

ITEM No ...6.....

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

REPORT ON: SUPPORTING CLIMATE COMMITMENTS AHEAD OF COP26

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT NO: 234-2021

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee of the C40 Cities: Race to Net Zero Pledge; The Edinburgh Declaration and the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration.
- 1.2 To seek Committee approval for the Council to become signatories to the three declarations, demonstrating the city's ongoing commitment to tackle climate change ahead of COP26.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee remit the Executive Director of City Development and Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to prepare formal responses enabling the Council and city of Dundee to become signatories to the C40 Cities: Race to Net Zero Pledge; The Edinburgh Declaration and the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Costs associated with the implementation of actions are contained within existing capital and revenue budgets. Funding for future actions has been secured or will be sought through future departmental budgets and external funding sources.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Between the 1 - 11 November, Glasgow will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) which will see nearly 190 world leaders as well as thousands of negotiators, climate experts, campaigners and policy makers meet for 12 days of climate talks. Delegates will face the monumental task of bridging the gap between countries' current climate commitments and the significant transformation needed to tackle the climate emergency. Negotiations will focus on how to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement - the first-ever legally binding global climate deal requiring countries to take drastic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to ensure global temperatures increases do not exceed 1.5 degrees.
- 4.2 The participation of subnational governments, cities and Local Authorities from across the globe is being sought to support the ambitions of COP26 and representatives of Dundee's public bodies, businesses, environmental groups, charities and the creative sector will be represented at events in Glasgow as well as coming together under "Sustainable Dundee" to deliver a programme of events in Dundee in the run to and during the Conference. Dundee's COP26 Programme of Events will be launched at the end of September.
- 4.3 To support COP26 in the city of Dundee, Dundee City Council have been asked to demonstrate their ongoing commitment to tackle climate change and shift towards a lower-carbon, more inclusive society through becoming signatories to a number of pledges.

5 CLIMATE PLEDGES

5.1 C40 Cities: Race to Net Zero

- a The Race to Zero is a global campaign run by the COP26 Presidency to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions and investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon transition that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth.
- b The campaign is being support by C40 Cities, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), CDP, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the World Resources Institute (WRI).
- c The objective is to recruit 1,000 cities committed to setting science-based targets and start implementing inclusive and resilient climate action ahead of and beyond the COP26 in Glasgow.
- d Signing the Race to Net Zero Pledge publicly highlights the message that the city of Dundee recognises the global climate emergency and will reduce the cities emissions to net zero by 2045 at the latest. This will be led by partnership working to deliver the Dundee Climate Action Plan.

5.2 The Edinburgh Declaration

- a The next UN Convention on Biological Diversity (also called COP15) in Kunming, China in October 2021 will be significant in deciding what steps should be taken to arrest the deterioration of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides and what the next targets to achieve should be for the post 2020 Biodiversity framework.
- b The Scottish Government is leading the ‘Edinburgh Process’ of consultation with sub-national governments on their role in relation to these and as a result The Edinburgh Declaration has been drafted. This will be presented at the COP 15 in Kunming and calls for greater prominence to be given to action at the local level and recognises the role of all levels of government and society in working more effectively together over the next decade. The Declaration is a primary means for local authorities to be formally represented in the international process and to show support for global action to protect and enhance biodiversity.
- c Signing the Edinburgh Declaration publicly highlights the message that Dundee City Council is committed to halting biodiversity loss and acknowledges it as a powerful driver of climate change and the Climate Emergency. It will continue to fulfil its biodiversity duty under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 and work on actions set out within Dundee's Biodiversity Action Plan 2020-2030 and Dundee's Climate Action Plan. Dundee City Council will continue to incorporate more sustainable ways of working, including partnership working and will seek innovative solutions, learning from other local authorities, national organisations and charities as well as higher education establishments.

5.3 Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration

- a The declaration is a commitment by subnational governments to tackle the climate emergency through integrated food policies and a call on national governments to act. It brings together all types and sizes of local authorities to speak with a unified voice in renewing their commitments to develop sustainable food policies, promote mechanisms for joined-up action and call on national governments to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency.

- b By signing the Glasgow Food and Climate Declaration Dundee City Council will commit to accelerate climate action by building and facilitating sustainable food systems transformation, by:
- c Developing and implementing integrated food policies and strategies, for example building on Dundee's Local Food Growing Strategy;
- d Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from urban and regional food systems;
- e Calling on national governments to establish supportive and enabling policy frameworks and multi-level and multi-actor governance mechanisms.

6 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

7 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

Elaine Zwirlein
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

Author: Bryan Harris

Robin Presswood
Executive Director of City Development

Dundee City Council
Dundee House
Dundee

RP/EZ/BH/KM

16 August 2021

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On behalf of the City of Dundee, Scotland I pledge the following:

1. Publicly endorse the following Principles:
 - We recognise the global climate emergency.
 - We are committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5°Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement.
 - We are committed to putting inclusive climate action at the centre of all urban decision-making, to create thriving and equitable communities for everyone.
 - We invite our partners – political leaders, CEOs, trade unions, investors, and civil society – to join us in recognising the global climate emergency and help us deliver on science-based action to overcome it.
2. Pledge to reach (net)-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°Celsius.
3. In advance of COP26, explain what steps will be taken toward achieving net zero, especially in the short- to medium-term. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°Celsius.
4. Immediately proceed to planning at least one inclusive and equitable climate action as listed on www.citiesracetozero.org that will help to place your city on a resilient pathway consistent with the 1.5°Celsius objective of the Paris Agreement and begin implementation no later than 2022.
5. Report progress annually, beginning no later than 2022 to your usual or the recommended reporting platform. Your 1.5°Celsius target and action commitment(s) should be shared through your regular channels of reporting. If you have not reported before, you will be contacted by partners for support.

Once adopted, I commit to report my target and action commitment(s) on the following platform: My Covenant

Name and title of City Sponsor:



EDINBURGH DECLARATION

For subnational governments, cities and local authorities on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

August 2020

Preamble

We, subnational governments, cities and local authorities - as participants and contributors to the *Edinburgh Process for Subnational and Local Governments on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework*, and supported by the Secretariat and some Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity - are **deeply concerned** about the significant implications that the loss of biodiversity and climate change has on our livelihood and communities. The impacts on our environment, infrastructure, economy, health and wellbeing, and our enjoyment of nature are already visible. Indeed, the COVID-19 global pandemic has reminded us how important it is to live in harmony with nature. Healthy biodiversity and the ecosystem services that it provides are key for human well-being and to build the resilience of our cities and regions, both during and after the pandemic, and it should be central to our recovery.

We **are concerned** that, as outlined in the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, none of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets have been fully met; that action by CBD Parties alone is insufficient to put us on a path to the 2050 vision of 'living in harmony with nature' or to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and that convergence across multilateral environment agreements (MEA's) is progressing at too slow a pace.

We **acknowledge** that the IPBES *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* concludes that, despite insufficient action, it is not too late for the climate or for biodiversity, but that transformative action is needed at all levels.

We **recognise** the need for transformative change across terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and across urban development and all productive sectors to ensure enhanced food security, human health and sustainable livelihoods whilst avoiding, mitigating or minimising the negative impact on biodiversity. We also **recognise** the role that many indigenous peoples and local communities have in the management of their territories, through effective biodiversity mainstreaming across all sectors.

We **note** the need to develop effective policy, governance and financing solutions at all levels of government and to ensure vertical integration across national, subnational, city and local levels to effect transformative change. These should address both the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, and integrate all dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, economic, cultural and social).

We **also note** the vital role that indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, nongovernmental organisations, and wider society, play in decision making and in taking action at subnational, city and local levels, and that there should be a fully collaborative approach to ensure active participation of these groups.

We **highlight** the key role of the private sector, including the financial sector, and **encourage** them to catalyse the transformative change needed through full, active and responsible engagement, in support of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and sustainable use.

We **emphasise** the key role that subnational governments, cities and local authorities already play in protecting and enhancing biodiversity and in delivering actions across planning, implementation, and monitoring.

We **welcome** the endorsement of the *Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities, and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020)* under Decision X/22 and **recognise** the productive role that this has played in the last decade mobilising subnational, city and local authority actions towards implementing the goals of the Convention; and in fostering an increased recognition on the critical role of our constituency in the CBD.

We **celebrate** the commitments and statements already issued by subnational governments, cities and local authorities including recent declarations of intent¹², and in particular the results achieved through the outputs of the 5th and 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments – the *Quintana Roo Communiqué on Mainstreaming Local and Subnational Biodiversity* (2016) and the *Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People* (2018).

We **acknowledge** the need to build upon the existing *Plan of Action* under Decision X/22, and the advocacy agenda of subnational governments, cities and local authorities over the past decade, and **collectively commit** to raising our ambition and action in the coming decade.

Development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

We **welcome** the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in particular clear, action based, SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) targets and the inclusion of an integrated monitoring framework.

We **thank** the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for taking an inclusive and participatory approach in developing the framework; and **welcome** the 'whole of government' approach embodied in the framework, which captures the principle of governance across all levels of government, including at the level of subnational governments, cities and local authorities.

We continue to **support** the 2050 vision "*living in harmony with nature*" and stand ready with a raised ambition to make a contribution that will deliver a local to global impact, and meaningfully contribute to the long term goals.

We **share the ambition** of the 2030 Mission as was set out in the Zero Draft version of the post2020 global biodiversity framework, '*To take urgent action across society to put biodiversity on a path to recovery for the benefit of the planet and people.*' This ensures a clear pathway

¹ [Aburra Valley – Medellín Declaration of Metropolitan Areas to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework \(2019\)](#)

² [Carta de São Paulo - BIO2020 – Brazilian Perspectives for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework \(2020\)](#)

towards the 2050 Vision and corresponds with the ambition of subnational governments, cities and local authorities towards addressing the most pressing global challenges, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, health and poverty alleviation, as well as biodiversity.

Implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

We **welcome** the inclusion of subnational governments, cities and local authorities, as key enablers for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. However, we **recognise** that our role extends beyond the provision of enabling conditions.

Subnational governments, cities and local authorities play key roles in conserving, restoring and reducing threats to biodiversity, in meeting people's needs through sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing, in developing the tools and solutions needed for implementing biodiversity protection actions, and in monitoring and reporting.

We **recognise** that our actions in implementing and mainstreaming biodiversity ensure that support mechanisms and enabling conditions are in place at subnational, city and local levels - and that a vertically integrated and cross-cutting governance approach would enhance these efforts.

We **highlight** the significant role that subnational governments, cities and local authorities play in resource mobilisation for implementation and mainstreaming of biodiversity actions. We **stress** the need for immediate and increased efforts to mobilise financial resources at all levels of government and from the private sector.

We are uniquely and most effectively positioned to deliver the outreach, awareness, and uptake of the framework across the whole of society, facilitating engagement with key stakeholders to implement the framework at subnational, city and local levels. Nevertheless, we **recognise** that more can be done to build upon already existing policies and frameworks to ensure the full participation of the whole of society in delivering the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

COMMITMENT FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Subnational governments, cities and local authorities will continue to build upon our previous efforts, to deliver transformative actions by:

- Recognising the overall value of nature and integrating it into subnational, city and local planning, management and governance instruments;
- Implementing appropriate actions that deliver on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework goals and action targets;
- Aligning biodiversity strategies and actions, and our monitoring and reporting efforts with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), within our subnational, city and local competencies;
- Increasing resource mobilisation for investment in biodiversity action at subnational, city and local levels, and providing incentives to ensure positive outcomes;
- Mainstreaming biodiversity across public, private and business sectors to achieve greater environmental, societal and economic resilience;
- Communicating, educating and raising public awareness with specific efforts to make knowledge available in several languages;
- Strengthening capacity building in order to implement nature-based solutions (NBS) and green and blue infrastructure, particularly through ecosystem based approaches and as a contribution to a green recovery from COVID-19;

- Providing opportunities for knowledge exchange across subnational, city and local levels, and between all sectors of society;
- Sharing best practices across subnational, city and local levels, to efficiently implement transformative actions;
- Delivering convergence with other intergovernmental agreements and processes, taking forward bold and innovative actions at the subnational, city and local level which result in mutually beneficial outcomes.

CALL FOR ACTION

We subnational governments, cities and local authorities therefore **call upon** Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to;

- I. Take strong and bold actions to bring about transformative change, as outlined in the IPBES global assessment report, in order to halt biodiversity loss.
- II. Recognise the vital role of subnational governments, cities and local authorities, in delivering the 2050 vision of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and the 2030 mission as set out in the Zero Draft document; and to explicitly place that recognition throughout the framework text, including the monitoring framework for the goals and targets.
- III. Support the adoption at COP15, of a new dedicated Decision for the greater inclusion of subnational governments, cities and local authorities within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; that builds upon and renews the *Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020)* as endorsed under Decision X/22; and that significantly raises ambition for subnational, city and local implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework throughout the next decade.
- IV. Establish a multi-stakeholder platform that ensures representation of subnational governments, cities and local authorities to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

We, subnational governments, cities and local authorities, **stand ready** to meet the challenge of delivering, alongside Parties, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to ensure investment, and play a stronger role in the implementation of the framework through a renewed and significantly stepped-up *Plan of Action for subnational governments, cities and local authorities* for the coming decade.

EDINBURGH PROCESS PARTNERS



Ms Roseanna Cunningham, MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate
Change and Land Reform
On behalf of the Scottish Government



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Ms Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion
Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural
Affairs
On behalf of Welsh Government



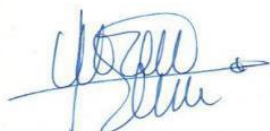
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Mr Ashok Sridharan
ICLEI President
On behalf of ICLEI - Local Governments for
Sustainability




Ms Cheryl Jones Fur
Deputy Lord Mayor of Växjö, Sweden
On behalf of ICLEI Europe

Ms Elena Moreno
Regions4 President
Basque Deputy Minister for Environment
On behalf of Regions4 Sustainable
Development



Regions4
Sustainable Development



Mr Benoit Charette
Ministre de l'Environnement et de la Lutte
contre les changements climatiques
On behalf of Gouvernement du Québec

Québec 

Hideaki Ohmura

Mr Hideaki Ohmura
Governor of Aichi Prefecture
On behalf of the Group of Leading Subnational
Governments toward the Aichi Biodiversity
Targets (GoLS)

Under consideration
On Behalf of the European Committee of the
Regions



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Supported By:

Francesca Osowska

Ms Francesca Osowska
Chief Executive
On behalf of NatureScot

Simon Milne

Mr Simon Milne MBE
Regius Keeper
On Behalf of Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh



**Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh**

8.2 EDINBURGH DECLARATION

8.3

8.4 SIGNATORIES

SUBNATIONAL, CITY AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Name	Position Organisation	Date Signed
<i>Example: Jo Blogs</i>	<i>Head of Environment and Nature Division Local Council</i>	<i>Xx/Month/2020</i>

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTERS

Name	Position Organisation	Date Signed
<i>Example: Nat Ure</i>	<i>Director, Nature Company</i>	<i>Xx/Month/2020</i>

Glasgow Food & Climate Declaration

A commitment by subnational governments to tackle the climate emergency through integrated food policies and a call on national governments to act

This Declaration brings together all types and sizes of local authorities – from small and medium sized towns to mega-cities, districts and regions, territories, federal states and provinces – to speak with a unified voice in renewing their commitments to develop sustainable food policies, promote mechanisms for joined-up action and call on national governments to put food and farming at the heart of the global response to the climate emergency.

1. *Concerned* that the COVID-19 crisis has exposed the fragility of our food systems, the vulnerabilities of large parts of urban and rural populations and the critical need for preparedness and resilience in the face of shocks;
2. *Acknowledging* that food systems currently account for 21-37%^[1] of total GHGs, and are at the heart of many of the world's major challenges today including biodiversity loss, enduring hunger and malnutrition, and an escalating public health crisis;
3. *Recognizing* that unsustainable dynamics are locked in along the whole food chain, primarily stemming from industrial food and farming systems;
4. *Recognizing* that extreme inequalities are pervasive throughout the food system, and are disproportionately affecting communities including people living in poverty, people experiencing racism, people displaced due to climate change or conflict, people with precarious legal status, and many others; and furthermore that many of these same groups are exploited for their labour globally;
5. *Convinced*, therefore, that only a food systems approach targeting all the Sustainable Development Goals can identify effective intervention points to accelerate climate action while delivering many co-benefits, including the promotion of biodiversity, ecosystem regeneration and resilience, circularity, equity, access to healthy and sustainable diets for all, and the creation of resilient livelihoods for farm and food workers;
6. *Recognizing* the need to involve all food system stakeholders in decision-making for a sustainable and just transition – including food and farm workers, civil society groups, researchers, indigenous communities, women, and especially youth whose future are the most at risk from the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss;
7. *Recalling* that cities and regions are leading the way in pioneering integrated food policies and strategies at the local level to reduce their environmental footprint, drive positive food system change and ensure greater resilience to shocks;

[1] IPCC (2019). Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia, V. Masson-Delmotte, H.- O. Pörtner, D. C. Roberts, P. Zhai, R. Slade, S. Connors, R. van Diemen, M. Ferrat, E. Haughey, S. Luz, S. Neogi, M. Pathak, J. Petzold, J. Portugal Pereira, P. Vyas, E. Huntley, K. Kissick, M. Belkacemi, J. Malley, (eds.)].

8. *Building* on the number of commitments on sustainable urban and regional food policies already made by cities, local and regional governments over the last two decades, in particular the 2014 World Urban Forum Medellin, the 2015 Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP), the 2015 Seoul Declaration, the 2016 New Urban Agenda, and the 2019 C40 Good Food Cities Declaration;
9. *Recognizing* that actions must be aligned horizontally (across policy areas) and vertically (between different levels of governance) to accelerate the transition to sustainable food systems;
10. *Emphasizing* that cross-sectoral, multi-level, and multi-actor governance of food systems is required in order for sustainable and just food systems to take root, and that this requires national governments to take a proactive and enabling role;
11. *Acknowledging* that cities and regions are becoming a high ambition coalition for sustainable food system development, and that the rapidly growing global movement of city and regional food partnerships provides a uniquely powerful mechanism to deliver these reforms;
12. *Acknowledging* that without accompanying regulatory and legislative reforms at the national level, the impact of such partnerships and policies will be limited;
13. We, the undersigned elected leaders of subnational governments, in anticipation of the 26th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC in Glasgow, commit to accelerate climate action by building and facilitating sustainable food systems transformation, by:
14. **Developing and implementing integrated food policies and strategies** as key tools in the fight against climate change; and ensuring that these instruments adopt a food systems approach that involves actors across all parts of the food chain; include metrics to assess GHG emissions reduction targets from food systems, as well as opportunities for cooperation and best practice sharing between subnational governments.
15. **Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from urban and regional food systems** in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, and building sustainable food systems that are able to rebuild ecosystems and deliver safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, and sustainable diets for all.
16. **Calling on national governments to establish supportive and enabling policy frameworks and multi-level and multi-actor governance mechanisms**, allowing coordinated decision-making on food systems. These mechanisms will support the drafting of inclusive national food policies to be included into the revisions of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).