Muğla Declaration for Climate-Resilient and Just Mediterranean Cities

Mediterranean Climate Summit, Muğla, Türkiye | 28–29 September 2026

We, mayors, leaders of local and regional governments, representatives of local and regional government associations and networks, and urban stakeholders from across the Mediterranean's three continents, have come together in Muğla for the Mediterranean Climate Summit.

The Mediterranean is our shared home and one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions. It is warming around 20% faster than the global average[1] and our communities already face extreme heat, drought, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, wildfires, floods, rising sea levels and degraded marine and coastal ecosystems. These impacts threaten people's health, livelihoods, our collective cultural heritage and access to essential services, while deepening existing inequalities and causing climate- induced displacement.

Our cities and regions are among the first to be exposed to the impacts of climate change, but they are also at the forefront of developing solutions to protect the Mediterranean's uniquely rich yet fragile ecosystems and build climate-resilient, low-carbon and more equitable communities in line with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C and the outcome of the first Global Stocktake. But we cannot deliver this transition alone. The challenges we face cross municipal and national borders. They require sustained cooperation, based on concrete and shared objectives, among local, regional and national governments, civil society, academia, businesses, financial institutions and communities.

COP31, to be hosted by Türkiye in Antalya, a Mediterranean city, from 9 to 20 November 2026, offers a historic opportunity to bring the realities faced and solutions developed by Mediterranean communities to the heart of global climate decision-making. It also provides an opportunity for the Mediterranean Region to strengthen the cooperation, mutual learning and institutional capacity needed to build climate resilience across policy sectors.

As mayors, local and regional government leaders, their networks and urban stakeholders, we commit to strengthening cooperation among us before, during and after COP31. We will share practical solutions, work towards protecting our common ecosystems, strengthen resilience across borders and accelerate the transition towards climate-neutral and inclusive cities, while seeking support from national governments, development banks and agencies. Together, we will bring a strong Mediterranean voice from our cities and regions to COP31 and sustain this cooperation beyond the Summit. In this regard, we would work towards an alliance of Mediterranean cities and regions.

Given the particular vulnerability of the Mediterranean ecosystem and the communities that depend on it, COP31 must deliver practical solutions that help cities and regions protect their territories, strengthen resilience and accelerate a fair transition. In this regard, we expect COP31 and all Parties to:

[1] https://www.unep.org/unepmap/resources/factsheets/climate-change

Make cities and regions full partners in climate action

Ensure that the UN climate process and COP negotiations formally recognize the role of local and regional governments and establish a Multilevel Cooperative Dialogue for national and subnational governments to address implementation barriers. Encourage Parties; especially CHAMP[2] supporter countries, to recognize local and regional governments as active partners in preparing, implementing, financing and monitoring climate policies, particularly NDCs and National Adaptation Plans.

Make climate finance reach the local level

Simplify direct and intermediated access to grants and long-term affordable finance, prioritize grant-based finance and ensure that a dedicated share of climate funding effectively reaches local and regional implementation and supports locally led projects, particularly for adaptation and resilience, while giving local and regional governments meaningful decision-making and delivery roles. Establish financing mechanisms and requirements proportionate to local capacities, accompanied by technical assistance for project preparation, applications and implementation, so that small and medium-sized municipalities and vulnerable communities are not left behind.

Support cities in moving from planning to implementation

Provide long- term technical assistance and capacity building, among others, in project preparation, climate-risk analysis, greenhouse gas inventories, heat-health action plans, financial modelling, implementation, monitoring and reporting. Establish coordination mechanisms that connect knowledge, technical assistance, implementation and finance across levels.

Put locally led adaptation action at the centre

Ensure that National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) reflect local realities and integrate local climate action plans and other relevant plans such as spatial plans, disaster-risk-reduction plans and river-basin/water management plans. Use disaggregated local data on gender, age, disability, income and migration status, and ensure continuity of essential municipal services. In the Mediterranean Region in particular, NAPs should address how climate risks affect key economic activities, such as tourism, agriculture, fisheries and energy production drawing on assessments covering intertwined effects of heat, drought, water scarcity, wildfires, floods and sea-level rise.

Ensure a just transition

Give local governments and communities a meaningful role in shaping the transition to a low-carbon economy to ensure that no local community is left behind. Recognize the key role of local and regional governments in identifying and meaningfully involving vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, young people, older people, persons with disabilities, low-income households, migrants and workers in climate-sensitive sectors, in decision-making. Support local and regional governments in providing accessible and affordable essential services, decent green jobs and skills transitions.

[2] The Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) was launched at COP28 by the COP28 Presidency and Bloomberg Philanthropies as a platform to enhance collaboration between national and subnational governments in climate policy and finance. Recognizing that cities and regions play a critical role in implementing national climate commitments, CHAMP was designed to bridge the gap between local action and national policies. Since its launch, the CHAMP coalition has grown to 78 endorsers, including Türkiye, which holds the COP31 Presidency, and Australia, the COP31 President of Negotiations, demonstrating a growing global commitment to embedding multilevel governance in climate action.

Protect the Mediterranean as one interconnected system

Strengthen cooperation to address water efficiency and reuse, integrated wildfire management, biodiversity, coastal adaptation, marine protection and pollution reduction, including plastics, nature-based solutions, sustainable mobility, renewable energy, circular economy, waste management, open and interoperable climate data, and community-based early warning; and scale up successful practices. Protect the Mediterranean's tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage, including historic centres, archaeological sites and traditional ways of life. Build on existing regional frameworks, including the Barcelona Convention and UNEP/MAP.

With this Declaration, we stand ready to work together, in partnership with national governments and the international community, to carry forward the spirit of the Mediterranean Climate Summit in Muğla and build a more resilient, climate-neutral and just future for all Mediterranean communities.

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