

Comprehensive Post-2012 Global Climate Agreement

Bali
2007
UNFCCC COP 13

Poznan
2008
UNFCCC COP 14

Copenhagen
2009
UNFCCC COP 15

Local Government Climate Roadmap Portugal

We, Cities and Local Governments

- represent the world's population;
- are the level of governance closest to communities;
- subscribe binding Pacts and Commitments for the promotion of urban sustainability and environmental improvements in our territories;
- implement relevant local actions against Climate Change;

are committed to

- national climate change strategies, recognising the key-role of local authorities;
- defining local or regional mitigation and adaptation strategies, regularly monitoring and presenting the results of implemented measures;
- setting an example by incorporating in our organisations mitigation actions and promoting adaptation measures in our territories;
- raising-awareness for climate protection action amongst our citizens;

request National Governments to

- recognise the relevance of local intervention in national and international strategies against Climate Change, creating the necessary conditions for this intervention, including financial and legal frameworks;
- articulate with Local Authorities goals and target-setting for Climate Change measures and action;
- support the development and inclusion of local policies against Climate Change in the UNFCCC agenda.

PARALLEL PROCESS TO THE UN CLIMATE ROADMAP



ASSOCIATED PARTNERS & NETWORKS:



CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE CITIES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Acknowledging that by 2030 two thirds of humanity will live in urban centres, where more than 75% of all energy is consumed today, and the importance of reversing this tendency;

Understanding that all cities are highly vulnerable to the impacts of Climate Change, especially fast-growing cities in developing countries;

Recognising that cities and local authorities are critical when it comes to practical climate actions and that if genuinely empowered and resourced, they have the potential to lead emission reductions to ensure that ambitious targets for the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions are met.

Accepting that Local Authorities also have responsibilities in the management of low-density territories, which include important natural heritage areas, crucial for the fixation of greenhouse gases and for the production of renewable energy;

Recalling the Decision on Cities and Biodiversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties on Biodiversity in its 9th meeting;

Drawing lessons from the success of the implementation of the Rio Agenda through Local Agenda 21 and the successful measures that are being implemented by cities around the world on sustainable energy economy through energy savings and the application of new and existing renewable and high efficiency technologies, contributing towards reducing the dependency on fossil and nuclear fuels and aim for lowest carbon options;

Recognising that cities and local authorities play a critical role: in designing guidelines, actions and undertaking investments with direct impact on energy offer and demand, particularly where transport and buildings are concerned; in promoting communication, awareness-raising and educational campaigns with direct effects on energy and water consumption, as well as other natural resources;

Recognising also the relevance of local action, duly articulated with the regional and national levels, in the adaptation of territories, people and goods to the predictable impacts of Climate Change;

Welcoming the commitment demonstrated by the World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement by reaffirming the will of local authorities to accept the challenge and co-responsibility to take action to prevent the dangerous effects of Climate Change;

Noting that, while responsibilities for implementation of the Convention rest primarily with the Parties, there are multiple reasons for promoting the engagement of cities and local authorities and fostering collaboration with the global local government associations as key partners to the UNFCCC.

The Parties:

- in accordance with and respecting national constitutions and legislation, recognise the important role of cities and local authorities in the implementation of National Climate Change Strategies and Action Plans, for the prevention and fight against the effects of Climate Change, and shall therefore facilitate the adoption by cities and local authorities of practices that support the implementation of these strategies and action plans, as well as support the consistency between local climate change strategies and action plans with National Strategies and Action Plans;
- are committed to engage with local authorities and/or their associations, in order to provide enabling structures, cooperation platforms and effective framework conditions for climate cooperation with cities and local authorities;
- shall empower cities and local authorities so that they have the opportunities, the capacities and the resources required to take necessary action at the local level and to support the Parties in their efforts to meet the agreed targets and to implement local climate mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- shall include local authority delegates in the national delegation to the Conference of the Parties and relevant decision making processes hereafter.

The Conference of the Parties:

- commits to include the development and implementation of local Climate Change mitigation and adaptation policies in the agenda of the UNFCCC
- requests the UNFCCC Secretariat to strengthen cooperation with cities and local authorities and facilitate their meaningful contribution to the conference decisions

For more information please go to: