

THE BASQUE DECLARATION

**Transformative Actions to create more productive,
sustainable and resilient cities**

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THE BASQUE DECLARATION

Background

The link to global agreements

What is in it for me?

Transformative actions

A database of inspiration

The Award

The Basque Declaration (2016)

*Adopted by 900 participants at the 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns, held in the Basque Country in April 2016

*Organised by ICLEI, Basque Country, Bizkaia County, City of Bilbao and Udalsarea 21

*Partners: CoR, OECD, Eurocities, Energy Cities, ACR+, and others

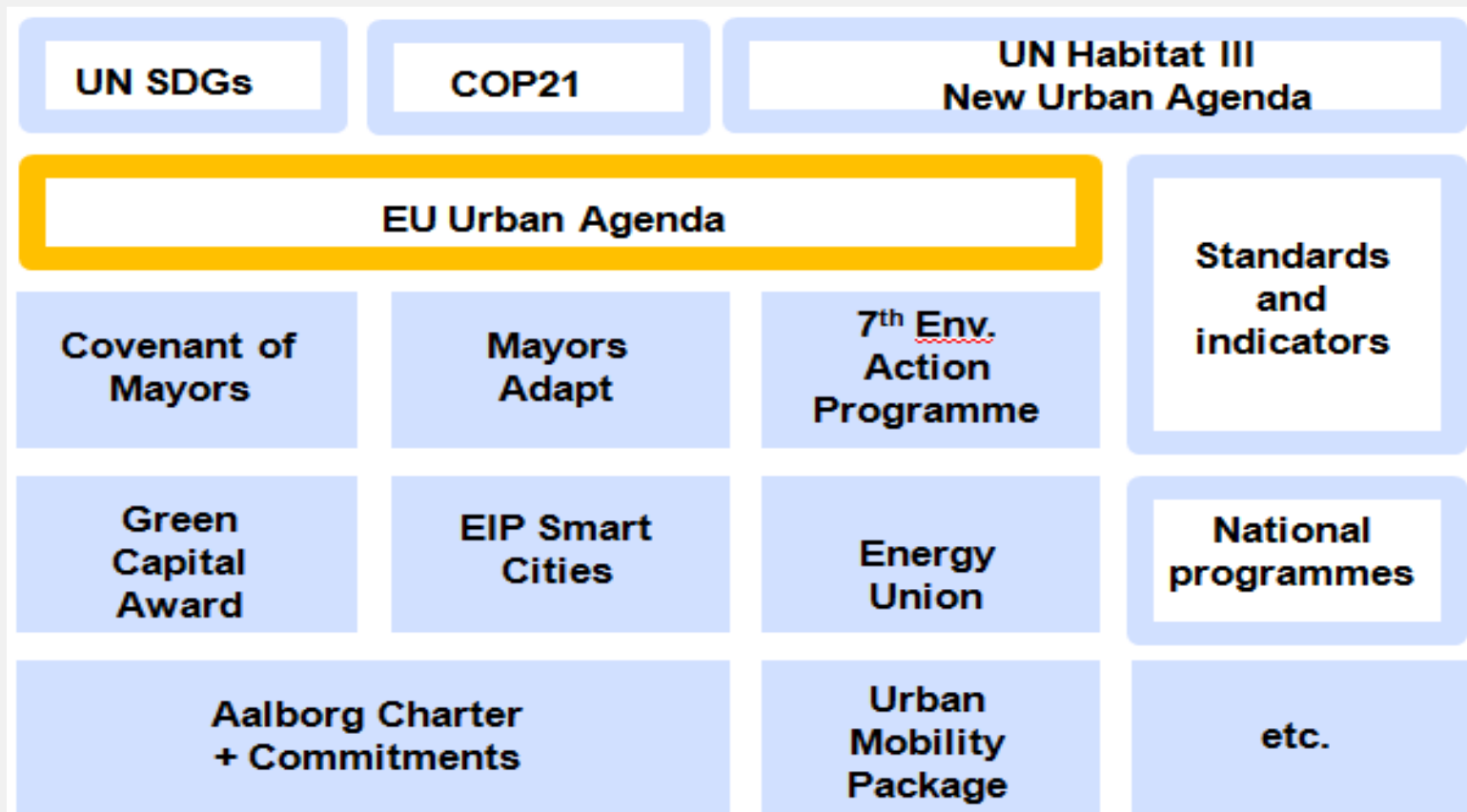
European challenges:

- Migration
- Social divides
- Finance and economic problems
- High unemployment
- Depletion of environmental resources

Urgent need for a **transformation** of our societies, at a moment when Europe reveals **differences between member states** rather than shared values...

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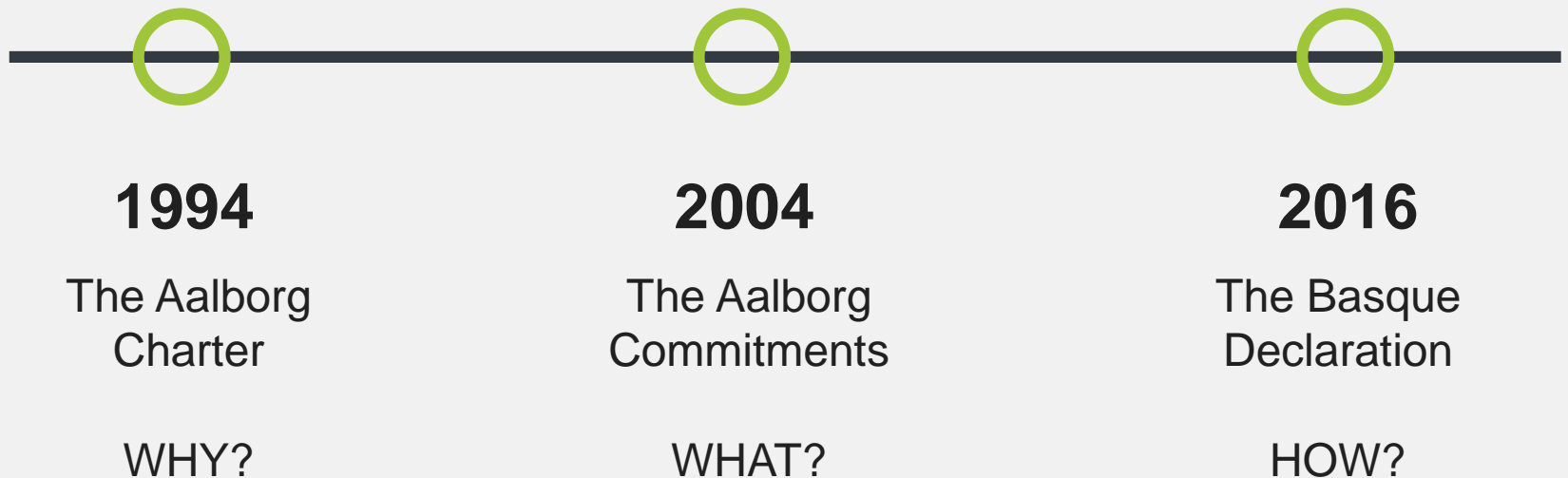
...at a moment of elaborate urban sustainability frameworks....



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This next step was based on a long history:



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THE BASQUE DECLARATION AND THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FRAMEWORKS



On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of 17 goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. These are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In December 2015, at the Paris climate conference (COP21), 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The aim is to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.

**PARIS
CLIMATE
AGREEMENT**



HOW CAN CITIES CONTRIBUTE WITH THEIR NATIONAL LEVEL TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS?

THE BASQUE DECLARATION

APRIL 2016

The Basque Declaration was adopted at the 8th European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns held in the Basque Country

WHAT IS THE BASQUE DECLARATION?

It is an inspirational document to create productive, sustainable and resilient cities for a liveable and inclusive Europe.
It focuses on HOW local and regional governments can contribute to the global goals.

1. THE BASQUE DECLARATION TRANSLATES THE SDGs AND THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT INTO 10 AGENDAS AT LOCAL LEVEL

- ✓ Decarbonisation
- ✓ Urban mobility
- ✓ Biodiversity
- ✓ Greenfield land and natural space
- ✓ Water resources and air quality
- ✓ Climate change
- ✓ Public space
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Social inclusion and integration
- ✓ Local economies and employment

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10 LOCAL AGENDAS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Decarbonisation | 6 Climate change |
| 2 Urban mobility | 7 Public space |
| 3 Biodiversity | 8 Housing |
| 4 Greenfield land and natural space | 9 Social inclusion and integration |
| 5 Water resources and air quality | 10 Local economies and employment |

2. THE BASQUE DECLARATION DEFINES THREE TYPES OF TRANSFORMATION NEEDED FOR CHANGE



- ① SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION
- ② SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION
- ③ TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

3. THE BASQUE DECLARATION OUTLINES 15 PATHWAYS TO INSPIRE TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

1

SOCIO-CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

1. Ensure equal access to municipal services
2. Involve citizens through participatory implementation
3. Encourage local private and civic engagement
4. Promote social innovation supporting inclusion
5. Nurture a sharing economy
6. Capitalise on local economy and production

2

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

7. Create and close local value chains
8. Apply innovative financing approaches
9. Implement sustainable procurement principles
10. Pursue a shift towards a circular economy
11. Wisely select and apply smart technologies

3

TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION

12. Accelerate sustainability and innovation through public procurement
13. Guarantee equal access to information/digital services
14. Support open data standards
15. Prepare policies for socio-cultural changes due to innovation

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The Basque Declaration:

- **Pathways** for transformation
- **Local level** as important actors for change
- Active role and responsibility of **civil society**
- 10 overarching **objectives**
- support to national governments and EU in reaching their goals
- support and accelerate 3 **transformations** to ensure quality of life within the limits of our earth

a) Socio-cultural transformation

Provide **equal access** to municipal services and explore new ways of service provision.

Nurture **social innovation and entrepreneurship, collaborative and civic economy** and other emerging approaches.

Active involvement of citizens, beyond participatory planning into **participatory implementation**.

b) Socio-economic transformation

Focus on opportunities for **local economy, local value chains and local resources**.

Encourage development towards **circular economy** and apply new approaches to financing.

Procure products and services with high environmental performance, taking into account the social and economic impacts of purchasing decisions.

c) Technological transformation

Select and apply **demand driven** technological solutions, in the interest of citizens and the public good. Public procurement as instrument to influence the **market**.

Support equal access to information and open data as a standard to be applied by local governments.

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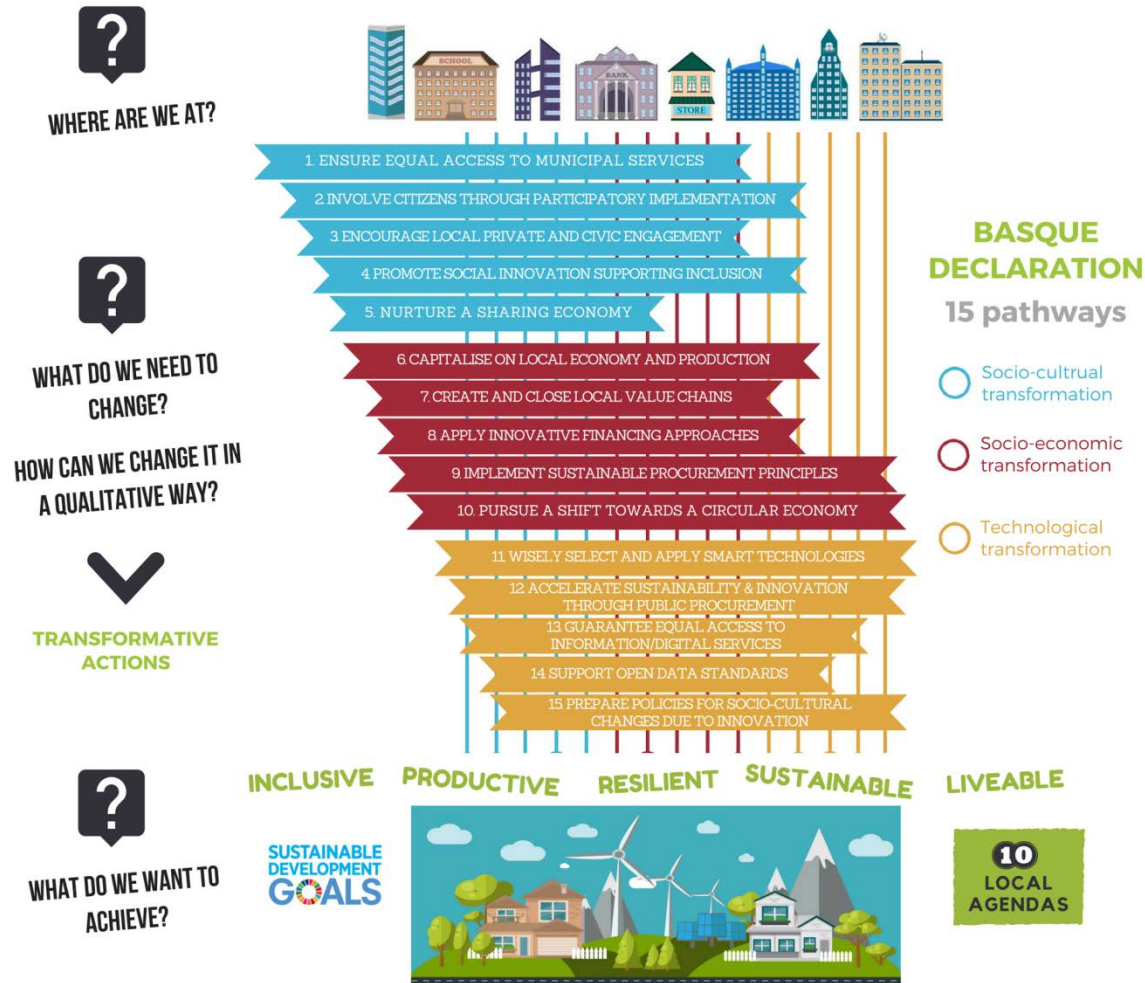
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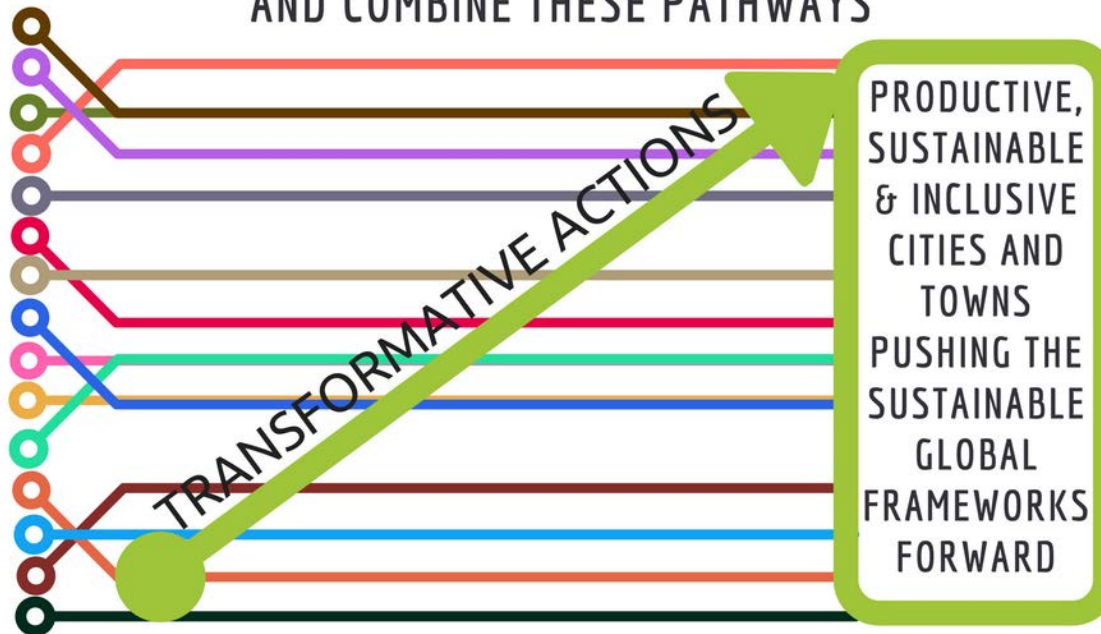
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HOW SHOULD CITIES IMPLEMENT THESE AGENDAS?



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LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS CAN INTEGRATE
AND COMBINE THESE PATHWAYS



For further information, visit www.sustainablecities.eu



**Aalborg
Kommune**

**BASQUE
COUNTRY**



Follow us on  @sustain_cities  european.sustainable.cities

TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS

- Qualitative rather than quantitative
- Involvement of as many actors as needed
- Combine different pathways
- Require “imagination” and “the desire of doing things differently”

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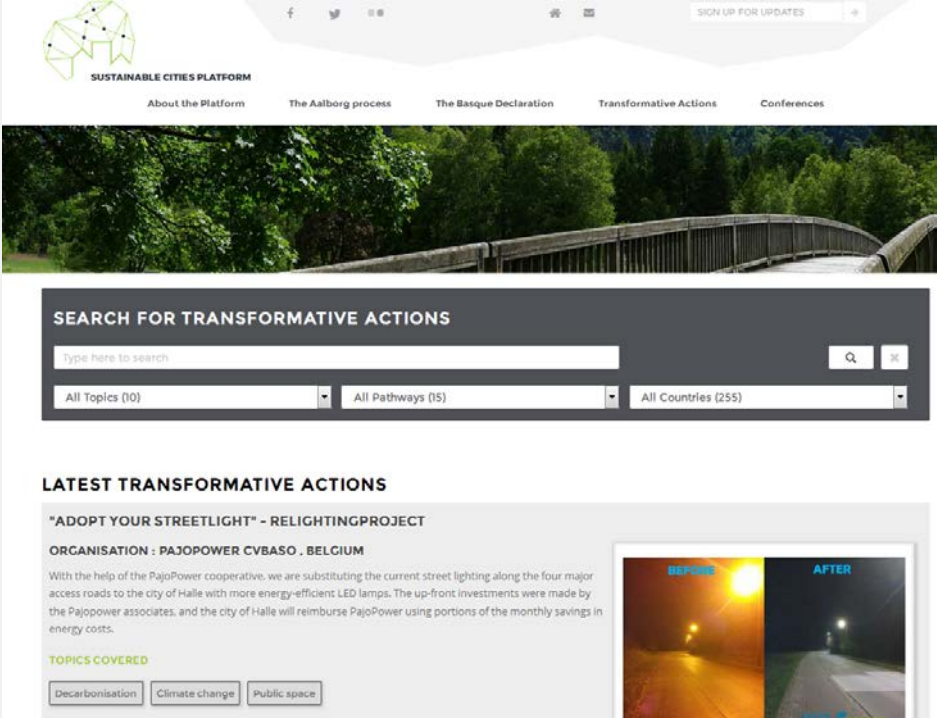
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TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS DATABASE

www.sustainablecities.eu

Transformative Actions Database



The screenshot displays the Sustainable Cities Platform website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the platform's logo and links to 'About the Platform', 'The Aalborg process', 'The Basque Declaration', 'Transformative Actions', and 'Conferences'. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a bridge over a river. The main content area features a 'SEARCH FOR TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS' section with a search input field and three dropdown menus for 'All Topics (10)', 'All Pathways (15)', and 'All Countries (255)'. Below the search section is a 'LATEST TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS' section. The first entry is titled '*ADOPT YOUR STREETLIGHT* - RELIGHTINGPROJECT' and is organized by 'PAJOPOWER CVBASO, BELGIUM'. The text describes the project's goal of substituting current street lighting with energy-efficient LED lamps. To the right of the text is a side-by-side comparison of a street at night, labeled 'BEFORE' and 'AFTER', showing the transition from traditional streetlights to LED lighting. Below the text, there are three buttons labeled 'Decarbonisation', 'Climate change', and 'Public space'.

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**Rewarding
Transformative Actions
to create productive,
sustainable and
resilient cities**



#TAaward17 #BasqueDeclaration

Meet our jury!



Cor Lamers, ENVE Commission Chair

Arantza Acha Director, UNESCO Etxea, Spain



Thomas Kastrup-Larsen, Mayor of Aalborg

Wolfgang Teubner, Regional Director, ICLEI Europe



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From **35** applications, **4** were shortlisted...

Mannheim
Nilüfer
Udaltalde 21
Zaragoza



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**And the
winner is...**



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Nilufer, Turkey

Nilüfer's Transformative Action aims to increase civic engagement and participatory local democracy through Neighbourhood Committees, the Nilüfer Energy Cooperative and the Nilüfer Innovation Center.

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The special mention goes to....

Udaltalde 21

Udaltalde 21's Transformative Action involves bringing together small and medium sized municipalities in the Basque Country for sustainable development through using a supra-municipal structure.

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Karl-Heinz Lambertz

President of the
European Committee of the Regions

“ *The Transformative Action Awards are an inspiration to us all. They demonstrate that without the leadership and decisive action of local and regional actors, we would have little chance of winning the battle against global warming.* ”



#TAaward17 #BasqueDeclaration

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and watch out for
Transformative
Action Award 2018**



#BasqueDeclaration

Cities, organisations and individuals who support the Basque Declaration are encouraged to publicly endorse it and – most importantly – use it as a source of inspiration, mobilisation and action.

www.sustainablecities.eu

Thank you

Complete this online form to endorse the Basque Declaration

* - obligatory fields

Endorsement type *

- ☐ City
- ☐ Other organisation
- ☐ Individual

Name *

Contact email *

Organisation name (in full) *

Job title *

City *

Country *

By clicking 'Endorse', I confirm that I am authorised by my city/organisation to endorse this declaration

ENDORSE