“Cities are taking the lead in addressing climate change – and they could be doing more, and acting faster, if barriers to accessing financing were removed. The recommendations in this report can bring more private and public investment to projects that reduce carbon, improve public health, and protect people from risks.”

Michael R. Bloomberg, UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change

“Today, cities have the opportunity to lead the world towards a sustainable future. By helping them in identifying and streamlining sources of financing, by strengthening their capacities, development banks like the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) contribute to enhancing their access to climate finance. AFD welcomes the recommendations of the report to guide further initiatives and scale-up support to cities climate action.”

Anne Paugam, CEO, Agence Française de Développement

“Climate change poses the single biggest threat to the future health and livelihood of today’s children. To protect and secure a healthy and sustainable future for children, we support the urgent global transition to a low-carbon economy. Cities are increasingly at the forefront of climate change action. A key challenge is to replicate and accelerate the global scale-up of climate-smart development. This report compares cities’ funding of low-carbon infrastructure with what is required at scale to effectively mitigate and adapt to climate change. The report also highlights innovative financing instruments developed by cities around the world that have been successful in attracting funds for climate change. CIFF is pleased to have supported the development of this report whose recommendations will, if implemented, deliver the paradigm shift needed in city climate finance.”

Graeme Sweeney, Trustee and Chairman of Climate Change Advisory Board, Children’s Investment Fund Foundation

“In a rapidly urbanizing world, how we design and build the cities of the future will be critical for achieving our ambitions for sustainable development. There is no question that enhanced access to finance for cities will be critical. The State of City Climate Finance Report adds a valuable perspective on the key climate finance challenges and opportunities faced by cities.”

Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility

“More than 90 percent of urban growth is happening in cities in developing countries, offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build livable, low-carbon cities…. The World Bank and its partners are providing the tools and funding – over US$3 billion last year – necessary to build climate-smart cities. We applaud the CCFLA for this first-of-its-kind report, and look forward to working with other CCFLA members to overcome these challenges, improving peoples’ lives and protecting their future.”

Ede Iijas-Vasquez, Senior Director, Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice, World Bank

“The Report sends a clear message: at present urban areas are not receiving their fair share of climate finance. If we want the city of the future to be low-carbon and climate-resilient, we need to find ways to channel adequate financial resources to our cities and human settlements.”

Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

“Imagine removing the barriers to finally bringing finance to the picture and you will see the rapid deployment of clean energy projects that will improve the global economy, lower emissions and provide new jobs. The role of subnational governments is more important than ever, and California has shown that state and regional governments can institute policies that will grow the green economy, create jobs and clean our environment.”

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Founder and Chair, R20 –Regions of Climate Action

“Cities are a key player in tackling the sustainability challenges faced by Latin America and the Caribbean. Development banks such as the IDB are helping instil innovation in the public and private sectors, improving lives in cities.”

Amal-Lee Amin, Climate Change and Sustainability Division Chief, Inter-American Development Bank

“Mayors are committed to climate action, and a third of the remaining ‘safe’ carbon budget will be determined by urban policy decisions, but lack of finance is a major barrier to fulfilling their full emission-reduction potential. C40 welcomes this important report for highlighting the challenges that cities face, but also for laying out the practical actions needed to support the world’s mayors to realise their visions of sustainable, low-carbon and resilient cities.”

Mark Watts, Executive Director, C40 –Cities of Climate Action
“ICLEI’s ground-breaking Transformative Actions Program and the Local Government Climate Roadmap act to catalyze public and private investment in low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure, and we look forward to working with our CCFLA partners and the finance community to ensure that the trillions of dollars of annual city investment in infrastructure is low-carbon development.”

Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

“The 2015 State of City Climate Finance report makes a valuable contribution to the current global discussion and rightly points to the opportunity for cities to lead the world towards a sustainable future, making important policy suggestions to improve the flow of financing to low-emission, climate resilient urban infrastructure. As such, it compliments the commitment for enhanced sub-national financing made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which forms a key means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Commonwealth Local Government Forum will work with its partners in CCFLA to implement the report’s policy recommendations: this will be critical for all our members, but especially those in the many Commonwealth small island developing states, which are in the forefront of the impact of climate change and rising sea levels.”

Carl Wright, Secretary-General, Commonwealth Local Government Forum

“Cities are increasingly concerned by the challenge posed by climate change to the health, safety, cost and quality of life for their citizens. This report by CCFLA illuminates the infrastructure investment gap and major barriers that must be overcome in order for cities to invest in low-carbon, next generation infrastructure.”

Lance Pierce, President, Carbon Disclosure Project North America

“While during COP21 Local Governments are recognized for the first time as key actors to face climate change, this publication will help to better understand the challenges and opportunities addressed to mobilize the necessary resources to engage actions to develop a low-carbon economy and invest in climate resilient infrastructure at local level. FMDV believes that this first CCFLA report will serve as a milestone in the construction of a productive dialogue amongst its members and partners.”

Jean-François Habeau, Executive Director, FMDV

“As cities are key in addressing and responding to the challenges of climate change, it is our hope that this publication will further help them to access climate financing. We at Cities Development Initiative for Asia look forward to assisting many more cities in prioritizing and preparing feasible urban infrastructure investments which can benefit from climate financing.”

Joris van Etten, GIZ Program Coordinator, Cities Development Initiative for Asia

“Climate finance comes in many different forms -- what our cities really need for investment in climate and health is an enabling environment. I call on cities to combine climate and air pollution control -- by investing in activities like reducing soot from heavy duty diesel vehicles and buses, and control methane release from landfills in order to improve air quality and avoid warming. We welcome the timely recommendations of the State of City Climate Finance report and look forward to contributing to the CCFLA efforts.”

Helena Molin Valdes, Head of Secretariat, Climate and Clean Air Coalition

"Generating the trillions needed for future urban infrastructure is an enormous, yet achievable, challenge. This inaugural report directs us towards the innovative financing mechanisms that will be integral to how our major population centers fund their responses to climate change.”

Sean Kidney, CEO, Climate Bonds Initiative

“The study takes an important first step toward understanding how much, where, how and from whom finance is flowing to support low-carbon and climate resilient urban development. As our Climate Finance Landscape reports have shown since 2011, proper measurement, tracking, and reporting of climate finance lays the foundation for efficient and impactful investments by public and private actors.”

Barbara Buchner, Senior Director, Climate Policy Initiative

"There is a strong need for an independent voluntary standard which allows for the sustainability and resilience of infrastructure projects to be objectively evaluated. This would also serve to establish a bridge between internal sustainability management and access to sources of finance, such as private investors, impact investors and multilateral development banks.”

Hans-Peter Egler, CEO, Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation

"Cities are critical for tackling the challenge of climate change. This new report underscores the importance of tracking the flows of climate finance and unlocking investment for creating low-carbon, climate-resilient cities.”

Holger Dalkmann, Director, Strategy and Global Policy, Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, World Resources Institute