

ICLEI Statement at United Nations Advisory Committee for Local Authorities (UNACLA) Meeting at WUF7 in April 2014 in Medellin, Colombia

Delivered by Yunus Arikan, Head of Global Policy and Advocacy, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

Dear Chair,

At the outset, we would like to thank UN-Habitat Executive Director and UNACLA Secretariat for their kind invitation that enables ICLEI's participation at this UNACLA meeting as observer.

ICLEI welcomes and supports the proposal from UNACLA Chair to revise the agenda and priorities of UNACLA in the next couple of years so that this body plays a more effective role in the ongoing processes focusing on the re-design of the architecture of the institutional framework for the development agenda in the post2015 period.

ICLEI further proposes that such an effort should be related to the implementation of Art.IX "Evaluation" of the Rules of Procedure which foresees a review in 2014 to determine the future form of UNACLA.

We would like to underline that the global advocacy of local governments has advanced significantly since 2004 when UNACLA Rules of Procedures were first adopted, thanks to the growing recognition of the ambition, potential and capacity of local governments pursuant to the realities of an Urban World in the 21st Century.

In addition to the official processes and decisions in the global related to biodiversity, climate change and disaster risk reduction, through the Para.42 of Rio+20 Outcome document national governments further "acknowledge efforts and progress made at the local and subnational levels, and recognize the important role that such authorities and communities can play in implementing sustainable development."

Thus, there is a pressing need to formulate innovative, inclusive, robust and effective processes that helps to scale-up contribution of local and subnational governments in the global efforts, in particular within the United Nations system.

However, the current mission, vision, scope and structure of UNACLA is far away to respond to these needs as appropriate.

Firstly, such a revision should aim to ensure that UNACLA facilitates the dialogue and collaboration of local and subnational governments within the whole UN system, not only UN-Habitat leadership.

Secondly, UNACLA should aim to develop a more inclusive process that enables a more active engagement of other regional and global networks of local and subnational governments in the decision making and implementation of the work of UNACLA.

ICLEI underlines that both of these visions, namely effectiveness in the UN system and an inclusive process for all regional and global networks, have been originally foreseen in the 1999 and 2000 resolutions, but slightly faded away with the 2004 Rules of Procedure.

Within this scope, ICLEI, as the world's largest network of local governments that are dedicated to sustainability, expresses its commitment to participate actively and constructively in the efforts of UNACLA and its partners.

World Secretariat

ICLEI World Secretariat
Kaiser-Friedrich-Str. 7
53113 Bonn
Germany
Phone: +49-228/976 299-00
Fax: +49-228/976 299-01

Email: iclei@iclei.org

Legally represented by
ICLEI e.V., Bonn

Website

www.iclei.org

Twitter

@ICLEI