



# **Enabling Conditions for Multilevel Governance in Climate Action**

**WORKSHOP 7:**  
**Strengthening Public Institutions for Climate Action**  
**2024 UN Public Service Forum & Awards Ceremony**

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# Climate Change and Intersecting Vulnerabilities in Cities



## SOME **KEY FACTS** ON CLIMATE CHANGE & CITIES



Although cities account for 2% of land footprint, they are **responsible for about three-quarter of global energy demand**



**Cities are key to delivering climate solutions.** Around 65% of the 169 targets of the 17 SDGs **cannot be achieved** without the engagement of local and regional governments





# Climate Change and Intersecting Vulnerabilities in Cities



## SOME **KEY FACTS** ON CLIMATE CHANGE & CITIES



- Intersecting **vulnerabilities** in cities

Climate change impact is **exacerbated by intersecting vulnerabilities**, such as reliance on climate-sensitive sectors, limited capacity, poverty, conflict, and weak institutional structures.



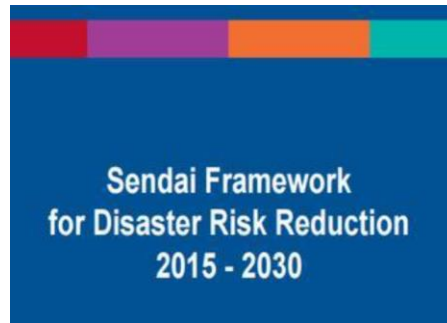
- **Climate justice** and **human rights**

Climate change **disproportionally affects people in vulnerable situations**, e.g., women, slum dwellers, among others, **hindering their human rights** and **exacerbating situations of injustice**





## Climate change: Law and Governance



“In order to support Member States in undertaking climate action and improving the urban environment, UN-Habitat will work together with UN agencies, such as UNEP, to **mainstream environmental considerations into local, national and global urban policymaking** and to highlight the local–global element of environmental issues”

> [UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025](#)



[UN-Habitat  
Strategic Plan  
2020-2025](#)



## Climate change: Law and Governance



- **International efforts** towards sustainable urban development and **UN-Habitat's** work on climate change.



- The role of **legislation** and the importance of **urban governance** for sustainable urban development.

**Urban law and governance:**  
govern the management and  
development of the urban  
environment.



Ineffective governance and laws and the lack  
of capacities to enforce them, makes urban  
planning ineffective in shaping cities and  
achieving sustainable results.



- **UN-Habitat** supports local and national governments to improve their urban legal and institutional frameworks including transition to green, resilient and low carbon urban development.





## The Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit

- ↘ The **Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit** allows users to assess, review and reform urban planning laws to ensure they support climate objectives and national climate plans and strategies.

- The Urban Law Module – 5 indicators:



Governance framework for urban and climate planning



Urban planning and design for mitigation



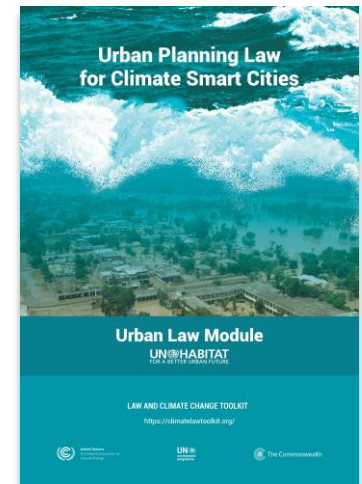
Urban and territorial planning



Economic and non-economic instruments for climate friendly urban planning



Urban planning and design for adaptation



Companion guide on [Urban Planning Law for Climate Smart Cities](https://climateactiontoolkit.org/)

# Governance framework for urban and climate planning



**Multi-level governance** mechanisms for vertical, horizontal and cross-sectoral coordination



**Participation** by urban stakeholders



**Data collection and sharing**, among public agencies as well as their dissemination to the general public



**Local governments' mandates** (authority and resources) on steering and controlling climate-friendly urban planning and land use



**Philippines:** Climate Change Act 2009 created the Climate Change Commission as the lead policymaking body of the government and requires it to coordinate, monitor and evaluate programmes and action plans of the government to ensure the mainstreaming of climate change into the national, sectoral and local development plans and programmes (Section 4).

## Success Stories

**2020-2022:** UN-Habitat collaborated with the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat in **Tajikistan** to analyze the Tajik urban legal frameworks with respect to climate action.

**2021- 2022:** UN-Habitat is collaborating with KAS implemented the project on Urban Law for Resilient and Low Carbon Urban Development in **Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe**

**2022-2023:** UN-Habitat collaborated with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, **Oman** to draft a new planning law that is, among other things, climate-conscious. **Over 500** spatial planning laws and the institutional framework analyzed.

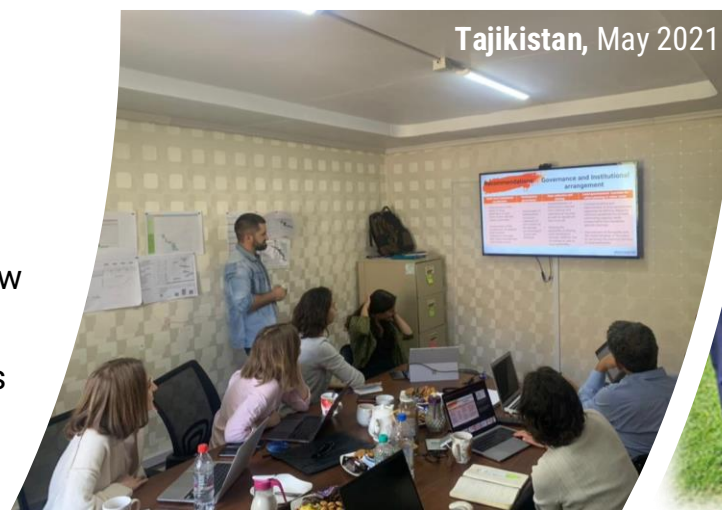
Oman, September 2022



Comoros, September 2023



Tajikistan, May 2021



Zimbabwe, June 2022



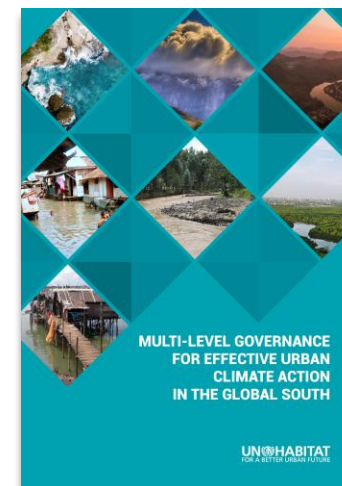


## Guide on Multi-Level Governance & Climate Action



The **Guide: Multi-level Governance For Effective Climate Action in the Global South** shows the importance of state and non-state actors working together to assist urban areas to enhance their resilience and grow in climate-friendly ways.

- The tool discusses the enabling governance conditions for climate action which are:
  - i. Fiscal decentralization
  - ii. Participatory governance
  - iii. Data and information sharing
  - iv. Vertical and horizontal institutional coordination
  - v. Supportive legal frameworks
  - vi. Capacity building
  - vii. Political will

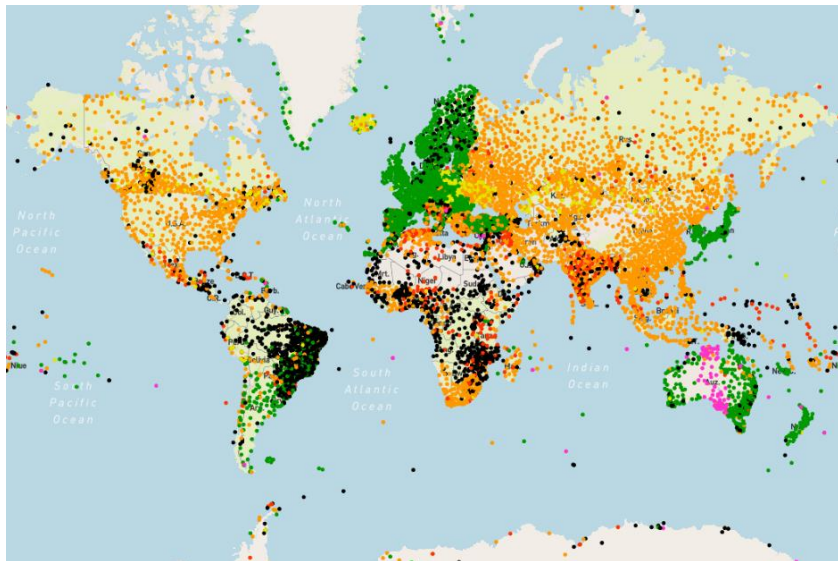


Can be accessed [here](#)

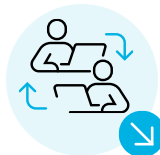
## Data and Information Sharing



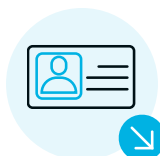
- Data sharing is vital for effective climate governance, enabling informed decisions and uncovering hidden insights.
  - ❑ Data's Role in Evidence-Based Governance.
  - ❑ Revealing Hidden Correlations.
  - ❑ Speeding up decision-making.



- **Climate Data Challenges in Developing Countries:** Inadequate time series data in developing countries poses challenges in measuring climate impacts, hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities accurately.



- Comparable data across regions.
  - ✓ Vertical data sharing among governments.
  - ✓ Horizontal data sharing among subnational governments and within local government institutions and departments.



- **City Resilience Profiling Tool:** Facilitate data collection.

## Fiscal Decentralization



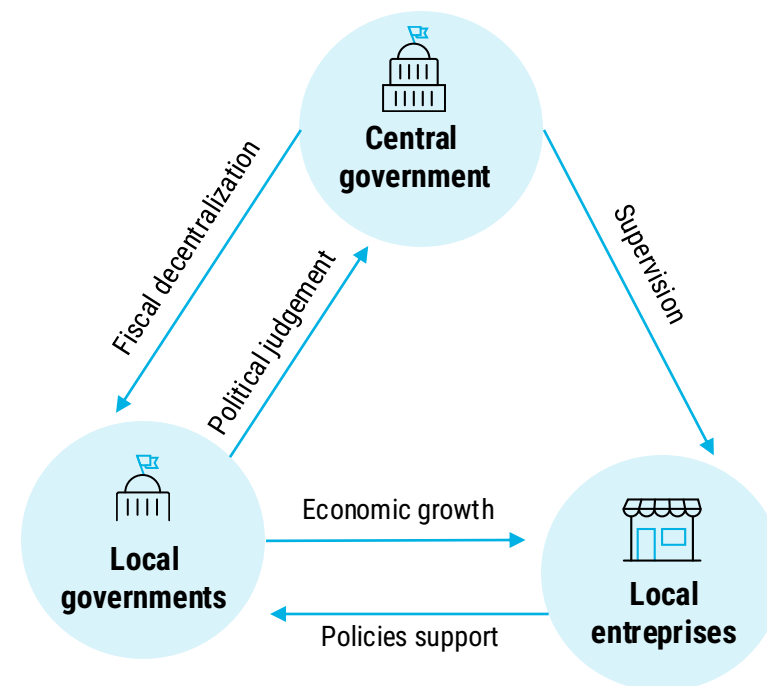
- Local governments often rely on **fiscal transfers** from the central government due to limited revenue bases.



- Legal frameworks may prevent them from levying taxes, borrowing, or reallocating funds effectively.
  - ✓ This limits their capacity to finance climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.



- To promote climate finance at the local level, legal frameworks should **empower local authorities** to raise revenue.
  - ✓ Even with additional funds, local governments may lack discretion over resource use.



## Significant legal and political steps toward achieving vertical alignment in climate action



- Robust laws establish legally binding obligations for GHG emission reduction targets and adaptation goals. They clarify responsibilities across government levels.

- ✓ Oversight and Coordination.
- ✓ Mainstream climate action.
- ✓ Specialized funds and budgets.
- ✓ Monitoring and reporting.

- **First Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization & Climate Change (COP 27)**

- ✓ Co-convened by UN-Habitat and the Egyptian COP27 Presidency, with 300 participants, over 50 member states were represented. Highlighted the critical role of cities and underlined the importance of multilevel action to address the climate crisis.
- ✓ The launch of SURGe (Sustainable Urban Resilience for Next Generation), developed in collaboration with UN-Habitat and facilitated by ICLEI, to transform cities into sustainable, resilient, and low-emission urban systems.





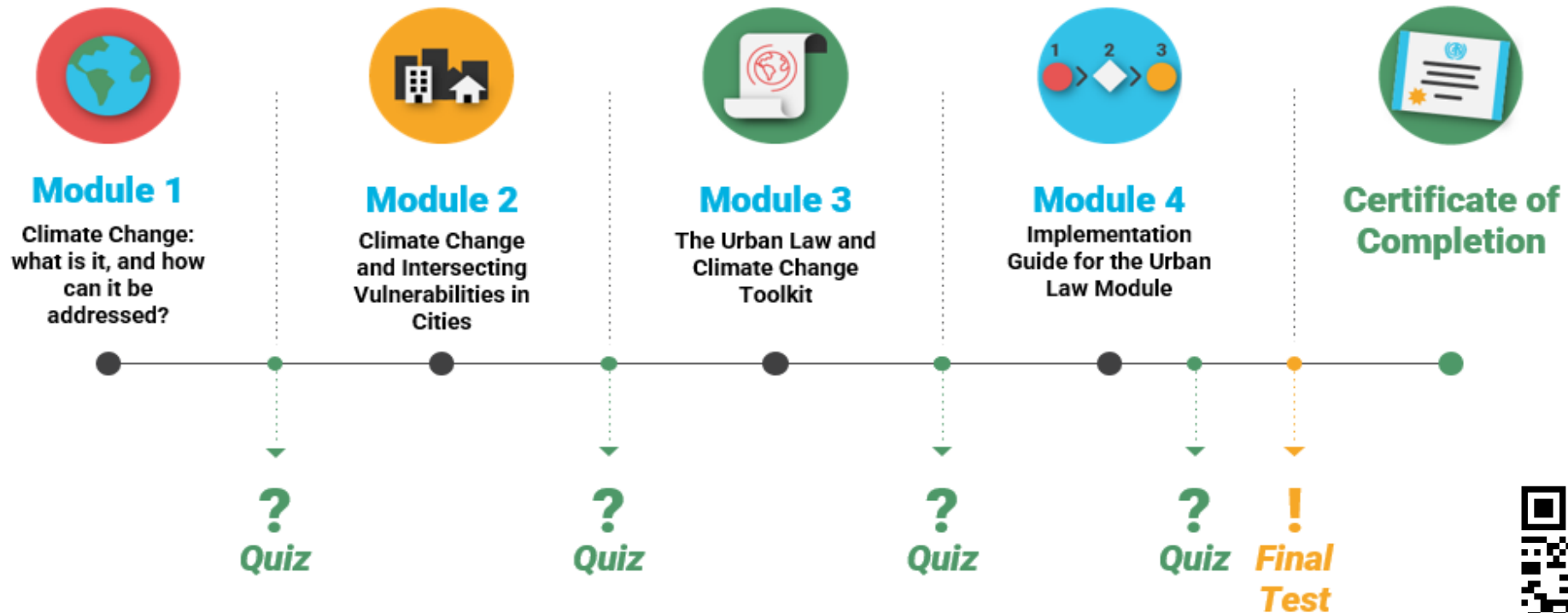


**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



## E-learning Course on Advancing Climate Action through Urban Law



SCAN ME



# **Thank You**

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