

## **SB52 JOINT CLOSING PLENARY LGMA STATEMENT**

### **Delivered by; Yunus Arikan, Director of Global Advocacy, ICLEI UNFCCC LGMA Focal Point**

Dear Chair, distinguished delegations,

At the outset, the LGMA Constituency commends the extraordinary efforts of Parties, SB Chairs, COP Presidents, Secretariat and all Observer Constituencies to contribute in the success of these first virtual sessions of Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC process. Despite all the technical and human challenges, these 3 weeks proved that UNFCCC community is ready to prepare, adopt and improve the necessary skills and capabilities to conduct virtual consultations.

Meanwhile, it has to be noted that the same Parties and almost the same Ministries have already advanced further virtually in the biodiversity process by developing and even agreeing on a number of Conference Room Papers in almost the same time frame. This shows that UNFCCC community should collectively accelerate its learning experience in virtual settings in the months and may be years ahead.

Over these 3 weeks, we have happily observed the progress in more actively engaging observers in the consultations. In this regard, we would like to particularly commend co-facilitators and negotiators of ACE and AIM processes by deploying innovative models and invite others to be inspired as such.

We also would like to commend SB Chairs and COP Presidencies in keeping regular briefings with the Observers. We welcome COP25 Bureau yesterday and the first COP26 Logistics Briefing in the first week, which corresponds to our calls expressed at the opening plenary. We encourage both Presidencies to make publicly available, as quick as possible, more specific information and realistic planning on modalities of engagement of observers at the in-person and virtual sessions of COP26 under COVID-19 pandemic conditions. In order to enable all attendees plan appropriately, it is becoming extremely urgent to be informed timely, on how climate-COP26 in Glasgow would differ from biodiversity-COP15 to be held 3-weeks in advance fully virtual for observers and in-person for those residents in China or those who can afford 3-weeks of quarantine. Inspired by this weeks joint IPCC-IPBES report, we would encourage a close collaboration between UNFCCC and CBD in particular this year for a smooth synergy between COP15 and COP26.

And finally, we are witnessing that multilevel and multistakeholder collaboration is gradually enabling the 2<sup>nd</sup> or revised NDCs to move in the right direction to fulfill the goals of Paris Agreement. This change of mindset at the domestic level should be reflected to the UNFCCC mechanisms and modalities as well. At the CBD level, just this week, building on the Edinburgh Process, Parties, Secretariat, the UK Government, the Scottish Government, and networks of local and regional governments demonstrated a remarkable achievement by kicking-off the 2<sup>nd</sup> 10-year action plan for cities and other subnational governments, which can be an exemplary for UNFCCC community as well. Considering “collaboration” is the 4<sup>th</sup> priority of the UK COP26 Presidency, the LGMA invites all interested Parties to mark COP26 as the moment where we collectively move from “Open Dialogue” to “Open Collaboration” by building effective synergies between the UNFCCC agendas in particular on Global Climate Action, Action for Climate Empowerment, Global Stocktake, Arrangement for Intergovernmental Meetings, Paris Committee on Capacity Building, Nairobi Work programme and others as appropriate.

\* <https://www.cities-and-regions.org/> The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency has been representing local and regional governments at the processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since the first Conference of Parties (COP) in 1995. The LGMA also represents the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. ICLEI acts as the Focal Point of LGMA.