

LGMA

17

INTERVENTION OF THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES CONSTITUENCY  
(LGMA)  
AT THE JOINT HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT of COP17/CMP7

*Delivered by Councillor James Nxumalo, Mayor of eThekweni Municipality/Durban, South Africa,*

Madame President, your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

For twenty years, Mayors, Councillors and Governors around the world have invited the UNFCCC community to benefit from the ambitious climate actions at the local level to reach global goals.

At the beginning of these two weeks, we urged nations to ensure that the Durban Conference “urbanizes” the global climate agenda and engage with local and sub-national governments.

In addition, we expected significant progress, in particular on financing and setting up a strong, global climate regime.

Meanwhile, last week, over 700 local government leaders from across the world, gathered here at the Durban Local Government Convention.

Now, I am honoured to present to you the Durban Adaptation Charter which is a historic commitment of local governments on climate adaptation action.

Signed by 114 Mayors and other elected local leaders representing over 950 local governments, the Durban Adaptation Charter is a clear indication that the impacts of climate change can only be addressed through development that promotes human welfare, ensures ecosystem integrity and promotes a new greener economy, especially at the local level, since one out of two people in the world now lives in cities.

It is appropriate that this challenge was taken up on African soil, given the vulnerability of our continent to climate change impacts; and in Durban, a city that has become a leader in the field of climate change adaptation.

The Durban Adaptation Charter compliments the Mexico City Pact adopted last year and the carbonn Cities Climate Registry that prepares cities to Measure, Report and Verify their climate actions.

Thus, I sincerely invite nations and global climate community to seize the opportunity presented by cities and local governments in turning the “talk” of global climate challenge into the “walk” of climate action.

Thank you for your attention!