

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Comprehensive
Post-2012
Global Climate
Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

Submission of ICLEI for inclusion in the negotiating text of the Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (24 April 2009)

Submission on paragraph 1 of the Bali Action Plan

1. This submission is made by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, the UNFCCC Constituency Focal Point for the LGMA.
2. The Local Government Climate Roadmap was started during COP 13, by the leading global Local Government associations - United Cities and Local Governments, World Mayors Council on Climate Change, C40-Climate Leadership Group, Metropolis, and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. This is a parallel process to the UNFCCC Bali Roadmap, and has been joined by regional local government networks and specific Local Governments around the globe.
3. ICLEI and the Local Government Climate Roadmap Partners welcome the valuable efforts of the Chair of AWGLCA and the facilitating role of the UNFCCC Secretariat, to converge views of Parties on an agreed outcome at COP15 in December 2009 in Copenhagen, which will be primarily based on the views elaborated in document FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/16/Rev.1, followed-by the consultations achieved during the fifth session of AWGLCA.
4. We strongly believe that the process shall aim to mobilize every possible means to facilitate positive contributions of the civil society. To this end, in the forthcoming sessions of the AWGLCA, ICLEI and the Local Government Climate Roadmap Partners recommend the establishment of an informal consultation process between the Chair of AWGLCA and observer organizations, which can follow the methodology developed by the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC or the Chair of the AWGKP during the Bonn Talks on 29 March – 8 April 2009.
5. It has to be further noted that referring to the so far relatively poor recognition of the role of cities and local governments in the submissions of Parties and observer organizations on the Bali Action plan contained in document FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/16/Rev.1, ICLEI and the Local Government Climate Roadmap Partners had intensive consultations and bilateral meetings with both a number of Parties and observer organizations during Bonn Talks in March/April 2009. The majority of the Parties contacted, provided positive feedback.
6. ICLEI and the Local Government Climate Roadmap Partners hereby announce that further proposals of cities and local authorities on the elements of a post-2012 climate regime will be further developed during the Local Government Climate Leadership Summit that will be held in Copenhagen on 2-4 June 2009 and will be communicated to the UNFCCC community in the second round of Bonn Talks in June 2009.
7. ICLEI welcomes the submission by Senegal for inclusion in the negotiating text of the AWGLCA and suggests the further development of this text so as to include local governments.
8. ICLEI welcomes the fact that during the Bonn Talks, a number of Parties in particular EU, Australia, Mexico, Switzerland recognised the important role of the local level in adaptation to climate.
9. ICLEI welcomes that Co-Chairs of the Working Group III of the IPCC have submitted a Concept Paper on Human Settlements, Water, Energy and Transport Infrastructure – Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies (IPCC XXX/Doc.16, 6.IV.2009) to the 30th Session of IPCC in which it is highlighted that “*Cities and other human settlements are at the forefront of climate change*”, and “*Hence, cities are a point where adaptation is*

necessary and mitigation is possible in a context of sustainable development”,

Please find below our comments to particular issues as under negotiation at present:

I. A shared vision for long-term cooperative action

In terms of its scope and nature, ICLEI requests that Parties adopt a **post-2012 climate change agreement that** shall be:

- **Strong**, in particular, by including ambitious legally binding reduction targets accompanied by an effective compliance system, as well as adequate financial resources that shall be used efficiently to achieve the goals agreed; agreed actions must be measurable, reportable and verifiable;
- **Comprehensive**, in particular, at the one hand, by including appropriate action for mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and finance based on the principles of justice and equity and with the general aim to contribute to sustainable development and, at the other hand, by **recognising the experiences of all levels of government into the planning, implementation and monitoring** of such climate measures and strategies both on short, medium and long term;
- **Global**, in particular, by agreed action from all countries to combat climate change as appropriate and through mobilising capacities of all stakeholders for implementation; .

An analysis of the submissions of Parties up to date (as compiled in document FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/16/Rev.1) shows that cities and local authorities have not been referred to as relevant actors in **“shared vision now, up to and beyond 2012”**.

In the frame of the “shared vision now, up to and beyond 2012” ICLEI therefore invites the Parties to adopt a **UNFCCC COP decision on cities, local authorities and climate change (please, find it at the end) which:**

- in accordance with and respecting national constitutions and legislation recognises the *role and experiences of cities and local authorities* in the implementation of National Climate Change Strategies and Action Plans; and shall therefore facilitate the adoption of practices by cities and local authorities that support the implementation of such strategies and action plans, as well as support the consistency between local climate change strategies and action plans with the National Strategies and Action Plans
- *empowers cities and local authorities so that they have the abilities, the capacities and the resources required to take necessary action* at the local level and to support the Parties in their efforts to meet the agreed targets as appropriate and to implement local climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

ICLEI notes that, the Parties are the actors of the UNFCCC Convention.

However, there are multiple reasons to promote the engagement of cities and local authorities and fostering collaboration with the global local government associations as key partners to the UNFCCC as recognised, for example in the recent Concept Paper on Human Settlements, Water, Energy and Transport Infrastructure – Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies (IPCC XXX/Doc.16, 6.IV.2009) from the Co-Chairs of the Working Group III of the IPCC which was submitted to the 30th Session of IPCC.

A long-term global goal for emission reductions

ICLEI notes that through the implementation of the Rio Declaration via Local Agenda 21, cities around the world support sustainable energy economy through energy savings and the application of new and existing renewable and high efficiency technologies to reduce dependence on fossil and nuclear fuels and aim for lowest-carbon options.

Thus, referring to the fact that by 2030, two thirds of humanity will live in urban centres where more than 73% of all energy is consumed today, it has to be noted that if genuinely empowered and resourced for practical climate actions, cities and local authorities have the potential to lead emission reductions to ensure that ambitious targets for the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions are met.

II. Enhanced action on adaptation

ICLEI welcomes the strong intention of Parties to integrate local governments within the scope of adaptation efforts. It has to be noted that local capacity and resources are crucial to the success of the development and implementation of the national adaptation programme of actions (NAPAs).

Therefore, it is requested that Parties, in accordance with and respecting national constitutions and legislation, recognise the role of cities and local authorities in the implementation of NAPAs, and shall therefore facilitate the adoption by cities and local authorities of practices that support the implementation of these NAPAs, as well as support the consistency between local climate change programmes of actions and NAPAs.

To this aim, Parties are requested to empower cities and local authorities so that they have the abilities, the capacities and the resources required to take necessary action at the local level regarding adaptation to climate change and to support the Parties in their efforts to meet the agreed targets and to implement local climate adaptation strategies.

III. Enhanced action on mitigation

ICLEI notes that since early 1990s, right after the adoption of the UNFCCC and long before any discussions on Kyoto Protocol, cities and local governments around the world started to commit to significant reductions in their boundaries. It has to be further acknowledged that the voluntary efforts of cities and local authorities have also facilitated a shift in the mind-set of many national governments towards a low carbon society. .

ICLEI welcomes the findings in the 4th Assessment Report of the IPCC and supports the policies of developed countries that aim to achieve the most ambitious targets as mentioned by the IPCC and further improved by the findings of the recent science.

ICLEI also supports that meaningful reduction actions can be implemented in the developing countries since local actions on reducing GHG emissions by cities and local governments yield net social, economical and environmental benefits as well.

Efficient utilization of energy in buildings, street lighting, vehicle fleets, water and sewage operations, introducing renewable energies, sustainable management of solid waste, sustainable procurement, promotion of public transport and public awareness campaigns to enable citizens to shift to sustainable consumption and production styles are considered as the most effective policies and measures that cities and local governments implement for rapid GHG reduction.

To this end, ICLEI believes that cities and local governments must be considered as key relevant partners of the national government in the developing countries in planning, implementation and monitoring of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs).

IV. Finance and technology

ICLEI believes that investing in energy efficiency, renewable energies, public transport and non-motorized transport provide considerable support in creating jobs at the local level. Cities and local authorities also have a significant power to lead the development and diffusion of the technologies through their immense purchasing power.

However, ICLEI highlights its serious concerns that Parties do not refer to the role of cities and local authorities in their submissions to Bali Action Plan compiled in document FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/16/Rev.1.

It has to be acknowledged that, despite the willingness, necessity and urgency of local mitigation and adaptation actions, cities and local authorities can not fulfil these tasks without the access to Best Available Technology and adequate financing opportunities.

Therefore, cities and local authorities shall be actively involved in the preparation of the Technology Needs Assessments (TNA). Moreover, innovative approaches and mechanisms shall be introduced, so that cities and local governments shall have easy and affordable access to the best available technologies for mitigation and adaptation actions.

ICLEI recalls that cities and local governments have limited access to the global carbon funds due to the lack of capacity and complexity of the processes. It is expected that the revision of carbon markets and flexibility mechanisms in the post-2012 period, shall allow that cities and local authorities will have a better access to the global flux of carbon funds, the Adaptation Fund, the Technology Fund and other relevant financing options.

Proposal for a Decision by the Parties to the UNFCCC

suggested by United Cities and Local Governments, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, World Mayors Council on Climate Change, C40 Climate Leadership Group, Metropolis as well as regional and national local government associations.

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE CITIES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Acknowledging that by 2030, two thirds of humanity will live in urban centres where more than 75% of all energy is consumed today;

Understanding that all cities are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, especially fast-growing cities in developing countries;

Recognising that cities and local authorities are critical when it comes to practical climate actions and that if genuinely empowered and resourced, they have the potential to lead emission reductions to ensure that ambitious targets for the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions are met. Recalling the Decision on Cities and Biodiversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties on Biodiversity in its 9th meeting;

Drawing lessons from the success of the implementation of the Rio Agenda through Local Agenda 21 and the successful measures that are being implemented by cities around the world on sustainable energy economy through energy savings and the application of new and existing renewable and high efficiency technologies, to reduce dependence on fossil and nuclear fuels and aim for lowest carbon options;

Recognising that cities and local authorities play a critical role in designing and implementing energy and infrastructure guidelines, investment promotion, and consumer awareness campaigns, all of which have direct effects on energy consumption, and in particular on water, energy, biodiversity and communication, education, and public awareness;

Welcoming the commitment demonstrated by the World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement by reaffirming the will of local authorities to accept the challenge and co-responsibility to take action to prevent the dangerous effects of climate change;

Noting that, while responsibilities for implementation of the Convention rest primarily with the Parties, there are multiple reasons for promoting the engagement of cities and local authorities and fostering collaboration with the global local government associations as key partners to the UNFCCC.

The Parties:

- in accordance with and respecting national constitutions and legislation, recognise the role of cities and local authorities in the development and implementation of National Climate Change Strategies and Action Plans, and shall therefore facilitate the adoption by cities and local authorities of practices that support the implementation of these strategies and action plans, as well as support the consistency between local climate change strategies and action plans with National Strategies and Action Plans;
- are committed to engage with the local authority leadership and/or their local authority associations to provide enabling structures and effective framework conditions for climate cooperation with cities and local authorities;
- shall empower cities and local authorities so that they have the abilities, the capacities and the resources required to take necessary action at the local level and to support the Parties in their efforts to meet the agreed targets as appropriate and to implement local climate mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- shall include local authority delegates in the national delegation to the Conference of the Parties and relevant decision making processes hereafter.

The Conference of the Parties:

- recommends to include the development and implementation of local policies in the agenda of the UNFCCC;
- requests the UNFCCC Secretariat to strengthen cooperation with cities and local authorities.



ASSOCIATED PARTNERS & NETWORKS:

