

## **Raising the *Global* level of ambition through *Local* climate action** **Cities in transformation to low-emission, climate-resilient development**

### **BACKGROUND**

#### ***Raising Global level of ambition through Local climate action***

The [Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change](#), adopted at the World Mayors Summit on Climate Change in Nantes, France on 27-28 September 2013, and endorsed by more than 20 national, regional and global networks of local and subnational governments, marks the start of a new phase for the [Local Government Climate Roadmap](#), an advocacy process since 2007 aimed at recognizing, engaging and empowering local governments within the global climate regime.

The Nantes Declaration highlights global achievements of local governments like the Mexico City Pact, Durban Adaptation Charter, carbonn Cities Climate Registry, Global Protocol for Community Scale GHG Emissions (GPC) and welcoming recognition of local and subnational governments as governmental stakeholders of the global climate regime, pursuant to para.7 of Dec.1/CP16 of UN Cancun Climate Conference in 2010 (COP16).

In addition to specific proposals related to climate negotiations, the Nantes Declaration further calls for a close synergy between the global process including post2015 development agenda, post2015 climate agreement, Hyogo Framework of Disaster Reduction, Nagoya Plan of Action for subnational governments and cities on biodiversity and UN Environment Assembly.

With the adoption of para.5b of Dec.1/CP19 at the UN Warsaw Climate Conference in 2013 (COP19), Parties agreed on facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices between cities and subnational authorities in identifying and implementing opportunities to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. Further ADP conclusions in Warsaw mandated the UN Climate Change Secretariat to convening a specific forum as part of the UN Bonn Climate Conference in June 2014 to

Based on the fruitful interactions throughout the ADP workshop on urbanization and COP Presidency Cities and Subnational Dialogue as the first time in the history of climate negotiations, Warsaw Outcomes are considered to pave the way for an active engagement of local and subnational governments in both raising level of ambition in the pre2020 period and the implementation of the new regime to be defined as an outcome of UN Paris Climate Conference in 2015 agreement.

#### ***The World Needs An UrbanSDG to Reach Global Sustainability***

Para.42 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document “The Future We Want” clearly acknowledged efforts and progress made at the local and subnational levels, and recognized the important role that such authorities and communities can play in implementing sustainable development.

Since the beginning of 2013, a growing consensus among local and subnational governments, intergovernmental organisations, experts and other Major Groups and Stakeholders is evolving that urges national governments to adopt a stand-alone goal on sustainable urbanization, inspired by the successful implementation of Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 through tens of thousands of local initiatives and urban projects in many cities, towns and counties, as well as the realities and opportunities of an Urban World in the coming decades.

- ICLEI is the leading global local governments network on sustainability that, amongst others, led the adoption and implementation of Chapter 28 of Agenda 21, longlasting Organizing Partner of Local Authorities Major Group (LAMG) at the CSD since early 2000s, focal point of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency at the UNFCCC since 1995, member of the Major Groups Facilitating Committee at the UNEP and a core partner of global partnership on cities and biodiversity.
- ICLEI facilitates the Local Government Climate Roadmap since 2007, a member of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 Development Agenda Towards HABITATIII, and supports the Sustainable Cities Working Group of Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- The side event is organized as a contribution of ICLEI to the global efforts for an #UrbanSDG and within the scope of the projects; “Communitas Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions in the New UN Development Agenda” in collaboration with UN-Habitat, Tellus Institute, nrg4sd, supported by Ford Foundation, Charles Leopold Meyer Foundation (FPH), the European Commission and “Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies in Emerging Economy Countries-Urban LEDS” in collaboration with UN-Habitat and supported by the European Commission.
- ICLEI’s engagement within the activities related to the post-2015 UN Development Agenda is supported by the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Charles Leopold Meyer Foundation (FPH).



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### ***SIDE EVENT METHODOLOGY and DRAFT AGENDA***

The side event will be convened at a critical time that will immediately follow the sessions on sustainable cities (6 and 7 January) and just before the session on climate change (9 January) during the work of the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of Open ended Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG7).

Thus, the event will provide an excellent opportunity for an immediate and first public debate among local and subnational governments with their global partners, to assess the progress achieved in the official OWG negotiations on sustainable cities and connections to climate negotiations.

The first session in the first 45 minutes will be convened in the format of a panel that will bring together representatives of leading institutions that advocate for an active engagement of local and subnational governments in the global climate and SDG agenda. Representatives will briefly share their proposals, with a particular focus on the next steps to be followed, based on their insights on the negotiations in the past 2 days and their expectations for the next day. Introductory presentation by ICLEI will enable to set the scene and prepare for main themes of discussions.

In the second part that will last for about 30 min, representatives of Member States, intergovernmental organizations, Major Groups and Stakeholders and experts will be invited to share their comments on the specific proposals, with a view to provide constructive inputs to ensure active engagement of local and subnational governments in global efforts on climate and SDGs.

#### **Facilitator:**

**Yunus Arikan**, Head of Global Policy and Advocacy, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

#### **Keynote Address:**

**David Cadman**, President, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

#### **Panelists:**

**Raf Tuts**, Coordinator, Urban Planning and Design Branch, UN-Habitat

**Ronan Dantec**, Councillor of Nantes, representing CUF/UCLG; Senator of France

**Maruxa Cardama**, Executive Project Coordinator, Communitas Coalition for Sustainable Cities and Regions in the New UN Development Agenda

**NN**, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

#### **Invited Respondents:**

**NN**, Representative of a Member State of Friends of Sustainable Cities at the UN

**NN**, Representative of a Member State of Friends of Cities at the UNFCCC

**Chizuru Aoki**, Climate Mitigation Coordinator, Global Environment Facility (GEF)

**NN**, Representatives of Major Groups and other Stakeholders



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