

**Special Session  
COP27 to the Road**

**Governance of Local Climate Change Adaptation  
– A Perspective to promote Social Justice**

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Climate change adaptation initiatives, as stated in the IPCC WGII Sixth Assessment Report, are mostly led by local governments in various settings and arrangements. Adaptation initiatives success often depends on the role of local political champions that promote the adaptation agenda by aligning the adaptation objectives with other potential benefits (i.e., co-benefits principles) of sustainable development. Multi-level governance and cooperative governance models further support local governments in fostering robust adaptation approaches in different ways. There are, certainly, barriers and limits at the operationalization level. One of the challenges is to ensure an inclusive process and accommodate the needs of the most vulnerable people as mandated through social justice principles. The social justice concept is very much aligned with the environmental(climate) justice movement experiences at the local level as it is embedded with the slogan 'no one left behind' in many global commitments in addressing inequality and the gap delivery of public services and security.

Among many approaches to promote social justice, Community Based Adaptation (CBA) is mostly applied to put communities at the center of planning for adaptation, often led by communities themselves. The IPCC Reports highlight that civil society actors enable local risk awareness, sensitization, and adaptive capacity, and generate locally based innovation (e.g., through community-based adaptation programs). Non-state actors are also important in enabling adaptation by linking government agencies with low-income and marginalized communities, including those living in informal settlements. Local authorities are an important enabling actor that can guide different stakeholders to take responsibility for creating policy and regulatory environments that encourage inclusive processes aligned with the SDGs' equity and ecological sustainability principles. Indeed, establishing linkages between multiple organizations can help deliver coordinated action, and accordingly, the governance aspect is critical in local adaptation strategies mostly to stimulate collaborative processes of planning, learning, experimentation, capacity building, construction of coalitions and communication channels.

IPCC WGII Sixth Assessment Report shows some case studies in different countries, describing some of the main barriers to urban climate adaptation, and strategies to address them, relate to institutional change. Many of the barriers that inhibit institutions from acting in ways that can support action for inclusive and sustainable adaptation have historical roots, grounded in complex political and social relations. Overcoming these barriers requires coordinating the activities of multiple actors who can facilitate institutional and political change.