

Messages to the G20, COP10 CBD, COP16 UNFCCC

Reminding that the accelerated rate of urbanization, particularly in emerging economies and developing countries, increasingly concentrates decision-making and resources in cities, herewith also creating new demands as well as opportunities to ensure a green, eco-efficient and resilient management of our global resources;

Acknowledging that local governments play a critical role in managing urban development, improving urban infrastructure, providing municipal services to citizens, land-use management and zoning, promoting investments and change of consumer behavior, all of which directly influence green growth and low carbon societies;

Emphasizing our long track record in supporting and engaging citizens, businesses, research and other stakeholders to achieve local sustainability and that we are - more than ever - committed to enhance partnerships with national governments on global agendas related to green economy and sustainable development;

We, leaders and decision-makers of cities and local governments gathering at Future of Cities - ICLEI's 20th Anniversary Congress, 5-7 October 2010, Incheon, Republic of Korea, unite on these messages:

TO THE G20 MEETING IN SEOUL ON 11-12 NOVEMBER 2010

1. Local governments call upon the strongest twenty economies to make bold agreements on the delivery of a global, more sustainable and balanced economic recovery and development, including regulations on global financial markets;
2. Our economies need to be greened through a process of reconfiguring businesses and infrastructure that will deliver better returns on natural, human and economic capital investments, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions, extracting and using less natural resources, creating less waste and reducing social disparities;
3. Rather than investing in energy-intensive industries, priority investments should be made or supported in such economic sectors that foster or protect the ecological capital and help to decouple production and consumption from resource and material intensity. This is pivotal to secure and increase jobs as well as to achieve more global eco-efficiency;
4. Local governments request that their roles and experiences in fostering sustainable development would be stronger recognized at international level as well as supported through national decisions, policies, strategies and resources;
5. Local governments request to be supported in new green economic initiatives, such as cooperative clean energy solution and security strategies, eco- and energy efficiencies in transport, industry, buildings and equipment (including in households), decentralized renewable energy infrastructure including solar, wind, geothermal, and bio-energy, smart grids, and low-carbon technologies in city planning;

TO THE COP10 CBD MEETING IN NAGOYA ON 23-26 OCTOBER 2010

1. Current patterns of resource consumption in urban areas affect our ecosystems globally; at the same time, important municipal services, such as healthy catchments for water supply and purification, depend on well-functioning ecosystems;
2. Local governments are committed to preserve and improve the biodiversity in their own territory; they are committed to use their long track record in supporting, engaging, linking citizens and businesses to secure biodiversity and to further raise the awareness of their citizens and businesses as well as to foster exchange of experiences among cities world-wide;
3. Local governments call upon all other levels of government and supra-national actors to provide enabling framework conditions since many pressures are beyond local scope, however, not their consequences or impacts;

4. Local governments welcome the COP 9 Decision IX/28 on the role of cities and local authorities in actions on biodiversity and that promotes the engagement of cities and local authorities in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
5. Local governments request that the COP 9 Decision IX/28 is consolidated through the Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity to be proposed for adoption at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya.

TO THE COP16 UNFCCC MEETING IN CANCUN ON 29 NOV. – 10 DEC. 2010

1. The global negotiations under COP15 in Copenhagen did not deliver a strong, comprehensive and global post 2012 climate agreement as was hoped for by local governments; the current national pledges made by Parties under the Copenhagen Accord are –collectively- not sufficient to limit global warming to the objective of 2°C increase;
2. Since 1992, local governments have partnered with stakeholders to show leadership and act on climate change locally. They have publicly affirmed the importance of urgent climate action and have set GHG emission reduction targets at local level. They have adopted local climate action plans to reduce GHG emissions and combined this with efforts to adapt and build resilience to climate change. They have implemented world-wide measures in public transportation, energy efficiency and renewable energy, urban planning, waste and water management practices, biodiversity and the preservation of carbon sinks;
3. Local governments request that their role is recognized in future international climate agreements and decisions and that their active involvement is supported to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the existing UNFCCC Convention and its Kyoto Protocol through long-term cooperative action now, up to and beyond 2012; in particularly local governments request that:
 - The “Shared Vision for Long-term Cooperative Action” must recognize and include local and regional governments as key governmental stakeholders in climate mitigation and adaptation;
 - The “Enhanced action on mitigation” must include all levels of government to minimize negative impacts of climate change both in developed countries and in developing countries;
 - Under “Adaptation”, local and regional governments must be included as key governmental stakeholders for implementation of adaptation actions, both in developed countries and in developing countries;
 - The definition and funding of “Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAS)” by developing country Parties must include projects and programs at the local and regional level that combat climate change;
 - Under “Financing”, developing countries should be provided with long-term, scaled-up and new additional assistance to implement urgent, short, medium and long-term adaptation actions, programs and projects at local, regional and national level;
 - The “Enhanced action on technology and innovation”, as well as the identification of technology needs should be guided by the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC, the principle of learning by doing, the best available science and the broad participation of stakeholders at national, local and community levels;
 - Under “Capacity building”, local, sub-national, national or regional capacities, skills, capabilities and institutions must be strengthened to address emerging capacity-building needs, particularly those related to the enhanced implementation of the UNFCCC;
 - City-to city cooperation on climate mitigation and adaptation must become a fundamental part of the implementation of capacity building and should receive appropriate direct funding;
 - The provisions of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) should be revised and capacity of local governments increased so that they have a better access to global carbon financing.