Local and Regional Government Assembly

Side Event of the ESCAP 81st Commission Session

22 April 2025, 12:45-13:45 GMT +7

Format: In-person only

Venue: Meeting Room H

Organizer: Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body (APLG) and the United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)

Co-organizers: C40 Cities, CityNet, Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability Southeast Asia, UCLG Middle East and West Asia (MEWA), UCLG Eurasia, Metropolis, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and United Nations University – Institute for Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS)

Background

"Cities are hubs of innovation and human ingenuity — and potential centres for transformative action to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and build a zero-carbon, climate-resilient and socially just world." – UN Secretary General António Guterres

The triple planetary crisis, including biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, places tremendous pressure on cities around the world. In a highly urbanising and disaster-prone Asia-Pacific region, cities are at the core of evolving challenges. At the same time, cities are best placed to drive solutions and innovations. Local and regional governments play a critical role in the achievement of global agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Given the theme of the Commission session on *"Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific",* the position and participation of local and regional governments in this regional process is essential.

Objectives

1. Determine the enablers of regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development.
2. Showcase local best practices to achieve resilient and sustainable urban development.

By the conclusion of the Local and Regional Government Assembly (LRGA), participants will agree on the Joint Statement of Local and Regional Governments to the ESCAP 81st Commission Session to be submitted to the ESCAP Secretariat and presented in plenary.

Programme

Welcome Remarks by President of UCLG ASPAC	12:45-12:50
Context Setting Presentation of Result of LRGA in APMCDRR 2024 and APFSD 2025 by UCLG ASPAC	12:50-13:00
Pathways for Resilient and Sustainable Urban Development in Asia-Pacific Guide Questions: 1. How can local and regional governments strengthen regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development? 2. How can horizontal and vertical synergies be improved to enhance resilient and sustainable urban development? 3. How can development and infrastructure financing be more accessible to local and regional governments? Proposed speakers: • APLG Members • Urban Act pilot cities • Asia-Pacific local and regional governments	13:00-13:30
Joint Statement of Local and Regional Governments Moderated by APLG Member	13:30-13:40
Closing Remarks by President of UCLG ASPAC	13:40-13:45

Registration

To attend the side event, all participants must register on Indico using this link: https://indico.un.org/e/CS81. Please note that we are unable to provide access to the United Nations Conference Center to those who do not register on Indico.

Local and regional government leaders and representatives are encouraged to request inclusion in their national delegations and letters of credentials. Another option is to participate under the "local authorities" major group facilitated by APLG. In this case, please use the option "Registration for Local Authorities" on Indico. In the Representation section, select "Other Entities and Organizations" in the drop-down menu and type your organization name in the blank field of "Organization Name". Fill in the other details as needed and submit your registration. Please coordinate with UCLG ASPAC for inclusion in the letter of credentials under the "local authorities" major group.

For participants from other institutions, please register using the option "Registration for Side Events, Associated Events, Exhibitions and Volunteers" and in the following dropdown, "organizer" or "participants" accordingly.

For information, please contact:

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