

**INTERVENTION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES (LGMA) CONSTITUENCY
AT THE SBI34 IN-SESSION WORKSHOP TO FURTHER DEVELOP WAYS TO ENHANCE ENGAGEMENT of
OBSERVER ORGANIZATIONS**

SESSION-1: PROPOSALS FOR ENHANCING EXISTING MEANS OF PARTICIPATION

David Cadman, Councillor/Canada
President of ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability
Focal Point of LGMA Constituency

Dear Mr. Chair,

My name is David Cadman. I am the President of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, representing over 1200 cities from 72 countries on every continent around the world. ICLEI is the focal point of local governments and municipal authorities (LGMA) constituency which consists of 14 organizations and one of the first 3 constituencies that is involved in the UNFCCC negotiations since its beginning in 1995.

It gives me a great pleasure to address climate negotiators and observers in this SBI workshop on enhancing engagement of observers.

The scale and urgency of global climate change challenge demonstrate that accelerated mitigation and adaptation actions by all levels of government and civil society are essential in order to reach globally agreed goals. I would also likely to highlight that G20 commitments to stay below 2oC will likely be surpassed much earlier, since global GHG emissions peaked as of 2010 and more importantly, feedback loop will be kicked with massive methane emissions from tundra regions close to poles and oceans.

Recalling that the first workshop on a similar concept was held in 1996 at SBSTA, LGMA is pleased to see that negotiations in the past 15 years have at least enabled that, engagement of civil society is now considered as a practice of implementation rather than a scientific debate.

The first Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate, held in New York in 1993, was the immediate response of local governments to the adoption of the UNFCCC at the Rio Summit. It is sad to see that the full potential of local and subnational action on climate mitigation and adaptation is not appropriately exploited in this first 20 years of international climate regime, simply due to the fact that neither the UNFCCC nor its Kyoto Protocol contain any vision for action at this level of government.

Throughout this period, Nairobi Work Programme on impacts and adaptation should be acknowledged as one of the very few platforms that focus on engaging stakeholders in a broad context.

Local Government Climate Roadmap, a broad coalition of local government networks in response to the Bali Action Plan, aimed to ensure that a global, strong and ambitious global climate regime should be designed and implemented in the post-2012 period where local and subnational governments are fully recognized, resourced and empowered.

LGMA believes that this 2-years process enabled a better dialogue and a renewed spirit to formulate national–local partnerships in a global climate regime in the post-2012 period. In 2009, Copenhagen World Catalogue of Local Climate Commitments, that collected more than 3500 local climate commitments from

cities all around the world, demonstrated that a more ambitious climate mitigation deal can be reached if local commitments are integrated into national plans. The latest information from the World Bank claims that these commitments have now reached to 6000.

The Global Cities Covenant on Climate and Carbon and the Cities Climate Registry, announced in Mexico City in 2010 are additional responses of local governments to global climate agenda in particular in the context of measurable, reportable, verifiable action. I would also like to underline that one week ago in Sao Paulo, I signed an MoU with Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of New York City and Chair of C40 Climate Leadership Group to achieve by COP17 in Durban a common GHG accounting and reporting framework for GHG emissions from cities.

LGMA is proud to see that all these positive interactions resulted in the historic recognition of local and subnational governments as “governmental stakeholders” in para.7 of Decision 1/CP16.

But we know that national delegations can do more to benefit from the power of local action. In Nagoya in 2010, Parties at the biodiversity talks adopted a Plan of Action of Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities, as a result of intensive collaboration with the Secretariat of the UN Convention on Biodiversity, expert organizations and local government networks. We encourage UNFCCC delegations to be inspired by this exercise of their national governments at the CBD level.

I would like to emphasize once again to all delegates that your para.7 of Dec.1/CP16 is an excellent opportunity to enhance engagement of your

Councillors, Mayors, Governors *as governmental stakeholders*, at home and at the UNFCCC. COP16 Presidency high level event with Mayors and Parliamentarians in Cancun can be a good start in this regard.

Seize this opportunity, don't waste this potential for the third time, otherwise we may never find a fourth option.

I would like to further thank to the UNFCCC Secretariat and Parties for their close interest in this process

Thank you.