



## Office of the Executive Director

Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre

Third Floor, David L. McKoy Business Centre

P.O. Box 563, Bliss Parade

Belmopan

BELIZE

t: +501-822-1094/1104

e: [cyoung@caribbeanclimate.bz](mailto:cyoung@caribbeanclimate.bz)

CCCCC/OED/008/13(02)

**Belize, August 9, 2021**

**To: 35 Environmental Authorities of the Capital Cities of the Americas**

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

Dear Mayor,

We are pleased to invite your representative, who is responsible for the environmental portfolio in your City, to attend again 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 (UNSDRR) and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC).

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 **English**, Spanish, 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.

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.

ECLAC, together with CC35, will make another great announcement. Guatemala, San Salvador, Santo Domingo, Belmopan and Port-au-Prince will be the 5 capital cities that will receive technical assistance to announce a historic "Reference Climate Plan for the Capital Cities of the Americas" that will be officially presented at COP26 in Glasgow and that will serve as a beacon for thousands of cities in our hemisphere, thus achieving coordinated progress through the work and analysis of all capital cities.

The training and technical assistance to our role as authorities will be supported in this meeting by the COP25 presidency as it was in 2020 and by several recognized organizations in the region in terms of climate agenda such as UNIDRR, ECLAC and CCCCC .

The meeting aims to debate and submit urgent ideas to explore proven, innovative and scalable solutions from the highest environmental authorities, for a post-pandemic green reconstruction from the capital cities of the Americas, where the need to strengthen their roles within the structures they occupy is highlighted.

A local climate legislative framework and a new architecture for the financing of cities will be two backbones of the discussion.

Time is running out and we have a decade left to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 agenda and only months to do so in the face of the Paris Agreement and address the most profound global challenges of our generation, to protect the more than 50 million citizens who have placed their trust in its governance.

That is why this meeting has, as a framework, the amplification of the Santiago-Glasgow Roadmap that contains 7 fundamental axes to accelerate the commitment towards carbon neutrality 2050 or earlier of the sub-national governments on the way to COP26. This event will be held in Scotland and has the support of strategic allies of the CC35 to the members of the LGMA (Local Governments and Municipalities Authorities).

We will have on the website a brief presentation of innovative solutions from the private sector that can help accelerate the green infrastructure needed to meet the 1.5C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.

As part of the institutional planning, we announce that the city of Belmopan, Belize will serve as the 2022 chair for a 100% physical event if the security conditions are in place for the "4th Forum of Local Environmental Authorities."

The text of the Closing Statement will be circulated to you by August 15, 2021 together with the official invitations to add the missing signatures.

We hope that you will be available to join all environmental leaders in the capitals to send a strong joint message from the cities.

The binding phase of the Paris Agreement must send a message of hope to millions of human beings and the capitals will be real actors of the transformation.

Greetings to your Heads throughout the hemisphere.

Let's work together for an Americas committed to a green recovery that overcomes the health crisis towards COP26 and beyond!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Young', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Colin Young, Ph.D.**  
**Executive Director**  
**Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre**