

## **CCA narrative**

### **There is an urgent need for more ambitious and more effective climate action**

Current commitments to fight climate change are not sufficient. Estimates of average temperature increase under current national commitments range from 2.9 to 3.4 degrees Celsius. The increase of the global mean temperature is associated with rising sea levels, diminishing ecosystems and biodiversity and expansion of areas uninhabitable for humans. More extreme events such as heat waves, storms and flooding will threaten human health, livelihoods and economic growth. The impacts undermine global efforts for development and prosperity in the Global South as well as in the Global North. According to the IPCC, devastating effects of climate change can only be prevented by more ambitious and more effective climate action where CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions must be net-zero in 2050.

### **Urban climate action is an imperative part of the solution**

Cities and regions play an indispensable role in implementing climate action and achieving sustainable development: Cities account for about 70% of global carbon emissions and about two third of resource and energy use. But they are also economic and innovative powerhouses, generating about 80% of the global GDP. For more than three decades now, many cities have shown outstanding leadership locally, and in their networks, to drive ambition and implementation of climate action. Almost 10,000 cities and local governments have set emissions reduction targets as well as a strategy on how to deliver on their commitments. These front runner cities provide motivation and experiences, but more needs to be done to reach net-zero emissions in 2050, when almost 70% of global population will live in urban areas.

### **National governments are in the driver's seat**

The uniqueness of national governments capacities remains crucial to implement national climate targets and to push forward the spirit of the Paris Agreement across all walks of society and all regions of each country. National capability extends beyond the mandate of local governments to change framework conditions. For example, the provision of conducive environment enables regional and local levels of government and of other stakeholders to engage effectively. Furthermore, national leadership and genuine collaboration across all tiers of government, which facilitates the whole-of-society approach, leverages the transformation towards net-zero emissions.

### **Collaborative Climate Action is the guiding principle for more and better climate action**

Collaborative Climate Action should be understood as the cooperation across tiers of government to increase the ambition and the effectiveness of climate action. Speaking in general terms across the globe, national governments have primary authority over about one third of the urban mitigation potential. The local level has another third while the last third, for achieving net-zero carbon emissions, hinges on the collaboration between the tiers of government.

The International Conference for Climate Action - ICCA2019 - highlighted the importance of Collaborative Climate Action across levels of government expressed by the Partnership Declaration on Collaborative Climate Action. The Partnership is unique because all levels of

government jointly commit to accelerate and scale-up climate action through enhanced communication, coordination and cooperation.

### **Collaborative Climate Action needs political will and a well-designed process**

Collaborative Climate Action rests on committed decision makers, dedicated efforts and well-designed governance structures and processes. Therefore, first it needs a national government committed to the principles of Collaborative Climate Action and to guide line ministries to pull processes into the same direction. Thus, benefits through synergies can be harnessed and trade-offs between different policy areas can be managed. Furthermore, it needs subnational governments to not only represent their local interests to be heard but to constructively integrate them into the national policy making process. Implementing Collaborative Climate Action needs to address all policy processes including planning, design, implementation as well as monitoring. In addition, Collaborative Climate Action needs to be embedded into an adequate institutional architecture building on existing institutions and processes but leaving room for adjustments over time.

### **Collaborative Climate Action materializes as aligned climate policies in urban areas**

Urban areas interconnect social, political, economic and ecological dynamics. They are incubators for technical as well as for social innovations. With rapid urbanization, a majority of countries are shaped by urban agglomerations, and cities are at the core of the transformation. It is in urban areas where new, low or even zero-carbon patterns of housing, mobility, consumption and production will materialize first. Therefore, committing to Collaborative Climate Action enables the systematic transformation needed to ultimately reap the fruits of a zero-carbon, socially inclusive and sustainable development.

