

EMBARGO: 0600EST 23 SEPTEMBER 2024

Mayors gather in New York to put cities at the heart of global climate talks

- Mayor of London to lead C40 Cities delegation representing more than 52 million people
- New York Climate Week, Summit for the Future and UN General Assembly stand at start of vital 15 months for hopes of keeping the Paris Agreement on track
- Cities hold the key to limiting the impact of emergency

New York, USA (20 September 2024) - The Mayor of London and Co-Chair of C40 Cities Sadiq Khan will lead an international delegation of mayors representing more than 52m people to New York this week, as leaders from around the world gather for critical discussions on the future of the planet.

C40 city leaders, including C40 Co-Chairs Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan and Mayor of Freetown Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr alongside fellow mayors from Africa, Europe, Asia, North and South America will join decision-makers at the Summit of the Future, the UN General Assembly and New York Climate Week. The meetings will set the tone and expectation for climate action in 2025 - a critical year of decision-making, culminating with COP30 in Brazil.

Cities are responsible for seventy % of global emissions, whilst also facing the full impact of the climate emergency. It is vital that city leaders have a prominent seat at the table whenever national climate and decarbonisation targets are discussed.

Mayor Khan will showcase London's place as a global leader in reducing emissions, cleaning up the air and divesting from fossil fuels as he meets with politicians and decision-makers at the United Nations. He will address the challenges of keeping the world on track to meet the Paris Agreement climate goals and speak with global decision-makers and organisers on the importance of some of his key climate missions including cleaning up waterways and pedestrianisation of major thoroughfares.

Meanwhile, Mayor Aki-Sawyerr will join young people from around the world at the United Nations Headquarters to address the challenges the next generation will face when inheriting the climate crisis and the need for intergenerational leadership on climate. She will also become the first mayor to address the Global Renewables Summit, seeking to triple renewable energy globally by 2030. According to C40 [research](#), global investment in renewables needs to increase more than fourfold to over US\$5 trillion annually to stay on the 1.5°C pathway.

In New York this week C40 will also:

- join forces with financial institutions to find new ways to finance electric freight in Latin America through the Laneshift programme funded by The Climate Pledge.
- receive significant new support from the Rockefeller Foundation to help cities prepare for the health implications of a rapidly changing climate
- highlight the expected impact of climate migration on Global South cities, which could see more than 8 million [internal migrants by 2050](#)

Across New York this week and around the world every day, mayors and cities are taking the lead on reducing emissions, transitioning away from fossil fuels, enhancing climate finance, protecting vulnerable communities, and fostering global cooperation.

Mayor of London and C40 Co-Chair, Sadiq Khan said: “It is vital that the future of the planet is set by proactive climate do-ers, not delayers. There has never been a more important time to take action and cities must be at the forefront of this movement with a prominent voice and a seat at the table.

“I am proud of what we have achieved so far in London, saving lives by cutting air pollution with the world’s largest clean air zone, launching a plan to clean up our rivers and restoring our biodiversity to create a greener and more prosperous city for all.

“As Mayors, we’ll be taking our message to the global stage, to share our experiences as world cities and work together to overcome the challenges and injustices of the climate emergency.”

Mayor of Freetown and C40 Co-Chair, Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr said: “There is significant potential for us as local leaders to accelerate the end of fossil fuels and opportunities for everyone in the new green economy.

“As a mother and a mayor, I am constantly inspired by the leadership and advocacy of the younger generation. They have inherited a climate crisis that is not of their making but will be our responsibility to fix. They are rising to this challenge remarkably. I look forward to hearing from them this week and helping them raise their voices further so that those in positions of power can not ignore their demands for a future free from fossil fuels.”

C40 Executive Director, Mark Watts said: “The world urgently needs to reduce its reliance on polluting, expensive, and volatile coal, gas and oil - which are at the root of the climate crisis. The road to a greener, cleaner, more sustainable future runs straight through New York this week.

“What we need now is for commitments to become implementation, ideals to become practical programmes with real finance attached to them and for cities’ seats at the table to become permanent.

“Mayors are delivering decisive actions to reduce the demand for fossil fuels and deliver a just transition. We need national governments to stop the flow of subsidies and incentives for burning fossil fuels and to work with cities and other sub-national governments to strengthen their national climate action - as 72 countries are already doing under the CHAMP initiative launched at COP28.”

Note to Editors

For more information and to receive a daily update of key C40 activities during New York Climate Week/UN High-Level Week please contact:

Richard Main - Head of Global Media
rmain@c40.org

Rose Kamau - Global Media Officer
rkamau@c40.org

About C40 Cities

C40 is a network of nearly 100 mayors of the world's leading cities working to deliver the urgent action needed right now to confront the climate crisis and create a future where everyone, everywhere can thrive. Mayors of C40 cities are committed to using a science-based and people-focused approach to help the world limit global heating to 1.5°C and build healthy, equitable and resilient communities. We work alongside a broad coalition of representatives from labour, business, the youth climate movement and civil society to support mayors to halve emissions by 2030 and help phase out fossil use while increasing urban climate resilience and equity.

To learn more about the work of C40 and our cities, please visit [our website](#) or follow us on [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).