



**UNFCCC MAY 2017 CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
(SBI46/SBSTA46/APA1-2)**

**INTERVENTION OF
Manuel Araujo, Mayor, Quelimane, Mozambique**

**On behalf of LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES
(LGMA)* CONSTITUENCY
AT SB46 TEM on Mitigation Opening – 8 May 2017**

Dear UNFCCC Secretariat and High Level Climate Champions,

It is a great pleasure for me to join you at this opening of this latest series of Technical Expert Meeting on Mitigation, with a special focus on urban environment.

Thank you very much for the kind invitation and the support of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability to facilitate my engagement in the event.

I am not sure how many of you know can you easily show my city¹ in the map of the world, or any of you had ever visited us.

But let me tell you; this is not the first time I am following you, and of course it is a privileged to have this opportunity this time.

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/conselhomunicipalquelimane/>

* Facilitated by [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](#) in its capacity the focal point of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities ([LGMA](#))) Constituency to the UNFCCC and on behalf of [Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments](#)



In fact this is a sharp reality and the biggest question that we have to solve altogether; how can we make your negotiations reflect the reality of our daily lives and how can you help us solve our challenges.

And that is why me and many of my fellow mayors, councilors, governors, and their staff are here for: to build the bridge between reality and negotiations.

And the reason is also clear; the challenges and opportunities ahead of us are beyond the individual capacity of any of us but we can all face and meet them only when we act together.

As the mayor of a small city in the eastern coast of Africa, my participation here makes sense if I can connect your decisions here to my citizens at home for better livelihoods through sustainable housing, transport, waste, energy and increased preparedness to disasters .

I know this takes time, but we also should not waste our time by reinventing the wheel.

I am very happy to see that these technical negotiations are now led by the Champions, they are much effectively connected to constituencies and developed through a multiyear-multilevel programme. This is certainly a good legacy of Paris.



I sincerely recommend you to make benefit of your previous dialogues. My colleagues in ICLEI have informed me about a treasure of proposals, analysis, examples developed over the years of which should guide your work.

You can also benefit from many of the other process; through the opportunities on SDGs and a new urban agenda.

And your discussions today should help me to look future in more trust and hope.

For sure we need technology, finance and tools for new and enhanced action.

But more importantly, we need dialogue and collaborative work here in the UNFCCC and back in our countries.

And let me give you my final proposal; on the way towards Paris, I worked with ICLEI through its Transformative Action Program to present my sustainable solid waste management project² as a contribution to increase global ambition.

Since Paris, you are continuing to discuss, we are generating our wastes and waiting for you to see and support our plans like waiting for Godot.

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1aMirPp2Wc> - <http://tap-potential.org/projects/sustainable-solid-waste-management-in-quelimane/>

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Lets now make a difference that when we come here next time in Bonn in November, we can show the world that you have heard us, we have reached to solutions and there is still hope in this process.

I will leave you today, but I heard that you will meet on Thursday at the Collaborative Forum and I hope my colleagues from ICLEI can share with me some good responses from this meeting for my transformative actions in my city.

And I hope I can tell my people that coming here was worthwhile and this unstoppable, irreversible transformation has already started and no city, no region, and no citizen in the world will be left out of this new journey.

Because this will be a true transformation only and only if all of us can reach there. I thank you