



Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM37.7	ACTION			Ward: All
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United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - by Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to convene an ad hoc working group which includes the Chair of the Planning and Housing Committee and the Chair of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee to explore having the City of Toronto host a future United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in our City.
2. City Council direct that the ad hoc working group referenced in Recommendation 1 above, once established, would assess and identify processes and merits with respect to submitting an application to host the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, engage with representatives of the Government of Canada and identify individuals and partners who could participate in this process, establish a timeline for preparation of a submission and identify the year for which an application is to be submitted.
3. City Council direct the City Manager to provide an update on progress with respect to this direction to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee by the first quarter of 2022.

Summary

The 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) will take place in Glasgow, Scotland from October 31, 2021 to November 12, 2021.

The COP26 summit will convene parties from across the world to accelerate meaningful action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The four main goals of the Glasgow Conference are to:

1. Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach;
2. Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats;

3. Mobilize finance; and
4. Work together to deliver.

It is recognized that climate change represents a significant threat to the world and the impacts of climate change are increasing more rapidly than ever before. This reality also poses a significant threat to housing and secure communities for people across the world. Many areas lack resilience or truly secure housing and as a result are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as flooding, severe and extreme weather and the associated effects of unprecedented storms and climate activity.

The City of Toronto has approved and is implementing some of the most significant actions to combat climate change of any municipality. TransformTO, the Net Zero Strategy and action on greenhouse gas emissions mark our considerable commitment to action.

In view of Toronto's leadership on climate change action and the City's recognized profile across the world, it would be appropriate to convene an ad hoc working group to explore the merits and possibility of hosting a future United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in our City utilizing the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat's guide and directions for cities submitting applications.

The ad hoc working group would consider the merits of potentially hosting a climate change conference in Toronto and if determined to be appropriate then identify processes with respect to submitting an application to host the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties, identify individuals and partners who could participate in this process and establish a timeline for preparation of a submission and identify the year for which an application is to be submitted.

This would be an excellent opportunity for the City of Toronto to demonstrate leadership in terms of progress in combatting climate change and to promote Toronto as a host City for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change conference.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM37.7

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-172623.pdf>)