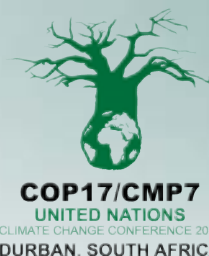


Local governments at the UNFCCC COP17/CMP7:

Urbanising the climate agenda

Highlights and key outcomes

28 November – 9 December 2011
Durban, South Africa





FOREWORD

David Cadman, President of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

As the voice of local governments at all key UN climate meetings since 1995, ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability was pleased to collaborate with a strong South African Local Government Partnership to organise the “Durban Local Government Convention: Adapting to a Changing Climate” in the historic City Hall of Durban – a high level parallel platform to the UNFCCC COP17/CMP7, and to partner with a wide spectrum of international agencies to effectively raise the profile, importance and commitment of local government and sub-national government climate action.

History was made at the Durban Local Government Convention when over 100 Mayors and other elected local leaders from around the world joined me and Mayor James Nxumalo in signing the Durban Adaptation Charter, a political commitment to strengthen local resilience to climate change.

The Durban Adaptation Charter complements the “Global Cities Covenant on Climate - the Mexico City Pact” and carbonn Cities Climate Registry through which cities and other local governments measure, report and verify their GHG emissions reductions, climate mitigation and adaptation actions. This momentous Adaptation Charter, together with the Mexico City Pact, spearheads collective and decisive local climate action.

The spirit of Africa, the dedication and the commitment of our South African and global partners at all levels and the fruitful dialogue with numerous partners have ensured that the local government constituency was highly mobilized, engaged and connected at COP17/CMP7.

I congratulate and thank all partners for their contributions, efforts and resources that made our collective actions in Durban possible.

James Nxumalo, Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, South Africa

At the end of 2011, Durban had the privilege of hosting COP17/CMP7. By many accounts, the event was a huge success, with the negotiations advancing the implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, the Bali Action Plan and the Cancun Agreements. The outcomes also included a decision by Parties to adopt a universal legal agreement on climate change as soon as possible, and no later than 2015.

While much of this is encouraging, we as cities and local governments know that these commitments may ultimately be too little too late. We are already seeing the impact that climate change is having on our communities, and now more than ever, we need to use our unique position, close to the people we serve, to respond urgently to these challenges.

In this regard, COP17/CMP7 was another significant moment for local governments. While 2010 saw local governments committing to greenhouse gas emissions reductions through the signing of the Global Covenant on Climate Change, the Durban Local Government Convention that was held during COP17/CMP7 saw the signing of the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC) by 114 Mayors, representing 950 local and sub-national governments worldwide. The DAC marks a critical moment in the climate change debate by acknowledging the importance of adaptation as part of the response to climate change and in committing cities to find ways to demonstrate how this can be achieved.

As local governments, let us build on COP17/CMP7 and continue to allow our voices to be heard, so that we create the opportunity for a more positive future for ourselves and future generations.



The UNFCCC COP17/CMP7 took place in Durban, South Africa.

The UNFCCC COP17/CMP7 Durban Climate Change Conference



The 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP17/CMP7) was held in Durban, South Africa, from 28 November to 11 December 2011 and involved a series of events, including the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 7).

The need to secure a new global climate regime was made more urgent at COP17/CMP7 by the upcoming expiry of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (2008-2012), but the event was also intended to build on the Cancun Agreements of 2010 in the field of forest protection, climate finance, greening of economies and cooperation on clean technology.

About the UNFCCC and COP

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is a global environmental treaty intended to combat rising levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the resulting changes in the climate system. The UNFCCC was adopted at the Rio de Janeiro "Earth Summit" in 1992 and, every year since, its Parties have met in Conferences of the Parties (COP) to negotiate solutions to the global climate change issue. See www.unfccc.int for more.

COP17/CMP7 breakthroughs:

- Nations agreed to adopt, by the latest in 2015, a new legally binding regime in which all nations will be included in both mitigation and adaptation actions.
- Nations are building up on a parallel decision to start a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol as of 1 January 2013.
- The agreement of a number of decisions at the institutional level, including commencing the operation of the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Committee.

While nations rallied together in the final hours for a deal, cities already demonstrated their commitment to measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) climate action at COP17/CMP7 by:

- adopting the Durban Adaptation Charter,
- increasing the number of city-signatories to the Mexico City Pact,
- and through the release of the carbonn Cities Climate Registry 2011 Annual Report.

The Mexico City Pact and carbonn Cities Climate Registry

The Global Cities Covenant on Climate - the Mexico City Pact and the carbonn Cities Climate Registry are the two outcomes of the World Mayors Summit on Climate held in Mexico City on 21 November 2010. The Annual Report of the Mexico City Pact compiles progress achieved by cities one year after they signed. The 2011 Annual Report of cCCR compiles 107 climate and energy commitments, 447 million tCO₂e/yr community emissions and 555 actions by 51 cities from 19 countries. The reports are available at www.mexicocitypact.org and www.citiesclimateresistry.org



The Local Government Climate Roadmap

"The Durban Outcomes are a significant step forward to bring the deniers of the Kyoto Protocol back around the table and free countries of their hostage held by oil and coal lobbies. This is important to save our today, but too little and possibly too late to save our tomorrow. There is indeed a dangerous gap between now and 2020 which is the most critical period to ensure a global transition to low-emission, climate-resilient development. It is now urgent and more than ever necessary to mobilize and support the ambitious climate actions of local governments who have been zooming past nations."

Gino van Begin, Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability



Gino van Begin, ICLEI Deputy Secretary General and Martha Delgado, Minister of Environment for Mexico City during a press conference at COP17/CMP7.

As countries negotiated a follow-up to the Kyoto Protocol at the UNFCCC COP17/CMP7 in Durban, South Africa during November/December 2011, local governments were there to demonstrate their leadership in finding local climate solutions - and to ensure that cities are recognized, engaged and empowered in the global agreements.

The **Local Government Climate Roadmap**, the coalition for global climate advocacy of local governments and their networks since Bali 2007 (COP13/CMP3), aims to ensure that this recognition is fully reflected into practice.

See www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap for more on this initiative.

The recognition of local and sub-national governments as **governmental stakeholders** in the agreement of the Cancun climate conference in 2010 (COP16/CMP6) marked a historical opportunity to mobilise the full potential of local and sub-national action on climate mitigation and adaptation.

This was driven forward at COP17/CMP7 through a range of local government positions that collectively called upon the UNFCCC Parties to '**urbanise the climate agenda**'.



Representatives from the cities of Cape Town, South Africa (Cllr Walker); Copenhagen, Denmark (Deputy Mayor Baykal) and Brussels, Belgium (Minister Huytebroeck) engage at a local government session in Durban.

"Clearly we have success when we create cooperation between different stakeholders, national delegations and local authority networks. Cooperation is the road to winning the fight against climate change."

Ronan Dantec, Chair of the Climate Negotiating Group of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and Comprehensive
Post - 2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Durban 2011
UNFCCC COP17

Cancún 2010
UNFCCC COP16

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP15

www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap

The Durban Local Government Convention: Adapting to a changing climate - towards COP17/CMP7 and beyond

Preparing for the Convention: The Climate Change Learning Exchange



The CCLE allowed for in-depth discussion and sharing of experiences of how cities are addressing climate change.



Participants had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the nuances in the climate change arena.



Participants hailed from 14 countries such as Senegal, Thailand, Zambia, Mozambique, Germany and France.



Expert panellists from eThekweni Municipality and ICLEI Africa.

A learning exchange on climate change and how cities respond was held from 30 November – 1 December 2011 at the Durban City Hall in preparation towards the global “Durban Local Government Convention: adapting to a changing climate – towards COP17/CMP7 and beyond”.

The event, entitled, the “Climate Change Learning Exchange” was designed specifically for municipal officials, politicians and other senior decision-makers involved in local government as an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the nuances in the climate change arena.

Approximately 120 delegates from Africa and elsewhere attended the event hosted by the eThekweni Municipality in partnership with CEFEB, the Training arm of Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD). Participants hailed from 14 countries such as Senegal, Nigeria, Thailand, Zambia, Mozambique, Germany and France; whilst the event was web-streamed live internationally from the Durban City Hall.



“The only way that we as local government can respond effectively to the climate change challenges is to work together, share experiences and learn from each other. This exchange is a good opportunity to learn how other cities have responded to these challenges”. *Nomvuso Shabalala, Deputy Mayor of eThekweni Municipality welcomed delegates and stressed the urgency for the need to respond to climate change now.*

Key highlights

- Presentations of concrete strategies and real examples of how cities are already addressing mitigation and adaptation climate change challenges, including eThekweni Municipality (South Africa) and Walvis Bay Municipality (Namibia).
- Interactive expert panel discussions on ‘Adapting effectively to climate change’.
- An information session on COP17/CMP7, the role of local government, and preparation for the Durban Local Government Convention.
- A site visit to eThekweni Municipality’s Buffelsdraai Landfill Site, where the Buffelsdraai Landfill Site Community Reforestation Project was featured.

The Durban Local Government Convention

Adapting to a changing climate -

The South African Government, through the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), South African Cities Network (SACN), eThekweni Municipality and the Department of Environmental Affairs partnered with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in hosting the Durban Local Government Convention: adapting to a changing climate – towards COP17/CMP7 and beyond from 2-4 December 2011 at the Durban City Hall in Durban, South Africa.



ICLEI – Local governments for Sustainability has been acting as the focal point of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency to the UNFCCC since 1995, and has been leading the Local Government Climate Roadmap process since 2007. The SA Department of Environmental Affairs, as the leader of the South African Government delegation to the UNFCCC, and its local government partners recognized the need to mobilize the participation of local governments in the COP17/CMP7 through this important partnership.



The Convention attracted widespread attention and saw more than 700 registrations from over 53 countries.

Adapting where the rubber hits the road – the pivotal role of local government in addressing the climate challenge

The Durban Local Government Convention was strategically timed to take place during the UNFCCC COP17/CMP7 in Durban. Building on the recognition of local governments as governmental stakeholders in the Cancun Agreement, local and sub-national governments and their associations convened to elaborate on the outcomes of the Resilient Cities 2011 Congress, focusing on understanding and improving the profile of adaptation as a critical tool in achieving local developmental and sustainability objectives.

This major COP17/CMP7 international event focused primarily on the agenda of the local governments from Africa and the global south – with a strong emphasis on climate adaptation and resilience and brought together key stakeholders from a wide range of sectors.

Advancing new partnerships across the globe

The event was supported by over 25 Convention endorsing partners, bringing together global, regional and national partners, regional programmes, government and non-government partners, civil society, scientists and experts, development aid agencies, development banks and business and corporate partners.

The Durban Local Government Convention successfully drew attention to the global significance of consolidated local climate action, especially in the global south, and fostered support from a wide range of organisations and institutions.

Durban Local Government Convention facts and figures

The Convention attracted widespread attention from around the globe and saw:

- 750 registrations over 3 days,
- from over 53 countries,
- including more than 50 international and regional organisations,
- engaging in more than 20 plenary and technical session presentations.



Advancing global partnerships - KS Norway and SALGA making strides at the event.



The Durban Local Government Convention was strategically timed to take place during the UNFCCC COP17/CMP7 with a strong focus on climate adaptation.

Government Convention: towards COP17/CMP7 and beyond

Programme highlights

The Convention saw the participation of a number of high level dignitaries and special guest speakers, addressing the many key issues presented at this international event, particularly the critical role of local governments in the implementation of climate action.

High level international speakers included:

- The Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, Christiana Figueres.
- The Executive Secretary to the UNCCD, Luc Gnacadja.
- The Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Rajendra Pachauri.
- The Executive Director of Greenpeace, Kumi Naidoo.
- Vice President of Sustainable Development from the World Bank, Rachel Kyte.
- Experts from IIED, The World Food Programme, UN-Habitat, IUCN, UNDP Africa Adaptation Programme, UNEP, UNISDR, the World Bank, the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN), Universities and many more.
- President of the First Standing Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Saber Chowdury.
- High level representatives from cities worldwide such as Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Delhi, Lagos, Copenhagen and Johannesburg, as well as networks like KS Norway, UCLG, nrg4sd and many more.



The Vice-President for the World Bank's Sustainable Development Programme chaired a session with Mayors from across the world.

Prominent representatives from South Africa played a key role in the programme, including:

- The President of the Republic of South Africa, HE Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, supported by a number of Ministers, including the Ministries of Water and Environmental Affairs, International Relations and Cooperation and COP17/CMP7 President, Science and Technology, Home Affairs, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.
- The Mayor of Durban (eThekweni Municipality), James Nxumalo.
- The Chair of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and Executive Mayor of Mangaung Municipality, South Africa: Thabo Manyoni and many more.



Christiana Figueres, UNFCCC Executive Secretary during the official Convention opening plenary.

"Congratulations (local governments) on what you have already done... but I know you want to do more and you are showing other levels of government what can be done."

Christina Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC



Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the IPCC alluded to the pivotal role of local governments in climate adaptation during a keynote address.

"There is no better place to start than local government."

Rajendra Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



Pres. Jacob Zuma was joined by 6 Ministers from his cabinet during the Convention opening plenary.

"Municipalities in the developing world must not wait for surprise flooding, extreme drought or fires – we need to start investigating today for a safer tomorrow by prioritizing the establishment of disaster management structures across all spheres of government." *Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa during the opening plenary of the Durban Local Government Convention.*

The Durban Local Government Convention

Adapting to a changing climate -

Over the two and half days, the Convention saw many key highlights and special sessions, including:

- An exclusive 'High Level Mayoral Segment' hosted in the Durban Council Chambers, facilitated by ICLEI and the World Mayors Council on Climate Change.
- A dedicated 'Science Reference Group' providing expert input into the Convention content and its main outcome, the Durban Adaptation Charter.
- A range of high level plenary addresses, as well as interactive plenary discussion panels.
- Pioneering local solutions city case studies presented by Mayors and local government heads from across the world.
- Technical breakaway sessions including expert panels and interactive discussions.
- A Mayoral signing ceremony, seeing 114 Mayors publically signing and endorsing the Durban Adaptation Charter, representing over 950 local governments across the world.
- Key closing remarks and input from various UNFCCC Parties and Observer Constituencies on the outcomes of the Convention.
- A 'Gala Dinner' event hosted by eThekweni Municipality on 2 December, as well as a 'Convention Networking Cocktail Dinner' on 3 December hosted by SALGA and Ekurhuleni Municipality.
- A special feature on the Rockefeller Foundation supported- Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) – sharing the ACCCRN framework, processes, methods, and tools that cities are employing to build climate change resilience.
- A plenary session video and panel discussion hosted by the World Bank 'Mayors Task Force on Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and the Urban Poor'.

Interactive technical sessions and climate perspectives

The Durban Local Government Convention included a number of technical breakaway sessions which allowed for thematic discussions of overarching points related to social dimensions, economic and infrastructure implications, governance requirements, implementation needs and likely hazards. Break away themes included:

- Risks and vulnerabilities
- Green infrastructure and economic opportunities
- Energy-food-water nexus
- Food security and climate change in cities
- Climate change in cities: nature's solutions
- Greening infrastructure: planning and design

The Science Reference Group

The Science Reference Group (SRG) was a small group of global and African scientists with expertise in the fields of climate change, socio-economic development and urban planning and development. The purpose of the SRG towards and during the Durban Local Government Convention was to assist and inform the deliberations taking place in the plenary and thematic sessions and to provide expert input into the development of the position statement of the Convention, the Durban Adaptation Charter.



Mayors deliberating during the exclusive "High Level Mayoral Segment".



Pioneering local city solutions were shared by Mayors from across the world.



Technical break away sessions allowed for in-depth and innovative discussions.

Government Convention: towards COP17/CMP7 and beyond



114 Mayors and other elected local leaders from 28 countries signed the Durban Adaptation Charter.

Local leaders taking innovative and united climate action!

The Durban Local Government Convention resulted in the formulation of a number of tangible outcomes, demonstrating the commitment of local governments to act now, whilst directly providing key input into the UNFCCC COP17/CMP7 negotiations:

The Durban Adaptation Charter

History was made on the concluding day of the Convention, as

- 114 Mayors and other elected local leaders,
- from 28 countries,
- representing over 950 local governments from around the world,
- came together in the signing of the main outcome of the event - the Durban Adaptation Charter, a political commitment to strengthen local resilience to climate change.

Mayors, governors and chairs of local government associations from as far afield as Bangkok, Thailand, to Copenhagen, Denmark, from Johannesburg, South Africa, to Quito, Ecuador and many more made this ground-breaking local government commitment towards urgent, decisive measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) climate commitments. Through their national associations, large numbers of local governments from Tanzania, Norway, Namibia, Mauritius, Nigeria and South Africa were also joined in supporting this Charter. See www.iclei.org/africa for more on the Durban Adaptation Charter and the list of signatories.

By signing the Charter, local governments have committed to unprecedented levels of local climate action to:

- mainstream adaptation as a key informant of all local government development planning.
- ensure that adaptation strategies are aligned with mitigation strategies.
- promote the use of adaptation that recognizes the needs of vulnerable communities and ensure sustainable local economic development.
- prioritize the role of functioning ecosystems as core municipal green infrastructure.
- seek innovative funding mechanisms, etc.

The Durban Adaptation Charter is one of the few practical and positive things that comes out of this entire COP and this meeting should have been in the center of COP.” *Kumi Naidoo, Executive Director of Green Peace International*



Kumi Naidoo, Executive Director of Greenpeace International praised the Durban Adaptation Charter and emphasised the importance of local climate action.



Mayors from as far as San Francisco in the Philippines to Saint Louis in Senegal signed the Charter.

First ever dedicated Cities Day at the Rio Conventions Pavilion



Rio Conventions
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AGENCE FRANÇAISE
DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Climate smart cities: Local governments planning with nature

For the first time, a full day at the Rio Pavilion was dedicated to cities and local governments at the UNFCCC COP17/ CMP7 in Durban in December 2011. It was coordinated by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, a partner of the Rio Pavilion, in partnership with Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and UN-Habitat.

At the Cities Day leaders from international cities, including Johannesburg, Copenhagen, Durban, Mexico City, Cape Town, Quito and Buenos Aires, explored local issues arising from increased urbanisation. Discussions focused on the need for urban design solutions and integrated urban planning to improve resilience and green cities. This includes the necessity of participatory and inclusive urban planning, incorporating disaster risk management, and basing activities on well researched science to develop effective policies.

One of the sessions took the form of a networking platform where organisations could share valuable information with the focus on cutting-edge tools, products and approaches to enhance ecosystem planning and management in local governments. The Cities Day ended off with a celebratory 'Happy Cities' cocktail function with closing remarks from the partners after the great success of the event.

As cities continue to grow in size, with the expectation that by 2100, 90% of the world's population will be living in cities, the important role that local governments play in assisting nations to meet the targets of the Conventions is becoming increasingly recognised at the international level. Over the past few years cities have gained unprecedented support from national governments at the United Nations COP events. The 'Cities Day' at the Rio Pavilion builds on these gains made possible by organisations such as ICLEI, nrg4SD, UCLG, IUCN, UN-Habitat, leading international cities, the UN Conventions and other partners, to build global recognition for the critical role of cities.

The Rio Conventions' Pavilion is a platform that demonstrates the strong links and synergies between the three United Nations Conventions of Biological Diversity (CBD), Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Desertification (UNCCD). It enables information sharing about the latest practices and scientific findings on the co-benefits that can be realised through the alignment and implementation of the three Conventions.



The first session kicked off to a packed audience, including speakers from The Cirrus Group (a Climate Change and Natural Resources Practice); Thimphu City, Bhutan; UN-Habitat; City of Cape Town, South Africa and the City of Johannesburg, South Africa.



Fltr: Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; Quito, Ecuador and Copenhagen, Denmark participating in a panel discussion on "Cities Becoming Productive Producers: Planning Sustainably".

Tools for local governments & cities presented at the Rio Cities Day:

- ICLEI's Harmonised Emission Analysis Tool Plus (HEAT+), a web-based tool to calculate green-house gas and other emissions.
- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Manual for cities.
- Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns – GraBS, a planning support system for adaptation to climate change which identifies areas of risk.
- The South African Risk and Vulnerability Atlas (SARVA) pinpoints areas that are particularly vulnerable to factors such as climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty, etc.
- A South African example of a green livelihoods project to offset carbon emissions initiated by eThekweni Municipality.



ICLEI senior management from regional offices around the world launch the HEAT+ tool during Cities Day.



ICLEI President David Cadman with Cllr. Logie Naidoo, Speaker, eThekweni Municipality toast the successful Cities Day at the Happy Cities Reception event.

Recent milestones for local governments at the Rio Conventions:

UNFCCC COP13/CMP3, Bali, December 2007:

- Launch of Local Government Climate Roadmap.

CBD COP9, Bonn, May 2008:

- Local governments were recognized for the first time in an international multilateral environmental agreement when Decision IX/28 was adopted by the Parties to the CBD.

UNFCCC COP15/CMP5, Copenhagen, December 2009:

- The Local Government Climate Lounge, mobilizing a global local government delegation of more than 1200 representatives.

CBD COP10, Nagoya, October 2010:

- The City Biodiversity Summit, held in parallel to the CBD COP, resulted in the Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity, supporting Decision X/22.
- Decision X/22 was endorsed by the Parties to the CBD, which included the ground-breaking Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011–2020).
- Several official side events to the COP focused on local governments coordinated by ICLEI.
- Rio Pavilion event coordinated by ICLEI entitled 'Local Governments and Ecosystem Based Adaptation'.

UNFCCC COP 16/CMP6, Cancun, December 2010:

- The World Mayors Summit on Climate in Mexico City resulted in the Mexico City Pact.
- Local governments were recognised as 'Governmental Stakeholders' in global climate change efforts by the UNFCCC Parties.

UNCCD COP10, Changwon, October 2011:

- The importance of cities as highly populated areas in dry lands was discussed and presented by ICLEI during the Civil Society Organisation meetings.
- A session at the Rio Pavilion convened by ICLEI explored the role of cities in securing ecosystem services at the local level in the context of change.

UNFCCC COP17/CMP7, Durban, December 2011:

- The Durban Local Government Convention: adapting to a changing climate – towards COP17/CMP7 and beyond resulted in the signing of the Durban Adaptation Charter by more than 100 local governments, representing over 950 local governments worldwide.

Local governments at COP17/CMP7

Throughout the 2 weeks in Durban, local governments participated and engaged in a number of events, sessions and interventions, including:

- Daily briefings by the Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency led by ICLEI as the focal point.
- LGMA interventions at the official UNFCCC negotiations sessions, including the COP17/CMP7 high level segment.
- Sessions within the Climate Change Response Expo (CCR) including the Local Government Pavilion, the Rio Pavilion, the Climate Smart Cape Town Pavilion and many more. See www.ccrexpo.com for more.
- A range of side events, launches and press briefings hosted within the UNFCCC COP17/CMP7 precinct and surrounding areas.



The “Umkhanyakude” Local Government Pavilion provided a dedicated space for local governments at COP17/CMP7 and hosted many urban focused sessions within its auditorium.

The intervention of the LGMA Constituency at the joint high level segment of COP17/CMP7

As focal point to the LGMA Constituency to the UNFCCC, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, in collaboration with eThekweni Municipality, coordinated the LGMA intervention to the joint high level segment of COP17/CMP7 on Friday 9 December 2011. The input, delivered in an address by Mayor Nxumalo (eThekweni Municipality), included an invitation to the nations and global climate community to seize the opportunity presented by cities and local governments in turning the “talk” of global climate challenge into the “walk” of climate action.



The Climate Smart Cape Town Pavilion won the best outdoor and green stand in the CCR.

The Climate Smart Cape Town Pavilion won the best outdoor and best green stand in the Climate Change Response Expo. It was constructed out of 1,884 plastic milk crates and over 22,000 plastic milk bottles. Inside the Pavilion there were materials to highlight how the 28 Climate Smart Cape Town Coalition partners are finding ways to adapt and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The Climate Smart Cape Town Pavilion hosted a variety of events during the 12 days of COP17/CMP7. These included 10-minute PechaKucha presentations, panel discussions, report launches and a formal dinner for climate change funders.

See www.climatesmartcapetown.co.za for more.

Building low-carbon, climate-resilient cities as an essential element of global efforts

UNFCCC official side event hosted by ICLEI and Renmin University of China:

Local governments continued to demonstrate their global leadership and collaboration at the COP17/CMP7 negotiations through a jam packed side event on 6 December 2011, demonstrating worldwide progress on low carbon city development and adaptation in particular for cities of the global south.

The event provided a platform to present the outcomes and progress on the Durban Local Government Convention, the Global Cities Covenant on Climate – the Mexico City

Pact, the carbonn Cities Climate Registry, low-carbon city development in China and latest inputs of local governments in on-going UNFCCC/KP agenda items. These were presented by global partners and cities from across the world, including ICLEI, UCLG, Renmin University of China, eThekweni Municipality (Durban), Mexico City, Brussels Capital Region, Copenhagen, Coimbatore and Cape Town.

The side event and LGMA Focal Point activities in Durban was also supported by ICLEI member cities Seoul Metropolitan Government, Suwon and Edmonton.

See www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap for more.



'Climate Action in Megacities' hosted by the City of Johannesburg, ARUP and C40.



Global partners and cities from across the world participated in the ICLEI UNFCCC side event on "Building low-carbon, climate-resilient cities as an essential element of global efforts".



Mexico City, Birmingham and Tokyo together with WGBC, ICLEI and UN-Habitat at the WGBC Press Conference.

World Green Building Council Government Leadership awards hosted by the World GBC, in partnership with ICLEI and UN-Habitat:

On 5 December 2011, the 1st World Green Building Council Government Leadership Awards for excellence in city policy for green building were presented in Durban to cities leading innovative and sustainable solutions. Among the awardees were Tokyo (Japan), Birmingham (UK), Singapore, New York (USA), San Francisco (USA) and Mexico City (Mexico). See www.worldgbc.com for more.

Other selected side events where ICLEI and local governments were actively involved in as partner or speaker include:

- "The Economics of Low Carbon Cities: Outcomes of a City-Scale Mini-Stern Review", hosted by Centre of Low Carbon Futures and University of Leeds.
- "Launch of the State of Energy in South African Cities Report 2011" hosted by Sustainable Energy Africa.
- "Concerted action on climate mitigation and adaptation: The case for national legislators and local authorities", hosted by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).
- "Climate Action in Megacities" hosted by the City of Johannesburg, ARUP and C40.
- "Climate Action in Cities" hosted by EC DG CLIMA and EU Parliament at EU Pavilion.
- "Empowering Global Cities for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation", hosted by Gold Standard Foundation and the SA Department of Environmental Affairs.
- "Cities of the Future Panel" chaired by ICLEI during the Climate Action Programme convened by WGBC, UNEP –SBCI and ICLEI.
- "Accelerating a climate resilience agenda in African Cities" hosted by SA Department of Environmental Affairs and National Treasury.
- "Building-up Low Carbon Cities in China: Practices and Approaches" hosted by NDRC, ADB, WRI and RUC in China Pavilion.
- "Global Leadership for Climate Action", hosted by the Club of Madrid.
- And MANY more!



ICLEI Deputy Secretary General, Gino van Begin, chaired an engaging high-level debate on “Cities of the Future” at the Climate Action Programme event on 7 Dec. 2011.

Spreading the word at COP17/CMP7 to urbanise the climate agenda



The Durban Local Government Convention was a true global forum which saw the participation from cities across the world.

“Resilience should be considered an iterative learning process. We have to work from the bottom, in discussing with the people, working with them, identifying the issues. They’re the ones who actually find the solutions.” *Bach Tan Sinh, National Institute for S&T Policy and Strategy Studies, Da Nang, Vietnam*

“When it comes to vulnerabilities it is the communities who are affected.....Support and empowerment is needed at the City Council level, as we are the first point of entry into communities.” *Samba Faal, Mayor of Banjul City Council, The Gambia*



Manager of ICLEI’s Climate Center, Yunus Arikan, and the Mayor of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.



The Mayor of Port Louis, Mauritius engaging with fellow francophone colleagues, the Deputy Mayor of Nantes, France (also UCLG Climate Spokesperson), and the Mayor of Le Port, Reunion at the Durban Local Government Convention.

“We’re already experiencing the effect of climate change. It is we the Mayors, we the councillors, together with our friends in ICLEI and other partners – we are going to fight climate change... ..It is our responsibility and we have to do it. We are the front liners.” *Mahmad Kodabaccus, Lord Mayor of Port Louis Municipal Council, Mauritius*

“It is encouraging to see city Mayors and local governments forging ahead and agreeing to mainstream adaptation in local government development planning regardless of the COP17 outcome. Local government is where the rubber hits the road when it comes to responding to the human impacts of climate change. We fully support funding for cities, towns and municipalities for their registered adaptation actions.” *Margareta Wahlstrom, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, welcomes the Durban Adaptation Charter*



The South African Government strongly supported the Durban Local Government Convention, with the SA President and fellow Ministers participating in its opening ceremony.

“Cities and local authorities have a role to play in all four pillars of the UNFCCC negotiations; in mitigation, in adaptation, in financing and in technology transfer.” David Dodman, Senior Researcher, Human Settlements and Climate Change Groups, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)



Megacity Lagos State Government, Nigeria shared key insights on how the city is greening infrastructure in addressing climate change at the Convention.



Climate expert David Dodman (IIED) engaging the audience at the Durban Local Government Convention.

“A poor man in Bangladesh cannot talk to the Minister but he can talk to the local government official. We are at the frontline of climate action.” Saber Chowdhury, MP, Chairman of the All-Party Group on Climate Change and Environment in the Bangladesh Parliament



The Local Government Pavilion was hosted by the “local government programme for climate change”.



Looking ahead – the successful first “Cities Day” at the Rio Pavilion in Durban will see its continuation at the Rio+20 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012.

“We have had first-hand experience how vulnerable our communities are to climate change and its impact. Our people are bearing the brunt and forging ahead with a heavier load. We are compelled by our sense of justice to act now to relieve this burden.” Chairperson, South African Local Government Association and Executive Mayor of Mangaung Municipality, South Africa: Thabo Manyoni

Moving forward

Resilient Cities 2012

12 – 15 May 2012, Bonn, Germany



The annual Resilient Cities meetings, as convened by ICLEI and partners, provide the leading climate adaptation platform for cities, their global constituency, partners and stakeholders to convene in Bonn, strategically linked to the UNFCCC mid-year meetings in Bonn, to convene, share emerging science and practice, define policy and prepare for the end-of-year UNFCCC COP meetings. Resilient Cities 2012, the 3rd Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation will provide an excellent opportunity for cities and their partners to analyse the UNFCCC COP17/CMP7 outcomes, including major local government highlights such as the Durban Adaptation Charter, and agree on the way forward. Please see www.iclei.org/bonn2012 for more.

UN Conference on Sustainable Development: Rio+20 Global Town Hall

13 – 22 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



ICLEI, in cooperation with a variety of global partners, is organizing the Rio+20 Global Town Hall during the upcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development, also known as Rio+20. Its main goal is to act as a gateway for cities to the pivotal Rio+20 proceedings and to ensure that the capacity of local governments to act is seized upon in global sustainable development efforts. It will be an arena for presentations, dialogues, launches, and debates on local sustainability matters.

The Rio+20 Global Town Hall will become the central meeting point for everyone at the Rio +20 Conference with an interest in the future of our urbanised planet. Please see www.local2012.iclei.org for more.

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

would like to give a special word of thanks and gratitude to the SA Local Government Programme for Climate Change partners who we closely worked with in coordinating the Durban Local Government Convention and driving the local government agenda at COP17/CMP7.



For more see www.iclei.org, www.iclei.org/africa and www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap