic, climate and development issues. The cities form a common position and issue recommendations for consideration by the G20 presidency and Heads of State, enhancing the role of cities as global economic and political leaders. The U20 initiative is permanently convened by C40 Cities and United Cities and Local Governments, under the leadership of a Chair city that rotates annually. The initiative is currently in its fourth cycle and was previously Chaired by Buenos Aires (2018), Tokyo (2019), and Riyadh (2020).

About C40 Cities

C40 connects 97 of the world's largest and most influential cities, representing 700+ million citizens and one quarter of the global economy. Member cities use a science-based approach and exchange of best practices to take the urgent and effective action needed to confront the climate crisis and keep global heating below 1.5°C, aiming to collectively halve greenhouse gas

emissions by 2030. C40 mayors are committed to increasing resilience, cleaning the air we breathe and taking inclusive climate action to create a healthier and more sustainable future.

About United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

UCLG is the world organization of local and regional governments and their associations, representing and defending their interests on the world stage. UCLG's membership serves 70% of the world's population and is present in all world regions. UCLG's key areas of political interest are: local democracy, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, local finance, urban development and city diplomacy in peace building.