



NACIONES UNIDAS



Santiago, August 2, 2021
DDSAH/UCC/ 25-21

3rd CC35 Forum of Local Environmental Authorities in Guatemala City on August 16, 2021 with ECLAC, UNDRR and Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CARICOM)

Dear Environmental Authority of your Capital City,

We are pleased to invite you to attend the "**3rd Forum of Local Environmental Authorities**" which is chaired with great honor by Guatemala City and supported by the Executive Committee of the CC35 Secretariat (Tegucigalpa-Honduras, San Salvador-El Salvador, Nacional District-Dominicana and Santiago-Chile) and co-organized with **ECLAC, the United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CARICOM)**.

This third meeting will be entitled "**Americas Race to Resilience**" and will be held from Guatemala on August 16, 2021 virtually and on August 17 in person only for 8 Environmental Authorities from the cities of Guatemala, Tegucigalpa, Panama, San Salvador, San Jose, Santo Domingo, Managua and Belmopan to make the corresponding announcements after a working table and thus give closure to the Forum in the framework of the Santiago Declaration on the road to COP26, where programs and initiatives of great relevance will be announced to add to our cities in order to be implemented in the current efforts, if they are of interest to each city.

The main objective of this Forum is to raise the influence of the highest environmental authorities of the 35 capital cities of the countries that make up the entire hemisphere through local diplomacy. This Forum will be exclusively covered by France 24 channel, whose coverage will be presented later in Spanish whose coverage will be presented later in Spanish, English and French.

This initiative held its second meeting with great success in Santiago de Chile on August 16, 2020 and initiated the "Santiago Declaration". The Declaration with all signatures and agreed action plan emerging from the capitals will be sent to the UNFCCC, the High-Level Champion of COP25 and COP26, Gonzalo Muñoz and Nigel Topping and the commitments monitored between the 2021 and 2022 Forums chaired by the local governments of Guatemala and Belmopan, respectively. COP 26 will be held in Scotland and has the support of the membership of the Municipal Authorities and Local Governments (LGMA or Local Governments and Municipalities Authorities).

The nature of risk has changed, and cities are facing increasing disaster risk from the effects of climate change or other situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The approach to disaster risk reduction cannot consider isolated hazards, be compartmentalized, or be the responsibility of response or service delivery entities. The participation of local planning bodies, with multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder representation, is necessary. Therefore, we invite everyone to join the **MCR2030 initiative of the UNDRR and its Regional Committee**.

As part of the ongoing work during 2021, under the presidency of Guatemala, there is the elaboration of a "Reference Climate Plan for the Capital Cities of the Americas" that will be presented at COP26 in Glasgow, as a guide for cities of the region, and that allows complementing other initiatives in progress or triggering new advances in the capital cities, together with a Technical Assistance program for 5 cities (5C), which has the support of CC35 and ECLAC. Additionally, this 3rd meeting will have the support of the 5C and the UNDRR.



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The meeting aims to identify proven, innovative and scalable solutions for a post-pandemic green recovery from the capital cities of the Americas. Important topics for discussion will be the local climate legislative framework and outlining a new architecture for financing cities. With a view to fulfill the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, this meeting is framed by the amplification of the Santiago-Glasgow Route (and its seven fundamental axes) to accelerate the commitment to carbon neutrality 2050 of sub-national governments.

Belmopan will hold the presidency of the Forum in 2022, when the "4th Forum of Local Environmental Authorities" is expected to be held.

The proposed text for the Closing Declaration will be circulated in advance and until August 15, 2020 together with the invitation for its subscription.

We hope that you can join us and that, together with other environmental authorities in the capitals, jointly send a strong message from our cities. **The Paris Agreement is the expression of a hopeful global pact and the capitals of Latin America and the Caribbean are key players in contributing to its success.**

José Luis Samaniego, Director
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ECLAC