

Beitrag für Herrn Oberbürgermeister Jürgen Nimptsch, Dialog zu Artikel 6 der Klimarahmenkonvention am Mittwoch, 11. Juni 2014, 11-12 Uhr, Maritim Hotel.

Esteemed Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for including me in your dialogue on public access to information. I personally have both conviction and passion for participatory processes and for maximum transparency. In the field of climate change, I found open doors when I came into function. We pursue the climate management system of the European Energy Award since 2003 and we are in climate monitoring since 1990. Since 2008 we practice internet-based assessment and balance via the ECORegion system allowing to point out different criteria like energy sources.

We have adopted the climate targets of the Climate Alliance to cut the emissions of 1990 in half until 2030. And those of the Covenant of Mayors to reduce them by 20 percent until 2020.

In our own Master Plan Energy Transformation and Climate Protection we address a significant reduction of 90 to 95 percent by 2050 by means of an integrated climate protection concept. This concept is steered by an advisory committee involving politicians and civil society stakeholders. This is about ownership. These decisions will have impacts on every single citizen. So citizens and stakeholders should be part of the process. To start with, we just evaluated where we could arrive until 2020. 28 percent reduction may be feasible, requiring a demanding scenario and investments of 53 million Euro.

Our citizens have a key role, when it comes to successful climate mitigation. We offer consulting on energy and climate to private house owners with a local energy agency. Internet tools like the solar calculator help them deciding for photovoltaic or solarthermal installations. New Bonners are offered a free climate consulting for consumers. We encourage our citizens to be part of the process

both in our integrated climate protection concept to come and also in our strategies to adapt to climate change. A simple example for this is stream-flooding. Heavy rains occur more often in these days and lead to stream floods. Whereas a Rhine river flood gives us two days early warning time, a stream floods in less than 20 minutes. In the near future, a system of rainmeters will publish data in the internet and thereby enable citizens to install simple protection like planks in the entrances in no time at all.

You have been asking for lessons learnt. The one lesson everyone dealing with climate change in densely populated regions is the conflict between the need of green and free space and the need of space for human settlements and economic activity. And the conflict between costs and sustainability, applicable on every procurement decision. I am therefore happy that Bonns citizens are actively involved in our financial plannings, that they decide for their priorities.

And there is another task for us: to inform our citizens in a way, that they take ownership in these processes in a climate-responsible way. This has to start early. In Bonn, primary school kids already train for their climate drivers licence and become Climate Ambassadors. They are passionate for change and they become drivers of change in their families and neighborhoods. We are doing this programme for the third year now with the foundation Bonn Climate Ambassadors – and THOUSANDS of kids have joined the movement already, encouraging us adults and decision makers to go ahead on our climate road!

If you ask for my lesson learnt and my message, it would be: Yes, a maximum of information should be available for the public and a maximum of getting communities engaged with the climate process is desirable. In the meantime, this implicates a deliverable for us as local government: we are responsible of informing our citizens responsibly in order to enable them to be part of these

processes. This means inclusion as well as education for a sustainable development as a parallel task to climate action.

On a more global scale, this information should be made available worldwide: for those who negotiate the climate regime to come as well as for decision makers and stakeholders all over the world.

Currently, the carbonn Cities Climate Registry is the leading global climate reporting platform of local governments.

The carbonn Registry was born in 2010 in Mexico City as the global response of local governments to measurable, reportable, verifiable climate action.

It enables cities, local and subnational governments to demonstrate their power and potential to reduce climate risks and move towards low-emission and climate-resilient development. The registry enhances transparency and accountability of local climate action through voluntary reporting of commitments

(climate or energy), performance (government or community GHG emissions) and actions (mitigation or adaptation).

Thereby it contributes to the global climate advocacy of local and subnational governments under the Local Government Climate Roadmap and facilitates their engagement in the global efforts.

Political Commitments like the Mexico City Pact and the Durban Adaptation Charter) link to the registry as well as Capacity Building Efforts (such as Urban-LEDS Project and Japan Registry) and rewarding incentives (such as WWF Earth Hour City Challenge).

As of May 2014, more than 400 cities, metropolitan areas, prefectures and regions are reporting to the carbonn Registry. Those local and subnational governments serve around 15% of global urban population, deal around 2.2 Giga tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually and undertake thousands of

climate actions. All those governments demonstrate, that they are on track for more transparency and “trust-worthiness”.

From the Bonn perspective I shall add that, although having reported to European registries on an advanced level for quite a long time, we have now started to publish our achievements in carbonn as well. Because we see the need of a global database in challenging times. At the moment, we serve three registries. Therefore I would encourage my European fellow mayors members of the Covenant of Mayors to join my initiative for a technical link between the Covenants registries and carbonn. This has to happen and it has to happen very soon.

The carbonn Registry is also likely play an instrumental role in the formulation and follow up contributions of local governments in the UN Climate Summit to be

held on 23 September 2014. What happens now in cities and regions, will be instrumental for the success of decisions for our future.

Therefore we need information and transparency in all directions:

- With our citizens
- With our neighboring cities
- With other levels of governance
- With stakeholders

There is no bottom up or top down ... the only way out of our climate misery is together!

Thank you for your attention!