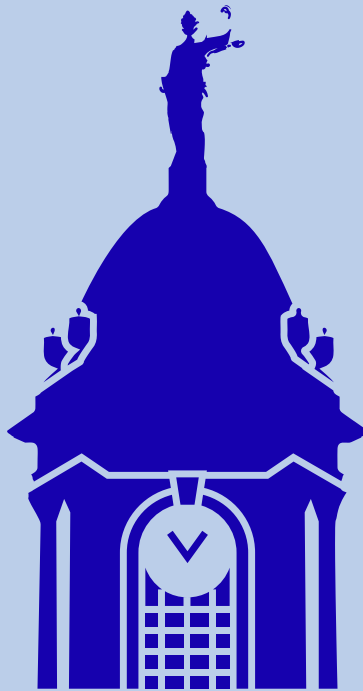
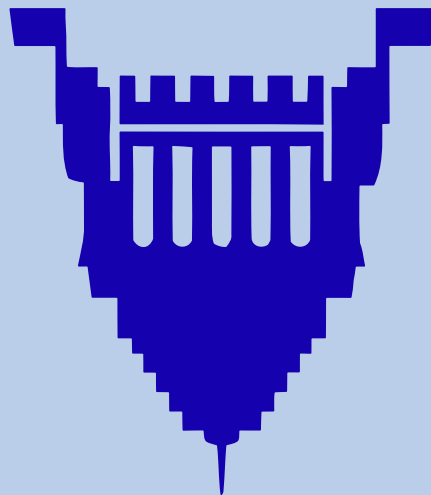




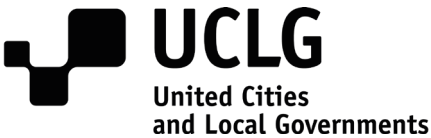
U20 **NEW
YORK CITY**
**LOS
ANGELES** **2026**



Communiqué

September 19th, 2026
New York City

Made Possible By



We, the mayors and leaders of the Urban 20 (U20), representing diverse cities from across the world, gather in the United States—under the leadership of the cities of New York City and Los Angeles—at a moment of profound consequence and deep uncertainty for the global community.

The international order is under considerable strain: long-standing alliances, rules-based multilateral institutions, and international and humanitarian law and agreements are being undermined, worsening geopolitical fractures and tensions. Conflicts continue to devastate communities and harm innocent civilians, the human cost of which is disproportionately borne by cities and their residents. The erosion of the hard-won architecture of international cooperation threatens the promise of a more just, equitable, and sustainable world for all.

We are also living through a global crisis of inequality, as wealth and power become increasingly concentrated. As this concentration grows, democracy increasingly bends to the interests of the few: public institutions grow less responsive to the needs of the people and mistrust in the capacity of governments to deliver grows, fueling frustration and discouragement, polarization, and backsliding of democratic norms. It is at the local level that the rising cost of living, housing insecurity, and strain in public services is most directly experienced.

As some national governments step back from international cooperation and global leadership, cities remain where most global challenges manifest. Climate change brings devastating floods, extreme heat, wildfires, and damage to homes and critical infrastructure, with the greatest burden falling on the most vulnerable communities. Global conflicts are contributing to rising energy, food and housing costs that strain families and local economies. Cities are also where migration and displacement are directly managed and responded to, from ensuring access to rights to providing essential services and pathways to meaningful inclusion and safety for all residents.

As a cohort of urban areas representing over 500 million people and over one-third of global GDP, the U20 exists precisely because the voice of cities must be front and center when the world's most consequential decisions are made. Cities are where people experience government and its failures and successes most directly. They are also places of economic and cultural creation. Our commitment is to govern these places in ways that protect dignity, reduce inequality, and make belonging real.

Across the world, local and regional leaders are on the frontlines of these challenges. In too many places, local

elected officials who challenge power structures face threats, intimidation, political persecution, or removal from office for exercising their democratic mandate. As U20 leaders, we stand in solidarity with all locally elected leaders under threat. We reaffirm that the strength of democracy depends on the strength of local democracy, and that protecting locally elected government is essential to rebuilding trust and ensuring responsive public institutions.

To meet the demands of the current global landscape, the 2026 U20 Cycle is organized around three strategic priorities, bringing together ambitious actions already being advanced by cities and collective calls to the G20:

- **Priority 1:** Expanding access to secure, dignified, and affordable housing;
- **Priority 2:** Confronting the climate crisis through a clean and just energy transition and enhanced urban resilience; and
- **Priority 3:** Managing migration, while supporting immigrant and displaced communities with dignity and humanity.

As U20 cities, we are united in our commitment to working alongside national governments to support implementation, build delivery capacity, and bridge the gap between global commitments and local realities in these critical areas, particularly for the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement, and on migration and human rights. To do so, the U20 calls on the G20 to empower cities as full partners in addressing global challenges, including the meaningful devolution of authority and resources.

U20 cities further call for sustained peace and the resolution of ongoing conflicts. The U20 also reaffirms its foundational commitment to international solidarity, human rights, gender equality, universal accessibility, democratic governance, the upholding of international humanitarian law and respect for UN resolutions including the rule of law.

U20 cities present the following Communiqué and recommendations to the G20 as their collective voice, rooted in the daily realities of urban governance and guided by a shared agenda for delivery.

PRIORITY 1

Affordable Housing & Addressing Homelessness

The world faces a deepening housing affordability crisis, and adequate housing must be recognized as a fundamental human right. Across G20 cities, rising housing costs are pricing out working families, displacing long-term residents, and contributing to homelessness and the growth of informal settlements. This is a global emergency with far-reaching consequences for public health, economic security, social cohesion, public services, and trust in government.

The lack of adequate and affordable housing is a direct barrier to inclusive urban development. When workers cannot afford to live in the cities where they work, inequality deepens and everyday life becomes more precarious. The financialization of housing, the growing treatment of homes and land primarily as investment assets rather than places to live, has been among the causes of unaffordability, displacing residents and locking generations out of stable housing. Homelessness is a structural social crisis and must be addressed through permanent housing, supported where needed by mental health care, social services, employment pathways, and emergency assistance.

Cities are bearing the fiscal, social, and political consequences of a housing crisis shaped by national and global forces but experienced most acutely at the local level. They also have the local knowledge, institutional relationships, and implementation capacity needed to respond, provided they have the authority and resources to act. Housing must therefore be treated as a shared responsibility across all levels of government, with cities recognized as essential partners in policy design and delivery.

Addressing the crisis will also require reform of international financial institutions, stronger engagement with the multilateral system, and a dedicated global housing dialogue bringing together cities, national governments, and international partners.

Across the U20 cohort, cities are advancing action, in line with relevant national policies, law, and circumstances, including by:

- **Using regulatory tools to protect tenants and expand housing supply**, including dedicated tenant protection offices or agencies, rent stabilization and rent control measures, caps and licensing requirements for short-term rental platforms, mandatory affordable housing

quotas, inclusionary zoning requirements; while acknowledging that the effectiveness of regulatory approaches varies across cities and regions.

- **Deploying established and emerging collective housing models** that shift ownership and preserve long-term affordability, including social rental schemes, community land trusts, cooperative housing, and vacant property and commercial-to-residential conversion programs, that ensure quality, adequate, and dignified housing.
- **Using public land and municipal land-use authority to support affordable housing**, while strengthening security of tenure, an issue of particular urgency in developing economies.
- **Addressing homelessness through permanent housing and appropriate support**, including health and mental-health care, social services, emergency assistance, and transitional or modular housing where needed as a pathway to stable homes.
- **Building public-social partnerships** and innovative blended financing mechanisms that bring together public, private, and philanthropic capital behind locally-driven housing solutions with requirements to protect the public interest.

U20 cities call on the G20 to:

- **Strengthen local authority to regulate housing markets:** National frameworks should enable local governments to use a full range of context-appropriate tools, including tenant-protection institutions, rent stabilization and rent-control measures, regulation of short-term rentals, affordable-housing requirements, inclusionary zoning, and strong public procurement. These tools should operate within the rule of law and prioritize households and communities facing the greatest housing insecurity, such as low-income households, children, women, people experiencing homelessness, and communities in informal settlements.
- **Advance coordination across all spheres of government:** Housing outcomes are shaped by taxation, infrastructure, spatial planning, land-use regulation, investments and social policy. Cities must therefore be empowered as key partners in those decisions and have a role in the co-design of national and regional policies that affect housing affordability and supply.

- **Provide predictable public funding and expand access to affordable housing finance:** Regulatory authority alone is insufficient without the resources to act. Cities need predictable public funding, access to public land, and affordable housing finance, including development funds and innovative and blended financing mechanisms that bring together public, private, and philanthropic capital behind locally-driven housing solutions.
- **Reform multilateral and fiscal frameworks:** Multilateral development banks and international funds should create channels through which cities and eligible public or nonprofit housing institutions can directly access housing finance and project-preparation support. National and international fiscal systems should also ensure that real-estate and financial actors contribute equitably to addressing the housing crisis.

PRIORITY 2

Climate Action, Sustainability, & Urban Resilience

Continued dependence on fossil fuels is intensifying a climate crisis that threatens lives, livelihoods, public health, and essential infrastructure. Its burdens fall most heavily on low-income and marginalized communities, young people, and those who have contributed least to the crisis. Building a clean, affordable, and inclusive energy system is therefore essential to climate justice and to ensuring that the costs of transition are not imposed on those least able to bear them.

Cities are central to both climate mitigation and adaptation. They are home to a majority of the world's population and account for nearly 70 percent of energy-related emissions. Local climate action can reduce emissions through housing, transportation, energy, waste, and food policy, while protecting residents from extreme heat, flooding, wildfire, drought, and other growing climate hazards. Working with communities, workers, universities, and responsible private-sector partners, cities can connect climate action to better housing, stronger public services, and good jobs.

Yet, cities remain largely excluded from national and international climate planning and consultations, while most global climate resources continue to flow through national governments. This mismatch leaves local governments without the authority, public funding, and access to appropriate financing required to deliver effective climate action at scale.

National governments should therefore recognize cities as environmental defenders, as full partners in climate policy and provide the mandates and resources needed for local implementation. This includes predictable public funding for adaptation, resilience, and capacity-building; direct access to appropriate financing for major infrastructure and energy investments; and a formal role for cities in national climate and energy-transition planning. Stronger multilevel cooperation will enable cities to advance the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the COP28's UAE Consensus agreement to transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly, and equitable manner. It will also help deliver on the 2025 G20 Leaders' Declaration, including its recognition of local approaches to energy-transition planning and inclusive, whole-of-society approaches to a just energy transition.

Across the U20 cohort, cities are advancing climate action, in line with relevant national policies, laws, and local circumstances, including by:

- **Reducing structural demand for fossil fuels:** Implementing mitigation measures across housing, construction, and public transportation including green building codes, zero-emission areas, and public transportation powered by renewable energy.
- **Building resilient urban systems that protect lives and livelihoods:** Preparing for flooding, drought, extreme heat, wildfire, and other climate hazards through urban greening, biodiversity protection, green infrastructure, and multi-hazard early warning systems.
- **Advancing inclusive green economic development:** Promoting approaches that strengthen communities and energy efficiency, including circular-economy policies, and sustainable waste management; divesting from fossil fuels in local government portfolios; creating decent jobs in sustainable industries; and expanding skills and career pathways for young people, informal workers, migrants, and other groups that face barriers to entry, where applicable.
- **Leading on responsible use of scientific and technological innovation:** Promoting regulated, real-world application of innovative technologies including artificial intelligence and real-time environmental data collection to improve risk forecasting, advance vulnerability assessments, inform evidence-based policy-making, and counter global climate disinformation.

- **Demonstrating sustained local delivery:** Advancing ambitious climate action year after year, sharing effective approaches across cities, and helping move the COP process from negotiation to implementation.

U20 cities call on the G20 to:

- **Provide cities with direct access to climate funding and appropriate financing:** National governments and multilateral financial institutions should establish predictable public funding for local climate action, adaptation, resilience, and just energy transitions; recognize local governments as eligible recipients of multilateral climate funds; and include direct municipal funding lines in National Adaptation Plans and disaster-risk strategies.
- **Engage cities in national roadmaps and strategies for climate resilience and clean and just energy transitions:** Establish direct partnerships with cities that devolve the necessary statutory powers, data, and financial resources to local authorities to build disaster preparedness across heat, water, and energy poverty, reducing fossil fuel use and demand, and toward expanding renewable energy supplies.
- **Integrate climate action with housing, public services, and economic development:** National climate strategies should link mitigation and adaptation, including disaster preparedness and nature-based solutions, to affordable green housing, universal access to essential services, and the creation of high-quality jobs with inclusive pathways into sustainable industries.
- **Ensure cities have access to the environmental and public-health data needed to save lives, including Early Warning Systems:** National governments should facilitate reliable and open access to data and knowledge-sharing across all levels of government, including access to high-resolution meteorological data and health data to assess population vulnerabilities. This will allow for more precise and effective policymaking, climate risk forecasting and disaster preparedness. This should include the implementation and maintenance of multi-hazard Early Warning Systems that cover all residents, particularly the most vulnerable.
- **Strengthen public trust in climate science and communication:** National governments should work with cities, universities, scientists, civil-society organizations, and responsible private-sector partners to provide clear, transparent,

and evidence-based public information and to counter organized climate disinformation that obstructs effective climate action.

PRIORITY 3

Migration & Human Mobility

Migration and human mobility have long shaped the identity, economy, and culture of cities. People move in search of opportunity, safety, and stability, and they arrive with rights, skills, aspirations, and contributions to make. Migrants and displaced people are part of the social and economic fabric of urban life and play an important role in the prosperity, innovation, and demographic vitality of cities. Globally, international migrants make up only 3.4% of the world's population but contribute 9.4% of global GDP (McKinsey).

Migration is closely connected to the other priorities of this U20 cycle. Migrants and displaced people often face greater barriers to affordable housing, social protection, and decent work, while climate change and conflict are increasing displacement and making some places less secure. Moreover, although migrants primarily move to urban areas to find work, they face structural disadvantages in the form of skill and resource gaps. An effective urban response must therefore link immigrant inclusion with housing, climate resilience, public services, workforce development, and pathways into decent jobs, including in emerging green industries. Successful integration also depends on adequate investment, effective governance and the capacity of local institutions to respond to demographic change, ensuring that both newcomers and existing residents have access to quality public services.

Cities carry much of the practical responsibility and fiscal cost of receiving and integrating newcomers, even though migration policy and funding remain largely controlled at the national level. This mismatch leaves local governments without the authority and resources needed to respond effectively. It is compounded by disinformation and political narratives that stigmatize newcomers and undermine social cohesion. U20 Mayors reject such framing and affirm their commitment to supportive mayoral leadership, commit to factual public communication, strong partnerships with community organizations and local service providers, and policies that enable newcomers and long-standing residents alike to live with dignity, security, and belonging.

Across the U20 cohort, cities are advancing action in line with relevant national policies, laws, and local circumstances, including by:

- **Delivering reception and integration services:** Working with community organizations, faith institutions, diaspora networks, and civil-society partners to provide inclusive support across housing, health and care, education, language access, skills development, economic opportunity, and protection, and all essential municipal services and safety-net support, regardless of their migration status and within local mandates and national legal frameworks.
- **Investing in intercultural programming, public communication, and mayoral leadership:** Building public awareness on human mobility—based on facts and anti-discrimination principles—to counter disinformation, strengthen social cohesion, and affirm cities as safe havens for newcomers and long-standing residents alike.
- **Implementing city-to-city and inter-municipal cooperation** on migration governance, enabling international solidarity and the exchange of effective practices across the U20 network.
- **Integrating human mobility into climate adaptation:** Working with local communities and partners to reduce climate-related displacement, strengthen the resilience of people who are unable to move, and protect migrants, refugees, and other displaced people who may face heightened exposure to climate and urban risks, including in informal settlements.

U20 cities call on the G20 to (building on the 2025 G20 Leaders' Declaration's commitment to support migrants, including migrant workers and refugees, and in line with the principles and objectives of the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration);

- **Devolve decision-making power of local governments:** Formally recognize cities as institutional in the design and implementation of national migration policy, as well as in other strategic interlinked areas, such as climate, labor, and economic development among others. Establish structured mechanisms for local government input into national strategies and international negotiations and devolve the authority needed for cities to design and implement integration programs that reflect local realities.
- **Establish direct and dedicated funding streams to cities:** Provide predictable and dedicated funding for migrant reception, integration and social services, reflecting the scale of responsibilities carried by cities at the front line of reception and inclusion.

Ensure that financing matches devolved responsibilities and enables cities to deliver inclusive migration interventions at scale.

- **Ensure coordinated, rights-based access to essential services:** In line with international human-rights obligations and applicable national legal frameworks, national governments should work with cities to ensure that migrants and displaced people can access water, sanitation, electricity, housing, health and care, education, and economic opportunity. Cities should be able to provide municipal services within their mandates and, in partnership with civil society, vital safety-net support to all residents, regardless of their migration status. Governments should also address structural barriers to economic inclusion through language access, education, workforce development, administrative simplification, and protections against trafficking.
- **Advance a climate-responsive approach to migration and human mobility:** Recognize climate change as a growing driver of displacement, alongside conflict, violence, and economic exclusion. Work with cities and local communities to reduce displacement through inclusive adaptation, protect people unable to move, and strengthen the resilience of migrants, refugees, and displaced people facing heightened climate risks, including those living in informal settlements.
- **Support safe, orderly, and regular labor pathways:** Work with local governments to expand decent work opportunities, training, recognition of skills and qualifications, and workplace protections for migrants and displaced people, especially in sectors facing labor shortages and in emerging green industries. Cities should also be supported in providing clear information about rights, administrative processes, and employment opportunities.
- **Decentralize disaggregated data collection:** Support city preparedness and planning for migration via climate risk modeling and mobility forecasting; improve data accuracy while ensuring full respect for residents' rights and privacy.
- **Invest in local and international partnerships:** Support cooperation among countries and cities of origin, transit, and destination as equal partners, and provide sustained funding for local organizations whose expertise, trust, and reach are essential to effective reception and inclusion.

As the mayors of U20 cities, co-hosted in 2026 by New York City and Los Angeles, we affirm that cities are not passive recipients of global policy, but active architects of the world they want.

Platforms like the U20 give form to the power of local multilateralism and city diplomacy. They demonstrate that cooperative, action-oriented governance is not only possible but essential within a renewed multilateral system that delivers.

As U20 cities, we stand ready to work in partnership with national governments to turn global commitments into action, strengthen delivery, and ensure that implementation responds to the realities of our communities. At a moment of profound consequence for the global community, cities remain committed to cooperation, solidarity, and practical solutions that protect dignity, reduce inequality and make belonging real.

This Communiqué Is Endorsed By

As of September 19th, 2026:

Amsterdam	Mayor Femke Halsema
Atlanta	Mayor Andre Dickens
Barcelona	Mayor Jaume Collboni Cuadrado
Bristol	Cllr Tony Dyer, Leader
Buenos Aires	Chief of Government Jorge Macri
Chicago	Mayor Brandon Johnson
Denver	Mayor Mike Johnston
eThekweni Municipality	His Worship the Mayor, Cllr Cyril Xaba
Freetown	Mayor Yvonne Aki-Sawyers
Greater Manchester	Mayor Bev Craig
Helsinki	Mayor Daniel Sazonov
Istanbul	Acting Mayor Nuri Aslan
Izmir	Mayor Dr. Cemil Tugay
Jakarta	Governor, H.E. Pramono Anung
Johannesburg	Executive Mayor Dada Morero
Kitchener	Mayor Berry Vrbanovic
London	Mayor Sadiq Khan
Los Angeles	Mayor Karen Bass
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Montreal	Mayor Soraya Martinez Ferrada
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Rotterdam	Mayor Carola Schouten
Sao Paulo	Mayor Ricardo Nunes
Seattle	Mayor Katie B. Wilson
Seoul	Mayor Oh Se-hoon
Sydney	Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore AO
Toronto	Mayor Olivia Chow
Tshwane	Executive Mayor, Dr Nasiphi Moya