



Global Alliance
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CLIMATE WEEK
Salvador, Brazil 19-23 August 2019

Thematic Block: 1.2: Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action (Urban Areas and Informal Settlements).

Date/Time: Wednesday 21st August, 10:00-12:25.

Coordinating organizations: WWF and GlobalABC.

Supporting organizations: GCoM, CAF, SloCat, Regions4, UNEP, WMO and ICLEI.

Background:

“Cities have the potential to be major catalysts of change in implementing recent international agreements such as the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Actions to address climate change through adaptation and mitigation at the city level will make crucial contributions to the national efforts aimed at fulfilling international commitments.” (IPCC, 2018)¹.

The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region is the most urbanized in the world, with 80% of its population living in cities². As urbanization grows, the population will increasingly demand for development of infrastructure and buildings. This expansion will be a decisive driver of emissions across multiple sectors³. It is estimated that urban population accounts for an approximate 80% of all greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the region (38% associated to transport, 21% to electricity production and 17% associated to industry⁴). Emissions from buildings and construction alone have more than tripled between 1970 and 2010⁵. However, such urban sprawl could detonate systemic transformations in the energy, land use and ecosystems, infrastructure and industry systems that are crucially needed to curb global warming to 1.5 °C. For instance, the development of new energy conversion technologies, fossil-free and net zero energy buildings and climate resilient infrastructure could come as a regionally extended response to advancing urban development needs. On the other hand, with fast urbanization an increasing *urban deficit* has segregated millions to informal areas without adequate housing and access to services. This situation has contributed to the exacerbation of poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, violence and injustice in urban areas. With cities growing faster, urgent action is needed to reverse the division between those living in formality and those living in informality.

¹ Anne-Hélène Prieur-Richard, Brenna Walsh, Marlies Craig, Megan L. Melamed, M'Lisa Colbert, Minal Pathak, Sarah Connors, Xuemei Bai, Aliyu Barau, Harriet Bulkeley, Helen Cleugh, Maurie Cohen, Sarah Colenbrander, David Dodman, Shobhakar Dhakal, Richard Dawson, Jessica Espey, Julie Greenwalt, Priya Kurian, Boram Lee, Lykke Leonardsen, Valerie Masson-Delmotte, Debashish Munshi, Andrew Okem, Gian C. Delgado Ramos, Roberto Sanchez Rodriguez, Debra Roberts, Cynthia Rosenzweig, Seth Schultz, Karen Seto, William Solecki, Maryke van Staden, Diana Ürge-Vorsatz, 2018, Extended version: Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science, available online at <https://bit.ly/2xzOZg5>, reviewed on 08/07/2019.

² Inter-American Development Bank, 2016, Slum Upgrading and Housing in Latin America, available online at: <https://bit.ly/2XK5jW2>, reviewed on 11/07/2019.

³ Bazaz, A., Bertoldi, P., Buckeridge, M., Cartwright, A., de Coninck, H., Engelbrecht, F., Jacob, D., Hourcade, J., Klaus, I., de Kleijne, K., Lwasa, S., Markgraf, C., Newman, P., Revi, A., Rogelj, J., Schultz, S., Shindell, D., Singh, C., Solecki, W., Dteg, L., 2018, Summary for Urban Policy Makers, available online at <https://bit.ly/2RHwyT3>, reviewed on 23/07/2019.

⁴ UNHABITAT, 2012, State of Latin American and Caribbean Cities, available online at: <https://bit.ly/2XYwSjv>, reviewed on 09/07/2019.

⁵ Lucon O., D. Ürge-Vorsatz, A. Zain Ahmed, H. Akbari, P. Bertoldi, L. F. Cabeza, N. Eyre, A. Gadgil, L. D. D. Harvey, Y. Jiang, E. Liphoto, S. Mirasgedis, S. Murakami, J. Parikh, C. Pyke, and M. V. Vilariño, 2014: Buildings. In: Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Edenhofer, O., R. Pichs-Madruga, Y. Sokona, E. Farahani, S. Kadner, K. Seyboth, A. Adler, I. Baum, S. Brunner, P. Eickemeier, B. Kriemann, J. Savolainen, S. Schlömer, C. von Stechow, T. Zwickel and J.C. Minx (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA. available online at <https://bit.ly/2XbUFbr>, reviewed 24/07/2019.



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Construction



CLIMATE WEEK
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More than 500 million people live in urban settlements in Latin America and the Caribbean⁶. Informal settlements concentrate between 20% and 30% of the urban population in the region⁷. People living in these urban areas are often poor and particularly exposed to violation of rights, social and economic inequality and lack of access to basic services such as potable water, clean and reliable electricity, and quality education. Additionally, they are often vulnerable to the negative effects of extreme events, including those related to a changing climate like hydrometeorological hazards, being often located in unfavorable areas. For instance, all capital cities of LAC region are highly climate-vulnerable; 48% of them have been categorized as at “extreme risk” to climate change⁸.

The need for making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, low-emission, and sustainable is recognized in the 11th goal of the Sustainable Development Agenda, as well as in all the three components of the New Urban Agenda (viz. Sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty; sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity for all; and, environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development). Achieving these goals, will require National and Subnational governments to integrate policies and plans towards meeting the needs of inhabitants in urban areas and informal settlements. Similarly, meeting the rising demand for housing (which occupies on average 70% of the surface of a city), quality urban services, sustainable infrastructure and urban land will urge state and non-state actors to increase capacities and establish more responsive and inclusive decision-making processes that contribute to the development of better urban governance practices.

Through their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), LAC countries can upgrade the lives of millions by improving the housing conditions of urban inhabitants (e.g. by reigniting economic growth, creating and maintaining good jobs and reducing GHG footprint) and advancing their resilience to climate change. This is especially true where NDC targets and measures are vertically integrated, taking into consideration the cities’ particular socio-economic and cultural perspectives and ambitions. A consolidated low-carbon development and an increasing urban resilience can also reduce and eliminate the financial cost of loss and damages; right investments in buildings and infrastructure provides an opportunity to increase the ability of urban areas and informal settlements to align their development aspirations to the 1.5°C Paris Agreement goal while adapting to climate change in an inclusive manner.

Despite its growing importance, ways of integrating the urban agenda in NDCs need to be considered more strongly⁹. Setting targets and implementing measures for fossil free and super low energy buildings (e.g. the overall building sector is responsible for more than 40% of global energy use¹⁰) as well as climate risk-free infrastructure is particularly important for both urban areas and informal settlements. Vertical integration in NDCs needs to be considered more strongly as well. Indeed, the majority of climate commitments involving actions in the buildings sector have been made by non-party stakeholders, particularly municipalities¹¹.

⁶ United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2016, World Cities Report 2016: Urbanization and Development – Emerging Futures, available online at <https://bit.ly/2Jz4y0e>, reviewed on 09/07/2019.

⁷ CAF, 2017, Crecimiento urbano y acceso a oportunidades: un desafío para América Latina, available online at <https://bit.ly/2wOO376>, reviewed on 11/07/2019.

⁸ CAF, 2014, Índice de vulnerabilidad y adaptación al cambio climático en la región de América Latina y el Caribe, available online at <https://bit.ly/2YUCJ64>, reviewed on 11/07/19.

⁹ UNEP, 2018, A guide for incorporating buildings actions in NDCs, available online at <https://bit.ly/2XZDFJ6>, reviewed on 12/07/2019.

¹⁰ IEA/UNEP, 2018, 2018 Global status report: towards a zero-emission, efficient and resilient buildings and construction sector, available online at <https://bit.ly/2NMxanX>, reviewed on 10/07/2019.

¹¹ UNEP, 2018, A guide for incorporating buildings actions in NDCs, available online at <https://bit.ly/2XZDFJ6>, reviewed on 12/07/2019.



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Construction



CLIMATE WEEK
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This thematic block will look at the leading and vertically integrated role that National Governments, Cities and Sub-national governments can play in forging pathways to low-carbon & resilient urban settlements. By sharing eye-opening experiences on (i) concrete collaborative actions to achieve significant emissions reductions in urban areas and (ii) tangible solutions to improve climate resilience for the most vulnerable urban dwellers, this thematic block will help better set up a collective framework for national and subnational governments and other non-state actors to match low-carbon developments and resilience in the LAC's urban areas and informal settlements.

Objective:

To jointly develop a set of key recommendations for a vertically integrated regional *roadmap* towards a resilient and low-carbon development in Latin American and the Caribbean urban areas and informal settlements.

Program:

Time:	Title section: Pathways to a low-carbon & resilient future in Latin America and the Caribbean urban areas and settlements.
<p>Short description:</p> <p>This thematic block aims at addressing hotspots, collaborative actions and tangible solutions for improved climate mitigation and resilience in Latin American and Caribbean urban areas and informal settlements. Broken down in two panels, this dialogue will give particular emphasis on clear mechanisms for vertical integration of climate policies between national and sub-national governments, and specific means to scale up and make financial flows more accessible to cities and local governments to address significant emission reductions and decreasing vulnerability in urban and informal settlements. Ultimately, this thematic block will make visible readily-available, feasible and cost-effective options at hand for a <i>roadmap</i> towards resilient and low-carbon development in Latin American and the Caribbean urban areas and informal settlements.</p> <p>Inspired by the <i>Talanoa Dialogue</i>, this thematic block will create an open and inclusive space for climate leaders to share stories, build trust and empathy and make concrete recommendations for the collective good. In this space, three central questions will frame the conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Where is LAC in terms of climate mitigation for urban areas, resilience in informal settlements, collaborative action between cities and countries for both, and financial flows for cities and local governments to address climate change? Showcasing Mitigation & Vulnerability Hotspots;</i> • <i>Where does LAC want to go in terms of climate mitigation for urban areas and climate resilience for the most vulnerable settlements? Forging pathways to low-carbon & resilient urban areas and settlements I; and,</i> • <i>How does LAC get to climate-resilient and inclusive low-carbon urban areas both for formal and informal settlements? Forging pathways to low-carbon & resilient urban areas and settlements II.</i> <p>This thematic block will last 145 mins.</p> <p>The thematic block will be structured in 4 movements: <i>Vivace, Andante, Moderato and Allegro.</i></p> <p><u>Vivace [5 mins]</u>: this is the prelude; it will serve to give welcome words, describe the program, introduce speakers, acknowledge efforts from LACCW organizers and partners [5 mins]. Master of ceremony leads.</p>	



Andante [105 mins]: this is the central dialogue of the thematic block; will serve to present arguments by speakers (first round of interventions). This movement will comprise a keynote address and two panels viz. Chapter I and Chapter II.

❖ Keynote Address [10 mins]

A Local Mayor will address key ideas behind low-carbon development and resilience in infrastructure, cities and local action in Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighting successful stories based on own experience.

❖ Chapter I: Mitigation & Vulnerability Hotspots [50 mins]

Speakers will converse on (i) hotspots in Latin America and the Caribbean regarding mitigation and resilience needs. ii) Leverage points which would generate change at scale. Topics from speakers could cover (but not limited to):

- Status of urban mitigation and resilience in and for urban areas, resilience and informal settlements in LAC.
- Challenges and needs, in particular financial flows regarding mitigation and resilience in and for urban areas and informal settlements in particular for urban resilience in LAC.
- “Hotspots” for informal settlements in LAC.
- Collaborative action between national and local governments.
- Cities and sub-national governments experiences in addressing barriers to improve climate resilience for the most vulnerable urban dwellers.

❖ Chapter II: Forging pathways to low-carbon & resilient urban areas and settlements [45 mins]

Speakers will converse on (i) entry points to support collaboration and vertical integration and (ii) clear and tangible solutions to scale-up and make financial flows more accessible to cities and local governments to address climate change in urban areas and informal settlements. Dissertations from speakers could cover (but not limited to) the following topics:

- Examples of local commitments, their link to national commitments, and their implementation.
- Vertical integration in NDCs for climate mitigation and resilience in urban areas.
- Financial flows for effective, low-carbon urban planning, and resilient, efficient informal settlements are needed and the form they can take.
- Suggestions for incorporating informal settlements in NDCs.
- Needed climate policies for 2030 and 2050 to align to 1.5 °C.
- City-level adaptive capacities to develop or strengthen.
- Linkages among GHG emission reduction, air quality and co-benefits for adaptation of the health sector.
- Financing measures and financing mechanisms for cities and sub-national governments.
- Roadmaps for low-carbon and resilient urban areas and informal settlements.



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Moderato [25 mins]: this is the Q&A section, will provide an opportunity for attendees to raise questions and make responses to all speakers. Participate speakers, moderators and general audience.

Allegro [10 mins]: this is the epilogue; this section will serve to draw recommendations and conclusions based on speakers participation. Run by a Climate Champion from COP25, this section will reach conclusions in terms of:

- *Where is LAC in terms of climate mitigation for urban areas, resilience in informal settlements, collaborative action between cities and countries for both, and financial flows for cities and local governments to address climate change?;*
- *Where does LAC want to go in terms of climate mitigation for urban areas and climate resilience for the most vulnerable settlements?; and,*
- *How does LAC get to climate-resilient and inclusive low-carbon urban areas both for formal and informal settlements?*

Master of ceremony closes thematic block.

Speakers:

Moderator:

- Mr. Carlos Fuller [Belize], International and Regional Liaison Officer, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre.
- Mrs. Martina Otto [Germany], GlobalABC Secretariat and Head of Cities Unit, UN Environment.

Speakers:

- Mr. Raúl Salazar [Peru], Chief of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) (TBC).
- Mrs. Lisa Morris Julian [Trinidad & Tobago], Mayor of Arima.
- Mrs. Renata Sene [Brazil], Mayor of Francisco Morato.
- Mrs. Fernanda Hassem [Brazil], Mayor of Brasília.
- Mrs. Debora Domina [Argentina], Coordinator, Red Argentina de Municipios Frente al Cambio Climático (RAMCC).
- Mr. Gustavo Londoño [Colombia], Coordinator, Grupo Cambio Climático del área Metropolitana del Valle de Aburrá.
- Mr. Sergio Bergman [Argentina], Secretary of Government of Environmental and Sustainable Development of Argentina.
- Mr. Felipe Faria [Brazil], CEO, Green Building Council.
- Mr. Gonzalo Muñoz [Chile], High-Level Climate Action Champion/ Business entrepreneur and social change-maker.

Masters of ceremony:

- Mr. Tabaré A. Currás [Mexico], Technical Lead, One Planet Cities, WWF Sweden (TBC).

Contact person (e-mail and phone number):

Tabaré A. Currás (tabare.curras@wwf.se; +52 55 44 41 42 45)

Nora Steurer (nora.steurer@un.org; +33 1 44 37 16 33)

Mateo Ledesma (mateo.ledesma@un.org; +5 07 62 86 76 01)