A DECLARATION OF CITIES' COMMITMENT TO THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

We, Mayors, local and subnational government leaders of the world's cities, understand our profound responsibility at this pivotal moment in history. Tomorrow, the leaders of 193 countries will usher in a new era of sustainable development, in which the dignity and value of every person will be affirmed and respected; in which all people will have the capability to flourish and to define their own life narratives; in which our planet and its precious ecosystems will be protected and valued. These new Sustainable Development Goals speak to the common good of all humanity, and reflect our most basic human urges for harmonious cooperation and peaceful coexistence. We particularly welcome the inclusion of SDG 11, on sustainable cities and human settlements, as a powerful driver of transformation of the Urban World between now and 2030.

The Summit and the SDGs come at a time when our world and communities are facing numerous, social and ecological crises, bringing us close to a point of no-return, with the high risk of nullifying all the social and economic progress achieved over the past decades. In order to ensure full, rapid and accelerated transformation, these SDGs should be the "floor", not the "ceiling".

We, Mayors and subnational leaders, will play a defining role in embracing, endorsing, implementing, and monitoring these goals, pursuant to our role as governmental stakeholders of our communities, and representatives in the global governance system. Our responsibility reflects our position on the front line of sustainable development, with the power to affect transformative change. Our cities are home to half of the world's people and three quarters of its economic output, and this will rise by 2030, the target year of SDGs. We therefore encourage the international community, as well as our national governments, to ensure full synergy and integration between the global and national goals, and ambitious local plans and programs.

In support of the 2030 sustainable development agenda we make the following commitments:

- We commit to develop an integrated and holistic sustainable development strategy, by 2017 [the latest by 2020], to ensure achievement of the SDGs in our cities and territories by 2030;
- We commit that this strategy will be crafted with the engagement of all relevant stakeholders in our cities and regions, across sectors and communities and encompassing public and private actors, and that we will pursue participatory and integrated approaches for the sustainable planning and management of our cities and territories henceforth;
- We commit that our decisions and actions will ensure that our cities and territories will be safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable;
- We commit to eradicating extreme poverty and dramatically reducing relative poverty within our cities and territories;
- We commit to promote equality of opportunity and cultural diversity in our cities, through universal access to health, education and employment opportunities, regardless of gender, age or class;
- We commit to ensure the fulfillment of the basic needs and rights of all of our citizens, including access to clean water, sanitation and green public space, affordable and sustainable housing, mobility, energy, waste management, protection from extreme

weather events, including natural and man-made disasters through ecosystem and community-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures;

- We commit to pursue sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and to build quality, reliable infrastructure to support economic development and human well-being;
- We commit to deep decarbonization and to transition to a low carbon and climate-°©-resilient economy;
- We commit to use the planet's resources in an efficient and sustainable manger and to contribute to the conservation of natural capital and ecosystem services.

To achieve these ends, we call upon national governments and the UN to strongly advocate for the localization of The 2030 Agenda, including crafting relevant sets of global and national monitoring indicators that respond to local and subnational circumstances. We encourage countries to establish environments that unlock the development potential of local and regional governments, and local stakeholders, by creating an enabling institutional framework at all levels and localizing resources. Related to which, we call on international and regional financial institutions and the private sector to jointly explore adequate financing mechanisms to address the increasing investment needs of urban areas, particularly in developing countries.

We recognize and applaud the enormous efforts and achievements of global networks of local and subnational governments in particular including UCLG, ICLEI, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and others in Global Task Force, with their partners in the Urban SDG Campaign, including the SDSN as its Secretariat, the Cities Alliance, Slum Dwellers International, the World Urban Campaign, WEIGO, Communitas Coalition, as well as the UN-Habitat and other UN-wide entities. We also express our gratitude for the strong support of the Friends of Sustainable Cities consisting of the Member States of the UN.

Today, we pledge to all the partners mentioned above to work together cooperatively and actively across cities and sectors to coalesce in an "Urban Partnership for the SDGs". This Partnership will be open, voluntary and participatory, aiming to support the fulfillment of the commitments articulated above, by;

- Encouraging the development of plans and programs in support of the SDGs, the sharing of best practices, and collective action around the means of the implementation, creating new channels for urban and subnational financing and long-term planning;
- Supporting local and subnational governments to work with national governments, multilateral organisations and international financial institutions, to ensure cities and regions are empowered to fulfill the responsibilities associated with the new 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including through appropriate devolution of powers and finances;
- Promoting the prioritization of sustainable urban development within the new SDG framework, as well as in the design of an inclusive and ambitious climate regime expected to be adopted at the UN Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21), and in Habitat III's *New Urban Agenda*;
- Supporting the initiatives of local and regional governments to implement the SDGs and develop tools to contribute to the localization of Post-2015 Agenda.

Signed by:

Eduardo Accastello, Mayor of Villa María, Argentina

María de los Ángeles Duarte, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Ecuador

Mahamudo Amurane, Mayor of Nampula, Mozambique

Edmund Gerald Brown Jr., Governor of California, USA

Angela Brown Burke, Mayor of Kingston, Jamaica

Bill de Blasio, Mayor of New York City, NY, United States

Calisto Mois-és Cossa, Mayor of Matola, Mozambique

Monica Fein, Mayor of Rosario, Argentina

Marcio Araújo de Lacerda, Mayor of Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Iliza Saaduddin Djamal, Mayor of Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Betsy Hodges, Mayor of Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States

Patricia Iglecias, State Secretary for the Environment, Brazil

Morten Kabell, Mayor of Technical and Environmental Affairs of Copenhagen, Denmark

Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor of New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Pam O'Connor, Santa Monica City Councilmember, California United States

Raul Peralez, San Jose Councilmember, California, United States

Kgosientso Ramokgopa, Mayor of Tshwane Gauteng, South Africa

Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver, Canada

Aliou Sall, Mayor of Guediawaye, Senegal,

Khalifa Sall, Mayor of Dakar, Senegal

Mpho Franklyn Parks Tau, Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa

M. Nasreddine Zenasni, Mayor of Sidi M'Hamed – Algers, Algeria

Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Organizations, Canada

Mayor Mpho Nawa, West Rand District Municipality, South Africa

Mayor Thabo Manyoni, Mayor of Mangaung, South Africa

Jean Yango, representing the city of Douala, Cameroon and Libreville Gabon

Endorsed by:

Organisations:

Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG),

UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN)

Cities Alliance

UN Habitat

NG4SD

Individuals:

Catherine Allinson, Director of Future Earth, London, UK

Xolile George, CEO, the South African Local Government Association

Elin Hasselberg, Sustainability strategist, City of Malmö, Environment department, Sweden

Corrnie Huizenga, Secretary General, SLoCaT Partnership, China

George Papandreou, former Prime Minister of Greece

Mari Pangestu, Professor, Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia and SDSN Indonesia

Upendra Sapkota, Institute for Urban Development and Policy Research, Kathmandu

Jeffrey Sachs Director, UNSDSN, New York

Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability,