

**Speech of
Yunus Arikan, Manager, Cities Climate Center of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
at the ADP Workshop on increasing level of ambition under para.8 of Dec.1/CP.17**

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of more than 1200 local governments as well as national and regional local government organizations who have made a commitment to sustainable development.

ICLEI was accredited at the UNFCCC Secretariat as an observer organization in 1995 and since then has been the focal point for Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA) which has reached to more than 15 organizations.

On a personal basis as well as on behalf of my organization and constituency, I would like to express my great happiness in participating in this historical workshop and would like to thank the Secretariat and Parties in giving this opportunity for highlighting our comments, which have already been announced at the UNFCCC homepage as the only submission¹ from local government networks.

So why are we attending these workshop and all negotiations. For us the answer is simple: we are living in an urbanized world and it will be an even more urban world in 2020. We will have to build the same capacity of our urban infrastructure that was built in the past 4000 years in the next 40 years. It is obvious that the way we urbanize will define whether we will win or lose the battle on climate change.

From one point of view, taking the issue from the dark side of the moon, with such a huge population, cities will be the source of all emissions. However, we are taking the issue from the bright side: Cities are sources of economic activity, intellectual thinking and innovative approaches for sustainable production/consumption of goods/services and it is the Cities of 21st century that are also becoming the hubs of low carbon civilization through smart buildings/transport/waste/energy technologies, demonstrating ambitious leadership and encouraging intensive citizen participation. (e.g. Tokyo launched the first city level cap and trade programme, Plan Verde of Mexico City is the most ambitious climate plan metropolitan cities of the developing countries, Copenhagen aims to be the world first carbon neutral capital by 2025 etc.)

Therefore, we encourage national delegations and global climate community to consider urbanizing the climate agenda by integrating power, potential and ambitious of local and subnational governments.

1- IT IS NOT A SURPRISE TO NOTE THAT NATIONS WHO RUN FASTER INN CLIMATE POLICIES ARE THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO ENGAGE LOCAL/NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS.

From now up to 2020, even you have adopted the most perfect climate deal, the future of climate action will still rely on concrete action at the national level. National governments can scale up their efforts if they take local governments on board as partners. Indeed, even now, the most ambitious climate policies are implemented in countries where local/subnational/national dialogues are effectively designed (e.g. thousands of cities in Europe have signed up to 20/20/20 commitments of the European Commission through Covenant of Mayors Initiative, China is working with provincial governments for domestic cap and trade programmes, Mexico, Korea, Indonesia, Japan, India all have strong provisions for local governments in their climate legislation etc.)

2- BE INSPIRED BY THE THE ENGAGEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AT OTHER MEAs and CANCUN DECISION

National governments have also started to adopt innovative policies in bringing local governments more actively in multilateral environmental agreements. UNCBD Nagoya COP10 Decision on plan of action in 2011-2020 on cities and biodiversity and recently established Rio+20 Friends of Cities group are latest examples. In particular to the UNFCCC, Cancun outcome that recognizes local and subnational governments as governmental stakeholders is the concrete case for such innovative approaches.

¹ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/smsn/ngo/136.pdf>

3- LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SCALED UP THEIR INSTITUTIONAL and MRV INFRASTRUCTURE

Cities have already improved their capacity in terms of measurable, reportable verifiable action, pursuant to the outcomes of the comprehensive Local Government Climate Roadmap since Bali 2007. Copenhagen World Catalogue of Local Climate Commitments was announced in 2009, the Global Cities Covenant of Climate – the Mexico City Pact and carbonn Cities Climate Registry (cCCR) were launched in 2010, Durban Adaptation Charter was adopted in 2011 and just this week Global Protocol for Community Scale GHG Emissions was released.

*“Many other cities and local and regional administrations can be inspired to take action and to report to the carbonn Cities Climate Registry. Just as importantly, **national governments can be encouraged to take ever bigger and more ambitious steps to fight climate change.**”*

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC

The 2011 Annual Report of the cCCR compiled the climate information of 51 cities from 19 countries, representing 83 million inhabitants that report 447 million t CO₂e/yr, 90 GHG inventories and 555 Actions. Key findings of cCCR demonstrate that cities and local governments:

- *express their willingness to quantify actions and achievements* (78% of cities have reported at least one GHG inventory)
- *have a significant role in controlling global GHG emissions* (with 447 mtCO₂e/yr, cCCR would be ranked in the Top25 List of UNFCCC, if all reporting cities were considered as one country)
- *have the capacity to help raise ambitions of global GHG reductions* (75% of community GHG reduction targets for 2020 exceed 1%/yr, higher than most national governments)
- *are mainly mobilizing their own resources but are looking for additional financing as well* (92% of implemented actions are financed locally)

As of May 2012, 164 cities from 21 countries reported 1.2 GtCO₂e/yr community GHG emissions, 319 climate and energy commitments, 270 GHG inventories and 680 mitigation and adaptation actions and action plans.

4- LETS START WITH AN ACTIVE and UPDATED DIALOGUE FOCUSING ON REACHING A DECADE OF GLOBAL ACTION ON LOW CARBON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

In terms of way forward, Parties might consider to have a specific workshop on urban issues or on local and subnational governments or even on governmental stakeholders. Let us recall that the last time the UNFCCC has a specific discussion on urban mitigation actions was in 2007 at SBSTA26. Since then, there had been many developments on this subject and it might be good to catch up all technical and policy related progress since then, as well as setting up a dialogue between of Mayors/Governors with Ministers. Such a workshop can be included under as a part of the work of ADP or can be held by Presidencies. The workshop can enable Parties to consider to adopt an action plan on a more active engagement of local and subnational governments in reduction of global GHG emissions.

Finally, we would like to remind that the word “partnership” does not exist in the texts of neither the UNFCCC nor KP. We would like to invite Parties this time to make a historical step forward and engage local and subnational governments in the work and outcome of ADP. We would like to recall that for 20 years ICLEI was using the motto of “Local Action Moves the World” and we would like to take this even further by noting “Local Action Inspires and Unites the World to Raise Ambition Level!”.

ANNEX-I: Proposals contained in ICLEI's [submission](#) on increasing level of ambition

In order to further increase level of ambition, ICLEI proposes national governments and global climate community to operationalize para.7 of the Cancun Outcomes (Dec.1/CP16) where local and subnational governments are recognized as governmental stakeholders by engaging local governments actively in the design and implementation of climate action at the local, subnational, national, regional and global level.

This can include, but is not limited to;

- Revision of national mitigation targets by taking into account ambitious reduction commitments of local governments worldwide;
- Benefit from the capacity and knowledge of local governments in preparation of GHG emissions inventories;
- Enhance mobilization of financial resources from subnational, national, regional and global climate funds to ambitious mitigation projects and programs of local governments, including setting up a thematic window of "sustainable urban development" in the Green Climate Fund;
- Revise and design the Clean Development Mechanism, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions and Low Emission Development Strategies in a way that encourages ambitious low-carbon, climate-resilient urban development;
- Engage local governments more actively into the UNFCCC process, similar to the practices followed by the UN Convention Biological Diversity (UNCBD), in particular through its Decision X/22 and its annex The Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity;
- Reflect and develop the concept of "governmental stakeholders" into the Rio+20 process within the scope of institutional framework on sustainable development;
- Encourage increased local government involvement, mobilize subnational, national, regional and global resources and recognize as appropriate global initiatives of local governments (i.e. The Global Cities Covenant on Climate - the Mexico City Pact and carbonn Cities Climate Registry) in order to ensure transparency, accountability and comparability of local climate action and enhance global MRV process.