

# PRESS RELEASE

## Urban 20 Group of Cities meet in Tokyo and urge G20 to act urgently on Climate Change, Social Inclusion and Sustainable Economic Growth

*Mayors and Governors of U20 cities, including Tokyo, Berlin, Jakarta, Rome and Osaka will present the Urban 20 Communiqué to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ahead of G20 Summit in Japan*

*U20 urges G20 leaders to ensure greenhouse gas emissions peak by 2020, reduce substantially by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.*

*Read the full U20 Communiqué [here](#)*

**Tokyo, Japan (22 May 2019)** — Mayors from the world’s largest economies urge their national leaders to work together to **“leverage the tremendous potential of our cities as hubs of diversity and innovation for the purpose of tackling global challenges.”** Cities from G20 member states, known as the Urban 20 (U20) will present their recommendations, on climate action, social inclusion and integration and sustainable economic growth, in a communiqué that will be delivered today to Japanese Prime Minister, Shinzo Abe. Prime Minister Abe will welcome world leaders at the upcoming G20 Summit in Osaka, 28-29 June 2019.

The U20 Mayors Summit which concluded today in Tokyo, Japan brought together leaders of 35 major cities, including Berlin, Helsinki, Jakarta, Osaka, Riyadh, Rome, Rotterdam, and Tokyo.

Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo, is the 2019 U20 Chair and host of the Urban 20 Mayors Summit. Tokyo is a leading environmental city with ambitious commitments to becoming a carbon neutral city by 2050 through a suite of sectoral policies in energy efficiency, transport, waste and equity, including a pioneering emissions cap-and-trade system for their buildings sector. As U20 Chair, Tokyo is bringing their unique experience harnessing cutting-edge innovation and the power of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to create a more people-centered, sustainable, inclusive and prosperous society.

**The Communiqué, endorsed by the leaders of 30 cities, representing 126 million people called on G20 member states to work with cities** to implement a series of measures, including amongst many others:

**Climate Action**

- Set ambitious targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to peak no later than by 2020, reduce substantially by 2030 and reach net zero by 2050.
- Commit to decarbonizing the energy grid, with 100% renewable electricity by 2030, and 100% renewable energy by 2050.
- Enact national regulations and/or planning policy to ensure new buildings operate at net zero carbon by 2030 and all buildings by 2050.
- [Help] expedite the transition to zero-emission vehicles and support cities' efforts to diffuse such vehicles.
- Reduce the generation of plastic waste... phasing-out certain single-use and hard to recycle plastics in particular.

### **Social Inclusion and Integration**

- Implement housing strategies to ensure access of all populations to adequate housing.
- Mainstream accessibility and universal design throughout urban planning.
- Eliminate the gender pay gap and promote women's entrepreneurship.
- Create safe cities free of violence against women.
- Proactively address needs of ageing populations.
- Raise awareness on the positive impact of migration and shift the narrative from migration as a challenge to migration as an opportunity.

### **Sustainable Economic Growth**

- Harness digitalization and emerging technologies both to promote inclusive economic growth and solve urban challenges.
- Promote digital rights and equal access for all city dwellers to affordable internet and digital services.
- Develop sustainable, resilient, and quality infrastructure, prioritizing those that serve marginalized populations and foster their inclusion in the green economy.
- Ensure a just transition to decarbonized development.

The U20 Communique was signed by the mayors, or governors of: Amsterdam, Berlin, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Christchurch, Durban, Hamburg, Helsinki, Houston, Jakarta, Johannesburg, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Mexico City, Milan, Montreal, New York, Osaka City, Paris, Port Vila, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Rotterdam, Sao Paulo, Seoul, Sydney, Tokyo and Tshwane.

“If we do not implement local policies, neither SDGs nor the Paris Agreement will be realized,” said **Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo**. “Under such circumstances, one could say that the launch of the U20 initiative, which attempts to engage cities in the G20 process, was inevitable. It was a great honor to take over as the 2019 Chair and carry on the success of the 2018 U20 Summit in Buenos Aires.”

“The U20 challenges G20 nations to work with city leaders for the benefit of both our citizens and the planet,” said **Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris and Chair of C40**. “Our ambition could not be higher; to prevent catastrophic climate change, preserve biodiversity, distribute opportunities equitably and harnesses the power of innovation and technology for a better world for all.”

"The first ever Urban 20 in Buenos Aires brought the challenges and opportunities of our urban era to the decision-making table of the G20. We are certain that the summit in Tokyo will further the notion that we, the cities of the world, are critical to fulfil the global agendas" **Horacio Rodríguez Larreta**, Mayor of Buenos Aires

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#### **Notes:**

##### **About U20**

Urban 20 is a city diplomacy initiative that brings together cities from G20 member states to discuss global economic and development issues, form a common position and issue recommendations for consideration by the G20. The initiative is convened by **C40 Cities**, in collaboration with **United Cities and Local Governments**, under the leadership of a Chair city that rotates annually. The first U20 Mayors Summit took place in Buenos Aires in October 2018.

##### **About C40 Cities:**

C40 Cities connects 94 of the world’s greatest cities to take bold climate action, leading the way towards a healthier and more sustainable future. Representing 700+ million citizens and one quarter of the global economy, mayors of the C40 cities are committed to delivering on the most ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement at the local level, as well as to cleaning the air we breathe.

##### **About United Cities and Local Government (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 network represents 70% of the world’s total 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.