

INTERVENTION OF ICLEI – LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
ON BEHALF OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES CONSTITUENCY (LGMA)
AT THE MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE ON KYOTO PROTOCOL
AT UN BONN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE JUNE 2014

David Cadman, President

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, focal point of LGMA

Mr. President,

The Kyoto Protocol is the first step in a long marathon.

But it is an important litmus test for industrialized countries to honour their historical responsibility and demonstrate their leadership towards a low-carbon path.

We all know it is not perfect, but we all want to open a new era in Paris for the post2020 period that builds on trust and lessons learned.

I can confirm that local and subnational governments, even in the absence of any recognition of their work, either under the UNFCCC or in the Kyoto Protocol, are voluntarily delivering all they can to support you.

In 2005, more than 1000 Mayors in the United States announced that they commit to emission reduction that is equal to what is foreseen under KP.

In Europe, more than 5000 thousand Mayors signed up to Covenant of Mayors and committed to targets beyond 2020 goals of the European Union.

In Japan, Tokyo implemented the world's first cap-and-trade programme and the experience is rapidly spreading worldwide.

In Canada, Quebec is advancing its state-wide cap-and-trade programme, linking to the State of California and others.

The task is huge, Mayors are committed but municipal budgets are not large enough. We have seen this perfectly in Katrina, Sandy, Fukushima, and all around Europe.

So dear Ministers, it is from your national budget that you should channel more resources to local and subnational leaders to do more.

I urge you to talk to your fellow Finance, Economy and Energy Ministers to ensure

- that the money you found for bailing out banks can also be found for local climate action.
- that you can shift billions of dollars from fossil fuel subsidies to renewable energies, public transport, sustainable housing and waste management

It is time to act now. I thank you.