

Local Authorities Statement on Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Thank you Mister Chairman and honourable delegates for the opportunity to address the distinguished Commission.

Numerous cities implement programs and initiatives which make significant contributions to sustainable development locally. In addition to these local actions, local authorities work with each other and with our partners to have an even larger impact globally. Today I would like to mention two exemplary partnerships Local Authorities are engaged in.

The first such partnership is the Global Alliance for EcoMobility. The Alliance internationally advocates EcoMobility systems that meet local accessibility needs and improve health, safety, security, air quality and social inclusion and that reduce road congestion and noise levels, resource and energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

EcoMobile transport means walking, wheeling – the use of any two-wheeled vehicle - cycling and use of public transport. The potential of these transport modes to improve our way of life is clear.

The EcoMobility Alliance membership consists of leading global and regional-level organizations representing four different categories of stakeholders: businesses, governmental organizations, users and experts.

The second such partnership is the European Sustainable Cities Campaign. This campaign is the largest local action partnership on Sustainable Development. The campaign seeks to meet the mandate established for the local level in Chapter 28 of the Agenda 21 document, aiming to translate to the European level the outcomes of the Rio World Summit 1992.

The Campaign combines the expertise of eight local government networks, supporting local governments in their local action towards local sustainability.

To date, more than 2,500 European local governments from more than 40 European countries have signed the Aalborg Charter, the 1994 founding document of the Campaign.

The partners and participants of the European Sustainable Cities Campaign carry out various activities such as conferences, working sessions or seminars, projects or awards to enhance the European wide awareness of local sustainable development policies, to mainstream the sustainable management approach throughout local governments across Europe, and to seek political support on all levels.

Thank you, Mister Chair.