

INTERVENTION OF ICLEI – LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
ON BEHALF OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES CONSTITUENCY (LGMA)
AT THE OPENING of ADP2014 (ADP2.4)

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

Mr. Co-Chair,

UN Warsaw Climate Conference resulted in the second most important COP Decision (i.e. para 5b of Dec.1/CP19) related to local and subnational governments in the history of the UNFCCC negotiations.

We also welcome the ADP conclusions (i.e. para 30d of ADP2-3) to convene a Forum in June 2014 in Bonn to help share among Parties the experiences and best practices of cities and subnational authorities in relation to adaptation and mitigation and our active engagement in your technical work.

These outcomes would not be possible without the positive interactions with the delegations through the ADP2.3 Workshop on urbanization, historical 21 November Cities Day including Ministerial-Mayoral dialogues led by the COP19 Presidency and the UNFCCC Secretariat and numerous activities by members and partners of LGMA constituency, all of which enjoyed the strong support of Friends of Cities at the UNFCCC.

We also interpret these outcomes as the positive response of Parties to the vision laid out in the Local Government Climate Roadmap towards Paris2015 which is renewed through the Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Governments on Climate Change, and in particular through its Articles 6 and 11.

Since Warsaw, our advocacy efforts continued to nourish.

At the negotiations on sustainable development goals, national governments decided to anchor sustainable urbanization at the core post2015 development agenda.

Appointment of former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as the UN Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change was another strong signal from the international community to explore opportunities for tapping on the potential and ambitions of local and subnational governments.

We are happy to contribute in this March session, in particular through Technical Expert Meetings.

We further encourage you and all delegations to use the opportunity of March Sessions to prepare for the June Forum to specify how to engage local and subnational governments as governmental stakeholders of the global climate regime in raising the global level of ambition. We hope this June Forum would pave the way towards a robust and innovative action plan to be a part of Paris2015 Outcome Package.

On behalf of our constituency, we would like to particularly thank you the Co-Chairs of ADP for enabling us to bridge our efforts with the Parties and express our readiness to participate in this process constructively.