

Action pledge of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

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Background

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments as well as national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development.

Over 1110 cities, towns, counties, and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. ICLEI works with these and hundreds of other local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programs.

ICLEI provides technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and support local government in the implementation of sustainable development at the local level. Our basic premise is that locally designed initiatives can provide an effective and cost-efficient way to achieve local, national, and global sustainability objectives.

Since 1993, ICLEI has been implementing Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign globally. This includes a 5-milestones process; accounting of city level GHG emissions, adopting a local GHG reduction commitment, preparation of an action plan, implementing of action plan and monitoring of the progress achieved.

Within the scope of adaptation to climate change, ICLEI developed Resilient Communities and Cities Initiative in 2002. Since then, ICLEI has been involved in various partnerships including Project for Urban Risk Reduction (PURR) and Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN). ICLEI also developed an Adaptation Guidebook and Adaptation Toolkit for Cities.

ICLEI acts as the Focal Point for Local Government and Municipality Authorities Constituency at the UNFCCC.

ICLEI has been acting the leading partner of the Local Government Climate Roadmap that was initiated with global local government networks at COP13 in Bali in in 2007 to achieve a recognition and enhanced involvement of local governments in the post-2012 architecture of global climate regime that is expected to be agreed at COP15 in Copenhagen in December 2009.

Title of the initiative:

Resilient Cities 2010:

1st World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change

Bonn, Germany, 28-30 May 2010

Overall objectives

This action pledge aims to contribute to the Nairobi work programme in the following work areas:

- Methods and Tools
- Climate related risks and extreme events
- Socio-economic information
- Adaptation Planning and Practices
- Research
- Technologies for Adaptation

Project purpose

Resilient Cities 2010 is the first edition of a series of annual world congresses on all aspects of urban resiliency and adaptation to climate change, preceding the meetings of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies in Bonn. This event aims to bring together partners from all sectors to share knowledge and experiences on vulnerability and risk assessment, social and economic dimensions of climate change, municipal strategies and policies, financing, technology, and case examples of local adaptation practice.

Activities

Resilient Cities 2010 will be a global forum for exchange, learning, networking, debating and policy making on approaches and solutions for climate change adaptation and resilience-building in cities and municipalities.

It will bring together 300 representatives from local governments, UN and international agencies, governments, finance institutions, insurance industries, planners and consultants, urban infrastructure industry, universities and non-governmental organisations.

The preliminary session themes are defined as follows:

- a. Urban Risk Assessment – Methods and Tools
- b. Socio-Economic and Institutional Dimensions of Climate Change
- c. Strategy, Policy Integration and Mainstreaming
- d. Urban Adaptation Planning and Practice
- e. Financing Urban Climate Change Adaptation
- f. Technologies for Adaptation of Settlements and Infrastructure

Expected results

The Congress aims to create awareness on the importance of adaptation among cities and to provide guidance. It will contribute to the improvement of the capacity of cities (and in general of local governments) to further identify and understand impact, vulnerability and adaptation responses in order to implement efficient adaptation actions on the basis of lessons learnt and good practice. Resilient Cities 2010 wants also to provide impulses for innovation presenting new adaptation approaches and contributing to the global debate on adaptation strategies. Moreover the Congress aims to enhance the cooperation among actors coming from different background developing new enriching exchanges and networks and to integrate adaptation into sustainable development plans.

Following the outcomes of COP meetings the year before, the Congress will also aim to facilitate the dialogue and collaboration between local governments adaptation community and UNFCCC negotiators so that active contribution in the monitoring and implementation of the UNFCCC process can be achieved.

Indicators of achievement

- Number and diversity of Congress participants
- Number of collaboration initiatives put in place after the Congress
- Increased contribution of local government adaptation community in the ongoing UNFCCC Process