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Bangalore hosts conference to help cities mainstream climate actions

21 April, 2023 (BANGALORE, INDIA) — Today, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, together with India's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), convened national and international partners to discuss mainstreaming climate action in cities, in an effort to shape G20 priorities and develop next steps for accelerating climate action in India and beyond.

The gathering was part of a series of events organised during India's G20 Presidency under the ambit of the [Urban 20 \(U20\)](#), which is chaired this year by the city of Ahmedabad and supported by MoHUA, with various partner organisations. Its conclusions will inform the U20 communiqué of recommendations, which will be presented to G20 negotiators later this year.

Participants agreed on the urgent need for cities to accelerate climate action and receive added support from national governments and international investors to address vulnerabilities due to increasing heat and rainfall. City governments should consider climate impacts when making budgeting decisions, while leveraging public-private partnerships, municipal green bonds and other innovative financing mechanisms where available. Climate action plans should address water security and resilience; institutional and regulatory reforms should be considered where needed to protect and revitalise vulnerable water resources, mainstream integrated urban water resource management, ensure equitable and safe access to water and reduce risk from water-related hazards like flooding.

The event in Bangalore facilitated cross-sector learning and strengthened city-to-city engagement on three of the six current U20 priority areas: accelerating climate finance, ensuring water security, and encouraging environmentally responsive behaviour. Around 135 people attended in person, in addition to participants joining virtually, including city officials from across the country and region as well as experts, funders and partners.

Kunal Kumar, Joint Secretary and Smart Cities Mission Director of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, said: "To create sustainable

cities, innovative and inclusive city design is crucial. Without it, behaviour nudges and policy changes would not work. Let's tweak policies, implement congestion pricing, and give incentives for sustainable living. We must also broaden the agenda and create neighborhoods where people can step out and enjoy the city. Telangana's cool roof policy is a great example. Let's demystify climate finance for a better future."

Abhay Thakur, G20 Sous Sherpa, said: "Sustainable urbanisation is key to meeting sustainable development goals and global climate targets. Let's work towards creating resilient cities for a better future." He spoke about the importance of creating a sense of place through highlighting the cultural and local identity of Indian cities also stating that the G20 is aiming to hold diverse events to showcase the strength and unique culture of these cities.

Shruti Narayan, C40 Regional Director for South and West Asia, said: "Cities across India and the world are stepping up as climate leaders, but they continue to face daunting capacity constraints as they pursue urgently needed climate action. That's why city voices are so vital on the national and international stage. This week's gathering in Bangalore serves as a clarion call for leaders around the world – from the local to the national level, G20 and beyond – to make our climate a priority."

Rakesh Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, Government of Karnataka, said: "Bengaluru is leading the way in sustainable urban infrastructure, with a strong focus on public transport, solid waste management, and citizen engagement. Role of civil society is crucial for collaborative and cohesive solutions."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- The gathering in Bangalore included a series of plenary sessions on three of the six current U20 priority areas (accelerating climate finance, ensuring water security, and encouraging environmentally responsive behaviour) as well as two masterclasses (on leveraging nature-based solutions and climate bonds) for city representatives, urban planners, engineers and others. Participants were invited to engage with several start-ups working on environmental sustainability and climate solutions.
- Speakers included Dr. Divya Sharma, Executive Director - India, The Climate Group; Dr. Sowmya Swaminathan, Former Chief Scientist, World Health Organisation and Chairperson, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation; and Randheer Singh, Director, Electric Mobility, NITI Aayog.

- Cities are home to more than half of the world's population and contribute approximately 70% of global CO2 emissions. At the same time, they are disproportionately at risk from climate impacts. Cities in developing economies are particularly vulnerable to rising temperatures, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and the disruption of vital infrastructure, including water and energy systems.
- Urban residents are at increased risk of health issues, including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, due to environmental degradation in cities. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 3.7 million premature deaths occur each year due to outdoor air pollution, with cities being major contributors to poor air quality.
- Approximately 675 million people in urban areas could be exposed to water scarcity by 2050 with the increase in temperatures. The Global Risk Index 2021 ranks India 7th out of 181 countries in terms of its susceptibility and vulnerability to climate crisis impacts. The World Wide Fund (WWF) suggests 30 Indian cities could face "severe water scarcity" by 2050.
- Indian cities need approximately \$1.2 trillion over the next 20 years to make infrastructure, more sustainable, update energy systems and insulate homes, schools and workplaces against extreme temperatures, according to a report by the McKinsey Global Institute.
- Three of six C40 city members in India – Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai – have joined the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator to accelerate urban greening and resilience building.
- C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF) supports 34 city projects in the Global South, projected to access over \$1 billion to tackle the climate emergency^[10] across a range of sectors including mobility, buildings & energy, waste management, and nature-based solutions.

About Urban 20

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 changes each year. Prior U20 cycles were chaired by Buenos Aires and Paris (2018), Tokyo (2019), Riyadh (2020), Rome and Milan (2021) as well as Jakarta and West Java (2022).

About the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

C40 is a network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities who are working to deliver the urgent action needed right now to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone, everywhere can thrive. Mayors of C40 cities are committed to using a science-based and people-focused approach to help the world limit global heating to 1.5°C and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities. Through a Global Green New Deal, mayors are working alongside a broad coalition of representatives from labour, business, the youth climate movement and civil society to go further and faster than ever before.

The current chair of C40 is Mayor of London Sadiq Khan; three-term Mayor of New York City Michael R. Bloomberg serves as president of the board. C40's work is made possible by our three strategic funders: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) and Realdania.

To learn more about the work of C40 and our cities, please visit [our website](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).