



Joint Statement of Local and Regional Governments to the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

We, leaders and representatives of local and regional governments in the Asia-Pacific region gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, for the Local and Regional Government Assembly on 19 February 2024, organised by the Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body and hosted by Bangkok Metropolitan Administration as an associated event of the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD11) held from 20 to 23 February 2024 under the theme “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific.”

Drawn upon the outcomes of the 8th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum, which convened in Suwon, Republic of Korea in October 2023, under the theme, “Reforging post-pandemic pathways to sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific,” and highlighted APUF-8 recommendations to strengthen urban and territorial planning, build urban climate resilience, leverage urban digital transformations, and enhance urban finance to support localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Committed to:

1. Enable universal access to quality public services, including access to water and citywide inclusive sanitation, adequate housing, and emergency services and assistance in times of crises and disasters.
2. Enhance the inclusivity of local-level social protection measures to encompass marginalised and vulnerable sectors of society, including the elderly, women, indigenous peoples, migrants, people with disabilities, children and youth, and the urban poor.
3. Strengthen food security at the local and regional levels through the advocacy of sustainable productivity and consumption practices, ensuring the climate resilience of agriculture and marine biodiversity.
4. Enhance urban and territorial planning processes to strengthen urban-rural continuum linkages, facilitate the growth of local economies, support more balanced territorial development, and reduce poverty.
5. Develop and implement local clean air and climate action plans that reflect the local context and ambitions, and further encourage local and regional governments to contribute to the enhancement of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through the conduct of local stocktake, in line with the Paris Agreement. It is vital to develop climate financing matchmaking tools and to facilitate the direct access of local and regional government to sustainable climate financing, including the loss and damage fund, to accelerate concrete actions and reduce the impacts of climate change and air pollution on health and livelihoods of millions of urban residents.
6. Encourage the creation and preservation of green spaces and biodiversity and the use of nature-based plans and solutions.
7. Promote circular urban economies to enhance energy and resource efficiency, and minimise climate and environmental impacts.
8. Promote people-centred development that protects human rights and employs participatory governance. Technology and digital solutions will be leveraged to enhance people-oriented service delivery, governance, sustainable urban development, climate action, and disaster risk management in cities and territories.
9. Support the exchange of information, dissemination and replication of good practices, and promotion of inclusive partnerships and institutions that can strengthen accountability, transparency, governance, and protection for all. Voluntary Subnational Review and Voluntary Local Review are bottom-up reporting mechanisms that are in line with these initiatives and can be harmonised with the Voluntary National Review to enhance multilevel dialogue and policy coherence on the Sustainable Development Goals.

- 10. Seek creative and innovative financing mechanisms to support sustainable urban development and efforts to accelerate the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 11. Foster cooperation and dialogue among local, regional, and, national governments to strengthen coherence and integrated urban policies.

To deliver these commitments, local and regional governments call on national governments, UN bodies, and international organisations, to provide an enabling environment through regulations, access to financial resources, partnerships, and capacity development. This would enable local and regional governments to lead in delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and directly improve our people’s quality of life.



Coordinator:



Members:



Partners:

