



Statement
of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) Secretariat
Director General Grzegorz M. Poznański
to the XVI General Conference
of the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)

Online, 29.10.2021

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on the 30th Anniversary of the Union of the Baltic Sea States – strategic partner of the CBSS! And my warm regards to the chairman! Mantas – I miss Kaunas very much! I just came from St. Petersburg, where I know, they are waiting to organise physical UBC conference.

Dear Colleagues,

In June 2021, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and High Representatives of the Council of the Baltic Sea States adopted the Vilnius II Declaration – a Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2030. In this Declaration they have inter alia:

- Expressed satisfaction, that “despite complex global and regional challenges, region accomplished successful achievements, thanks to practical dialogue and practical collaboration on various levels” – such as the level of the cities in the region – that refers directly to the UBC work;
- Envisaged that by 2030 region will have strong multilevel governance structure and complement system of cooperation networks.

Effective achievement of the goals of the CBSS – like sustainable and prosperous region, safe and secure region or building of our distinctive Baltic regional identity – requires effective involvement and collaboration of all levels of governance in the Baltic Sea Region.



In XXI century, cities hold more and more prominent roles, especially by becoming centres of development and innovation, true driving forces of building sustainable economy and sustainable life models. Strong alliances in our Baltic cities are created between local authorities, universities and research communities, innovative businesses and thriving civil societies.

All this, to no surprise, brings together organisations like the CBSS and the UBC. Allow me to thank the UBC for excellent collaboration in many areas and projects! One of the great examples of such collaboration is the CASCADE project, for which the XV UBC General Conference provided a platform for the first transnational dialogue. Now the project's results are recognised at all levels – from local to the United Nations. Most recently, a global initiative “Making Cities Resilient 2030” took the CASCADE toolbox to be used by many members of this initiative.

Dear Friends,

Together we aim at building our Region safer, more sustainable and climate-friendly, with a strong sense of regional identity and culture, which will contribute to the achievement of our goals – in the cities and in the Region. I strongly hope that future collaborations between the CBSS and the UBC will be even more numerous and systematic.

Thank you for your attention!

collaboration