

**ICLEI's position on the  
UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT 2015  
and OUTCOME DOCUMENT  
25-27 September 2015, New York, USA**

**Annex-II: ICLEI and the SDGs**

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## 1. ICLEI's 10 Urban Agendas: A framework for implementing the SDGs

ICLEI works with its members through its 10 Urban Agendas together with specific projects, programs, networks and tools. This voluntary but ambitious work is considered as an important leverage to implement all the SDGs, in particular Goal 11 on cities, and thus supports Member States to fulfill their commitments. In that respect, the ICLEI Seoul Declaration at ICLEI's World Congress 2015 states that through innovative and transformative sustainable urban development, the Urban World has the power to create positive impacts for the *Earth* we depend on and care for, the *People* we serve, for the *Places* we live in, and for the *Policies* we implement to govern ourselves.

	<a href="#"><u>Sustainable City Agenda</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Low-carbon City Agenda</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Resource-efficient and Productive City Agenda</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Resilient City Agenda</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>BiodiverCity Agenda</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Smart City Agenda</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>EcoMobile City (Sustainable Urban Mobility) Agenda</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Happy, Healthy, and Inclusive Communities Agenda</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Sustainable Local Economy and Procurement Agenda</u></a>
	<a href="#"><u>Sustainable City-Region Cooperation Agenda</u></a>

## 2. Key findings of ICLEI's Global Review of Local Sustainability 1990-2012 presented at Rio+20

In the lead up to the momentous Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 we took stock of the previous two decades of local sustainability work worldwide, the impressive progress that had been made and key priorities moving forward. The following 10 conclusions of the Global Review of [\*Local Sustainability 2012 – Taking stock and moving forward\*](#) (ICLEI, 2012), are highly relevant for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the new building blocks of a post-2015 global Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030:

1. **Local consciousness about global and future impacts of today's action has never been as high**, with an acceptance of both the limits of global ecosystems and the future global effects of local activities.
2. **A good local sustainability process combines various mutually supportive driving forces**, combining the unique energy and quality of: local government, civil society, business, networks, national governments and international partners.
3. **The multi-local movement has prepared the ground for advancing national and international sustainability policies**. The potential of local sustainability processes to prepare radical policy shifts on all levels through political and social innovation must be recognized and further developed.
4. **Local sustainability processes are hubs of social innovation**. By combining classic methods of consultation and participatory policy development with new forms of spontaneous and collective action, local sustainability processes can strengthen their role as test beds of sustainable innovation.
5. **Local sustainability was one of the first open source development processes**, also one of its biggest strengths. Global programs for sustainable development have to combine the variety, creativity and adaptability of local strategies with universal national and international support structures.
6. **Local governments have to deal with the effects of a deregulated globalized economy**. Local sustainability processes are required to address the vacuum between globalized economic activity and insufficient protection of natural and human resources by national and international policy.
7. **Greening the economy is a chance to address the crisis**. Changing the conditions for human economic activities bears invaluable potential for correcting the until now unsustainable development on Earth at the source
8. **'The future we want' requires a new definition of growth and indicators of human development that are easily communicated to the public**, and simply calculated at the local, national, and international level. GDP must be replaced by a development index based on social wellbeing and environmental quality.
9. **Sustainable development needs a multilevel governance system with a multi-sectoral approach**. The UN's institutional framework for sustainable development should include local governments as governmental stakeholders while national and international legislation must support their efforts.
10. **It is time to move from national interests to global environmental justice**.

### 3. Selected examples of ambitious activities by ICLEI Members related to all SDGs

At ICLEI we know that ambitious local and subnational governments have for years been working on urban sustainability initiatives, thanks to the spirit, vision and experience of "Local Agenda 21" enshrined in the Chapter 28 of the Agenda 21 adopted at the UN Earth Summit in 1992. Below are two inspiring city examples for the implementation of each SDG, from the Global North and South. More are available at ICLEI [Case Studies](#), [City Posters](#), ICLEI's blog [CityTalk](#), and [World Congress 2015](#) websites.

- Goal 1.** End poverty in all its forms everywhere: [Edmonton, Canada](#) – [Tshwane, South Africa](#)
- Goal 2.** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture: [Almada, Portugal](#) – [Dar es Salaam, Tanzania](#)
- Goal 3.** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages: [Santa Monica, California](#) – [Thimphu, Bhutan](#)
- Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all: [Helsinborg, Sweden](#) – [Beijing, China](#)
- Goal 5.** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls: [Växjö, Sweden](#) – [Rosario, Argentina](#)
- Goal 6.** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all: [Melbourne, Australia](#) – [Nashik, India](#)
- Goal 7.** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all: [Vancouver, Canada](#) – [Balikpapan, Indonesia](#)
- Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all: [Bristol, UK](#) – [Ehlanzeni, South Africa](#)
- Goal 9.** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation: [Tokyo, Japan](#) – [Dezhou, China](#)
- Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries: [Paris, France](#) – [Bogotá, Colombia](#)
- Goal 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable: [New York City, USA](#) – [Mexico City, Mexico](#)
- Goal 12.** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns: [Helsinki, Finland](#) – [Cape Town, South Africa](#)
- Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts: [Seoul, Republic of Korea](#) – [eThekweni \(Durban\), South Africa](#)
- Goal 14.** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development: [Rotterdam, Netherlands](#) – [Sriracha, Thailand](#)
- Goal 15.** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss: [Joondalup, Australia](#) – [Walvis Bay, Namibia](#)
- Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels: [Freiburg, Germany](#) – [Sao Paulo, Brazil](#)
- Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development: [Kitakyushu, Japan](#) – [Shimla, India](#)

## 4. Selected examples of ambitious activities by ICLEI Members related to Sustainable Development Goal 11: "Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"

At ICLEI we know that ambitious local and subnational governments have for years been working on urban sustainability initiatives, thanks to the spirit, vision and experience of "Local Agenda 21" enshrined in the Chapter 28 of the Agenda 21 adopted at the UN's Earth Summit in 1992. Below are two inspiring city examples for the implementation of each target of SDG 11, one from the Global North and from the Global South. Others are available at ICLEI [Publications](#) (ICLEI [Case Studies](#) and [City Posters](#)), ICLEI's blog [CityTalk](#), and from the ICLEI [World Congress 2015](#) website. [#GetInspired](#)

- 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums: [Barcelona, Spain](#) – [Curitiba, Brazil](#)
- 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons: [Suwon, Republic of Korea](#) – [Bogor, Indonesia](#)
- 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries: [Vaxjö, Sweden](#) – [Dongguan, China](#)
- 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage: [Nagoya, Japan](#) – [Cape Town, S. Africa](#)
- 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations: [Copenhagen, Denmark](#) – [Kaoshiung, Chinese Taipei](#)
- 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management: [Seoul, Republic of Korea](#) – [Mexico City, Mexico](#)
- 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities: [Bristol, UK](#) – [Medellin, Colombia](#)
- 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning: [Vancouver, Canada](#) – [Belo Horizonte, Brazil](#)
- 11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels: [Sendai, Japan](#) – [Rajkot, India](#)
- 11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials: [Brussels Capital Region, Belgium](#) – [Recife, Brazil](#)

## 5. ICLEI's engagement in negotiations since Rio+20, 2012-2015

1. ICLEI has been acting as the Organizing Partner of the Local Authorities Major Group on sustainability issues since the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992.
2. On the way to Rio+20, ICLEI welcomed and collaborated with UCLG and nrg4sd as the new Organizing Partners.
3. At the Rio+20, ICLEI released its assessment of implementation of sustainable development at the local level over the past 20 years, mobilized a large delegation, hosted the Rio+20 Global Town Hall which, amongst others, enabled the only interaction of Mayors and subnational leaders with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon
4. Immediately after Rio+20, UN Secretary General appointed Mayor of Istanbul Kadir Topbas and President of UCLG as one of the members of his High Level Panel of Eminent Persons.
5. In January 2013, upon the invitation of UCLG, ICLEI joined as a lead member of the Global Task Force of Local Regional Governments on Post2015 Development Agenda Towards HABITATIII.
6. In May 2013, ICLEI joined the Sustainable Development Solutions Network working group on Cities and through 2013 Mayors Adaptation Forum Declaration, made the first appeal as a global network of local governments for the adoption of a universal goal on sustainable cities as a key element of transformation to sustainability in the post2015 development.
7. In October 2013, ICLEI expressed its support for the launch of an UrbanSDG Campaign.
8. In December 2013, ICLEI kicked-off as a lead partner the Communitas Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions in the New UN Agenda as a multistakeholder partnership to support the advocacy and technical work
9. ICLEI actively participated in all the negotiations of the Open Ended Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in 2013-2014, including coordination of the Local Authorities Major Group interventions and submissions, organizing side events and supporting the agenda of partners.
10. ICLEI participated the inaugural session of the High Level Political Forum in 2013, ECOSOC Integrated Session on Sustainable Urbanization in 2014, led the Local Authorities Major Group at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction with UCLG, supported the work of GTF in 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development, at the universal UNEP Governing Council in 2013 and UN Environment Assembly in 2014, HABITATIII Preparatory Committees in 2014 and 2015 and led the global advocacy at the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), and the CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity).
  - [ICLEI Intervention at Open Ended Working Group on SDGs in January 2014](#)
  - [Local Authorities Major Group Position Paper on UrbanSDGs – March 2014](#)
  - [Local Authorities Major Group Position Paper on SDGs – March 2015](#)
  - [Local Authorities Major Group Position Paper on Post2015 Agenda – May 2015](#)
  - [ICLEI at 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties \(COP12\) to Convention on Biodiversity CBD](#)
  - [ICLEI at 10 Year Framework Programme \(10YFP\) on Sustainable Public Procurement \(SPP\)](#)
  - [ICLEI at 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in March 2015](#)
  - [ICLEI at HABITATIII PrepCom2, April 2015](#)
  - [ICLEI Response Post2015 Zero Order Draft – June 2015](#)
  - [Local Government Climate Roadmap – Compact of Mayors – carbonn Climate Registry](#)

- [Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments in Post2015 Development Agenda Towards HABITATIII](#)

## 6. ICLEI's global advocacy at the intergovernmental processes

Through an action-oriented advocacy, ICLEI actively contributes to United Nations led intergovernmental processes on sustainable development with the goal that local and subnational governments are recognized, engaged and empowered as governmental stakeholders. ICLEI's advocacy also requests respective national and international framework conditions for increased local action. Four work streams of ICLEI are below:

1. **United Nations General Assembly driven processes:** Through its mandates as being accredited to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (**ECOSOC**) with a special consultative status since 2002 and as the Organizing Partner of the Local Authorities Major Group, ICLEI participates in regular negotiation sessions held at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA and Geneva, Switzerland as well as preparatory processes of intergovernmental conferences and relevant UN regional meetings. In addition, ICLEI also responds to the special initiatives of the Secretary General of the United Nations and invitations of the Presidents of the United Nations General Assembly are given as appropriate and possible.
2. **United Nations Agencies and Intergovernmental Organizations:** Implementation of political consensus and strategic guidance achieved at the UN General Assembly is conducted through UN specialized agencies and programs. Each of these bodies has dedicated decision making processes and implementation mechanisms. ICLEI participates in these processes as accredited observer and through specific partnership arrangements. Primary institutions that ICLEI collaborates include UNEP, UN-Habitat, UN ISDR, GEF as well as others like the World Bank, OECD/IEA, ISO and IUCN.
3. **Multilateral Environmental Agreements:** The Rio Summit in 1992 resulted in three Rio Conventions (i.e. Climate: UNFCCC, Biodiversity: CBD, Desertification: UNCCD). ICLEI contributes to their implementation and advancement of the negotiations in its capacity as an accredited observer organization, implementation partner and focal point role. ICLEI will also seek to expand its work to other agreements related to sustainability.
4. **Global Advocacy of Local and Subnational Governments:** In addition to its own individual engagement, ICLEI also contributes in building, managing and leading global coalitions among other networks of local and subnational governments and other partners in order to develop a more coordinated and collaborative response to global processes. These currently focus on in climate, biodiversity, and post2015 development agenda.

Within this frame, ICLEI's advocacy work includes

- a. **Mobilization** of delegations of leaders and officials of members to participate at the UN events
- b. Providing **inputs** to negotiations through written submissions and position papers, direct interventions, organization of side events and Local Government Summits
- c. Leading active **dialogues** with national governments through informal groups as "Friends of Cities"
- d. **Bridging** the Local Authorities Major Group through dialogue and collaboration with the intergovernmental bodies leading these processes as Focal Point and Organizing Partner
- e. **Implementing** targeted projects and creation of specific alliance with partner networks of local and subnational governments as well as with other Major Groups and stakeholders.

Throughout these processes, ICLEI's advocacy position builds upon inputs from its global membership network, unique experience through Local Agenda 21, programmatic approach in the implementation of sustainability at the local level through its Urban Agendas, and its innovations on measurable, reportable, verifiable local action that is particularly advanced in the fields of management of local sustainability, climate change, biodiversity and ecomobility.



## ICLEI's global advocacy channels as of August 2015



<p><b><u>United Nations</u></b> <b><u>General Assembly driven processes</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>UN Agencies and</u></b> <b><u>Intergovernmental</u></b> <b><u>Organizations</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Multilateral</u></b> <b><u>Environmental</u></b> <b><u>Agreements</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Global</u></b> <b><u>LG</u></b> <b><u>Advocacy</u></b></p>
<p><b>- Regular processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ECOSOC: Special Consultative Status since 2002, member of Multistakeholder Advisory Group</li> <li>- High-level Political Forum (former Commission on Sustainable Development); Organizing Partner of Local Authorities Major Group (LAMG), 26 June – 8 July, 2015 and Regional meetings</li> </ul> <p><b>- Major Intergovernmental Processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WCDRR/HFA2 Conference (Secretariat by UN ISDR)</li> <li>- 2nd PrepCom of HABITATIII (Secretariat by UN-Habitat)</li> <li>- Financing for Development Conference</li> <li>- UN Sustainable Development Summit</li> </ul> <p><b>- Initiatives of UN Secretary General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on Post2015 Development Agenda (via Global Task Force) and Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG)</li> <li>- Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)</li> <li>- Michael Bloomberg as UN Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change in Feb 2014</li> <li>- Climate Summit 2014, Compact of Mayors &amp; 9 initiatives</li> </ul> <p><b>- Thematic Debates of the Presidents of the General Assembly (PGA)</b></p>	<p><b>UNEP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UN Environment Assembly (former Governing Council, convening in every 2 years starting from 2014)</li> <li>- Representing LAMG at Major Groups Facilitating Committee and Regional Meetings</li> <li>- Partnerships/MoU and CCAC</li> <li>- 10YFP Global Focal Point, Co-lead of Sustainable Procurement Programme</li> <li>- Global Environmental Outlook and UNEP Live</li> </ul> <p><b>UN-Habitat</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Observer at Governing Council</li> <li>- Participant of World Urban Forum</li> <li>- Participant of HABITATIII</li> <li>- Observer at UNACLA</li> <li>- Partnerships/MoU</li> </ul> <p><b>UN ISDR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Making My City Resilient Campaign member of Steering Committee</li> <li>- Organizing Partner of LAMG at WCDRR</li> </ul> <p><b>GEF</b></p> <p>Accredited observer at the Council and Sustainable Cities Integrated Programme</p> <p><b>Others</b></p> <p>ISO (TS207 and TS268), OECD/IEA, IRENA, The World Bank, World Water Forum, IUCN, FAO (Committee on Food Security and Expo2015)</p>	<p><b>RIO CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Climate Change (UNFCCC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focal Point of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency</li> <li>- Data partner of NAZCA Platform via carbonn Climate Registry</li> <li>- Observer at IPCC and Green Climate Fund</li> </ul> <p><b>Biodiversity (CBD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Global Platform and IPBES</li> <li>- MoU/Staff Secondment</li> <li>- Implementation of 2010 Nagoya 10-Year Action Plan for Subnational Authorities and Cities</li> <li>- Cities Biodiversity Index and Outlook</li> </ul> <p><b>Desertification (UNCCD)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Observer</li> </ul> <p><b>OTHERS</b></p> <p><b>RAMSAR Convention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MoU</li> </ul>	<p><b>Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments in the Post2015 Development Agenda Towards HABITATIII</b></p> <p><b>Local Government Climate Roadmap and Compact of Mayors</b></p> <p><b>UrbanSDG Campaign</b></p> <p><b>Communitas Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions in the New UN Development Agenda</b></p> <p><b>Local Government Biodiversity Roadmap</b></p> <p><b>World Urban Campaign</b></p>

## Transforming the Urban World towards Sustainability

**Guiding Principles:** 1992 Agenda 21 (Chapter:28) → 2012 The Future We Want (Para.42) → 2030 SDGs (with Goal 11)  
*Spirit & Vision* *Multilevel Governance* *Transparency & Accountability*

**Processes connected to SD Agenda:**



**Advocacy partnerships:**



## Cornerstones of Transforming the Urban World towards Sustainability

