

LGMA STATEMENT AT UNFCCC MANDATED EVENT ON NDC AND GST IMPLEMENTATION WITH PARTY AND NON-PARTY STAKEHOLDERS.

Delivered by Leonardo Rodrigues, Deputy Secretary of Environment, Minas Gerais.

Honourable Chair, distinguished delegates,

My name is Leonardo Rodrigues, Deputy Secretary of Environment for Minas Gerais in Brazil. Our state, comparable in size to Spain, has over 850 cities, the most out of all 27 States in Brazil.

We are deeply committed to advancing climate solutions.

I speak today on behalf of the LGMA Constituency, representing local and regional governments worldwide.

Let me begin by highlighting core messages from the Global Stocktake process and synthesis report:

First, paragraph 158 acknowledges that subnational governments, through their pledges and actions, enhance and catalyse the efforts of national governments.

Second, paragraph 161 calls on Parties to accelerate climate action through multilevel governance.

Third, paragraph 63e highlights the importance of resilient cities and mitigation through urban systems is stressed in paragraph 6 of the Mitigation Work Programme

These points reaffirm the importance of climate federalism, in Brazil the federative structure allows for innovative collaboration between the federal, state and municipal levels.

Climate federalism is key for advancing the implementation of Brazil's ambitious NDCs. Multilevel coordination allows us to translate national commitments into concrete actions on the ground.

The State of Minas is strengthening collaboration with the federal government and municipalities through the Adapta Cidades Program, which supports municipal level climate adaptation strategies focused on vulnerable populations and priority sectors.

Multilevel governance and climate federalism are central. In this spirit, we've developed a Subnational Transition Plan to localise Brazil's 2050 net-zero target into actionable strategies tailored to our state's socio-economic and environmental realities.

The value of cooperation across all levels of government is unparalleled.

To monitor our progress, we launched Brazil's first state-level MRV platform, a digital system that tracks our carbon emissions and policy implementation across key sectors including energy, transport, and agriculture.

As a member of the Under2 Coalition, we are eager to now scale these approaches. But, like most subnational actors, face structural and financial barriers.

First, municipalities often lack the technical and institutional capacity to act. While the NDC Partnership is a key instrument at the national level, subnational entities remain excluded. A tailored support mechanism is urgently needed.

Second, access to international climate finance remains limited. Our state development bank helps catalyse investment in low-carbon infrastructure, but the scale of investment needed far exceeds what we can mobilize alone.

And finally, political divergence across levels of government can block multilevel action. While the UN cannot resolve domestic politics, the international community can help by recognising subnational contributions, facilitating access to resources, and locking multilevel governance into climate architecture.

Therefore, the LGMA COP30 Vision calls for a local to global COP30. Before, in, and beyond Belem. Parties must include subnational actors in the planning, financing, implementation and monitoring of climate strategies – as outlined in CHAMP Principles.

Countries around the world are already striving forward with effective Multilevel governance. During my time in Bonn, I've heard inspiring stories such as Town Hall COPs to facilitate local and regional inputs to South Africa's recent NDC, or good practice consultations in Canada, Nigeria, and many more. I leave tomorrow feeling energised.

Minas Gerais, like these colleagues, is not waiting. We are innovating. But to go further, we need the international system to truly empower subnational leadership.

As we look ahead to COP30, let's ensure subnational ambition is not only recognised – but fully enabled.

Thank you.