

# Recent climate change related agreements that have implications for local governments

## 1 Introduction

There are several urban development agenda and climate change-related agreements and policies that have been developed during the last two years. This document aims to highlight the common themes coming out of these agreements, how these themes relate to the Durban Adaptation Charter and what these agreements mean for local governments.

The agreements that have been included in this report are:

<a href="#">The Durban Adaptation Charter</a>	During the 17th Conference of the Parties, in 2011, the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) was established. This Charter aims to promote local government action that advances climate adaptation.
<a href="#">The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction</a>	The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted on March 2015 at a UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan. The Framework aims to reduce disaster risk and losses in human lives and assets in the next 15 years.
<a href="#">The Sustainable Development Goals</a>	In September 2015, a set of goals were established to replace the Millennium Development Goals. The Sustainable Development Goals are aimed at ending poverty and protecting the planet and have targets to achieve in the next 15 years.
<a href="#">The Paris Agreement</a>	During the 21st Conference of the Parties in December 2015, the Paris Agreement was adopted. The Agreement is aimed at strengthening the global response to climate change by involving, for the first time, all countries in reducing and adapting to climate change. The Paris Agreement came into force on 4 November 2016.
<a href="#">The New Urban Agenda</a>	The New Urban Agenda was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, which was held in Quito, Ecuador from 17-20 October 2016. It sets global standards for sustainable urban development.

## 2 Common themes relevant for local governments

Some of the common themes in these agreements that are relevant for local governments include:

	<b>Common Theme</b>	<b>Agreements</b>
1	Developing vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies	The Durban Adaptation Charter The Paris Agreement The New Urban Agenda
2	Accessing finance to respond to climate change	The Durban Adaptation Charter The Paris Agreement
3	Sharing information and building capacity in climate change	The Durban Adaptation Charter The Paris Agreement Sustainable Development Goals

	<b>Common Theme</b>	<b>Agreements</b>
4	Climate change response is required by all levels/spheres of government	The Durban Adaptation Charter The Paris Agreement The New Urban Agenda
5	Transparent Reporting and Regular Monitoring	The Durban Adaptation Charter The Paris Agreement
6	Vulnerable groups and communities	The Durban Adaptation Charter The Paris Agreement The Sustainable Development Goals
7	Sustainable management of natural resources and valuing ecosystem services	The Durban Adaptation Charter The Paris Agreement The Sustainable Development Goals The New Urban Agenda
8	Ensure sustainable food production	The Paris Agreement The Sustainable Development Goals
9	Integrate climate change into plans, policies, and strategies	The Durban Adaptation Charter The Sustainable Development Goals
10	Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction	The Paris Agreement Sendai Framework The New Urban Agenda The Sustainable Development Goals
11	Enhancing responses to and recovery from Disasters	The New Urban Agenda The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
12	Promotion of sustainable energy for all	The Paris Agreement The Sustainable Development Goals The New Urban Agenda
13	Building resilient human settlements	The Sustainable Development Goals The New Urban Agenda
14	Promotion of the sustainable use of water and improve waste water management	The Sustainable Development Goals, The New Urban Agenda

## 2.1 Developing vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies

A climate change vulnerability assessment is a methodology that is used to identify the most important climate change impacts in a particular context. Once these impacts are identified a strategy can be developed to respond to the most important impacts. Developing vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter, The Paris Agreement and The New Urban Agenda (See Appendix 1 for detailed excerpts).

### 2.1.1 What this potentially means for local governments

These agreements therefore require governments to develop their own vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies. Whilst the Paris Agreement is aimed at national governments, local governments should ideally develop their own vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies as these will differ according to the local context.

## 2.2 Accessing finance to respond to climate change

Often local governments are restricted in their response to climate change due to financial constraints. Recent climate change agreements respond to this challenge by highlighting the role that the developed world can play in financing climate change related projects in the developing world. They also emphasise that developing countries should endeavour to allocate and apply for climate change related funds internally and externally. Accessing finances for climate change is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter and The Paris Agreement (See Appendix 2 for detailed excerpts).

### 2.2.1 What this potentially means for local governments

These agreements emphasise that finances should not be a reason for local governments to not respond to climate change and that developed countries are mandated to assist developing countries with financial resources. Local governments should focus on developing climate change projects and applying for funding through the mechanisms that are being established.

## 2.3 Sharing information and building capacity in climate change

Often local governments are under capacitated in responding to climate change, not having the staff or skilled staff to lead appropriate responses. The recent climate change related agreements focus on the role that developed countries have in sharing knowledge and building capacity in developing countries. In addition, they emphasise the importance of partnerships and institutional arrangements to share knowledge and best practice in responding to climate change. The importance of sharing information and building capacity is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter, The Paris Agreement and The Sustainable Development Goals (See Appendix 3 for detailed excerpts).

### 2.3.1 What this potentially means for local governments

Through different institutional arrangements and the commitment of the developed and developing countries, more platforms and forums should be developed in the future where local governments can participate and learn from each other's experiences. Local governments should participate actively in these platforms.

## 2.4 Climate change response is required by all levels/spheres of government

Climate change response is not only the responsibility of national governments, and it is important that all levels/spheres of government commit to responding to climate change. In addition, it is critical that the different levels/spheres of government work together to avoid duplication and enhance response. A multi-governmental approach to climate change is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter, The Paris Agreement and The New Urban Agenda (See Appendix 4 for detailed excerpts).

### 2.4.1 What this potentially means for local governments

Local governments should endeavour to work with and cooperate with other spheres/levels of government on climate adaptation responses so that duplication is avoided and that cross-boundary issues are responded to collectively.

## 2.5 Transparent Reporting and Regular Monitoring

Reporting on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change responses is critical to reduce global emissions and effectively adapt to the impacts of climate change. Using internationally accredited methodologies and ensuring that reporting is done as accurately as possible and in a consistent manner is necessary to monitor progress that is achieved. Transparent and regular reporting is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter and The Paris Agreement (See Appendix 5 for detailed excerpts).

### 2.5.1 What this potentially means for local governments

The Paris Agreement requires national governments to report on their emissions, their reduction measures, and their adaptation responses. At a local government level, it will be vital that local governments report on their greenhouse gas emissions and their adaptation responses as this will feed in to the national reports. The [carbonn Climate Registry](#) is a platform that has been developed for local and subnational governments to report on their climate change actions and promotes transparency and accountability.

## 2.6 Vulnerable groups and communities

Groups that are particularly vulnerable to changes in climate include the poor, indigenous people, the elderly and the young. Any climate change action or strategies should incorporate the needs of these groups. Vulnerable groups are highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter, The Paris Agreement and The Sustainable Development Goals (See Appendix 6 for detailed excerpts).

### 2.6.1 What this potentially means for local governments

These Agreements highlight the importance of identifying and considering vulnerable communities in adapting to climate change. Local governments should include vulnerable communities when developing their adaptation plans and take indigenous local knowledge into account.

## 2.7 Sustainable management of natural resources and valuing ecosystem services

Conserving natural resources is an important response to climate change. Natural resources serve as carbon sinks and provide other ecosystem services such as storm water attenuation, filtering of water, and food production that contribute to human livelihoods. Sustainably managing natural resources is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter; The Paris Agreement, The Sustainable Development Goals and The New Urban Agenda (See Appendix 7 for detailed excerpts).

### 2.7.1 What this potentially means for local governments

Local governments should include the conservation of natural resources in their climate change and sustainability-focussed strategies.

## 2.8 Ensure sustainable food production

Changes in climate have the potential to impact on food production as different areas may become less suitable for certain crops. It is important that climate change strategies prioritise food security. Ensuring sustainable food production and food security is highlighted in: The Paris Agreement and The Sustainable Development Goals (See Appendix 8 for detailed excerpts).

### 2.8.1 What this potentially means for local governments

Local governments should include the importance of sustainable food production and food security in their climate change strategies.

## 2.9 Integrate climate change into plans, policies, and strategies

Integrating climate change into plans, policies and strategies is critical in order to prioritise climate change at different levels/ spheres of government. Integrating climate change in government planning documents is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter and The Sustainable Development Goals (See Appendix 9 for detailed excerpts).

### 2.9.1 What this potentially means for local governments

Local governments should incorporate climate change into their plans and policies.

## 2.10 Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction

Climate change is closely linked with the management of disasters. Investing in disaster risk reduction and prevention measures can help to improve a city's resilience when a disaster occurs. Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction is highlighted in: The Sustainable Development Goals, The New Urban Agenda, The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and The Paris Agreement (See Appendix 10 for detailed excerpts).

### 2.10.1 What this potentially means for local governments

Local governments should develop disaster risk management plans to build resilience and prepare for disasters. These plans should align with their climate change related strategies and policies.

## 2.11 Enhancing Response to and Recovery from Disasters

There is a need to improve the planning for responding to climate related disasters and recovery from these disasters. Connecting with other cities to learn from their experiences is important in preparing to respond and recover from disasters. The use of "Build Back Better" principles after a disaster is vital in the recovery stages and these principles should be developed prior to disasters drawing on other city experiences. Enhancing responses to and recovery from Disaster is highlighted in: The New Urban Agenda and The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (See Appendix 11 for detailed excerpts).

### 2.11.1 What this potentially means for local governments

Local governments should incorporate disaster risk response in their disaster risk management plans and develop plans to recover once a disaster has taken place using "Build Back Better" Principles so that infrastructure and communities will be more resilient to a disaster of a similar nature in the future.

## 2.12 Promotion of sustainable energy for all

One of the ways cities can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions is to shift from energy-intensive production and promote sustainable energy, which includes implementing energy efficient measures and renewable energy. Cities also need to ensure that equal access to affordable energy is provided. Promoting sustainable energy for all is highlighted in: The Sustainable Development Goals; The New Urban Agenda and The Paris Agreement (See Appendix 12 for detailed excerpts).

#### 2.12.1 What this potentially means for local governments

Local governments should include energy efficiency and renewable energy interventions in their climate change strategies. The shift towards renewable energy should however not impact negatively on the poor and local governments need to ensure that all citizens have access to affordable energy.

### 2.13 Building resilient human settlements

Human settlements and their associated infrastructure are vulnerable to changes in climate. It is important that local governments plan human settlements and infrastructure that can withstand climate change related disasters. Building resilient human settlements is highlighted in: The Sustainable Development Goals and The New Urban Agenda (See Appendix 13 for detailed excerpts).

#### 2.13.1 What this potentially means for local governments

Local governments should include the development of resilient human settlements in their climate change strategies.

### 2.14 Promotion of the sustainable use of water and improve waste water management

Changes in rainfall patterns around the world are going to have negative impacts on the supply and quality of water in cities. At the same time, as more people are moving into cities there will be an increased demand for water and pressure on the management of waste water. Promotion of sustainable water use is highlighted in: The Sustainable Development Goals and The New Urban Agenda (See Appendix 14 for detailed excerpts).

#### 2.14.1 What this potentially means for local governments

Local governments should include the promotion of sustainable water use and improved waste water management in their climate change strategies.

## Appendix 1: Developing vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies

Developing vulnerability assessments and adaptation strategies is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter, The Paris Agreement and The New Urban Agenda.

### The Durban Adaptation Charter

The Durban Adaptation Charter commits local governments to develop their own vulnerability assessments and local adaptation strategies to reduce their vulnerabilities, as specified in Clause 2 and Clause 3 of the Charter.

#### **Clause 2. Understand climate risks through conducting impact and vulnerability assessments**

*We will undertake local level impact and vulnerability assessments to determine the exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity of human and natural systems as guided by best available science and traditional knowledge.*

#### **Clause 3. Prepare and implement integrated, inclusive and long-term adaptation strategies designed to reduce vulnerability**

*We will prepare evidence-based, locally relevant adaptation strategies and will develop and adopt measures to ensure that the objectives of these strategies are implemented, monitored evaluated and mainstreamed into statutory government planning processes. This planning will guide the development of infrastructure and investments that are climate-smart and environmentally sustainable, and that ensure that urban and rural development provide opportunities for adaptive, sustainable development.*

### The Paris Agreement

In Paragraph 9, Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, Parties are also encouraged to plan for adaptation through the development of policies and plans such as national adaptation plans, and conducting assessments of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities.

*9. Each Party shall, as appropriate, engage in adaptation planning processes and the implementation of actions, including the development or enhancement of relevant policies and/or contributions, which may include:*

- a) The implementation of adaptation actions, undertakings and/or efforts;*
- b) The process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans;*
- c) The assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability, with a view to formulating nationally determined prioritized actions, taking into account vulnerable people, places and ecosystems;*
- d) Monitoring and evaluating and learning from adaptation plans, policies, programmes and actions; and*
- e) Building the resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems, including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources.*

### The New Urban Agenda

Under Section A: *The Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development*, commitments are made for *Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development*.

Paragraph 80 includes a commitment by cities to develop vulnerability assessments that can inform adaptation strategies and policies.

*80. We commit to support the medium- to long-term adaptation planning process, as well as city-level climate vulnerability and impact assessments to inform adaptation plans, policies, programmes, and actions that build resilience of urban inhabitants, including through the use of ecosystem-based adaptation.*



## Appendix 2: Accessing finance to respond to climate change

Accessing finances for climate change is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter and The Paris Agreement.

### The Durban Adaptation Charter

Clause 7 of the Durban Adaptation Charter commits local governments to seek funding opportunities for climate change from their internal governments and from other financing schemes.

**Clause 7. Seek the creation of direct access to funding opportunities**

*We will build our climate financing through generating funds internally and through seeking the development of innovative financing mechanisms that enable direct access to national and international funding for our registered adaptation actions. We support the creation of a local adaptation thematic window in the Green Climate Fund, and in so doing we will seek the support of national governments and multilateral funding institutions.*

### The Paris Agreement

In Article 9, the Paris Agreement highlights the increased responsibility that developing countries have in providing financial resources to assist the developed world in responding to climate change, as well as mobilising climate finance from other sources. The Agreement also highlights the importance of finances being provided for both mitigation and adaptation efforts.

1. *Developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention.*
3. *As part of a global effort, developed country Parties should continue to take the lead in mobilizing climate finance from a wide variety of sources, instruments and channels, noting the significant role of public funds, through a variety of actions, including supporting country-driven strategies, and taking into account the needs and priorities of developing country Parties. Such mobilization of climate finance should represent a progression beyond previous efforts.*

## Appendix 3: Sharing information and building capacity in climate change

The importance of sharing information and building capacity is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter, The Paris Agreement and The Sustainable Development Goals.

### The Durban Adaptation Charter

The Durban Adaptation Charter commits local governments to promote partnerships between different spheres of government and between cities to share knowledge on climate change in Clause 10 of the Charter.

**10. Promote partnerships at all levels and city-to-city cooperation and knowledge exchange**

*We agree to seek active partnerships and promote city-to-city cooperation, at regional and global levels including information and knowledge sharing, capacity development and technology transfer in all areas relevant to adaptation and encourage and invite other leaders of local and sub-national governments to join our climate actions.*

### The Paris Agreement

Article 11 of the Paris Agreement focuses on building the capacity of developing countries to respond to climate change and calls on the developed world to assist. The Article also highlights the importance of building capacity that is context specific and relevant.

1. *Capacity-building under this Agreement should enhance the capacity and ability of developing country Parties, in particular countries with the least capacity, such as the least developed countries, and those that are particularly vulnerable*

*to the adverse effects of climate change, such as small island developing States, to take effective climate change action, including, inter alia, to implement adaptation and mitigation actions, and should facilitate technology development, dissemination and deployment, access to climate finance, relevant aspects of education, training and public awareness, and the transparent, timely and accurate communication of information.*

*2. Capacity-building should be country-driven, based on and responsive to national needs, and foster country ownership of Parties, in particular, for developing country Parties, including at the national, subnational and local levels. Capacity-building should be guided by lessons learned, including those from capacity-building activities under the Convention, and should be an effective, iterative process that is participatory, cross-cutting and gender-responsive.*

*3. All Parties should cooperate to enhance the capacity of developing country Parties to implement this Agreement. Developed country Parties should enhance support for capacity-building actions in developing country Parties.*

In terms of adaptation specifically, Article 7, paragraph 7 of The Paris Agreement emphasises the importance of sharing information on good practises and lessons learned, strengthening scientific knowledge on climate change, strengthening institutional arrangements to share knowledge, and assisting developing countries.

*7. Parties should strengthen their cooperation on enhancing action on adaptation, taking into account the Cancun Adaptation Framework, including with regard to:*

*(a) Sharing information, good practices, experiences and lessons learned, including, as appropriate, as these relate to science, planning, policies and implementation in relation to adaptation actions;*

*(b) Strengthening institutional arrangements, including those under the Convention that serve this Agreement, to support the synthesis of relevant information and knowledge, and the provision of technical support and guidance to Parties;*

*(c) Strengthening scientific knowledge on climate, including research, systematic observation of the climate system and early warning systems, in a manner that informs climate services and supports decision-making;*

*(d) Assisting developing country Parties in identifying effective adaptation practices, adaptation needs, priorities, support provided and received for adaptation actions and efforts, and challenges and gaps, in a manner consistent with encouraging good practices; and*

*(e) Improving the effectiveness and durability of adaptation actions.*

Article 10 of The Paris Agreement is dedicated to the development of technology to implement climate change related actions. A Technology Framework is established in the Article to promote technology and innovation. There is also a focus on providing support to developing countries around technology and innovation, including financial support.

*1. Parties share a long-term vision on the importance of fully realizing technology development and transfer in order to improve resilience to climate change and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*

*2. Parties, noting the importance of technology for the implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions under this Agreement and recognizing existing technology deployment and dissemination efforts, shall strengthen cooperative action on technology development and transfer.*

*3. The Technology Mechanism established under the Convention shall serve this Agreement.*

*4. A technology framework is hereby established to provide overarching guidance to the work of the Technology Mechanism in promoting and facilitating enhanced action on technology development and transfer in order to support the implementation of this Agreement, in pursuit of the long-term vision referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.*

*5. Accelerating, encouraging and enabling innovation is critical for an effective, long-term global response to climate change and promoting economic growth and sustainable development. Such effort shall be, as appropriate, supported, including by the Technology Mechanism and, through financial means, by the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, for collaborative approaches to research and development, and facilitating access to technology, in particular for early stages of the technology cycle, to developing country Parties.*

*6. Support, including financial support, shall be provided to developing country Parties for the implementation of this Article, including for strengthening cooperative action on technology development and transfer at different stages of the technology cycle, with a view to achieving a balance between support for mitigation and adaptation. The global stocktake referred to in Article 14 shall take into account available information on efforts related to support on technology development and transfer for developing country Parties.*

## The Sustainable Development Goals

Paragraph 3 of Goal 13 of The Sustainable Development Goals highlights the importance of awareness and capacity building in the climate change field and the developed world providing assistance to developing countries.

*13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning*

*13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible*

*13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities*

## Appendix 4: Climate change response is required by all levels/spheres of government

A multi-governmental approach to climate change is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter, The Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda.

### The Durban Adaptation Charter

Clause 9 of The Durban Adaptation Charter commits local governments to working with different levels/spheres of government to effectively respond to climate change.

***Clause 9. Promote multi-level and integrated governance and advocate for partnerships with sub-national and national governments on local climate action***

*We will ensure cooperation with all levels of government to implement plans and measures at the local level that harness and strengthen approaches to multi-level governance and improve interdepartmental co-operation in order to more effectively address factors reaching beyond local government boundaries, including climate change hazards, trends like urbanisation and migration, and institutional and legal frameworks. In this regard we would support the appropriate representation of local governmental stakeholders, with relevant experience, on the Adaptation Committee of the Cancun Adaptation Framework.*

### The Paris Agreement

Article 7, Paragraph 2 of the Paris Agreement highlights that all levels/spheres of government are affected by climate change and that their responses contribute to the global situation.

*2. Parties recognize that adaptation is a global challenge faced by all with local, subnational, national, regional and international dimensions, and that it is a key component of and makes a contribution to the long-term global response to climate change to protect people, livelihoods and ecosystems, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.*

### The New Urban Agenda

Under Section A: *The Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development*, commitments are made for *Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development*.

Paragraph 79 includes a commitment by cities to promote climate mitigation and adaptation at all levels/spheres of government.

79. We commit to promote international, national, sub-national, and local climate action, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, and to support cities and human settlements, their inhabitants and all local stakeholders to be important implementers.

## Appendix 5: Transparent Reporting and Regular Monitoring

Transparent and regular reporting is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter and The Paris Agreement.

### The Durban Adaptation Charter

Clause 8 of The Durban Adaptation Charter commits local governments to developing transparent and reputable monitoring and verification systems to report specifically on adaptation measures.

**8. To develop an acceptable, robust, transparent, measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) register**  
MRV systems should reflect the local context in which adaptation takes place.

### The Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement resulted in all Parties agreeing to report on their carbon emissions and adaptation responses. Parties agreed to developing *nationally determined contributions* to map out their plans to reduce their emissions so that the long term global temperature goal agreed to at the Convention is achieved (limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels). Parties are required to develop nationally determined contributions and communicate them in a transparent manner every five years. Principles of transparency, accuracy, completeness and comparability are required when parties report internationally. Developed countries are also called on to help developing countries in reporting. More detail is covered in Article 4 of the Paris Agreement. Some excerpts from this Article are highlighted below:

- 2. Each Party shall prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.
- 8. In communicating their nationally determined contributions, all Parties shall provide the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding in accordance with decision 1/CP.21 and any relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.
- 13. Parties shall account for their nationally determined contributions. In accounting for anthropogenic emissions and removals corresponding to their nationally determined contributions, Parties shall promote environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability and consistency, and ensure the avoidance of double counting, in accordance with guidance adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Agreement.

On the adaptation side, Article 7 of The Paris Agreement identifies the importance of parties developing adaptation plans and submitting *adaptation communication*, information on adaptation priorities and implementation, together with their nationally determined contributions.

- 10. Each Party should, as appropriate, submit and update periodically an adaptation communication, which may include its priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions, without creating any additional burden for developing country Parties.
- 11. The adaptation communication referred to in paragraph 10 of this Article shall be, as appropriate, submitted and updated periodically, as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a national adaptation plan, a nationally determined contribution as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 2, and/or a national communication.

Article 13 outlines the establishment of a *Transparency Framework* to build trust between parties and promote implementation. Parties are required to report on their emissions and progress, and report on the financial and capacity support they have received or provided others with.

## Appendix 6: Vulnerable groups and communities

Vulnerable groups are highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter, The Paris Agreement and The Sustainable Development Goals.

### The Durban Adaptation Charter

Clause 5 of The Durban Adaptation Charter commits local governments to implement adaptation interventions that recognise the needs of vulnerable communities and advocates the use of Community Based Adaptation methods.

#### **5. Promote the use of adaptation that recognises the needs of vulnerable communities and ensures sustainable local economic development**

*We will ensure that the use of Community Based Adaptation (CBA) is prioritised in order to improve the quality of life in our communities, including the urban and rural poor, who are vulnerable to the harmful impacts of climate change, especially vulnerable groups such as women, children, youth, the elderly, physically and mentally challenged, disadvantaged minority and indigenous populations. We will engage our citizens in our actions to address climate change, and will support proposals from civil society that efficiently and cost effectively encourage changes in lifestyles that contribute to our local climate actions. We will assess climate adaptation strategies for compatibility with local economic development strategies*

### The Paris Agreement

Article 7 of The Paris Agreement focuses on Adaptation and Paragraph 5 highlights that all adaptation measures should take vulnerable communities into account. The Paris Agreement also highlights the importance of indigenous knowledge in contributing to policy and adaptation interventions.

*5. Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.*

### The Sustainable Development Goals

Paragraph 3b under Goal 13 highlights the importance of improving capacity in climate change response with a focus on vulnerable states and groups.

*13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.*

## Appendix 7: Sustainable management of natural resources and valuing ecosystem services

Managing natural resources is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter, The Paris Agreement, The Sustainable Development Goals and The New Urban Agenda.

### Durban Adaptation Charter

Clause 6 of the Durban Adaptation Charter commits local governments to prioritising the management and protection of ecosystems to assist communities with adapting to climate change.

#### **6. Prioritise the role of functioning ecosystems as core municipal green infrastructure**

*We will ensure that sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems and the related ecosystem services are used to enable citizens to adapt to the impacts of climate change, which is known as Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EBA). We will strive to maintain and, enhance resilience and reduce the vulnerability of ecosystems and people to the adverse impacts of climate change.*

### Paris Agreement

Article 5 of The Paris Agreement highlights the importance of conserving carbon sinks and reservoirs such as forests.

1. *Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1(d), of the Convention, including forests.*
2. *Parties are encouraged to take action to implement and support, including through results-based payments, the existing framework as set out in related guidance and decisions already agreed under the Convention for: policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries; and alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests, while reaffirming the importance of incentivizing, as appropriate, non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches.*

In Article 7 of The Paris Agreement, the importance of preserving ecosystems as an adaptation response is recognised.

2. *Parties recognize that adaptation is a global challenge faced by all with local, subnational, national, regional and international dimensions, and that it is a key component of and makes a contribution to the long-term global response to climate change to protect people, livelihoods and ecosystems, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.*
5. *Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.*

### Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 15 of the Sustainable Development Goals refers to the protection of terrestrial ecosystems and the services they provide.

#### **Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

*15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.*



## The New Urban Agenda

Under Section A: *The Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development*, commitments are made for *Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development*. Paragraph 65 includes a commitment by cities to sustainably manage natural resources and protect ecosystems for the services that they provide us with.

*65. We commit to facilitate the sustainable management of natural resources in cities and human settlements in a manner that protects and improves the urban ecosystem and environmental services, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, and promotes disaster risk reduction and management, through supporting the development of disaster risk reduction strategies and periodical assessments of disaster risk caused by natural and man-made hazards, including standards for risk levels, while fostering sustainable economic development and all persons' well-being and quality of life, through environmentally sound urban and territorial planning, infrastructure, and basic services.*

## Appendix 8: Ensure sustainable food production

Ensuring sustainable food production and food security is highlighted in: The Paris Agreement and The Sustainable Development Goals.

### Paris Agreement

Article 2 of The Paris Agreement highlights the importance of responding to climate change and not jeopardising food production.

*(b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production;*

### Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 2 of The Sustainable Development Goals highlights the importance of promoting sustainable agriculture and food production and ending malnutrition.

#### **Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

*2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.*

## Appendix 9: Integrate climate change into plans, policies, and strategies

Integrating climate change in government planning documents is highlighted in: The Durban Adaptation Charter and The Sustainable Development Goals.

### The Durban Adaptation Charter

Clause 1 of The Durban Adaptation Charter commits local governments to integrating climate change adaptation measures into their local plans and strategies.

#### **1. Mainstreaming adaptation as a key informant of all local government development planning**

*We commit to climate change adaptation as a key consideration in all key local government development strategies and spatial development frameworks. Institutionally climate change should be located in a high level integrating office such as the Executive Mayor or City Manager's office of the local authority.*

## The Sustainable Development Goals

Paragraph 2 under Goal 13 highlights the importance of integrating climate change into national plans and policies.

*13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning*

## Appendix 10: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction

Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction is highlighted in: The Sustainable Development Goals, The New Urban Agenda, The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and The Paris Agreement.

## The Sustainable Development Goals

Paragraph 1 of Goal 13 of the Sustainable Development Goals highlights the importance of building resilience and capacity in preparation for climate related hazards.

*13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.*

Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals identifies the need to develop cities and human settlements that are resilient and sustainable. Paragraph 11b identifies the importance of developing integrated policies and plans for cities and human settlements that address disaster risk management.

### **Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

*11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels.*

Goal 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals also highlights the need to build resilient infrastructure.

### **Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

## The New Urban Agenda

Under Section A: *The Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development*, commitments are made for *Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development*.

Paragraph 77 of The New Urban Agenda commits cities to strengthen their resilience and reduce their risk to disasters through spatial planning, disaster risk management, and the development and rehabilitation of infrastructure for human settlements.

*77. We commit to strengthen the resilience of cities and human settlements, including through the development of quality infrastructure and spatial planning by adopting and implementing integrated, age and gender-responsive policies and plans and ecosystem-based approaches in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, mainstreaming holistic and data-informed disaster risk reduction and management at all levels, reducing vulnerabilities and risk, especially in risk-prone areas of formal and informal settlements, including slums, enabling households, communities, institutions and services to prepare for, respond to, adapt to, and rapidly recover from the effects of hazards, including shocks or latent stresses. We will promote the development of infrastructure that is resilient, resource efficient, and which will reduce the risks and the impact of disasters, including the rehabilitation and upgrading of slums and informal settlements. We will also promote measures for strengthening and retrofitting of all the risky housing stock including in slums and informal settlements to make it resilient against disasters in coordination with local authorities and stakeholders.*

Paragraph 78 notes the importance of moving to a proactive approach when preparing for disasters



*We commit to support shifting from reactive to more proactive risk-based, all-hazards and all-of-society approaches, such as raising public awareness of the risk and promoting ex-ante investments to prevent risks and build resilience, while also ensuring timely and effective local responses, to address the immediate needs of inhabitants affected by natural and man-made disasters, and conflicts. This should include the integration of the “Build Back Better” principles in the post-disaster recovery process to integrate resilience building, environmental and spatial measures, and the lessons from past disasters and new risks into future planning.*

## Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Priority 3 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction focuses on investing in disaster risk reduction to build resilience.

### **Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience**

*29. Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment. These can be drivers of innovation, growth and job creation. Such measures are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives, prevent and reduce losses and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation.*

## The Paris Agreement

Article 8 of The Paris Agreement focuses on Loss and Damage associated with disasters related to climate change. Paragraph 1 mentions the importance of minimising the impacts of climate change related disasters whilst paragraph 4 talks about the different areas of support in the Disaster area that Parties can assist each other with, including the development of resilient communities, livelihoods and ecosystems, and the implementation of comprehensive risk assessment and management plans.

*1. Parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage.*

## Appendix 11: Enhancing Response to and Recovery from Disasters

Enhancing responses to and recovery from Disaster is highlighted in: The New Urban Agenda and The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

### The New Urban Agenda

Paragraph 78 notes the importance of incorporating “Build Back Better” Principles when recovering from disasters.

*We commit to support shifting from reactive to more proactive risk-based, all-hazards and all-of-society approaches, such as raising public awareness of the risk and promoting ex-ante investments to prevent risks and build resilience, while also ensuring timely and effective local responses, to address the immediate needs of inhabitants affected by natural and man-made disasters, and conflicts. This should include the integration of the “Build Back Better” principles in the post-disaster recovery process to integrate resilience building, environmental and spatial measures, and the lessons from past disasters and new risks into future planning.*

## Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Priority 4 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction focuses on preparing for disaster and using “Build Back Better” Principles to recover from disaster.

**Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction**

32. The steady growth of disaster risk, including the increase of people and assets exposure, combined with the lessons learned from past disasters, indicates the need to further strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, integrate disaster risk reduction in response preparedness and ensure that capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. Empowering women and persons with disabilities to publicly lead and promote gender equitable and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches is key. Disasters have demonstrated that the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, which needs to be prepared ahead of a disaster, is a critical opportunity to “Build Back Better”, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures, making nations and communities resilient to disasters.

## Appendix 12: Promoting Sustainable Energy for all

Promoting sustainable energy for all is highlighted in: The Sustainable Development Goals; The New Urban Agenda and The Paris Agreement.

### The Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals highlights the importance of equal access to affordable and sustainable energy. It also identifies the need to expand infrastructure and technology in developing countries to shift to sustainable energy.

#### **Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support.

### The New Urban Agenda

Under Section A: *The Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development*, commitments are made for *Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development*.

Paragraph 75 includes a commitment by cities to promote energy conservation and efficiency, as well as renewable energy in order to reduce greenhouse gases, create decent jobs, and reduce energy costs.

75. We commit to encourage national, sub-national, and local governments, as appropriate, to develop sustainable, renewable, and affordable energy, energy-efficient buildings and construction modes, and to promote energy conservation and efficiency, which are essential to enable the reduction of greenhouse gas and black carbon emissions, ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, and help to create new decent jobs, improve public health, and reduce the costs of energy supply.

### The Paris Agreement

The Preamble to The Paris Agreement acknowledges that sustainable energy for all citizens, especially in the developing world, should be promoted.

*Acknowledging the need to promote universal access to sustainable energy in developing countries, in particular in Africa, through the enhanced deployment of renewable energy*

## Appendix 13: Building resilient human settlements

Building resilient human settlements is highlighted in: The Sustainable Development Goals and The New Urban Agenda.

### The Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals identifies the need to develop cities and human settlements that are resilient and sustainable.

**Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable**

Goal 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals also highlights the need to build resilient infrastructure.

**Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation**

### The New Urban Agenda

Under Section A: *The Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development*, commitments are made for *Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development*.

Paragraph 77 of The New Urban Agenda commits cities to strengthen their resilience of human settlements through quality infrastructure and spatial planning.

*77. We commit to strengthen the resilience of cities and human settlements, including through the development of quality infrastructure and spatial planning by adopting and implementing integrated, age and gender-responsive policies and plans and ecosystem-based approaches in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, mainstreaming holistic and data-informed disaster risk reduction and management at all levels, reducing vulnerabilities and risk, especially in risk-prone areas of formal and informal settlements, including slums, enabling households, communities, institutions and services to prepare for, respond to, adapt to, and rapidly recover from the effects of hazards, including shocks or latent stresses. We will promote the development of infrastructure that is resilient, resource efficient, and which will reduce the risks and the impact of disasters, including the rehabilitation and upgrading of slums and informal settlements. We will also promote measures for strengthening and retrofitting of all the risky housing stock including in slums and informal settlements to make it resilient against disasters in coordination with local authorities and stakeholders.*

## Appendix 14: Promotion of the sustainable use of water and improving waste water management

Promotion of sustainable water use is highlighted in: The Sustainable Development Goals and The New Urban Agenda.

### The Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals identifies the need to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water resources. It also highlights the importance of providing sanitation, improving water quality, restoring water-related ecosystems and improving water efficiencies.

**Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all**

*6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all*

*6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations*

*6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally*

*6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity*

*6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate*

*6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes*

*6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies*

*6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management*

## The New Urban Agenda

Under Section A: *The Transformative Commitments for Sustainable Urban Development*, commitments are made *for Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development*.

Paragraph 72 and 73 of The New Urban Agenda commits cities to promoting the sustainable use of water and developing integrated water resource plans.

*72. We commit to long-term urban and territorial planning processes and spatial development practices that incorporate integrated water resources planning and management, considering the urban-rural continuum at the local and territorial scales, and including the participation of relevant stakeholders and communities.*

*73. We commit to promote conservation and sustainable use of water by rehabilitating water resources within the urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, reducing and treating waste water, minimizing water losses, promoting water reuse, and increasing water storage, retention, and recharge, taking into consideration the water cycle.*