



UCLG ASPAC
**EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING
& ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM**
Kendari, Southeast Sulawesi • Indonesia
7 - 9 May 2026



UCLG
ASPAC
United Cities and Local Governments
Asia-Pacific

KENDARI JOINT ACTION

“Advancing Sustainable Tourism for a Resilient Future and Inclusive Economic Growth”

Kendari, Indonesia | 7-9 May 2026

Preamble

We, the representatives of local and regional governments and their associations from across the Asia-Pacific region, gathered at the 2026 United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) Executive Bureau Meeting and Asia-Pacific Forum in Kendari, Indonesia;

Reaffirming our commitment to advancing the localisation of global agendas, particularly the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, and guided by the priorities of the **UCLG ASPAC Manifesto 2026–2030**;

Building on the North Minahasa Declaration (2024), which highlighted the interlinkages between sustainable tourism, culture, and local economic development;

Recognising the growing importance of **sustainable tourism** as a driver of inclusive economic growth, while requiring stronger integration with climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and community wellbeing;

Emphasising the role of cities and local governments as key actors in localising global and regional agendas, driving innovation, and advancing sustainable tourism across diverse contexts.

We commit to the following actions:

1. Strengthening Local Economic Development through Sustainable Tourism

- Promote community-based tourism that empowers local communities, preserves culture, and protects the environment;
- Support local value chains and Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to enhance inclusive economic opportunities;
- Encourage innovation, digitalisation, and context-appropriate use of artificial intelligence (AI);
- Integrate indigenous and local knowledge systems into tourism development and management.

2. Advancing Climate-Responsive and Environmentally Sustainable Tourism

- Integrate climate resilience and disaster risk reduction into tourism planning and infrastructure;



- Promote nature-based solutions (NbS) and ecosystem protection, including coastal and marine systems;
- Encourage responsible tourism practices that minimise environmental impact and resource consumption.
- Support circular economy approaches, including sustainable waste management and the reduction of tourism-related pollution and other negative impacts;
- Strengthen inclusive, community-based tourism models that ensure equitable participation and benefits for local communities;
- Leverage digital and data-driven solutions to monitor impacts and enhance destination management.

3. Strengthening Governance, Capacity, and Local Leadership

- Support the implementation of the UCLG ASPAC Manifesto 2026–2030 through relevant local policies and programmes;
- Strengthen institutional capacity, coordination, and access to financing for local governments.
- Reinforce the role of local governments as co-creators, policy shapers, and implementers of sustainable development;
- Promote data-driven decision-making through localised indicators and monitoring systems.

4. Advancing Localisation of Regional and Global Agendas

- Align local actions with global and regional frameworks, including SDGs and relevant regional processes such as ASEAN Community Vision 2045, where applicable;
- Promote the use of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to track and communicate local progress;
- Strengthen the engagement of local governments in regional policy dialogues.

5. Strengthening Partnerships and Financing

- Promote multi-level governance and collaboration among local, national, and regional actors;
- Engage private sector, academia, and civil society in co-creating sustainable tourism solutions;
- Encourage innovative financing mechanisms, including blended finance and public-private partnerships;
- Strengthen cooperation and partnership amongst cities and local governments to accelerate implementation.

6. Driving Innovation and Knowledge Exchange

- Facilitate knowledge sharing and replication of best practices across cities and local governments in the region;
- Promote the adoption of innovative approaches and technologies;



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- Strengthen UCLG ASPAC's role as a platform for advocacy, knowledge exchange, and capacity building.

Call for Collaboration

We call upon national governments, development partners, regional organisations, and stakeholders to:

- Support enabling policy environments and financing access to local governments;
- Strengthen multi-level governance and institutional coordination;
- Recognise and support the role of local governments as key actors in achieving sustainable development.

Way Forward

We call upon UCLG ASPAC, in collaboration with its members and partners, to:

- Disseminate and operationalise this Joint Action;
- Support implementation through programmes, partnerships, and technical assistance;
- Facilitate continued dialogue and monitoring through regional platforms, including the ASEAN Governors and Mayors Forum (AGMF).

Closing

Adopted in Kendari, Indonesia, on 8 May 2026, as a shared commitment to advancing sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development across the Asia-Pacific region.