

Message from ICLEI World Congress to Rio+20

We, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability convened here in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, on the occasion of the ICLEI World Congress 2012, hereby urge the Parties of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to:

1. *Recognize* that local governments are particularly effective drivers of sustainable development as incubators of innovation and scaled implementation, agents of change, and the sphere of government closest to the people; that they can address global problems with systemic localised solutions; that they directly produce and enforce normative and legislative instruments that can promote sustainable practices contributing to greening our economies;
2. *Recognize* that this is the Century of Cities; that in the next 40 years, the expansion of urban capacity will be equivalent to that which has occurred over the last 4000 years, presenting unprecedented challenges and opportunities to redesign and transform our future urban life.

For local governments, as governmental stakeholders in the United Nations system, to realise their full potential as drivers of sustainable development, we call upon the Parties of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to:

1. *Recognize* governmental stakeholders in the development of international legal frameworks for sustainability by providing permanent and effective consultation mechanisms as part of the United Nations procedures, with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of global agreements;
2. *Provide* governmental stakeholders with increased representation and influence in international development cooperation processes including the UN system;
3. *Enhance* governmental stakeholder access to expanded national and international funds for sustainable development directed to the local level through decentralised cooperation models;
4. *Support* the establishment of locally-appropriate regulatory frameworks that enable integrated urban solutions and create new markets for inclusive green urban economies.
5. *Strengthen* networks and associations that connect local leaders, facilitate knowledge-exchange, build capacity, and foster collaborative action;
6. *Elevate* collaboration with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability on the basis of its longstanding leadership in global advocacy, developing solutions, accelerating action, spurring change, and paving pathways towards local sustainability, within the context of the reformed international framework for sustainable development.
7. *Seize* all opportunities to drive the transition towards a resilient and inclusive green urban economy that addresses the need for poverty alleviation and environmental justice and works with the limits of the planetary systems.

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