

# Local Government Climate Roadmap

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

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change has great social impacts that are felt throughout the world. Local governments are witnessing first-hand the need to address both climate mitigation and adaptation.

There is increasing evidence that well-designed and well-governed cities can lead the way in lowering national emissions.

*"Local Governments have critical role to play in fight against climate change"* according to United Nations Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon, who has praised local authorities for their work. Mr Ban has recommended that better integrated approaches of national and local level to climate change are the way to successfully address climate change and sustainable economic development.

Climate change strategies will need to take into account development needs and local action will be instrumental to achieving concrete results.

UCLG has embarked on a joint strategy with other relevant specialised networks of local authorities such as ICLEI, the World Mayors' Council on Climate Change and the C-40 to make the voice of local and regional government heard in the international negotiations towards a Post Kyoto Agreement.

Currently, two actions can be undertaken to make the voice of local and regional governments heard before national governments and the international community:

**Step 1**            **Sign-up to the World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement**, which aims at emphasizing the commitment of local authorities in the fight against climate change;

**Step 2**            **Continue to communicate with your national government about the negotiations of the** Post-Kyoto agreements and the role to be played by local authorities.



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# STEP 1

## SIGN THE WORLD MAYORS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

### Why should local governments sign this Agreement?

The World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement is the only global agreement developed **by** Local Governments **for** Local Governments. When it comes to climate change impacts, local governments are on the front line, facing environmental, social and economic consequences that directly affect their citizens, particularly in urban areas.

The World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, 12 December 2007 by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC), and the C40 Climate Leadership Group.

The Agreement sets out our belief that local and regional governments are key actors in the implementation of climate change strategies and that their role has to be recognized by the international community.

Local and Regional Governments, acting together and engaging in the signature of the agreement, have a greater opportunity to bring about changes in the international climate change negotiations and to achieve agreements that include them as real actors.

It is with this consideration that **the Agreement will be presented at the COP-15, during the United Nations Framework Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC)**, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

**The more signatures we gather, the stronger our voice will be!**

### What to do?

1. Present the agreement to your council for adoption
2. Send the attached form back to the UCLG World Secretariat

*Please note that you can also make comments on the agreement and adhere partially to its commitments depending on the circumstances of your local area.*



## The World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement

### **Cities and Local Governments Mobilising Leadership and Local Climate Action**

By 2030, two thirds of humanity will live in urban centers, where today more than 50% of the world's population lives and more than 75% of all energy is consumed. All cities are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, especially fast growing cities in developing countries.

Mayors and local governments are crucial when it comes to practical climate actions; if genuinely empowered and given adequate resources, they have the potential to lead the way in emissions reductions, ensuring the achievement of the targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Addressing the Challenge, Embracing the Opportunities**

Cities and local governments are striving, on a global level, to collaborate to effectively respond to the urgency and rapid pace of global warming. Local governments, subnational and national governments must- both individually and jointly- lead and act to achieve the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions required to avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change.

World mayors and local governments call upon all national governments to work through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to adopt commitments not to cross the threshold of a 2 degree Celsius increase in the Earth's surface temperature. They specifically call for a framework that will achieve a reduction of 60% of greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050 globally, with industrialized countries to commit to 80% of greenhouse gas reductions from 1990 levels.

### **Commitments to Leadership and Action**

Mayors and local governments accept the challenge to lead and the responsibility to take action to combat the rapid and dangerous rate of warming of the planet. Building on the existing commitments of local government leaders and their associations, including the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection™ Campaign, the World Mayors Council on Climate Change, the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, C40 Climate Leadership Group and the United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) Jeju Declaration, mayors and local governments set forth the following commitments:

1. REDUCE greenhouse gas emissions immediately and significantly. Measure and report on annual reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and constantly work to increase reductions so that by 2050 greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced worldwide by 60% from 1990 levels and by 80% from 1990 levels in industrialized countries.
2. 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.
3. BUILD a sustainable energy economy through energy savings and the application of new and existing renewable and high efficiency technologies, to reduce dependence on fossil and nuclear fuels and aim for lowest-carbon options.
4. EXECUTE climate change adaptation and preparedness measures through local government planning, development and operational mechanisms, prioritizing the most vulnerable cities.
5. ADVOCATE that every national delegation participating in the UNFCCC negotiations include local government-designated representation to ensure that local climate priorities and actions are included in future negotiations.
6. PERSISTENTLY CALL for national governments to join the international community in undertaking 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.

*Launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC), United Cities and Local Government and the C40 Climate Leadership Group in Bali, Indonesia, 12 December 2007.*

**SIGNATURE FORM**  
**WORLD MAYORS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**  
**CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT**

***[Name of Local Government / Local Government Association]***

joins local governments across the World in committing to the protection of the climate by signing up to the World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement.

Adopted by ***[Name of Local Government / Local Government Association]***

on ***[Date]***

Name of the Mayor or the President:  
Signature and/or stamp

**To be forwarded to the UCLG World Secretariat:**

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**You can also sign online:** [www.cities-localgovernments.org](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org)

## STEP 2

### CONTACT YOUR NATIONAL DELEGATION INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS

#### Where are Local and regional authorities in International negotiations?

Following the June negotiations in Bonn, local authorities, through their lobbying as national associations at national level and as networks at international level, obtained the recognition of the involvement of local government in the draft Negotiating Text for the UNFCCC negotiations in Copenhagen.

This draft Negotiating Text contains 100 significant explicit references to the role of local authorities and the local level. The role of local governments is now acknowledged under all the chapters of the Text, namely: long-term cooperative action, adaptation, mitigation and action on financing, technology and capacity-building.

#### What is our message?

Local and regional governments request:

1. The recognition of the role of cities and local and regional authorities in the implementation and definition of National Climate Change Strategies; including National Mitigation and Adaptation Plans;
2. The enhancement of the capacity and knowledge of local and regional authorities;
3. The provision of adequate financial resources and mechanisms;
4. A far-reaching and transparent agreement, including ambitious, clear, legally binding reduction targets

#### What can you do?

1. Request local government representation in your national government delegation to the Copenhagen negotiations in December;
2. Inform your international networks of any success you have and of the name of any local government delegate who accompanies your national government delegation to Copenhagen.

#### What is the international Calendar?

Local government efforts from now until the end of the year will need to focus on **RETAINING** the references in the text, as it will come under negotiation again at the following dates:

- in Bonn, from 10 to 14 August;
- in Bangkok from 29 September to 9 October and
- in Barcelona from 2 to 6 November.

