



## **Loss and Damage**

seen from the local perspective

# **CALL TO DELIVER**

**An efficient Local and Subnational Loss and Damage Response**



## **Preamble**

We, local and subnational governments, voicing our territories and communities, are on the front lines of addressing the wide-ranging impacts of climate change. The devastating consequences of loss and damage are increasingly felt in our communities, our natural ecosystems, threatening lives, livelihoods, and the fabric of our societies. We acknowledge that adaptation alone cannot address the impacts of climate change as they require a comprehensive, united response that crosses national borders and involves all levels of governance.

Us, Local and subnational governments, are the closest level of governance to the people. We are uniquely positioned to understand and address these challenges. We play a critical role in both mitigating climate change and leading recovery and adaptation efforts, but also ambitioning to deliver a new climate governance. It is essential that we maintain the hope for the reversibility of Climate Change's impact on the planet, and act decisively to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and promote a coordinated global response to the escalating impacts of rapid and slow-onset climate events. To ensure a just social climate transition, we call on all actors in governance to deliver:

## **The International Institutions**

### **1. To Enhance North-South Dialogue:**

- Intensify dialogue to address resource inequality and overexploitation of global commons.
- Acknowledge developed nations' historical responsibility and include local and subnational governments to reflect ground realities.

### **2. To Ensure Accessible Loss and Damage Finance:**

- Design a Loss and Damage Fund with the inclusion of Local and subnational governments the decision making process, that delivers mechanisms for direct local and subnational government accessibility, particularly in the Global South.
- Establish streamlined processes, capacity-building support, and direct funding channels to bypass bureaucratic hurdles.
- Set an open global monitoring system that allows the evaluation of the transboundary impact of Climate Change.

### **3. To Promote Universal Justice for Development:**

- Implementing a development model prioritising equity, climate-change responses and sustainability, empowering local and subnational governments as custodians of the commons, and guardians of the reversibility hope
- Anchor this transition with policies and financial mechanisms focused on sustainable local development and social justice.

#### **4. To Address Global Structural Inequality:**

- Activate a global governance to ensure financial and technical resources reach local and subnational governments.
- Establish development models that prioritise community and ecosystem regeneration and well-being over GDP growth by recognizing the value of natural resources that goes beyond monetary.

### **National Governments**

#### **1. To Implement a Whole-of-Governance Approach:**

- Recognise local and subnational governments as key stakeholders that are currently responding to Loss and Damage.
- Establish governance structures that give local governments a direct voice, with special attention to marginalised groups.

#### **2. To Integrate Rural-Urban-Wilderness Relations:**

- Care for the interdependence between rural, urban, and wilderness areas in climate planning.
- Support local strategies that enhance resilience in both urban and rural communities without harming ecosystems or local-communities-led food production

#### **3. To Address Informal Settlements:**

- Provide local and subnational governments with resources to improve living conditions of the 1 billion people living in informal settlements through inclusive basic services.
- Develop inclusive upgrading strategies that ensure access to basic services and resilience to climate impacts, recognise the actions people themselves are taking, and enable this to scale-up.
- Safeguard the vulnerable communities of informal settlements from the devastating effects of Climate Change through proximity based responses by local and subnational governments.

#### **4. To Incorporate The Role of Planning in Readiness and Responses:**

- Empower local and subnational governments to use urban and regional planning to enhance disaster readiness.
- Integrate climate risk assessments and resilience-building measures into urban development.

#### **5. To deliver National integration of Loss and Damage through National Strategies**

- Integrate a Loss and Damage line in the definition of the NDCs, in view of the NDC 3.0 finalisation
- Integrate Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans, National Adaptation Plans, Nature and Biodiversity plans, National Action Plans of Desertification,

and Recovery and Resilience plans to develop a cross sectoral response strategy to Loss and Damage.

- Enrich the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements by including locally-sourced knowledge and implementation pathways to meet and the objectives of the three Rio Conventions: Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification.
- Deliver a monitoring plan and protection strategy on Natural resources and Wildlife ecosystems while renaturing urban systems

## **Local and Subnational Governments**

### **1. To Protect Identities and Cultural Heritage:**

- Support efforts to preserve cultural heritage threatened by climate-induced displacement.
- Ensure displaced communities maintain their identity and dignity through local and subnational initiatives that integrate local-communities led dynamics
- Communicate the imperative nature of responding to loss and damage to local communities and foster accountability in the response.

### **2. To Address Displacements and Climate Migration:**

- Develop strategies to address climate migration, recognizing migrants' human rights and access to services.

### **3. To Promote Restoration Practices and Multilateral Agreements:**

- Implement regenerative practices, including ecosystem restoration and sustainable resource management.
- Deliver open and transparent data that can inform Global Science, complemented with local knowledge to shape a comprehensive quantitative and qualitative notion of local losses and damages and the status of natural resources.
- Develop solidarity-based and decentralised cooperation in the frame of multilateralism with peers to support the knowledge transfer and efficient action

### **4. To Strengthen Service Delivery Systems:**

- Invest in resilient local and subnational service delivery systems, focusing on water, sanitation, and energy.
- Strengthen these systems to meet immediate needs and build long-term resilience against climate impacts.

### Key Recommendations for COP29 negotiators

- *Invites* the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency to actively participate in the negotiations, decision-making and implementation of the Loss and Damage Fund's Operational Guidelines, and relevant technical bodies
- *Invites* parties to deliver on the mandate of direct access to funds by subnational entities as expressed in paragraph 20(e) of the main text, and paragraphs 45 and 49(b) of Annex I of Decision 1/CP28.
- *Invites* parties to revise existing mechanisms that allow for local and regional government direct access to international funding, in the operationalization of the FRLD.
- *Invites* parties to mandate local and other subnational governments to organize one of the Consultative Forums, as mandated by paragraph 28 of Annex I of Decision 1/CP28.
- *Recommends* parties to revise and ensure a proactive role for local and regional governments in restoration of local climate-induced effects on ecosystems and communities.
- *Requests* parties to recognize the role of local and regional governments in addressing climate justice and equity, particularly in climate-vulnerable urban and rural areas that are disproportionately affected by loss and damage.
- *Encourages* parties to collaborate with local and regional governments and with indigenous communities, integrating localized knowledge and indigenous worldviews into the FRLD operations.

### Endorsing organisations: