

Local Government Climate Roadmap

Strong and Comprehensive
Post-2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Poznan 2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Bali 2007
UNFCCC COP 13

A POST-2012 GLOBAL CLIMATE AGREEMENT REQUIRES NATIONAL-LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Local Governments in emerging economies: Support and mobilisation towards a global and comprehensive post-2012 climate change agreement.

Final Project Report

June 2010

SUMMARY

The relevance of local action and local leadership in countries with emerging economies was evident at COP15 and during its preparatory phase.

The initial goal of this project was to achieve a strong and comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement by supporting and profiling the voice of local governments (LGs) in selected project countries.

As COP15 did not deliver the expected outcomes, this overarching goal remains unachieved. However, all related sub-goals of the project have been successful:

- Embedded in the global Local Government Climate Roadmap process towards COP15, local government representatives of emerging economy countries took the lead and were present in large numbers at COP15, underlining their commitment.
- The global coverage of the climate negotiations for local and national mobilisation for local action (local commitment) and the international advocacy for strengthening the local role (request to national and international bodies) have been developed in parallel and have resulted in success at all levels.
- Mobilisation at the local level took place in the project countries, local action plans and activities were initiated and local action was showcased to an international audience (e.g. local case stories).
- Local-national dialogues were organised in all project countries through meetings and events, attracting the attention of national governments in countries playing a key role in the current climate negotiations.
- A 1,5 year international information and mobilisation process ensured LGs were informed and engaged in the global climate negotiations, including a strong presence at COP14 and during the preparatory sessions towards COP15.
- LG “positions” on key issues under negotiation were developed and presented with a united voice. It was made very obvious that LGs from developed and developing countries share concerns on climate change, and express commitment to both mitigation and adaptation action. The necessary enabling framework conditions requested from the international community and from national governments were also jointly formulated and presented.
- The Local Government Climate LOUNGE at COP15, signalled that cities in emerging economies are as committed as those in developed countries.
- During the project implementation, LGs and their associations in emerging economies were prepared for the continuation of the climate negotiations.

The project allowed ICLEI and UCLG and their regional offices to advance the global climate advocacy work, with emerging economy countries at the core. Thus, for the first time in the history of LG involvement in the UNFCCC process, the representatives of developing countries are driving the interaction with national governments, and not just those from developed countries. As a result, LGs have strengthened their role and relevance for issues far beyond climate change, particularly in emerging economy countries.



Local Governments meet with South African Chief Negotiator (center) at COP 15, Dec. 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

Hosting half of the world's population today and predicted to host two thirds of the world's population by 2030, cities have a responsibility to act on the influence of human activities, in order to mitigate the impacts of climate change by implementing actions that will lead to a reduction of greenhouse gases.

A quarter of the urban population of the world's least developed countries live in low elevation coastal zones, at risk from flooding, rising sea-levels and cyclones. The importance of adaptation must be acknowledged and seen from a governance perspective. Protecting health and living conditions requires the proper management of the relationship between urban development, energy and the environment.

Being the closest level to citizens, cities, local and regional governments are best placed to address climate change. Firstly, regarding their local responsibilities and actions in different fields such as planning, urban development, environment, transportation, waste management, energy, housing and new technologies. Secondly, as they are also accountable to their population, they have shown the way in the fight against climate change, taking the lead in the definition of climate action plans and adaptation activities and demonstrating an impressive capacity for innovation.

As the worldwide representatives of local and regional authorities, ICLEI and UCLG have joined their efforts in tackling climate change and have persistently called for the recognition of the role of local governments in the agreement to be reached in or after Copenhagen, and in the implementation of National Climate Change Strategies. In that framework, the European Commission (through EuropeAid) and the Government of Norway funded the presented project implemented by UCLG and ICLEI by supporting local governments from seven countries with emerging economy status in the negotiation process towards a post-2012 climate change agreement.

2. THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS

Taking the general assessment that current and imminent climate change is due to man-made emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), and acknowledging that the current international framework to reduce them (the Kyoto Protocol) will expire in 2012, national governments are currently negotiating the new agreements to be implemented in the post 2012 period, following two tracks: the Long Term Co-operative Action under the Convention (LCA) and the Kyoto Protocol (KP) .

The intergovernmental climate negotiations are facilitated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which entered into force on 21 March 1994, and its supreme decision-making body, the Conference of the Parties (COP).

To facilitate the negotiation process, nations put the Bali Roadmap at the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP13) in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007. It set out loose agreements regarding the issues to be addressed during international climate negotiations to finalise a binding, international agreement on climate change for the post-2012 period at COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December 2009.

The negotiations prior to COP15 and towards following COPs are centered on five main building blocks:

- A Shared Vision to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC now, and beyond 2012.
- Mitigation which aims to reduce the extent of global warming by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhancing GHG absorbing 'sinks' (e.g. forests).
- Adaptation which refers to adjustments in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected effects of climate change. The call for adaptation results from the clear understanding that a certain degree of global warming is unavoidable.
- Technology development and transfer to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including the development and transfer of clean technologies, and Capacity Building.
- Finance which involves the creation of funding mechanisms for mitigation, adaptation and technology transfer.

Key issues related to local and subnational governments referred in different negotiating texts

Agenda Item	Critical reference to local and subnational governments in negotiating papers
Shared Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear reference to key role of local and subnational governments, referred to as "governmental stakeholders"
Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of urban vulnerable groups or areas of high urban atmospheric pollution • Supporting implementation of adaptation at local and subnational level • Integration of adaptation in local development plans
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures that support mitigation actions at local and subnational level, by all countries • Domestically funded mitigation actions in developing countries (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions – NAMAs) • Mitigation actions at the subnational or local level, in particular in cities and rural communities, as part of NAMAs • Buildings and urban planning, as one of the sectors • Subnational accounting in REDD
Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing actions at the local and subnational level
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subnational and city-to-city cooperation
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening institutions at all levels

Table content based on UNFCCC negotiating texts available at unfccc.int/, January 2010

Based on these blocks, the negotiating text included chapters on: Shared Vision, Adaptation, Mitigation, Capacity Building, Technology Transfer and Financing.

The negotiating text document became more complex as it was broken down by chapter in order to be discussed by nations in smaller groups during COP15.

Local Government references were cut and/or added in the different chapters. Nevertheless, the main goal during the negotiations has and will be to maintain and re-introduce the reference to local governments in the above issues. A comprehensive, strong and global climate agreement should include all the negotiating items, with a reference to local government actions.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS

History of local government involvement at COPs



Local governments and their organisations have been involved in Climate Conferences of the Parties (COPs) since they began in 1995. Participating in the COPs gives local governments the opportunity to communicate their achievements and to demonstrate the great potential of local governments to support the implementation of the climate agreements.

Municipal Commissioner of Thane, India, Mr Nadkumar Jantre, addressed national governments on behalf of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) at COP14, Dec. 2008, Poznan, Poland.

The UNFCCC climate negotiations constitute an intergovernmental process and consequently only bind United Nations Member States. However, decisions taken will have direct consequences on the local governance level. This is why local government involvement and recognition in the negotiations is extremely important.

Local government representatives attend COP meetings as part of the so-called observer organisations. Despite their specific identity as government, but non-state government, local governments are admitted as observers to UNFCCC climate negotiations as non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In COP15 UCLG and ICLEI held both the observer organisation status and facilitated the presence of more than a thousand representatives from local and regional governance level.

As an alternative to being nominated through an observer organisation, local government representatives can request to become part of their national government delegation to gain access to COPs. Being part of a national delegation also broadens the range of interaction opportunities and allows those present to attend national government briefings. At COP15, various mayors and local government association representatives were part of their national delegation, a trend that is growing and greatly encouraged by UCLG and ICLEI.



LG representatives meet the Nigerian Climate Change Ambassador at COP15, Dec. 2009

Towards Copenhagen: Local Government Climate Roadmap

As a parallel process to the UN Bali Roadmap, Local Government Associations launched the Local Government Climate Roadmap at the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP13) in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007. This was initiated by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Metropolis, C40 Cities - Climate Leadership Group, and the World Mayors' Council on Climate Change (WMCCC), in cooperation with and support by international, regional and national partners. The Roadmap was set up to accompany and follow up international climate negotiations in order to achieve a far-reaching climate agreement which includes the legal and institutional empowerment of local and regional governments in the forthcoming global climate deal. As such, local government representatives have been present at each of the pre-negotiations in 2009 and have continuously reported on the proceedings.

In addition to influencing the international climate negotiations, the Roadmap process includes a strong mobilisation of local governments at the national and local level, raising international attention and accelerating local government involvement in climate action.

4. THE PROJECT: ICLEI and UCLG support for local governments in climate change actions, strategies and policies at local, national and international level

Through this project, UCLG and ICLEI are working towards an inclusive post-2012 climate agreement with strong climate protection targets and implementation mechanisms that include and refer to the potential of local governments' climate protection and adaptation activities, including a role for local governments in supporting the implementation of national targets.

Seven countries are targeted by the project: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa – which were identified as playing an important role in the climate negotiations due to their rapidly emerging economies.



Local Government representatives meet the Swiss Climate Change Ambassador at COP15, Dec. 2009

UCLG and ICLEI are working with their respective regional sections, who are partners in the project. The project is implemented in China through UCLG ASPAC, Jakarta, Indonesia; in Indonesia through ICLEI Southeast Secretariat, Manila, Philippines with the support of UCLG ASPAC ; in India through ICLEI South Asia Secretariat, Noida/ New Delhi, India; in South Africa and Nigeria through ICLEI Africa Secretariat, Cape Town, South Africa and members of UCLG Africa; in Mexico and Brazil through ICLEI Latin America Secretariat, Sao Paulo Office, Brazil and Mexico Office, Mexico City, Mexico and with the support of UCLG FLACMA, Quito, Ecuador.

The project partners are well placed to reach local governments in the target countries, due to the nature of their organisation, mandate and history, as well as due to their strong global cooperation. Furthermore, all regional and national project partners currently implement other climate protection-related projects allowing for intensive work with local governments to implement local climate action.

4.1. The project in-country activities

Local and regional governments have long been active worldwide and in many of the project countries. They have shown leadership in the field of climate change, setting up concrete targets, developing innovative visions and strategies to address climate change with concrete solutions.

4.1.1. Case studies

Local governments are playing a major role in contributing to meeting the emissions reductions targets agreed upon by their national governments in the Kyoto Protocol and beyond these countries. Voluntary mitigation and adaptation policies and actions taken at a local level are necessary to meet country commitments. Such actions include local emissions reductions target-setting, regulation of policies to ensure sustainable planning strategies, acting as a role model necessary to operate municipal infrastructure and promoting awareness of climate change.

A set of relevant case studies on local climate action from the seven project target countries have been gathered to illustrate the actions undertaken at local level, to be shared with national and international stakeholders and communicated to delegates of the Parties and media during COP15. These case studies show how local and regional levels can act on the climate change challenges, both on mitigation and adaptation. (www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap/localaction).

These examples of best practices aim both at facilitating the replication of the actions in other local and regional governments and at starting a debate on the local contribution to climate protection in all target countries with some leading cities involved.

Manaus, Brazil

Seventy percent of local forests are protected in Manaus. This includes the two largest urban forests in Brazil. The Adolpho Ducke Botanical Garden is one, and has the world's largest number of species with more than 2,500 catalogued species. The city of Manaus has recognized the rainforest's importance for both the city and the world and has taken action to protect it.

Aguascalientes, Mexico

This program was developed under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the landfill of Aguascalientes. The program benefits the city by bringing in funds from the sale of carbon credits, producing cheap electricity for the municipality and meeting Mexican and international standards for mitigating global warming.



In 2009 in Manaus, 200 seedlings were distributed to the population in order to be planted in the backyards of homes. Urban forestation helps reduce urban heat islands and contributes to the conservation of native biodiversity.

Baoding, China

China's Central Government wishes to join the global fight against climate change by encouraging local adoption of sustainable development practices. In line with this, the Baoding municipal government has made a series of strategic moves on restructuring and rebalancing economic development to cope with climate change. Baoding's plan includes the formulation of industrial energysaving policy and regulations. The city also aims to set up an emissions reduction target, as well as the development of new energy initiatives.



Residential building with centralized solar water heating system in Baoding

Surat, India

Committed to building resilience to climate change, the Surat Municipal Corporation is a part of the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN), an initiative to develop and implement robust plans to prepare, withstand and recover from the impacts of climate change.



Surat's vulnerable communities on the waterfront

Bhubaneswar, India

The first city in India to adopt a city-level renewable energy and energy efficiency policy in 2007. Bhubaneswar has a strong commitment to becoming energy efficient, green and clean. As one means of increasing public awareness of energy efficiency, the city has mandated that street vendors install energy efficient lights such as Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs). CFLs provide more light, save energy and reduce GHG emissions.



Vending zone with incandescent bulb

Bogor, Indonesia

Integrated climate action is amongst the prioritized programs of the Municipal Government of Bogor. A range of adaptation and mitigation efforts have been undertaken in various sectors that cause environmental problems and contributing to the carbon emissions in the city. These sectors are transportation, waste management, reforestation and energy efficiency.



Reducing traffic in the city quarters Before (left) and after (right) the action

Durban, South Africa

The Municipal Climate Protection Programme (MCP) was initiated in Durban in 2004 in order to understand local level impacts of climate change and to use this understanding to inform local level planning and decision making. Such an approach is critical in the Global South, as unless the local developmental consequences of climate change can readily be understood by local governments, it is likely that such issues will be superseded by a range of developmental challenges that are perceived to be more pressing i.e. poverty, lack of services and unemployment.



Planting of indigenous trees as part of Durban's 2010 World Cup commitment of carbon neutrality, from national delegations of the South Asia region

4.1.2. National dialogues

In order to ensure that local and regional governments' active involvement is made visible, and to enable them to link with the different levels of action, they have to develop connections with all the relevant stakeholders involved in the field of climate change, and in particular with their regional and national governments.

It is important that local governments are informed of the development of national and international policies in order to be able to adapt and react to them. While implementing their own activities, often on a voluntary basis, local governments have always requested framework conditions from the national and international level which allow them to do much more and to reach their full potential for climate protection, energy saving and efficiency and promotion of renewable energy.

Therefore, regional project partners have implemented, jointly with national local government associations, national dialogues to facilitate the interaction with designated members of national governments, experts on climate change, local and regional governments' representatives and local political leaders, NGOs and other civil societies' organisations working in the field.

Building upon this dialogue, national meetings gathering the involved stakeholders were organised in each country. In Africa, the national dialogue was opened to the entire African region. The aim of these meetings was to facilitate a horizontal and vertical mobilisation towards concrete action involving all relevant actors (national governments, civil society) and a consolidated voice from local governments in the UN Climate negotiation's Framework.

The national dialogue meetings aimed at providing an accessible platform for local governments together with national governments on the climate debate:

- To convey a better understanding of the local potential and improvement of the requested national framework conditions (national action plans, regulations, financial means);
- To ensure that national governments feel supported and strengthened by local climate actions;
- To urge national governments to agree to a strong post-2012 climate agreement.

First Brazilian Journey in Climate Change and Sustainable Consumption May 2009, Brasilia, Brazil

This event united leading actors in the struggle against global warming in the Brazilian capital, Brasilia, to discuss issues related to climate change and sustainable consumption. The Journey aimed at effectively engaging Brazilian local governments in the implementation of public policies to combat global warming. Large participation in the event included not only senior representatives from academia, civil society, the business sector and international experts, but also high-level representatives from all government levels, such as the Head of the Brazilian Delegation to COP15 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In total, the journey gathered more than 300 participants.

During the event, the role of cities on climate change and in the Roadmap process, concrete sub-national and local governments actions and the Brazilian position on climate negotiations were presented and discussed. Participants advocated the importance of sustainable building practices within the next national government programme for the construction of social housing units and other major infrastructure projects.

The African Local Government Climate Roadmap Pre-Copenhagen Summit July 2009, Pretoria, South Africa

The African Local Government Climate Roadmap Pre-Copenhagen Summit in Pretoria, South Africa, gathered African cities and local governments from South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Cameroon, Rwanda and Burkina Faso. They adopted the "African Local Government Declaration", which called for the recognition of local governments as key partners in implementing climate



Family photo of the African Local - National Dialogue

change action; requesting support to empowerment and capacity development of African local governments; and the establishment of an adaptation framework flexible, accessible and supportive of long term sustainable development. It was formally presented to the South African National Climate Consultation and subsequently fed into the various African National Climate Change negotiating processes.

Mexican Climate Change Negotiating Process Event September, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

More than 120 local government leaders gathered at the national conference “Local Governments facing climate change” in San Miguel de Allende. Ambassador de Alba, on behalf of the Mexican federal government, expressed his entire support to the incorporation of local governments in the discussions at COP15 and offered his support and co-operation.



Local - National Dialogue in Mexico, Sept. 2009, with the Mexican Ambassador for Climate Change.

Local - National Dialogue in Brazil October 2009, Brasília, Brazil

ICLEI-LACS jointly organized with the National Forum on Climate Change (FBMC) a meeting to develop and approve the local governments’ position to COP15. The position paper was presented and delivered to the Brazilian Delegation and to President Lula during a meeting on 13 October 2009 in São Paulo. Cities and local government associations were represented at the event. The meeting emphasized that the role of local governments is crucial for the implementation of regional, national and international policies on climate change.

Local-National Dialogue in Indonesia October 2009, Palembang, Indonesia

The National dialogue on Climate Change in Indonesia was held in Palembang, Indonesia on October 22, 2009 with 20 Mayors, national government agencies, 50 journalists from 20 media outfits and other stakeholders participating. Indonesia has targeted an emission reduction of 26 to 41 percent by 2012 and further cuts in carbon emission by 1 billion tons in 2050. The representative of the Ministry of Environment underlined that in order to achieve this target, stakeholders from local, national and international organisations must come together and take action. The Ministry of Environment recommended the creation of a Working Group composed of the national government and Mayors in major island groups as a commitment to continue with the dialogue.



Indonesian LG representatives signing the World Mayors Agreement on Climate Change during the Local-National Dialogue.

The national dialogue culminated in the signing of the World Mayors Climate Agreement and the creation of an Indonesian Urban Climate Change Network that will establish and enhance synergy among all stakeholders in combating climate change.

Indian Local - National Dialogue November 2009, New-Dehli, India

A South Asian Regional Meeting gave the opportunity to release the findings of the Climate Roadmap initiative - "The Carbon Emissions Profiles of 54 South Asian Cities". On this occasion, a South Asian Call that focused on the awareness amongst local governments on climate change and their role in confronting this global problem on behalf of their communities was signed by the Indian participants at the event. This Indian event was the culmination of a series of events that took place in the South Asian region.



Local - National Dialogue in India

Chinese Local - National Dialogue November 2009 –Guangzhou, China

The National Dialogue facilitated by UCLG-ASPAC was attended by city leaders, members of the Chinese Mayors Association, national representatives from Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries(CPAFFC), NGO and research institutions. It provided the opportunity for the local leaders:

- to share their experiences and good practices at the local level to further strengthen local climate actions that are currently in development stage,
- set up a constructive dialogue in which the national government presented an overview of the national directive policies demonstrating how local governments led by the national government are both committed to fight the reduction of GHG emission locally, nationally and globally.

4.1.3. Local and regional climate action plans

As part of the project activities, workshops were organized to share local climate actions and climate change challenges that local governments have to face. The main goal of those workshops was to raise awareness on climate action and the importance of the local climate action in the implementation of international decision, providing a forum for cities to discuss their views on local climate action and a post-2012 global climate agreement. The highlights of these workshops, that call for local climate practices and mobilised local governments in its implementation are:

Local Governments at the Amazon Summit in Manaus, Brazil, October 2009

From 7-10 October 2009, local governments, partners and academia gathered at the Amazon Summit in Manaus, Brazil, right in the heart of the Amazon rainforest to discuss the importance of the role of the Amazon region in the climate debate, as well as forest management and the possibilities to implement the REDD mechanism in the region. Local governments from the whole Amazon region, Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Peru were mobilised with the support of FLACMA. During the event, the local representatives of the region have signed the “Manaus Charter”, which recommends, among other proposals, the formulation of compensation programs for environmental services associated with the management and maintenance of forest cover.

LG in the Asia Pacific region commit to green growth in Changwon, South Korea, October 2009

Over 150 city leaders and local government associations and international NGOs in Asia Pacific region gathered at the Training Seminar “Creating Livable Cities: Linking Plans to Projects” which was held on 19-21 October 2009 in Changwon. The training seminar highlighted various Asian Cities’ experiences in implementing successful projects. Participants discussed a toolkit on linking project prioritization to budgeting. They adopted the “Changwon Declaration for Green Growth” to further facilitate joint advocacy in order to pursue a more extensive low-carbon and green growth economy.

South Asian cities consolidate their views on a post-2012 global climate agreement

Indian municipalities organized a series of national and sub-national workshops in Mysore and Bhopal, in June 2009, Ahmedabad in August 2009 and Bhubaneswar in September 2009. Further workshops were organized in Dhaka, Bangladesh in August 2009, Thimphu, Bhutan, in August 2009, in Kathmandu, Nepal, in June and in Kandy, Sri Lanka, 1 October 2009.

Those workshops provided a forum for South Asian cities to share and discuss their experiences in the design of sustainable cities with low carbon emissions entailing action plans covering energy efficient and design based street lighting, transport management; water pumping system, waste management and enhancement of urban livability and sustainability.

4.2. The project participation of local leaders from target countries in the negotiation process towards COP15

Local governments have started an advocacy process in many countries, including those with emerging economies, which addresses the necessary framework conditions for a much bigger, faster and more relevant contribution of the local level to mitigate CO₂ emissions and to adapt to climate change. Three documents have been the main basis for this joint advocacy process:

- The World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement (December 2007)
- A proposed draft text for a COP Decision on “Cities, Local Authorities and Climate Change” (December 2008)
- An evolving document of proposed amendments to the negotiating texts (since June 2009)

4.2.1. World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Agreement

The World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement (www.globalclimateagreement.org) is a declaration signed by Mayors and other elected leaders from local governments around the world. The Agreement was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, on 12 December 2007 by a coalition of local government organisations, including ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), C40 and the World Mayors Council for Climate Change (WMCCC).

By signing the agreement, local and regional authorities of the World have committed to:

REDUCE greenhouse gas emissions immediately and significantly.

IMPLEMENT subnational, national and international frameworks that are complementary and enable local governments by providing resources, authority and sufficient mandate to carry forward these roles and responsibilities.

BUILD a sustainable energy economy through energy savings and the application of new and existing renewable and high efficiency technologies.

EXECUTE climate change adaptation and preparedness measures.

ADVOCATE that every national delegation participating in the UNFCCC negotiations include local government designated representation.

PERSISTENTLY CALL for national governments to join the international community to undertake binding carbon limits to rapidly and significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the short-term and by at least 60% worldwide below 1990 levels by 2050.

Hundreds of local authorities around the world have ratified the Agreement, individually and through their representative associations. The broad number of signatories to the agreement is a clear signal of the central role of local governments and their commitment to contributing to tackling the climate challenges post-Copenhagen.

Aside from this Agreement, hundreds of European cities have signed up to the Covenant of Mayors (www.eumayors.eu/), and hundreds of American cities signed the US Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement (www.usmayors.org/climateprotection), which are both tools of commitments and actions for local governments.

4.2.2. Local government climate change Leadership Summit in Copenhagen, June 2009

The Summit was hosted by the Danish Association of Local Governments (LGDK) and jointly organised by local roadmap partners. On this occasion, cities and regions have demonstrated their mobilisation and their concrete commitments.

At the 23 workshops of the Climate Summit, the participants discussed the challenges that climate change implies and the experience that cities, municipalities and regions worldwide have gathered in combating climate change.

The 700 representatives from municipalities and regions from more than 60 countries attending the Summit sent a united position to the UN climate negotiators and agreed on the "Local and Regional Call to the Parties in Copenhagen" conveying the message that LGs want to be a part of the solution of climate problems.

Local Government representative addressing the final Plenary of the Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit.



4.2.3. Advocacy in negotiation rounds prior to and during COP15

Message brought by LGs

ICLEI and UCLG, jointly with local leaders took part in all the negotiation rounds that were held in the course of 2009 in view of COP15. Three sessions were held in Bonn, where LGs obtained recognition of their role in the implementation of climate actions: a hundred references could be found in the negotiating text, in adaptation, mitigation, technical transfer and finance chapters. However, in the Bangkok and Barcelona talks prior to COP15, as the text had to be cut down to go from 200 pages to a 50 page document, and despite great LG mobilisation many references to LGs were lost.



LG representatives meet the Mexican Climate Change Ambassador at COP15, Dec. 2009

Local government networks have continuously been calling for recognition of their role in the agreement to be reached in or after Copenhagen, and in the implementation of National Climate Change strategies and Action Plans. They call for the empowerment of cities and for the broad co-opting of the experience and expertise of local authorities in the development and implementation of policies. Local authorities need a UNFCCC Adaptation Fund which takes the key role that local government can play into account and which understands that adaptation measures cannot be pursued in isolation from the development realities faced by cities, towns and regions.

As a result, local and regional governments are currently recognized in the first chapter (or preamble) of the text in the definition as stakeholders to be involved in climate change actions and policies stating:

“Recognizing the need to engage a broad range of stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels, be they governmental, including subnational and local government, private business or civil society, including the youth and persons with disability, and that gender equality and the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change”

Local Government Delegation at COP15

Local political leaders and experts from each of the target countries and beyond were invited to join the Local Government Delegation in Copenhagen. This gathered around 1200 LG representatives of around the world that allowed a constant and strong presence of local governments during the two weeks of COP15. Some examples of the local representatives that were part of the Local Government Delegation are:

- Ten city representatives including city mayors, commissioners and other representatives from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh.
- 37 local representatives from Brasil including the cities of São Paulo, Porto Alegre, Belo Horizonte, Rio de Janeiro and Manaus and the States of Mato Grosso, Bahia and Pernambuco attended COP15. Many of these representatives were part of the Brazilian National Delegation. The city of Buenos Aires was also present.
- Over 50 African representatives, including local and provincial government, formed part of the LG delegation. These included various South African LGs such as the Cape Town, Ethekwini Municipality (Durban), Sol Plaatjie Municipality, City of Johannesburg, Sedibeng Municipality and the City of Tshwane (Pretoria). Other representatives from the delegation included LGs from Nigeria, Namibia, Uganda, DRC and Tanzania.

Well informed local representatives at COP15

Prior to and during COP15, ICLEI and UCLG have constantly given support to members of the delegation by providing them with information along the negotiation process and explanatory material such as bi-monthly newsletters, briefing sheets to explain the whole process, personal briefings at Copenhagen. They share a common position of the LG to be advocated in the Conference (www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap/briefingsheets). Daily briefings were held in the Local Government LOUNGE while e-mails and websites provided additional support. A specific website was set-up to help LG (and media) find all the information needed to follow the negotiations and give visibility to LGs. All the partners implemented a web page dedicated to climate change on the websites, giving the possibility to have the information in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

The Local Government Climate LOUNGE

With the main objective to demonstrate why the role of local governments should be included in a post-2012 climate regime, a multi-faceted program was organised in the Local Government Climate LOUNGE, located in the COP15 venue (www.iclei.org/cop15). The LOUNGE provided an advocacy base for approximately 1500 registered local government representatives. Through more than 70 events including mayor-ministerial level negotiation meetings with more than 20 countries, high level interviews, regional and national workshop sessions, media-launch events and daily briefings, the LOUNGE became the largest local government event held during a Climate COP.



Marcelo Ebrard, Mayor of Mexico City and Greg Nickels, former Mayor of Seattle in the Local Government Climate LOUNGE

Example: The State of Mato Grosso had a special participation in COP15 as it organised two side-events. One to present its ongoing activities towards climate and forest protection in the Amazon and a proposal of a REDD pilot project, stressing out the possibilities for REDD implementation in the region involving multi-stakeholders. Both events were attended by the Governor Blairo Maggi and several representatives from the Brazilian Delegation. As part of the Brazilian Delegation, the States were able to attend Parties meetings, highlighting the role of sub-national governments in the implementation of the National Plans and Strategies.

Meetings between local and national governments representatives

During the first week of COP15, the LG Delegation focused on meeting with national delegation representatives, in particular with Climate Change Ambassadors or chief negotiators. These meetings aimed at adding references to local and regional governments in the negotiating texts, at maintaining those already included and at conveying local governments' main messages.

Three to four meetings were held daily between national delegations and local governments from around the world, including South Africa, Norway, France, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, Republic of Korea, and Sweden. During the second week of COP15, the focus was on Brazil, Japan and the USA, with Local Government representatives meeting their delegation (More information on the COP15 outcomes: www.iclei.org/cop15/report).



www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap
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