

INTERVENTION OF ICLEI – LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
ON BEHALF OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES CONSTITUENCY (LGMA)
AT THE OPENING of ADP2.6

Yunus Arikan, Head, Global Policy and Advocacy, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, Focal Point
of LGMA

Mr. Co-Chair, Distinguished delegates,

My name is Yunus Arikan, Head of Global Policy and Advocacy at ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and I am happy to address the ADP2.6 in my capacity as the Focal Point of the LGMA.

At the outset, we thank you all for your engagement and promising contributions at the ADP “Cities and Subnational Forum” and the “Technical Expert Meeting on Urban Environment” in June 2014”, as a successful implementation of the Warsaw Outcomes. Throughout the week, we shall be happy to share with you the collaborative progress achieved in this field since then.

Distinguished delegates,

This session takes place at a critical moment where your ADP work is now further underpinned by an unprecedented, action-oriented, political momentum generated by the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit 2014 in New York and enriched by responses of all actors of society.

The Compact of Mayors, designating the carbon Climate Registry as the central repository for ambitious local climate reporting, as well as the Compact of States and Regions, are concrete commitments from local and subnational governments launched at the Summit, in addition to many Actions Statements “to scale-up actions” at city and subnational level.

We sincerely hope that you will now seize all opportunities to connect to and build upon these contributions to achieve an ambitious and inclusive global climate regime towards and beyond 2020 to be agreed in Paris 2015. An agreement here on the draft texts of the Co-Chairs shall constitute an important starting point in this regard.

We welcome the preamble para.3 of Draft Text No:8 and are ready to contribute to further strengthening its provisions so as to ensure that the recognition of local and subnational governments as governmental stakeholders as set out in para7 of the Dec.1/CP16 in 2010 in Cancun.

Their engagement in concrete climate action, as set out in para.5b of the Dec.1/CP19 in 2013 in Warsaw, shall also be an important feature of the new climate regime.

In this regard, we believe that the operative para.10 and 12 of the same document provide excellent starting points for the design of an action plan with local and subnational governments on a low-carbon and climate resilient urban development. Such an action plan could include a 2 track approach: the domestic or international support to “low- hanging fruits” of mitigation and adaptation action in such areas as urban planning, transport, buildings, energy and waste, up to 2020. In a second track new, innovative, multilevel partnerships could be designed so as to support the sustainable transformation of our cities and regions in the post2020 period.

I thank you for your attention.