

INTERVENTION OF ICLEI – LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY  
ON BEHALF OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES  
CONSTITUENCY  
AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF COP19/CMP9

Gino Van Begin, Secretary General, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

You know that local and sub-national governments have been interacting with you since Bali. We have strongly advocated for more support -domestically and internationally- to implement climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. We have been pressuring you in Copenhagen, Cancun, Durban, Doha and these days here in Warsaw.

The reason for us for doing so is that local governments are the ultimate implementers of international agreements and national policies. You know that we have capacity to implement. You know that we have the will to implement. In fact, you know that, even in the absence of strong international agreements and national policies we have been advancing. But we can do much more with appropriate support domestically and internationally.

In that context, we thank the COP Presidency and the UNFCCC Secretariat for hosting the Cities and Subnational Dialogue Event as part of a broader and first “Cities Day” at the UNFCCC, here in Warsaw.

Turning to the Warsaw ADP Sessions, we valued the specific workshop of Parties on urbanization and role of governments in facilitating climate action in cities. ICLEI was proud to actively contribute to this workshop. We note that the current version of the ADP decisions and conclusions builds on those discussions. The current ADP text sets now a path for further systematic interactions among Parties on experiences and best practices of cities and subnational governments on climate action. We will contribute and strengthen these interactions. We sincerely hope that these interactions will turn into a robust roadmap for implementation and will strengthen our engagement as governmental stakeholders of the global climate regime.

However, we also share the disappointment of a majority of civil society on the lack of overall progress in negotiations and urge you to accelerate your efforts and commitments to save our climate.

Thank you.