

## 7.1 LMM 12/12/2023 - COP28 - LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

### MOTION

That City of Newcastle:

1. Acknowledges that the United Nations Climate Change Conference, the Conference of the Parties (COP28), was recently held in Dubai, with the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies inviting Local Government representatives from Australia to participate in the Local Climate Action Summit - the first time Mayors and City representatives have been invited to the table to represent our cities at this international forum, uniting subnational and national leaders to establish a new paradigm for fully integrated climate action between governments at all levels.
2. Notes the Summit brought together hundreds of national and subnational climate leaders to transform climate finance, enhance global action, fast-track the energy transition, and strengthen resilience and adaptation at the local level.
3. Welcomes the outcomes of the Summit, which recognised the critical role local government leaders play in reducing emissions, addressing climate risk and supercharging national efforts to move further and faster on climate progress, as councils across Australia and the world grapple with the enormity of the challenges, as well as the immense opportunities associated with the rapid transition away from fossil fuel-based industries.
4. Supports the *Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action Pledge* (Attachment 1), whose signatories undertake to enhance cooperation with their subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation and monitoring of climate strategies to maximise climate action, including through coalitions with a view towards collectively pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5oC above pre-industrial levels, and increase adaptation and resilience.
5. Notes that through Australia's strong advocacy, led by Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen and Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy Senator Jenny McAllister, the Summit secured a \$100 million commitment to assist local governments to implement climate change adaptation and risk mitigation initiatives at the city level.
6. Notes that upon securing this landmark deal, Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo said "if you want to achieve the Paris Agreement targets, we need to have cities in the room. What happened today is a major success. And to all of my colleagues, let's make sure Mayors remain in the room."
7. Reiterates our long-held commitment to the environment, sustainability and leading our community to take collective action to overcome the challenges of climate change.
8. Notes that our recently adopted Newcastle Environment Strategy (NES) is central to our efforts to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and to drive the transformational change needed for a net zero emissions future.

### BACKGROUND

#### Local Climate Action Summit

This week I have had the honour of representing the City of Newcastle and our citizens at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP 28, in Dubai.

Mayors from across the globe came together for the inaugural Local Climate Action Summit, the first-time local government was invited to the table to represent our cities at this international

forum, finally uniting subnational and national leaders to establish a new paradigm for fully integrated climate action between governments at all levels.

Hosted by the COP 28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Summit brought together hundreds climate leaders to transform climate finance, enhance global action, fast-track the energy transition, and strengthen resilience and adaptation at the local level. It was backed by global networks leading action on climate change, including the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, both of which Council is an active member of.

The Summit recognised the critical role local leaders play in reducing emissions, addressing climate risk and supercharging national efforts to move further and faster on climate progress, as councils across Australia and the world grapple with the enormity of the challenges, as well as the immense opportunities associated with the rapid transition away from fossil fuel-based industries towards a low carbon economy.

Importantly, through Australia's strong advocacy, led by Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen and Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy Senator Jenny McAllister, we were able to secure a \$100 million commitment to assist local governments to implement climate change adaptation and risk mitigation initiatives at the city level.

Upon securing this landmark deal, Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo said "if you want to achieve the Paris Agreement targets, we need to have cities in the room. What happened today is a major success. And to all of my colleagues, let's make sure Mayors remain in the room."

COP 28 is where the world takes stock of progress on the 2015 Paris Agreement.

This allows countries and stakeholders to see where they're collectively making progress towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, and identify where they're not, which can be leveraged to accelerate ambition in their next round of climate action plans due in 2025. This coincides with the next iteration of Council's Newcastle Climate Action Plan, which we will work with our community to develop in 2025.

At the City of Newcastle, we have a long-held commitment to the environment, sustainability and leading the community to take collective action to overcome the challenges of climate change. Our recently adopted Newcastle Environment Strategy (NES) is central to our efforts to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and to drive the transformational change needed for a net zero emissions future.

The NES sets an ambitious target of a 100% reduction in city-wide greenhouse gas emissions from electricity by 2030, to support the city-wide goal of net zero emissions by 2040 in our Newcastle Climate Action Plan.

Through the NES, we will support our city's transition to net zero emissions through the continued roll-out of public EV charging infrastructure network, as well as community and business engagement focusing on the uptake of and access to rooftop solar PV and battery storage. We'll also focus on energy efficiency, electrification and community-led renewable energy and battery storage projects, while working to build a circular economy based on local sourcing, production, manufacturing and consumption of materials.

Having successfully navigated previous economic transformations, Newcastle must position itself to take full advantage of an emerging low carbon economy. This can be achieved by supporting a renewable energy industry and low emissions technologies, while ensuring that those most

impacted by this change are supported, retrained and given opportunities for job security in a new economy.

Council has a proud track record of taking real action at the local level. We were the first council in NSW to move to 100% renewable electricity supply for all operations in 2019, a result that was driven by the construction of the 5MW solar farm at Summerhill Waste Management Centre and a renewable energy power purchase agreement.

Through the NES, we will maintain a 100% renewable electricity supply and continue to deliver energy efficiency initiatives, streetlight upgrades and increased onsite solar PV and battery storage. We will also focus on reducing our remaining emissions through the electrification of our fleet and operational vehicles, plant and equipment.

Through the NES, we are also developing a Climate Risk and Resilience Action Plan to help our community, especially those most vulnerable, adapt to the impacts of climate change that our city is already experiencing and will continue to experience into the future.

This is a critical decade for climate action. A United Nations decade of science, solutions and solidarity. At the City of Newcastle, we will act local and think global.

***Nuatali Nemes is the Lord Mayor of the City of Newcastle. The Lord Mayor and City of Newcastle's Executive Manager Environment & Sustainability Marnie Kikken attended COP28 courtesy of Bloomberg Philanthropies.***

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. COP28 - COALITION FOR HIGH AMBITION MULTILEVEL PARTNERSHIPS (CHAMP) FOR CLIMATE ACTION



**COP<sup>28</sup>**  
**UAE**

**COALITION FOR HIGH AMBITION  
MULTILEVEL PARTNERSHIPS  
(CHAMP) FOR CLIMATE ACTION**



# COP28 UAE

## **COP28 Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action**

*Recalling* the Paris Agreement's recognition of the importance of engagement of all levels of government, and subsequent decisions by the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on multilevel engagement, including the creation of the roles of the High Level Champions at COP21 and their establishment of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action at COP22, the introduction of the Talanoa Dialogue process at COP23, and the COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact,

*Reaffirming* that collaborative and science-based climate action coordinated between national and subnational governments - including cities, towns, states and regions - is critical and creates additional potential for emissions reduction, building resilience, and avoiding severe climate impacts,

*Acknowledging* respective national legislations, regulations, and circumstances, and the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement as the primary intergovernmental fora for the global response to climate change.

*Encouraged* by the work and contributions of non-Party stakeholders, including cities, towns, states and regions, to the Paris Agreement process since its adoption,<sup>1</sup> the inaugural convening of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at COP27 and its second iteration at COP28, and the work of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency to the UNFCCC,

**We, the countries identified below, gathered at COP28, pledge to:**

Join the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action in order to enhance cooperation, where applicable and appropriate, with our subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of climate strategies, including but not limited to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Long Term Low-Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), to maximise climate action, including through coalitions such as the NDC Partnership, with a view towards collectively pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and increase adaptation and resilience.

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<sup>1</sup> Including the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action established in 2022, the Cities Race to Zero and Resilience, subnational contributions to the 2030 Breakthroughs and the Sharm el Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, and the COP27 Presidency's Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) initiative



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To achieve these objectives, we will, in nationally determined ways:

## Consult

1. Consult with our respective subnational governments, as appropriate and applicable, to determine the avenues for subnational action to contribute to national mitigation and adaptation commitments and strategies, and their subsequent implementation and monitoring.

## Collaborate

2. Work collaboratively with our respective subnational governments to unlock and realise mitigation and adaptation action opportunities at the subnational level by involving them, as appropriate and applicable, in the review, design, enhancement, consolidation and implementation of our national commitments and strategies.

## NDC 2025

3. Create inclusive institutional and informal processes to enable subnational governments to contribute to further enhancing NDCs, where applicable, ahead of COP30 in 2025, and, where available and appropriate, integrate local and territorial baseline information, targets and actions for emissions mitigation and adaptation across all sectors and industries.

## NDC investment

4. Include relevant subnational government projects (encompassing mitigation and adaptation) in climate-related investment priorities (including those directly and indirectly related to NDCs) and strive to help them secure the resources necessary from public and private financial institutions, as applicable, to begin or scale up implementation, including but not limited to supporting project preparation, pipeline development, aggregation of projects, new financial instruments or policy reform at local, national, regional and global levels as needed.

## Voluntary review

5. Undertake, as appropriate and applicable, regular, and inclusive country-led reviews of progress at national and subnational level around the implementation of CHAMP commitments through existing processes, which may include the Voluntary National Review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a view to ensure that national policy frameworks support and, where appropriate, can accelerate ambitious multilevel climate action.

## High Level Dialogue

6. Meet, amongst the endorsers of CHAMP, with representative subnational leaders, at a global High Level Political Dialogue on Multilevel Climate Action in the lead up to both COP29 and COP30 to share good practices and lessons learned in implementing the CHAMP commitments, to be compiled into a summary shared, among others, as a contribution to the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change.



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## ANNOTATIONS + FAQ

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### ***Annotations - not part of the CHAMP pledge***

#### **“involving [our subnational governments], where appropriate, in the review, design, enhancement, consolidation and implementation of our national commitments and strategies”**

National governments that endorse CHAMP have the sole and exclusive authority to decide how they intend to deliver their CHAMP commitments, including total discretion on how to institutionally involve subnational governments in consultation and how to harvest their contributions for inclusion, where and when appropriate, into relevant national commitments and strategies.

#### **“Create inclusive institutional and informal processes to enable subnational governments to contribute to further enhancing NDCs, where applicable, ahead of COP30 in 2025”**

National governments have total discretion to determine the time, place, and manner for subnational inputs, as well as control over how to review and evaluate these submissions. National governments wishing to request support or guidance in how to implement their commitment may place these requests with CHAMP's strategic partner: the NDC Partnership<sup>2</sup>.

#### **“help [subnational governments] secure the resources necessary from public and private financial institutions, as applicable, to begin or scale up implementation (...)”**

With this pledge, national governments do not commit to funding directly all local subnational projects that they identify and include as part of their NDC investment plan. However national governments commit to enhancing access for subnational governments to sustainable financing for their climate actions and projects, as applicable. CHAMP endorsers have total discretion over how to enhance access to finance, according to national legislation, regulations, and circumstances.

One way in which national governments can support subnational governments to access financing, is to support the development of local climate projects through the concept of a National Accelerator for Local Climate Finance. The goal of such a mechanism is to create a national pipeline of investable local climate projects on a national-level platform, accessible to subnational governments of all sizes, that would support the preparation and aggregation of subnational climate projects, tailor climate investment vehicles to national and local policy environments and improve policy enabling environments for scaling local climate finance.

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<sup>2</sup> The NDC Partnership is a global coalition, bringing together more than 200 members, (including more than 120 developed and developing countries, and nearly 100 institutions) to deliver on ambitious climate action that helps achieve the Paris Agreement and drive sustainable development. Governments identify their NDC implementation priorities and the type of support that is needed to translate them into actionable policies and programs. Based on these requests, the membership offers a tailored package of expertise, technical assistance, and funding.



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**“Undertake, as appropriate and applicable, regular and inclusive country-led reviews of progress (...) which may include the Voluntary National Review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development...”**

Reporting on progress against the CHAMP commitments may be highlighted as part of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) particularly in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) #11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities”, #13 “Climate Action” and #17 “Partnerships for the Goals”. These VNR reports can also be communicated to the CHAMP Secretariat. Additional informal reporting may be encouraged at the High-Level Political Dialogue on Multi-Level Action, following a process and format to be determined by the endorsers of CHAMP.

**“Meet, amongst the endorsers of CHAMP, with representative subnational leaders at a global High-Level Political Dialogue on Multilevel Climate Action in the lead up to both COP29 and COP30(...)”**

Following CHAMP’s announcement at COP28, a small technical team will ensure critical secretarial functions for CHAMP, including the organisation of the High-Level Political Dialogue on Multilevel Climate Action. The High-Level Dialogue will be the opportunity for CHAMP endorsers to meet on a regular basis to discuss progress and barriers to the CHAMP commitment implementation. A summary of good practice and lessons learned produced by the High-Level Political Dialogue will inform future iterations of the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change.

## **Frequently asked questions - not part of the CHAMP pledge**

### **Who should endorse CHAMP?**

We welcome endorsements from parties’ Ministers of Environment, Climate or other representatives who can endorse on behalf of their respective national governments. The list of countries that have endorsed CHAMP will be added to the pledge document and communicated publicly.

### **How should endorsements be made?**

Endorsements can be sent by any form of written communication, ideally note verbale, and copying or sent to [champ@cop28.com](mailto:champ@cop28.com) (cc: [ashah@cop28.com](mailto:ashah@cop28.com)).

### **What is the deadline for endorsement?**

COP28 highly encourages countries to endorse the declaration well in advance of the COP28 opening day; 30 November. The initial list of country endorsements will be published on 1 December, following the launch of CHAMP at the World Climate Action Summit.

### **What does endorsing CHAMP mean?**

National governments who endorse CHAMP signal their support for the objective of CHAMP (“(...)to enhance cooperation, where applicable and appropriate, with our subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of climate strategies (...)”) - and specifically to take action according to the 6 pledge clauses.

There are no expectations of financial contribution to CHAMP from the CHAMP endorsers.



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## Who is leading CHAMP and how was it developed?

CHAMP is an initiative by the COP28 Presidency developed with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and supported by subnational government networks and partner organisations (incl. C40, the Global Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, High Level Climate Champions, NDC Partnership, UN Habitat, Under2 Coalition, UCLG, University of Maryland, and WRI - Ross Center, among others).

CHAMP also received input from a "contact group" of countries. This group includes: Australia, The Bahamas, Canada, Denmark, Dominican Republic, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Rwanda, Senegal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

**Note: Participation in this contact group does not imply endorsement.**

Following its announcement, CHAMP will be supported by a small technical team (which will provide critical secretarial support to the coalition and organise the High-Level Political Dialogue), an advisory group including CHAMP national government endorsers, and a group of non-government technical partners (see below) to support the implementation of CHAMP.

## Will support be available for national governments to deliver their CHAMP commitments?

National governments wishing to request support or guidance in how to implement their commitment may direct these requests through the NDC Partnership.<sup>3</sup>

The NDC Partnership is a strategic partner in delivering CHAMP and serves to strengthen multilevel governance, by aligning national government requests for support with responses by CHAMP non-governmental technical partners (C40, the Global Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, High Level Climate Champions, UN Habitat, Under2 Coalition, UCLG, University of Maryland, and WRI - Ross Center, among others) that can organise support when appropriate and available. Through CHAMP, partners will work to draw together and give greater visibility to project pipelines and investment opportunities coming forward from endorsing countries.

## How is CHAMP different from existing urban initiatives and how will it interact with them?

CHAMP is a commitment taken by national governments on a new way of working in partnership with their subnational governments, and in particular, on a new way of approaching the development and implementation of their next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in time for COP30 in 2025. CHAMP seeks to connect **existing** initiatives that support NDC development (e.g., the NDC Partnership - see above) or help accelerate local level action (including but not limited to: Subnational Climate Action Leader's Exchange (SCALE), Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe), the City Climate Gap Fund, the C40 Cities Finance Facility, Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, etc.).

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<sup>3</sup> CHAMP endorsers are encouraged to submit their requests for support through their NDC Partnership Focal Points to the NDC Partnership, which, as a CHAMP partner, will work with the CHAMP Secretariat and partners to coordinate a response. CHAMP endorsers that are not yet members of NDC Partnership are invited to approach the Partnership about membership. Support to CHAMP endorsers is not limited to members of the NDC Partnership.