



## CHANGE FOR CLIMATE - EDMONTON DECLARATION

### PREAMBLE:

We, Mayors of cities and communities of all sizes and from around the world,

Meeting initially in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada for the Change for Climate – Global Mayors Summit March 3-4, 2018 on traditional indigenous territory of the Treaty No. 6 First Nations and Metis Nation Zone 4; convened by the City of Edmonton, Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and Federation of Canadian Municipalities,

In advance of, and with the aim of providing input to, and building on the momentum of, the inaugural CitiesIPCC Cities and Climate Change Science Conference as a significant convening of the scientific community on the issues of cities and climate science,

And concluding at the ICLEI World Congress in Montreal June 19-22 2018,

Recognizing that extraordinary efforts are being undertaken by cities and communities around the world today to respond with urgency and solidarity to the threat of climate change;

### DECLARE AS FOLLOWS:

**WHEREAS** the Paris Agreement calls for the application of the best available science in the pursuit of its objectives of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change;

**WHEREAS** there is scientific consensus that climate change is happening at a rapid rate, that a central cause is the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) from human activities, and that its social, economic and environmental consequences will be severe if left unchecked;

**WHEREAS** there is scientific consensus that limiting the average of global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;

**WHEREAS** scientific analysis strongly suggests that the current overall, globally aggregated and nationally determined contributions are inadequate to achieve the 1.5°C goal, but most likely puts the world on at least a 3°C to 4°C pathway;

**WHEREAS** the economic benefits of strong, early action on climate change far outweigh the costs; and further that the significant costs of inaction are not evenly distributed, given the effects of various policies and actions (globalization and colonialism) upon the world's poorest countries, peoples, and communities, including many Indigenous Nations and peoples;

**WHEREAS** there is expert consensus that cities must play a central role in adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change to reduce GHG emissions, given that more than half the world's population lives in urban areas today and produces more than 70% of energy-related GHG emissions;

**WHEREAS** significant declarations and agreements are in place today, involving cities from around the world, and led by organizations working together in solidarity at both the global and local levels to support cities such as Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), C40 Cities, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Cities Alliance, United Cities and Local Governments, and others, including:

- ***The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (June 2016)*** – the leading global alliance of cities and local governments, representing more than 7,500 cities and municipalities, supported by global and regional city networks, with a shared long-term vision of an inclusive, just, low-emission and climate-resilient future, helping to meet and exceed the Paris Agreement objectives.
- ***One Planet Charter (December 2017)*** – a new commitment campaign that will help cities swiftly implement actions to ensure Paris Agreement goals are met and will build upon the achievements of the 23rd UN Climate Change Conference, in particular the Bonn-Fiji Commitment of Local and Regional Governments to Deliver the Paris Agreement At All Levels and the forthcoming renewable energy campaigns to scale the number of cities making ambitious and sectoral-specific commitments.
- ***Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues (February 2018)*** – a series of facilitated dialogues between local leaders and government scheduled throughout 2018, supported by ICLEI, as the focal point for the local governments & municipal actors within the UN's climate change convention, UN-Habitat and Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, to explore ways that all stakeholders might work collaboratively to implement the Paris Climate Agreement.
- ***C40 Cities Deadline 2020 (December 2016)*** – have agreed that by 2020 all member cities will have a climate plan that ensures compliance with the ambitious 1.5°C Paris pathway (holding the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels).
- ***Canadian municipal support for the Paris Agreement (June 2016)*** – the nearly 2,000 local governments that make up the FCM adopted a resolution recognizing the need to pursue efforts to limit global temperature increases to 1.5°C, including the 340 municipalities which are part of the FCM-ICLEI Partners for Climate Protection network, and which have individually made political commitments to act on climate change.

**WHEREAS** through these declarations and agreements, cities around the world are making important strides to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to climate change through use and application of improved long-term planning and management systems, clean energy systems and more efficient and resilient urban form, transportation and buildings;

**WHEREAS** in spite of these advances, cities continue to face major challenges in: (a) measuring and managing greenhouse gas emissions caused by both the activities taking place within their boundaries, as well as the production of goods and services that are consumed within their boundaries but produced outside their boundaries; and (b) assessing climate risks and vulnerabilities due to the lack of current and forecasted information at an adequate geographical and temporal scale;

**WHEREAS** the scientific community has signaled an interest in city-specific research by hosting the CitiesIPCC Cities and Climate Change Conference, but needs up-to-date data from cities, towns and regions on their targets, actions and impacts in order to design research that more accurately responds to local government needs;

**WHEREAS** these data, research and innovation gaps could be filled by building stronger linkages and ongoing dialogues between climate science, urban policy and practice to advance coherent policy frameworks driven by hard data and scientific evidence, and informed by practitioner expertise;

**WHEREAS** the complex social, economic and environmental challenges facing cities of all sizes across all regions of the world, as well as states and national governments require science-based approaches and solutions;

## **IN SIGNING THE *CHANGE FOR CLIMATE* – EDMONTON DECLARATION, WE:**

1. **COMMIT TO AND CALL UPON** all national, state and local governments to formally recognize the immediate and urgent need for action that will limit global warming to 1.5°C;
2. **COMMIT TO AND CALL UPON** all national, state and local governments to establish, implement and maintain GHG inventories, targets, action plans and reporting mechanisms consistent with the Paris Agreement and commitments made through Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and provide that data to the global community;
3. **COMMIT TO AND CALL UPON** all national, state and local governments to coordinate and integrate their efforts in developing and achieving increasingly ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions committed to under the Paris Agreement through co-developing tools, resources and governance structures in support of local governments;
4. **COMMIT TO AND CALL UPON** all national, state and local governments to establish formal, science-based policy and decision-making processes within their organizations;

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5. **COMMIT TO AND CALL UPON** all national, state and local governments to establish formal, rigorous processes to understand and minimize the greenhouse gas emissions caused by the consumption of goods, services and products within their boundaries and along the full supply chain;
6. **COMMIT TO AND CALL UPON** all national, state and local governments to undertake climate risk and vulnerability assessments to guide their planning and investment decisions, increase climate resilience and minimize the exposure of people and assets to the impacts of climate change; and
7. **CALL UPON** the scientific and academic community assembled at the CitiesIPCC Cities and Climate Change Science Conference to work collaboratively with cities and city organizations to assess knowledge gaps pertinent to cities and climate change (including those identified in this declaration), improve current knowledge and data gaps, and make available better analysis of local climate data in order to deliver solutions impacting climate change policies and decisions, particularly within city boundaries.

