

## STATEMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAJOR GROUP

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Thank you Chair!

It gives me a great pleasure to address the Asia Pacific member states of the United Nations in my capacity as a representative of Local Authorities Major Group. I represent ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, which is a global network of local governments for sustainability with more than 1000 members including 250 odd cities from Asia Pacific region. We promote local action for global sustainability and supports cities to become sustainable, resilient, resource-efficient, bio-diverse, low-carbon; to build a smart infrastructure; and to develop an inclusive, green urban economy with the ultimate aim to achieve healthy and happy communities.

Dear Chair: 61% of the world's population lives in Asia-Pacific Region including world's two most populous countries (China and India) and more than half of the world's mega-cities (13 out of 22) are now found in Asia; also, more than half of the world's fastest growing cities are in this region. As a result currently more than 75 % of energy is consumed in these cities and thus contributing vastly to Co2, other GHG emissions and pollutants. However, if trends continue like this - we will need to provide in the next 40 years for the same amount of urban infrastructure i.e. water, energy, mobility, housing and food. This vast and rapid urbanization is going to impact all we currently do or have done until now in all spheres of policy, governance and implementation.

Dear Chair: For the last 20 years, through LA21 we mobilized thousands of communities to discuss/localize the concept of sustainability but if we want to ensure a full transformation of all our settlements, we need a standalone goal on **Sustainable cities and human settlements**, considering the relevance that cities and other territories have for poverty eradication, sustainable infrastructure development, climate change, gender equality and land planning, as well as in the provision of and access to services in multiple areas such as mobility, health, education, and project development. An urban approach is not only about cities, but also linkages between rural and urban areas and a wider concept of public governance which includes local and sub-national government cooperation, and the development of peer to peer exchanges among all levels of government. We recommend the following targets to be considered:

**Target 1:** By 2030, eliminate slums conditions everywhere and ensure universal access to affordable, equitable, and sustainable land, housing and basic services for all urban dwellers

**Target 2:** By 2030, increase capacity for participatory integrated urban planning and management to reduce urban sprawl and urban footprints and promote balanced territorial development.

**Target 3:** By 2030, ensure universal access to inclusive, safe and green public space for enhanced social cohesion, personal security and cultural & natural heritage protection and promotion

**Target 4:** By 2030, strengthen resilience to climate change, man-made and natural disasters to reduce the loss of lives, assets, housing and infrastructure

**Target 5:** By 2030, provide universal access to affordable, equitable, safe and sustainable urban and peri-urban transport for connected and healthy communities

Thank you.