**SEIZING THE URBAN OPPORTUNITY: INDIA**
*Mobilising national missions to unleash the full potential of Climate Smart Cities*

**National Priorities for Action for India**

* **India’s cities are economic powerhouses**, contributing 63% of GDP in 2011 and a projected 75% by 2030. The country is also urbanising quickly, with 34% of its people living in urban areas as of 2018, and almost 53% expected to by 2050.
* **Yet it faces daunting challenges** which include providing decent housing, public services and job opportunities for many in a short time, and to do so both equitably and sustainably. India also urgently needs to build climate resilience. Climate change is exacerbating what is already a daunting water crisis and heat waves in several cities have created deadly conditions. Floods are another growing threat, with coastal cities in particular peril.
* **Several major national programmes are already helping India’s cities become more resilient, sustainable and inclusive**, including the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) Housing for All scheme, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Transformation, and the Smart Cities Mission, which harnesses technology to drive growth and improve city services. The ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework is another particularly powerful tool that allows cities to assess their own vulnerabilities and potential for climate action on everything from energy, to green cover, to waste management.
* **This is a pivotal time for India**. New analysis for the Coalition shows that India’s urban footprint expanded by 9,822 km2 between 2000 and 2014 – about 1.5 times the size of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Through large-scale investments and innovative projects, the “missions” described above offer key entry points for urban transformation. Moreover, India’s government has also pledged to mobilise up to $2 trillion in public and private finance through a National Infrastructure Pipeline, with thousands of projects.
* **The report highlights numerous opportunities for action in India**, which include:
	+ **Aligning national infrastructure and urban development** policies, programmes and investments with the vision of ClimateSmart Cities.
	+ **Scaling up energy efficiency initiatives** and incorporating clean energy and efficient technologies in housing and other urban programmes.
	+ **Supporting local governments** – especially small and mid-sized cities – to help them drive urban transformation.
	+ **Stepping up investments** in sustainable transport, prioritising the urban poor.
* **Successful implementation of the report’s solutions** could result in:
	+ **89% fewer GHG emissions** from urban buildings, transport and waste by 2050
	+ **Economic returns of $1.6 trillion** by 2050
	+ **8.2 million new jobs** in 2030