



**Lady Mayor Bärbel Dieckmann
Chair, World Mayors Council on Climate Change, and the
Mayor of Bonn**

**Statement at the High-Level Plenary of the United Nations
Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia on 14 December 2007**

Honourable Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, two Mayors are speaking to you. I am honoured to share this important opportunity to address COP 13 with my esteemed colleague Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City.

We regard this as a recognition of cities' and local governments' effective work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the last two decades, and a sign of your confidence in our future actions.

My city, Bonn in Germany, is the seat of the UN Climate Secretariat and played host to the 2000 UN climate conference (COP 6 Part II), which resulted in the "Bonn Agreement". Next May, Bonn will host the COP meeting on Biological Diversity.

The citizens of Bonn are committed to action for climate protection as well as biological diversity.

Today I am speaking to you as Chair of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change. It is an alliance of municipal leaders committed to climate protection, biodiversity and sustainable development. It is affiliated with the global association ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

We foster the international cooperation of municipal leaders on achieving climate targets, especially under the Kyoto Protocol, Millennium Development Goal 7 and the Biodiversity target of Countdown 2010.

These multilateral mechanisms for global climate protection will only be effective with the engagement of local governments.

Here at COP 13, the World Mayors Council, ICLEI, United Cities and Local Governments, and the C40 Climate Leadership Group launched an Agreement to demonstrate that hundreds of thousands of cities and local governments are united in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation. Action is crucial for all citizens on the globe.

Cities are already changing the world through actions in three areas.

FIRSTLY, within their own operations.

- By low carbon development planning and building regulations;
- By increasing energy efficiency and investing in renewable energy in municipal buildings;

- By greening municipal fleets;
- By providing public transport;
- By using green energy;
- By securing efficient water supplies; and
- By sustainable procurement.

SECONDLY, by educating citizens about lifestyle changes, and by providing incentives for private households and local businesses to invest in low-carbon solutions.

THIRDLY, local governments also work in partnerships - north-south, south-south, and north-north - to exchange best practices and accelerate action. My city, Bonn, has worked closely with Buhara, La Paz, and Ulan Bator.

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in his remarks Wednesday that the science is clear, the impacts are real, and the time to act is now.

Cities and local governments are the entities that actually implement climate mitigation and adaptation policies on the ground.

It is quite simple - without cities and local governments, national governments will not be able to reach their targets and meet their commitments.

Our children and future generations will judge all levels of government on how we have tackled this global challenge.

We the local leaders reach our hands out to you, governments. Let us join forces to save this planet.

Thank you.