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## REFERENCES TO CITIES, URBANIZATION AND MULTILEVEL ACTION AT G7 MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE IN MAY 2022

### [G7 Foreign Affairs Ministerial Communique](#)

- **para.5** - Sharing experience and expertise (internationally and across national **and subnational government departments**) to shape and deliver coordinated policies and practices that are inclusive, context and conflict-sensitive, gender-responsive, and tailored to local conditions and needs of stakeholders;

### [G7 Development Ministerial Communique](#)

#### **Ambitious Alliances for Climate, Environment and Development**

- **Para.31** - (...) We acknowledge the **important role of cities and local governments in championing a just climate and energy transition**, as they are pivotal in accelerating the transition and making it socially compatible according to local needs.

#### **Future-oriented Infrastructure Investments for Sustainable Development**

- **Para.46** - (...) Furthermore, we recognize the tremendous destruction of basic infrastructure and cities in Ukraine inflicted by Russia's unlawful aggression and stand ready, whenever the situation allows, to accompany international efforts to rebuild and rehabilitate the country's devastated infrastructure and thereby support a country-led reconstruction of a free and democratic Ukraine.
- **Para.53** - The G7 recognize the importance of **cities in developing and financing sustainable infrastructure** as well as **municipal, local and regional governments' processes for the transformative shift**, collaboration among them and the significant role of central governments in supporting their initiatives. The G7 express this by supporting effective multi-level governance, international knowledge sharing, and stronger financial and planning capacities at the local level.

2022 G7 Urban7 Group Alliance



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## G7 Environment and Climate Ministerial Communiqué

- **Para.62- Collaborative climate and energy action:** We encourage ambitious, Paris-aligned action and collaboration and coordination across all levels and sectors of government, involving all cities, regions, communities, stakeholders, citizens and business sectors, acknowledging that the **necessary transformation to net zero and climate resilience will be driven and implemented to a large extent at local level, including through initiatives developed by local governments, city networks such as the Global Covenant of Mayors, ICLEI and C40, as well as civil society and private sector-led initiatives. In this context, we recognise the need to include and engage subnational and non-state actors in the development, update and implementation of NDCs and NAPs and to support them in their efforts to educate, raise awareness, enhance public participation and implement localised climate action, including through technical assistance, capacity-building, and finance.** This includes empowering and supporting the role of those most affected by climate change as agents of change, particularly women, girls, youth, and indigenous peoples. We recognise that women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making are critical for making climate change action more effective. **We underline the importance of the enhanced Marrakesh Partnership and its work programme 2021-2025 for a catalysed implementation across sectors**
- **79. Sustainable transport modes in urban and rural areas:** We stress the urgent need to promote sustainable mobility and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector to help achieve net zero emissions globally by 2050. We set a goal to significantly increase the share of our transport budgets spent on sustainable low or zero-carbon transport modes such as public transport, railways, shared mobility, cycling, walking and on accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles by funding charging infrastructure. We will intensify our efforts in enhancing the offer of more sustainable and interlinked transport modes in urban and rural areas and supporting inter-modal transport with investment in rail and waterborne infrastructure. We commit to promote a modal shift to encourage our industries and citizens to use low or zero emission transport modes. Furthermore, we also need to promote decarbonising the entire life cycle of vehicles. We commit to support the transition of our industrial bases and to provide ambitious investment to research, and to further develop and scale up the technologies needed to support a rapidly growing global market for sustainable mobility. Para.82 - buildings
- **82. Net zero buildings:** We note the AR 6 Working Group III Report and its findings on decarbonising buildings and recognise the need for more ambitious and more effective policies to accelerate renovation rates, improve energy efficiency, leverage renewable energy and build the technical, institutional and financial capacity to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. With direct, indirect, and embodied

emissions from existing buildings and from the construction industry contributing to approximately 40 percent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and rising demand for building materials, especially in emerging countries with growing urban middle classes, we note the importance of decarbonising buildings in combatting climate change and the need to enhance buildings' climate resilience. Where not yet in place, we commit to advance targets, with the earliest possible dates, to reduce energy-related emissions from public and/or private buildings in line with keeping 1.5 °C limit to temperature rise within reach. We will sustainably increase energy efficiency, including by promoting the setting of performance standards for existing buildings and design standards for new buildings, as well as and incentivising renovations, and enhance action to reduce all types of greenhouse gas emissions during the entire life cycle of buildings, such as in land use, design, building materials, construction and dismantling, and by supporting the growth of lead markets and demand for sustainable building materials, exploring also the potential of buildings to store carbon in sustainably sourced construction materials. We view as essential the development of circularity based on the durability, reuse and recycling of building materials and equipment. We commit to increase the availability and disclosure of domestic data on the embodied carbon of our buildings with the aim of enabling targeted policies to, e.g., reduce life cycle emissions and use the carbon storage potential of buildings. We commit to increase national efforts to decarbonise building heating and cooling systems by using appropriate policy tools, including regulations and incentives, with the ultimate objective of transitioning away from fossil fuels. We will therefore take a phased approach to work towards new heating and cooling systems being zero carbon-ready and or interconnected to an increased share of renewable energy, and also aim to accelerate the transition away from the installation of new fossil fuel boilers. In addition, we will support the roll-out of heat-pumps and the rapid phase-in of more climate-friendly refrigerants. To reduce the carbon emissions from our existing buildings and increase their climate resilience, we will increase our annual rates for renovations and retrofits, with special emphasis on the worst performing buildings and on public buildings. We will promote reaching zero carbon-ready/zero emission new buildings, ideally by 2030 or sooner, reflecting also the role of buildings in facilitating the deployment of zero emission transport such as via charging infrastructure and parking provisions. We will support the training of professionals working in the buildings sector to help achieve our climate objectives. We note the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment initiated by the World Green Building Council and signed by businesses, cities and regional governments. We call in particular on the private sector to increase its contribution to reducing emissions from buildings globally. We will increase our efforts to support the transformation of the buildings and construction sector in partner countries. We recognise the role of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction as a critical international forum to advance the sector's transition towards climate neutrality globally and engage with national governments.

- **83. Resilient and net-zero-emission cities:** We acknowledge the important role of cities, regions and local governments in implementing a just climate and energy transition and in making the transition socially acceptable in the context of local needs and environmental conditions. We acknowledge cities and urban areas are critical global systems to combat the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. At the same time, cities and their residents are vulnerable to climate change impacts, and we acknowledge the need to reduce vulnerability by increasing adaptive capacity. Smart, sustainable and resilient cities can act as a laboratory for a future with net zero emissions, through the development of innovative and sustainable energy solutions based on the key role of renewable energies, sustainable mobility, demand side management and the active participation of energy consumers. We note that, with the SDGs as a roadmap, global urbanisation presents an opportunity, inter alia, for transformational and climate resilient adaptation and to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions as recognised in the IPCC's 2018 Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C and the contributions of Working Groups I, II and III to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report respectively. We note the immediate emission reduction potential of cities and the importance of avoiding locking in carbon in fast-growing cities. Mayors and other local stakeholders have a key role to play in this transformation, including through bottom-up initiatives such as strengthening municipal planning capacities and city networks. In that regard, we stress the urgent need to accelerate investments in decarbonised and resilient urban planning and infrastructures, including through Nature-based Solutions to intensify progress on power system decarbonisation, digitalisation and effective utilisation of demand- and supply-side resources as one strategic priority, particularly in partner countries. We underline that the urban system transformation needs to be driven to a large extent at, by and with local levels of government and we will consider the potential and needs of subnational actors as one strategic priority in infrastructure investments and initiatives including for a green recovery and a just and inclusive transition. We will facilitate international city-to-city collaboration towards decarbonisation.