

**Zero Carbone Forum
City of Paris – La Tribune
December 10 and 11, 2020, Paris City Hall**

Project - Paris Declaration

December 8, 2020, English version

5 years later, cities are more engaged than ever on Climate

On December 4, 2015, mayors from cities around the world met in Paris to launch a call for climate action, and to encourage states to reach an ambitious agreement to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. On December 12, 2015, during COP 21, the Paris Climate agreement was adopted making this date a historic milestone in the international fight against climate change.

Five years later where do we stand?

Significant progress has been made worldwide. In early October 2020, the members of the European Parliament call for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced by 60% in 2030. China, meanwhile, announced it plans on achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.

These significant progresses were achieved mainly thanks to the frontline action of cities.

Cities have moved to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climatic contingencies such as heat waves, floods, hurricanes and droughts, all of which are becoming more frequent and damaging. Over a hundred metropolises have committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

They have joined up to pool knowledge and expertise and have brought together local players, such as citizens, businesses and associations, in a process of participatory democracy, essential to the acceleration of the ecological transition.

They have been remarkably innovative and reactive to adapt and were quick to implement concrete solutions (bike lanes, cooperation between cities, green recovery, greening, etc.) which are good for health, environment and climate at the same time.

They have developed local green finance mechanisms designed to support local projects promoting energy transition and monitor their carbon impact. Overall, through these unprecedented efforts, cities have significantly reduced their greenhouse gas emissions.

Meanwhile, some terrible setbacks have caused delays. The US has pulled back from the agreement – with the latest election of Joe BIDEN to the White house, the United States should re-enter the Paris Agreement. In addition, most of the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) do not always respect the objectives and too many governments have failed to take the measures, deemed necessary, that had been planned.

The current health crisis is a reminder that the human caused damages suffered by our environment carry heavy consequences that can no longer be ignored. To address the global climate emergency, deliver a sustainable recovery from COVID19, and protect the health of our fellow citizens, we must act faster. The rescheduling of COP26 must not lead to an additional wasted year: time is running out

That is why, today we, cities, reassert our ambition to contain the increase in global warming within the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement and we solemnly state our commitment to respect the following resolutions:

- Put climate action at the center of all urban decision-making, so as to achieve climate neutrality and create thriving and equitable communities;
- Pledge to reach (net)-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.
- In advance of COP26, explain what steps will be taken toward achieving net zero, especially in the short- to medium-term. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO₂ by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C
- Immediately proceed before 2022 to planning at least one inclusive and equitable climate action as proposed by “cities Race to Zero” program, which will contribute to positioning your city on a resilient track in line with the 1.5°C objective of the Paris Agreement;
- Take the concerns of the youth into account and engage them in the governance of climate policies while being consistently and transparently accountable to them;
- Build new partnerships with all stakeholders and establish coordinated action plans between urban and rural populations in order to accelerate the ecological transition of our food supply;
- Invite our partners – political leaders, CEOs, trade unions, investors, and civil society – to join us in recognizing the global climate emergency and help us deliver on science-based action to overcome it.
- Embrace nature-based solutions in our climate plans, placing biodiversity at the core of climate change mitigation measures;
- Support the changes in the economic activities of our cities that allow for a quicker reduction of their carbon footprint;

- Push forward true climate justice to protect the most vulnerable from climate change and fuel poverty;
- Commit with all of our public and private partners to give access to renewable and carbon-neutral energy for all our citizens by 2050;
- Work with States and the international scientific community to build new economic indicators that measure the ecological debt of carbon-based economic activities;
- Encourage States to promptly issue new ambitious climate contributions, including action by cities, consistent with the Paris Agreement;
- Encourage the States, major public and private investors to confirm their financial commitment to the \$100 billion per year Adaptation Fund and green stimulus plans supporting the cities.

We will keep on raising awareness of the need for our cities to be recipients of international funds that contribute to the implementation of our climate neutrality policies.

We encourage cities around the world to join the Cities Race to Zero, preferably before COP26.

Since the success of the Paris Agreement can only be achieved through cooperation and ever-increasing international solidarity, we are calling on States to fulfill their commitments and live up to their responsibilities.

There is still time to act, therefore today we are issuing a new call upon all governments to act firmly so that we can strengthen our actions, limit climate change drastically and preserve our planet.