

LAMG statement for Second Intercessional 15-16 December 2012.

Session 1

Delivered by Emilia Sáiz

Director of Cabinet of United Cities and Local Governments

Role of Local and Regional Authorities

- At a moment where half the humanity lives and works in cities around the world, the role of sub-national levels of governments in the global agenda is increasingly acknowledged. We are pleased to see growing recognition of the importance of sustainable cities in the Rio+20 preparations. It is still to be broadly understood however that **sustainable cities** is not only a sectorial issue. It is about the success of humanity.

Governance: key to debate

- We are grateful for the efforts made to ensure inputs from the Local Authority major group. We hope that this preparatory process will lead us to a significant step forward in our formal participation in the future Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development
- Increasing demonstrations of citizens in cities around the world demonstrate that the governance models at all levels need to be changed, participation needs to be improved, particularly of women. We cannot keep working within the existing structures if we want to be successful. The institutional framework for sustainable development has to be improved at local, national and global level.
- Local and regional authorities are much in favor of an integrated framework for assessing sustainable development.
- Whatever format IFSD is to take, we will want to see a full participation of major groups and of course special recognition of local and regional authorities as a sphere of government with a particular role to play, at national, regional and world level. Subnational governments are crucial for successful implementation and should also have a voice in global policy making.

- UNEP and UN Habitat should be strengthened in order to ensure effective global organizational settings are in place to deal with the environment and human settlements, respectively.
- To ensure coherence among social, economic and environmental matters, the creation of a Council on Sustainable Development would be one option.
- We agree to move beyond GDP. Future measure mechanisms should include regional, national and local levels.
- Increased capacity and competencies of local and regional governments will be instrumental for both the definition and implementation of any agenda that we agree upon.

Green Economy and Green Urban Economy

- The special role and importance of sustainable cities and green urban economies should be included in the outcome document on Green Economy.

Sustainable Development Goals and Integrated Framework

- Cities, local and regional authorities and their associations are ready and willing to support the definition and implementation of the SDGs developed around basic services. It is after all in the cities (big and small) in the metropolitan areas and regional authorities that many services such as education, culture, water, energy and waste are provided.
- SDGs should be closely linked with the Millennium Development Goals. We particularly support the idea to have an SDG on sustainable urban development strategies.