

UNDRR/OUT/2021/00364

August 4th, 2021  
Panama City

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

Dear Environmental Authority of your Capital City,

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

This third meeting will be titled **Climate Race for Resilience** and will be held on August 16, 2021, in a virtual format and on August 17 in a mixed format. The latter will welcome the Environmental Authorities of eight cities: Guatemala, Tegucigalpa, Panama, San Salvador, San José, Santo Domingo, Managua and Belmopan who will announce the conclusions of their working sessions. The Forum will continue the framework of the Declaration of Santiago on the road to COP26, presenting programs and initiatives of interest for each city.

The main objective of this Forum is to raise the influence of the highest environmental authorities in the 35 capital cities of the countries that make up the hemisphere through local diplomacy. The Forum will have channel France 24 as the exclusive means of coverage, which will subsequently be submitted in English, French and, Spanish.

The Forum held its second meeting with great success in Santiago, Chile, on August 16, 2020, resulting in the Declaration of Santiago. This declaration was signed by all capital cities and accompanied by an action plan will be sent to the UNFCCC, the High-Level Champion of COP25 and COP26, Gonzalo Muñoz and Nigel Topping along with monitored commitments between the 2021 and 2022 Forums that preside over the local governments of Guatemala and Belmopan.

The nature of risk has changed, and cities are facing a growing 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 threats, be divided into sectors, or be the sole responsibility of response entities or services providers. The involvement of local

planning bodies, with multi-sectoral representation and involving various stakeholders, is necessary. Thus we invite everyone to join the **MCR2030 initiative**, a global initiative resulting from a co-creating process targeting strategic partnerships to reduce disaster risk at local level and to drive greater urban resilience to achieve the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda.

As part of the ongoing work during 2021, under the presidency of Guatemala, the **Climate Reference Plan for the Capital Cities of the Americas** is to be presented at COP26 in Glasgow as a guide for the cities of the region. This will complement other ongoing initiatives or trigger new developments in capital cities, together with Technical Assistance provided to five cities, supported by CC35 and CEPAL.

Training and technical assistance will be supported at this meeting by the presidency of the COP25 as it was in 2020 and by several recognized organizations in the region with a climate agenda, such as UNDRR, CEPAL, and 5C CARICOM.

The meeting will identify and debate proven, innovative, and scalable solutions from environmental authorities for a post-pandemic green reconstruction of the capital cities of the Americas. Two important topics for discussion will be the local legislative framework for climate action and the shaping a new architecture for financing cities.

Aiming to fulfill the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, this meeting amplifies the Santiago-Glasgow Route and its seven fundamental axes. Time is running out and we have only a few years left to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and the targets proposed by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Therefore, we need to strengthen the Route Santiago-Glasgow and its fundamental axes to accelerate the commitment to carbon neutrality 2050 from the sub-national governments.

As part of institutional planning, we will announce that the city of Belmopan will hold the presidency of the **4th Local Environmental Authorities Forum**, which is expected to be held in a face-to-face format. The text of the Closing Declaration will be circulated to you with the official invitations, to add the missing signatures by August 15.

We hope you will be available to join all environmental leaders in the capitals and jointly send a strong message from the cities. **The Paris Agreement is the expression of a promising global compact for millions of human being. The capitals of Latin America and the Caribbean are key actors to contribute successfully to this transformation.**

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

Please accept this invitation with my sentiments of highest consideration and esteem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Raul Salazar', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Raul Salazar  
Chief of Office  
Regional Office the Americas and the Caribbean  
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction