The last IPCC report states: “climate action requires multi-level governance from the local and community level to national, regional and international levels”. This is an important enabler for systemic transformation. African cities are the most vulnerable to climate change1. Coupled with high urbanisation, these challenges require strong and robust governance systems that value collaboration.

With two decades’ experience implementing urban sustainability projects in African cities – and through the IMPACT project – ICLEI Africa identified 7 enablers for effective and inclusive multi-level governance that builds climate resilience.

1. IPCC, 2018, Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.

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**Enablers for Collaboration**

01. **Create an Inclusive Environment**
   - Ensure equal and fair participation by taking steps to overcome gender, age, socio-economic and job title inequalities.

02. **Enable those Working in Different Disciplines to Co-create and Co-produce Together**
   - Engage with all tiers of government, researchers, communities and the private sector to harness the diverse ideas and energy that stakeholders with different backgrounds bring.

03. **Embrace Tension Areas**
   - Ensure the facilitator remains objective and open-minded to diverse opinions and is able to maintain positive group dynamics, as conflict between stakeholders may occur, and if managed well, can lead to breakthroughs for enhanced collaboration.

04. **Identify New Areas to Align City Level Work with National and Regional Strategies**
   - Identify gaps and overlaps in mandates and responsibilities across sectors and tiers of government.

05. **Ensure Roles and Responsibilities Are Clear**
   - Set clear objectives among stakeholders at the outset of collaboration and clearly articulate and agreed upon individual and group roles and responsibilities.

06. **Maximise Cooperation by Choosing an Unbiased Location**
   - Ensure that the collaboration starts on neutral ground, allowing everyone to feel welcome, relaxed and cooperative.

07. **Evaluate Existing Collaboration Mechanisms and Strategies**
   - Upscale those that are successful for your city and institutionalise them within municipal processes.