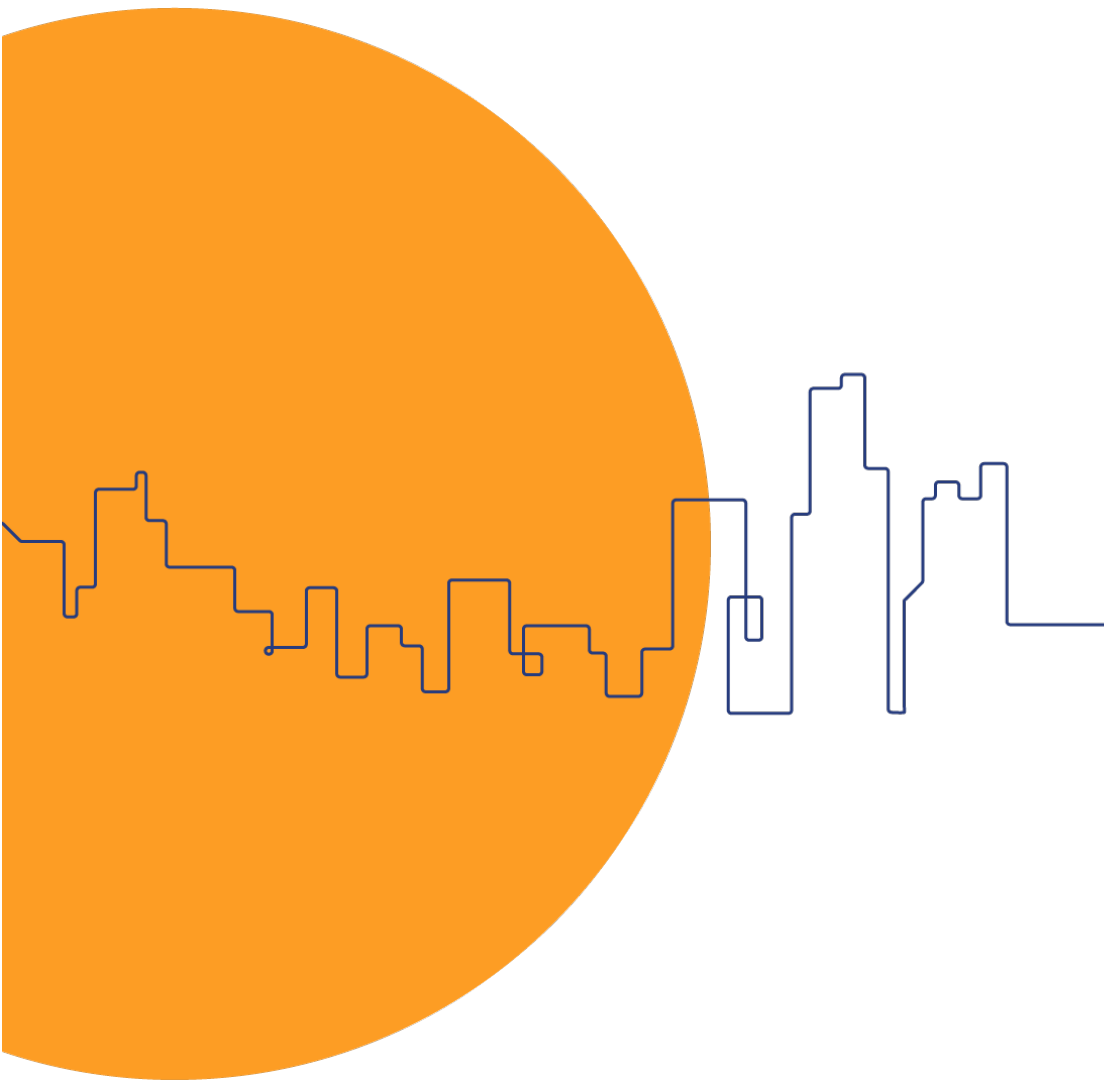


# **Open letter**

*Urban Climate Agenda  
for the Brazilian Municipal Elections*




## **Urban Climate Agenda for the Brazilian Municipal Elections**

Two months ahead of the 2020 municipal elections, cities face a challenging scenario, with health, social and economic crises, further aggravated by the Covid-19 pandemic, in addition to the climate emergency. All of these gravely impact upon unemployment, the fiscal situation and the increased inequality. This context increases the responsibility of ensuring that urban development policies promote social and environmental justice. Candidates for the positions of mayors and city councilors running for office in the November elections must build economic and social recovery agendas that seek environmental balance and consider the impacts of climate change. Preserving and investing in the environment creates opportunities, increases economic competitiveness and promotes social inclusion in the urban environment.

The sustainable urban agenda is at the heart of the challenges of development and it is necessary to focus on actions that take into consideration local realities, territorial initiatives, and which have as its main goals increasing the well-being of the population, fighting inequality and environmental racism. Recent events have shown this to be the only path to be followed.

Cities, states and other sub-national players have an increasing role to play in the country's climate commitments and should expand their ambitions. It is imperative to strengthen resilience and adapt Brazilian cities to climate change, promoting low-carbon urban development with social justice. The task of public authorities and city managers must be shared with civil society, academia, the private sector and all social segments. We need all these actors to be united in facing the country's largest issues.

The dichotomy between the development agenda and the environmental agenda is mistaken and outdated. Private sector companies and organizations strengthen and expand their climate ambitions. The transition to a cleaner, low-carbon economy is more efficient and becomes a competitive advantage. A study led by WRI Brasil indicates that the green economy can promote an additional GDP increase of R \$ 2.8 trillion in the next ten years, equivalent to 40 times the budget of the city of São Paulo, and create 2 million jobs by 2030, benefiting millions of families. We cannot waste this opportunity.



The civil society organizations and other institutions that signed this document worked collectively on the elaboration of a proposal for a minimal climate agenda to be presented to candidates in the 2020 municipal elections, understanding the heterogeneity of Brazilian localities and communities. Without being exhaustive and non-partisan, without being linked to specific candidacies, this document gathers guidelines for the formulation of public policies for urban development. The proposal took into account the priority and urgency of the challenges, and the perception that health, employment and mobility issues are among the subjects of greatest interest to the population.


10 priority actions were identified for a minimal urban climate agenda to be considered by the candidates' platforms for mayoral and councilman elections, and in the public policies for urban development:

**Action 01: Metropolitan planning and governance** - Create municipal climate action plans with multi sectoral planning and management, incorporating regional and metropolitan governance, integrated and participatory, with the objective of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the resilience of cities;

**Action 02: Sanitation and sustainable water management** - Accelerate the expansion of basic sanitation, based on innovative management models that expand access to drinking water and sewage treatment, reinforce the drainage systems that capture and reuse rainwater, with great repercussions on the well-being and health of the population and generating jobs in the civil construction sector;

**Action 03: Health and pollution reduction** - Reduce local pollution and emissions that impact air quality, mitigating climate change and focusing on the well-being and health of the population, by reducing sources of emissions such as fires, burning fossil fuels for cargo and passenger transportation, among others, improving the population's quality of life and reducing public health costs;

**Action 04: Food and nutrition security** - Implement public policies and partnerships to stimulate local, accessible, sustainable and circular production of healthy foods and reduce waste, ensuring access for all segments of the population to a healthy regular diet, improving health and quality of life for all;



**Action 05: Solid waste** - Eliminate dumps and adoption of public policies to promote the reduction of waste generation, recycling and sustainable treatment of organic waste and the entire associated production chain to generate jobs and reduce pollution of rivers, bays and springs;


**Action 06: Local and solidarity economy** - Encourage the generation of green jobs and innovation in sustainable technologies, considering the needs of peripheral areas and territories, with the adoption of sustainable criteria in the municipal procurement and contracting processes, and generate income in the localities;

**Action 07: disaster response and resilience** - Improve the ability to respond to extreme events and crisis situations, based on territorial risk management and a municipal plan for adapting to climate change with a set of priority resilience measures, social protection, and response to disasters such as landslides, floods, droughts, heat islands, sea level rise and other issues;

**Action 08: Public transport and mobility** - Promote the use of mass accessible public transport, with a focus on integrating different modes and encouraging sustainable mobility alternatives (discouraging the use of individual motorized transport and encouraging active mobility with the creation of cycle paths, pedestrian zones), adoption of the single ticket, reduction of travel times, integration of different regions of the city and reduction of vehicular emissions through the use of zero emission technologies;

**Action 09: Green areas** - Increase the offer of green areas in cities to all citizens and in all regions, including the creation of parks, afforestation of streets, green roofs and walls, protection of conservation units and reforestation actions, in order to increase carbon capture, reduce heat islands and mitigate environmental inequality.

**Action 10: Renewable energy and energy efficiency** - Adopt measures to promote the distributed generation of renewable energy, such as solar and wind, and take actions to increase energy efficiency in existing buildings and new constructions. Energy represents the second most relevant sector in terms of greenhouse gas emissions in Brazilian cities and has great potential for job creation.



The signatory organizations and institutions express their commitment to work for the improvement of the quality of livelihood of the citizens of Brazilian cities, to collectively monitor over the next few years the implementation of this agenda and the commitments made by the candidates during the election campaign as well as their willingness to dialogue, assist and collaborate with the candidates and the municipal administrations in the development and implementation of sustainable solutions for a more just, inclusive and equal future for the Brazilian population.

The proposed agenda was built on an innovative articulation on the national scene, initiating an inclusive and permanent process of engagement and cooperation between subnational actors. We invite other subnational organizations and actors to join, support and disseminate this action agenda.

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## Signatory organizations and institutions:

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**NossaBH**

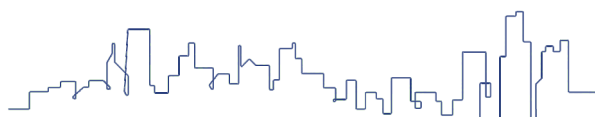


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