



MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE FOR EFFECTIVE URBAN CLIMATE ACTION IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- LIST OF BOXES..... VI
- LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS VII
- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 1
- CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH 5
 - Overview 5
 - Special Vulnerability and Intersectionality 7
 - Urban Areas and Climate Change 8
- INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE 11
 - Introduction 11
 - Relevant Themes in Climate Change Response 12
 - Mitigation 12
 - Adaptation 12
 - Finance 13
 - Capacity Building 14
- MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE 16
 - Most Relevant Actors 17
 - National Governments 17
 - Regional Governments 17
 - Local Governments 18
 - Non-State Actors 21
 - Civil Society Organizations 21
 - The Private Sector 21
 - Vertical Coordination 22
 - Horizontal Coordination 23
- MECHANISMS FOR MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE 24
 - Formal Mechanisms 26
 - Informal Mechanisms 27
 - Inter-municipal Coordination 28

ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE IN CLIMATE ACTION 30

 Capacity Building 31

 Fiscal Decentralization 31

 Public Participation 32

 Local Mandate for Climate Change Related Areas 33

 Data Collection and Sharing 34

 Supportive Legal Frameworks 35

 Political Will 35

CASE STUDIES ON MULTI-LEVEL CLIMATE ACTION IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH... 36

 Indonesia 39

 Laos 42

 The district of Rubavu, Rwanda 44

 South Africa 46

 Recife, Brazil 48

CONCLUSION..... 50

LIST OF BOXES

BOX 1 Roles of different levels of government in climate change action **19**

BOX 2 Domestic tools for climate change action that could benefit from mlg approaches **24**

BOX 3 Importance of stakeholder participation **33**

BOX 4 The kenyan climate change act 2016 **33**

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBO	Community-Based Organization
CO₂	Carbon Dioxide
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
CRVA	Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DGCC	Directorate General of Climate Change
ECTRS	Energy Conservation Target Responsibility System
GCC	GreenClimateCities
GHG	GreenHouse Gas
ICLEI	Local Governments for Sustainability
ICMSE	Imposto Sobre Circulação de Mercadorias e Serviços Ecológico
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRWM	Integrated Water Resources Management
LDC	Least Developed Country
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
MLG	Multi-Level Governance
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	National Determined Contributions
NGO	Non-governmental Organizations
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NUP	National Urban Policy
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPFM	Subnational Pooled Financing Mechanism
SRN	National Registry System
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat
Urban-LEDs	Urban Low Emission Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

While climate change presents serious risks for all countries, the situation is more acute for populations in developing countries¹, the situation is more acute for populations in developing countries whose vulnerability is intensified by the intersection of many underlying factors. These include poverty, conflicts, weak institutional structures, limited human, institutional, and financial capacity, and reliance on climate-sensitive socio-economic activities.

Collectively, these factors impair the ability of countries to anticipate, cope and respond to both direct and indirect effects of climate change. Urban populations in these countries are already suffering from extreme weather events, flooding, subsidence, storms, heatwaves, water scarcity, droughts and sea level rise among other climate change effects. Considering that 55 per cent of the world's population lives in urban areas and this share is projected to increase to 68 per cent by 2050,² cities are the main battleground for climate change action. Indeed, the most vulnerable regions are where urbanization will take place more rapidly as 90 per cent of the 2.5 billion people expected to live in cities in the next three decades will be in Asia and Africa.³

A growing urban population not only makes the prospects of higher emissions real but it also means that many will be at heightened risk from the adverse effects of climate change, including millions of informal settlers, whole populations in coastal areas, delta regions and small island developing States as well as substantial numbers in arid and semi-arid areas.

The role of cities has been recognized by the Paris Agreement, which identifies them as "important stakeholders, capable of mobilizing strong and ambitious climate action". The New Urban Agenda (NUA) also puts urban areas at the centre of climate change action and, more notably, introduces a multi-level governance approach by including the commitment to promote "...international, national, subnational and local climate action, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, and to supporting the efforts of cities and human settlements, their inhabitants and all local stakeholders to be important implementers".

It is in appreciation of the important role of multi-level governance that this guide has been developed to offer an understanding of how to improve horizontal and vertical coordination among different levels of government as well

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