Cities, regions come to Montréal, push forward urban sustainability

22 June 2018 – Over 1,000 representatives from local and regional governments, international agencies, the private sector, academics, researchers, community groups convened at the ICLEI World Congress 2018 in the heart of the Ville de Montréal from 19 - 22 June.

The event featured over 50 thematic sessions, speeches and talks from city leaders like and national representatives, including:

- Valérie Plante, Mayor of Montréal
- Ashok Sridharan, Mayor of Bonn and President of ICLEI
- William Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh
- Mauricio Rodas, Mayor of Quito
- Isabelle Mélançon, Minister of Sustainable Development, the Environment and the Fight Against Climate Change in Canada
- Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany

It was the largest global gathering of local and regional leaders dedicated to sustainable urban development this year.

Key outcomes

The UN Environment Principles for Sustainable Insurance Initiative and ICLEI launched the Insurance Industry Development Goals for Cities to set the global agenda for insurance and risk management and cities. These goals represent a major opportunity for the insurance industry to work with local governments around the world to manage risk up front and ahead of disasters.

ICLEI, The Nature Conservancy and the International Union for Conservation launched CitiesWithNature, a first-of-its-kind global networking and reporting platform for subnational biodiversity commitments. This initiative will ramp up action and information around nature-based development in cities globally, ahead of the next Biodiversity Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Sharm El-Sheikh.
ICLEI issued a global call to action on city climate neutrality calling on local and regional governments worldwide to set mid-century climate neutrality targets in municipal infrastructure and operations. This call to action, supported by UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa, is ahead of the Paris goal to hit climate neutrality post-2050.

For more information, visit worldcongress2018.iclei.org/

Quotes

Valerie Plante, Mayor of Montréal, Canada: “The ICLEI World Congress 2018 is a chance for the ICLEI network to collectively show what the future holds. It is a forum for us to discover innovative ideas and solutions, forge new partnerships – and then apply some fresh creativity to our own sustainability strategies at home.”

Ashok Sridharan, Mayor of Bonn and President of ICLEI: “By convening in Montréal and directing our joint path, we set an important marker in our efforts to build the sustainable urban future which ICLEI envisions for all citizens of this world. We are determined to leave no one behind.”

Gino Van Begin, ICLEI Secretary General: “In our urban era, the way cities and their surrounding regions grow, develop and change will play a decisive role in global development.”

About the host

Metropolis of Québec and major Canadian city, Montréal is a key center for innovation and knowledge, and is known for its quality of life and its vibrant blend of cultures and languages. A leader in the field of sustainable development thanks to its determined governance, its policies and its transferrable initiatives, Montréal was selected to host the ICLEI World Congress 2018. Having set the ambitious goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050, the city is also a leader in climate action. This Francophone metropolis of the Americas, also aims to integrate sustainable development principles in all its activities, projects and policies.

About ICLEI

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is the leading global network of more than 1,500 cities, towns and regions committed to building a sustainable future.

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