



CLIMATE WEEK
Salvador, Brazil 19-23 August 2019

Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week 2019 Salvador de Bahia

**Thematic Block: Infrastructure, cities and Local Action
Urban Areas and Informal Settlements session**

Report

Wednesday, 21 August 2019
10:00 – 12:25

A.- About the session on urban areas and informal settlements of the thematic block on infrastructure, cities and local actions

Objective of the session

- Concrete collaborative actions are defined between cities and central governments, regional government, businesses, investor and other non-State actors to achieve both significant emission reductions and resilience building in urban areas of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Clear and tangible solutions to scale up and make financial flows more accessible to cities and local governments to address climate change, particularly to promote investments in low carbon and climate resilient infrastructure in urban and informal settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Identify solutions to improve the resilience to climate change for the most vulnerable urban dwellers in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Expected outcomes from the session will include, among others:

- Share innovative solutions for national, subnational and local governments to align their ambitions and work together to implement concrete actions;
- Identify concrete actions to strengthen the engagement of citizens in climate action at the urban and semi urban level in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Learn about clear and tangible actions and/or commitments by local governments on carbon neutrality and actions from national governments to enable and support urban climate action;
- Learn about clear and tangible actions and/or commitments by local governments, regulators, industry actors and financing institutions to promote net zero carbon/super low energy/near zero energy building in urban areas of Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Demonstrate clear and tangible actions for strengthening adaptive capacity of urban dwellers in Latin America and the Caribbean by strengthening grassroots and non-governmental organizations, shifting urban planning practices, establishing links with national policies;

- Identify and provide support to “hotspot” informal settlements, where underlying socio-economic vulnerabilities are exacerbated by increasing exposure to the impacts of climate change;
- Identify support available for building capacities to identify climate related risks of informal settlements and protect the urban from climate related hazards

B.- Reporting of outcomes from the urban areas and informal settlements session of the thematic block on infrastructure, cities and local actions

Description of the sessions

This thematic block addressed hotspots, collaborative actions and tangible solutions for improved climate mitigation and resilience in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) urban areas and informal settlements. Broken down in two panels, the thematic block gave emphasis on clear mechanisms for vertical integration of climate policies between national and sub-national governments, and specific means to scale up and make financial flows more accessible to cities and local governments to address significant emission reductions and decreasing vulnerability in urban and informal settlements. The session included 7 panellists (1 National Ministry, 3 Local Mayors, 2 Regional Coordination Authorities and 1 Private Sector representative) and made visible readily-available, feasible and cost-effective options at hand for a roadmap towards resilient and low-carbon development in LAC’s urban areas and informal settlements

Summary of the outcomes of the discussion and key messages

The discussion highlighted the importance of collaboration and vertical integration to drive low-carbon and resilient urban development. Cities and their citizens in the LAC region are facing increasing levels of climate-related threats, that coupled with conditions of vulnerability, are leading into complex climate risk scenarios; although already the most urbanised continent, there is a backdrop of inequalities in terms of fair access to resources and services as well as vulnerability that requires a rights-based approach, and climate action deeply enshrined in the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

Participatory governance is critical, involving citizens in determining challenges and building support for actions, and involving the private sector to unleash their innovation and investment capacity.

Building and construction is a key sector for combined action on mitigation and adaptation. Buildings actions need to be rooted in sustainable urban planning, as buildings are where people connect to urban services and decisions directly relate to the success of efforts in the energy transition, reducing transport demand, land use etc. Regional Roadmaps, mapping out regional priorities and pathways towards low emission, efficient and resilient buildings and construction can inform and support countries to determine their respective national roadmaps, plans and strategies, and ensure implementation is endorsed and supported at sub-national level. Clear and ambitious targets, effective building codes and standards for all buildings, as well certification are amongst the tools of local and national governments.

Coordinated national & local policymaking for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction should be pursued. This should include technical assessments and solutions for the full spectrum of risks,

and financial and budgetary instruments and frameworks. 2030 global agendas need to be implemented in an integrated manner - involving institutions, governance approaches and research modalities that treat risk within systems to build resilience.

Key takeaways for the UN SG summit

[For each of the topics listed below, please collect 2-3 key takeaways that should be input to the 2019 Climate Summit. Such takeaways should reflect the determination of Parties and non-Party stakeholders from the region to boost ambition and accelerate action to implement the Paris Agreement through the acceleration of energy transition and the mobilization of investments for energy transition]

Key takeaways should address the following questions with respect to energy transition:

- *How could the region become a frontrunner in climate ambition?*
- *Where are the short and medium-term actions to increase ambition?*
- *What are the long-term actions (e.g. by 2050) for achieving low emissions and climate resilient development?*
- *Who are the key non-Party stakeholders and how can their ambition be maximized?]*

Key takeaways:

Relevant for global ambition

- *How could the region become a frontrunner in climate ambition?*

Taking a long-term vision that embeds climate action in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This allows addressing issues in a more holistic manner. Applied to the buildings sector, this translates into going beyond energy efficiency and addressing for example materials and water consumption (and how buildings are integrated into the cities climate informed land-use planning). Even if this makes things more complex and possibly more costly right now, it reduces cost in the future.

Building on the many examples of vertical policy integration, establish processes that allow direct exchange and support such as the Sustainable Cities Unit in the Secretary of the Government of Argentina of Environment and Sustainable Development, which was set up to support self-sustainable planning, self-institutional coordination and investment by municipalities with integral support from the national government.

Using the political support for a regional Roadmap for low-emission, efficient and resilient building and construction expressed at the 21 Forum of Environment Ministers in the region, and conducted under the auspices of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction as well as the Zero Building Campaign by the World Green Building Council to address the qualitative and quantitative housing deficit in the region while curbing emissions from this sector and reducing citizen's vulnerability; and making it an integral part of broader city planning.

- *Where are the short and medium-term actions to increase ambition?*

Reflect buildings and construction with concrete actions in the NDC review, to use the federating power of NDCs at the national level between different planning processes, and bridge between sectors and across levels of governance. Net Zero targets, performance-based building codes, mandatory standards and certification to drive market change through recognition of higher value of green buildings.

Strengthen governance at the local level through multiple mechanisms, for example capacity building so that they can respond appropriately to the challenge of transforming cities from climate risks & carbon emissions hotspots into low-carbon and climate resilient urban systems, connected in a sustainable and integrated way with its surrounding landscapes & seascapes.

Improving financing options and approaches for cities, sub-national governments and their projects, including through capacity support at all levels of government to develop bankable projects; revising legal frameworks to promote responsible borrowing; active participation of local and regional governments in the formulation of national climate investment plans with clear accountable roles of cities in identifying, preparing and structuring bankable projects in their territories. Transparency of actions and demonstrating progress at municipal level was highlighted as a key ingredient to receive continued support from national governments and a way to improve cities' and sub-nationals' creditworthiness.

- What are the long-term actions (e.g. by 2050) for achieving low emissions and climate resilient development?

Measurement of countries' sustainable development through the combination of three indicators: GDP, per capita footprint (viz. carbon, land-use and water)) and social inclusion/justice.

Net Zero Buildings for all buildings, new and retrofits of existing building stock, ie. deep energy efficiency and renewable energy supply for remaining energy use. Conceptually, net zero carbon and net zero energy are distinguished by the permissibility of the use of offsets, and in how far energy embodied in building materials and construction processes are considered.

2030 global agendas need to be implemented in an integrated manner - involving institutions, governance approaches and research modalities that treat risk within systems to build resilience - . As a practical framework for dealing with risk, the Sendai Framework is the connecting tissue for the post-2015 international agreements: the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement, New Urban Agenda, Addis Ababa Agenda on Financing for Development and the Agenda for Humanity.

- Who are the key non-Party stakeholders and how can their ambition be maximized?

Sub-national governments, both, cities and regions: enabling each authority to best use its jurisdiction, and, when appropriate with transferral of jurisdiction with clear roles and responsibilities in coordination with other spheres of government.

Citizens: Engagement and buy-in into ambitious policy actions through participatory governance.



Private sector: Engagement in the formulation of science-based targets that lead to a fundamental change to business models, product design, production processes, and marketing. Creating local value and employment, fostering decent jobs and the inclusion of informal workers, influencing global value chains, and fostering collaboration between different stakeholders. Setting up public-private partnerships to co-create and thereby overcome financial barriers and perceived risk, injecting a focus on longer-term value creation and sharing of risk. Complete integration into their value chain the natural capital that supports its business, allowing the transition to options that cause no harm to nature while being also carbon neutral.

Local communities: proper land use and municipal planning. Coordination among neighbouring communities is also important as negative spill over effects have occurred.