

## 'Charter' for the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, is a global coalition of cities and local governments with a shared long-term vision of promoting and supporting voluntary action to combat climate change and move to a low-carbon, resilient society, based on the following core principles:

- **Local Governments are Key Contributors:** The Global Covenant of Mayors works to organize and mobilize cities and local governments to be active contributors to a global climate solution.
- **City Networks as Critical Partners:** Local, regional and global city networks are core partners, serving as the primary support for participating cities or regions.
- **A Robust Solution Agenda:** Focusing on those sectors where cities have the greatest impact, the Global Covenant supports ambitious, locally relevant solutions, captured through strategic action plans that are registered, implemented and monitored and publicly available.
- **Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Fostering Local Climate Resilience:** The Global Covenant of Mayors emphasizes the importance of both climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as universal access to clean energy.

The Global Covenant of Mayors will bring together, under one single umbrella, "Regional Covenants," that - subject to the overriding objectives mentioned above - shall be organized at the regional level according to organizational principles and methods that best suit each given region. Cities and local governments may participate in the Global Covenant of Mayors either through a "Regional Covenant" or by directly engaging with the Global Covenant of Mayors Secretariat as long as no "Regional Covenant" exists.

The Global Covenant shall seek to assist these regions in achieving their objectives by:

- providing technical guidance to the Regional Covenants, inter alia by sharing best practices;
- supporting the establishment of open and compatible data as well as reporting, aggregating and monitoring of results at the global level;
- facilitate coherence amongst the Regional Covenants, ensuring the exchange of and give visibility to best practices, promoting compatible methods and common objectives, and
- serve as a common global voice and outreach, promoting the Covenant at all levels.

Through their participation in the Global Covenant of Mayors, and with the support of founding partners, cities and local governments will:

- promote their ambitious shared vision worldwide, to become low-carbon or carbon-neutral, adapted to climate change, resilient for future changes, and providing universal access to clean and affordable energy;
- consolidate the leading role for cities and local governments in tackling climate change, based on consistent and transparent data collection and reporting with a connection to the United Nations
- develop the institutional political processes that make effective action possible by embedding climate action into municipal processes, structures and policies;
- move towards transparent standard procedures and methodologies to increase international accountability; and
- promote systems and actions for increased access to clean energy consistent with a low-carbon vision.

Local authorities joining the Global Covenant of Mayors will:

- commit to achieving or surpassing the relevant national commitment(s) regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation and energy access to all, which are made, inter alia, in the context of the United Nations' Paris Agreement through the Nationally Determined Contributions or the Sustainable Development Goals.
- commit to adopting a comprehensive plan, to be reviewed and monitored, to meet the commitments made,
- engage in regional initiatives, and explore involvement in global Covenant activities, such as city exchanges, peer guidance and mobilizing other local governments, and
- agree to make key data available to the Global Covenant via regular reporting, which is needed to enable cities to compare their success with others worldwide and so that the Global Covenant can report on overall progress in achieving the aims of the Global Covenant.