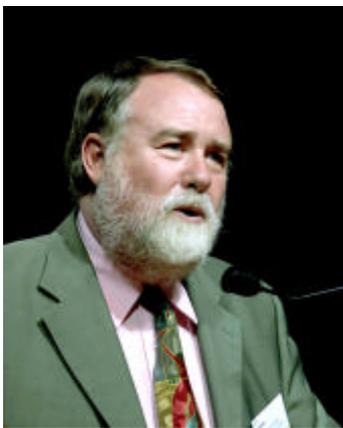


## ICLEI 2007–2012: An Outlook

### Speech by ICLEI President David Cadman at the closing plenary of the World Congress 2006 in Cape Town, South Africa

Convening the ICLEI World Congress 2006 in this magnificent city of Cape Town has been an inspiration to us all. The energy and vibrancy of the city, its citizens and leadership has deeply touched us all and will undoubtedly stimulate and motivate our action during the coming years.



Cape Town is actively engaged in bridging its past with a sustainable future that includes “all” of its citizens. The city and South Africa, is an exemplary case of how to build a sustainable community, overcoming in less than a decade, the divisive policies of apartheid. The new Cape Town is being reshaped by a more inclusive government with better governance and democracy, and in which a respectful management of available natural resources and the living environment finds it required space. This city is true evidence of a commitment to re-establish a shared recognition of human and environmental values. If we wish to accelerate sustainability worldwide, we need more of such strong examples.

Over the last 50 years, our urban population has doubled and is expected to increase by another 30% in the next 30 years; every week, the global urban population is growing by 1,2 million; we have an unacceptable amount of slum dwellers world wide today; an African urban citizen consumes 50 liters of water per day; northern citizens use 215 liters per capita whereas one billion people still lack access to water or healthy sanitation; the ecological footprint of northern megacities is sometimes more than 120 times their own surface.

This century, our planet undergoes an “urban” revolution. We urgently need to build and manage our cities in a more sustainable and equitable manner.

Therefore, we -mayors and local government leaders- must realize that the future success of our cities depends on our ability to create resilient and sustainable patterns of life for all our citizens.

The goals to build a sustainable community, to protect our common natural resources, to provide ourselves with government mechanisms that include the participation of our citizens and to efficiently manage environmental resources is central to this membership organization and honors the work of ICLEI.

Worldwide, ICLEI brings together the elected governments of more than 490 cities, towns, counties and prefectures. With our joint actions and work, we can directly influence the quality of life of more than 300 million citizens whom we represent.

I have had the pleasure to represent ICLEI as Vice President over the last 3 years and am honored to continue serving as President from today onward.



In this role, I first wish to express my gratitude and highest respect to the leadership of Cape Town for their tremendous hospitality and most efficient organization of ICLEI's World Congress 2006.

Also, my colleagues of the Executive Committee and myself have been extremely pleased to see that such a large number of ICLEI members from all regions and numerous guests took the necessary time to come to Cape Town. Only through your active contribution, could a real policy debate take place at this World Congress, especially among all those who have a political responsibility to influence the ongoing transformation in our societies. I sincerely thank you for this.

Taking our discussions as a basis, please allow me to now summarize the main outcomes and to give you a strategic outlook of the work that we shall undertake during the coming six years.

### **Building Sustainable Communities and Cities**

Let me start by addressing the first main strategic stream for action, our mandate as an ICLEI Movement to *Build Sustainable Communities and Cities*.

In order to assist our ICLEI members in addressing key barriers to the building of sustainable communities, ICLEI will capitalize on its expertise and experience in Local Agenda 21 planning.

In that respect, ICLEI continues to offer its members to join pilot projects as well as to receive guidance and support through specialized agendas within priority program areas.

First, the **Resilient Communities & Cities Initiative** will be further developed in order to engage ICLEI members in increasing the resilience of both their city and community to extreme events, such as natural or man-made disasters and emergencies.

It is intended that through this Resilience initiative existing tools and mechanisms can be identified, localized and made available to our members in South East Asia, South Asia, Africa and potentially in Latin America. To this end, ICLEI is currently exploring the opportunity to hold an event that will coincide with ISDR, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

This Resilience Initiative will be linked to fighting poverty. It shall be derived from participatory action planning and will include partnerships with public and private actors.

Secondly, with regard to our **Just, Peaceful and Secure Communities & Cities program**:

I believe we all agree that equity, peace and security must be seen as an essential factor of progress, liberty, democracy and sustainability.

Since 2003, ICLEI has engaged members in Latin America in a learning process on how the Local Agenda 21 methodology can be of value to address strategies for security. In doing so, partnerships are undertaken with other local governments, the research sector, as well as security forces. From a strategic view, ICLEI will further enhance this program in Latin America through a number of pilot projects that build upon the capacity and social capital of cities and their communities.

Thirdly, in order to help increase the **Eco-efficiency of ICLEI members** in their use of scarce environmental resources, ICLEI installed a partnership with the Global Footprint Network.



Our strategic goal is to calculate and monitor the development of the Ecological Footprint of ICLEI's membership on the basis of the footprints of all our member cities, towns and counties.

With a view to achieve this, ICLEI members present here have agreed that a recommendation paper would be prepared and discussed by the Executive Committee.

## **Protecting our Global Common Goods**

Within our second strategic stream for local action, *Protecting our Global Common Goods*, I will now address our strategic goals with respect to the protection of **climate**, **water** and **biodiversity**.

**Climate:** In the coming decades, worldwide emissions of greenhouse gases are expected to continue to increase. This will result in an increase of temperatures between 1.4 and 5.8 °C. Other predicted impacts are a rise in global sea levels and changes in weather pattern. These may include an increased frequency and severity of extreme events, such as hurricanes, floods and droughts of which we have already experienced clear examples.

The effects we, humans, have on climate change will cost us human life, vast amounts of money, and increased poverty. The negative impacts of climate change are likely to affect developing countries most severely.

Therefore, climate protection is not just an issue for national government and inter-governmental arenas. We need to assess our own immediate local threats and associated risks as well as reduce our cities' contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We urgently must start to mitigate and deploy adaptation strategies to the consequences of climate change.

As an effective response to these issues, ICLEI will continue and consolidate the worldwide Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. This performance-oriented campaign with over 725 participants counts for the largest and most effective movement of local governments to act on climate change. Within this framework, we shall engage local governments in adaptation strategies to climate change as well as promote renewable energy through a model communities program in Brazil and India, and invite other regions to join.

In addition, ICLEI shall strengthen the local voice through the World Mayors Council on Climate Change, and facilitate municipal participation in the global carbon market.

With regard to **water**: Local governments are the first to bear the burden of public health problems and social unrest amongst our citizens derived from water problems.

However, whilst we wish to provide better services, we cannot "produce" or "create" more water. Water is limited. Therefore, we must ensure that the wasting of water is sharply reduced and that an appropriate water resource management is put in place.

Because of the fact that water is a shared good, but also because of jurisdictional competencies, we can not solve such water-related problems on our own. We must find broader solutions and work in conjunction with our citizens and neighboring municipalities. And we must advocate for stronger support from national government to our efforts.

The Water Campaign does not seek to re-invent the wheel. We rather offer a performance-oriented framework and a methodology built upon principles of good water governance and integrated resource management.



From a strategic perspective, we aim to build and consolidate our Water Campaign in Asia, Africa and Oceania and shall create tools and reference cases to help the development and implementation of Local Water Agendas.

ICLEI will seek inclusion of its strategic work into existing local processes and traditional knowledge that address the existing challenges of the water sector. For this purpose, our activities will be driven towards local governments, for example here in Africa, with a strong participation of local stakeholders.

Similarly, ICLEI will bring the voice of local governments and stakeholders in ongoing international and regional processes.

Finally, with regard to **biodiversity**: Following the discussions during our Congress and at the Business Council meeting earlier this afternoon, there is agreement on the need for municipal strategies that address the quality of the living environment in urban areas.

The living environment in our cities is increasingly threatened by the sprawling of our cities, through the ways we designate new housing areas or construct streets as well as induced by newer factors such as climate change.

By conserving and bringing nature into our cities, we undertake a local contribution to halt the loss of biodiversity generally. But equally, through the integration of active biodiversity planning into overall urban planning, we can increase the quality of our cities and may address other issues such as social equity and poverty.

Based on our discussions here, the Strategic Plan has therefore been amended by the membership and request ICLEI now:

- to facilitate the participation of interested members in the conceptualization of a Local Action for Biodiversity initiative as proposed and led by the City of Cape Town, and
- to identify opportunities for the creation of an inter-regional local government network for biodiversity, which would promote a greater understanding of urban biodiversity issues and the implementation of actions.

ICLEI welcomes this new field for action and is looking forward to a successful continuation of work with our host city.

## **Participatory Governance and Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources**

I turn now to our third strategic stream for local action, namely, *Participatory Governance and Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources*.

**LA21 and Local Governance Campaign:** As a main goal, ICLEI aims to keep its achievements and track record by keeping a lead role in the promotion of Local Agenda 21. ICLEI will continue to promote LA21 as an effective, participatory planning process for sustainability at the local level.

We will ensure that participatory governance principles will serve as a basis for other specialized Local Action 21 agendas. And, we shall continue running sustainable cities campaigns whilst deepening cooperation with national or regional government or their associations.

In addition, ICLEI will continue to design tools as well as provide guidance and training with regard to LA21 planning processes.



**Sustainability Management Program:** Besides participatory planning, the use of integrated sustainability management systems is absolutely required in order to achieve the unwavering implementation of sustainability and environmental performance.

However, so far, the implementation of sustainability management systems in cities has been rather sporadic and the successes in most cases have concentrated only on a few departments or sectors of the municipal administration. Increasing the overall political support to implement the complete cycle of Plan – Do – Check – Respond is imperative.

Those ICLEI cities that have worked, for example, with ecoBudget or with Triple Bottom Line Reporting have strongly echoed the value of such management mechanisms for long term sustainability planning and assessment.

Therefore, our strategic aim is to run further pilot applications of *ecoBUDGET* and Triple Bottom Line reporting in more countries and to offer consultancy related services. We wish to achieve that a critical amount of ICLEI members apply these or similar useful management mechanisms.

In order to inspire more councilors and Mayors, ICLEI will use and facilitate international cooperation among ICLEI members.

**Sustainable Procurement Campaign:** Finally, I want to report on ICLEI activities in Europe with regard to sustainable procurement.

If we realize that public authorities, for example in the 25 countries of the European Union, buy goods and services for about 1,000 billion Euro a year, then even a small shift towards “green” purchasing offers an enormous potential and can achieve substantial environmental gains.

ICLEI has therefore established a sustainable procurement campaign that runs in Europe but which is open to all ICLEI members. Within the campaign, purchasing criteria for six priority product groups, frequently bought by local governments, have been identified. These include for example electricity from renewable resources, energy-efficient computers or buildings that meet high energy efficiency standards.

Based on the interest expressed here, ICLEI has been encouraged to continue promoting the Sustainable Procurement Campaign as well as expanding it to other regions, such as Korea, or facilitating twinning arrangements between cities.

## Conclusions

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I said at the start – we need more examples of courageous leadership and “great” work!

We must dare to be ambitious and to elevate our cities and communities on sustainable patterns of life.

Ambitious cities are needed in order to demonstrate what can be achieved; at the same time, ambitious investments also require ambitious time spans so that investments of today are not regarded as un-investment in the near future.

We urgently need to connect with and influence the different spheres of government – not only to seek recognition and support to our work but also to avoid that national or international strategies contradict local action.



ICLEI as the world association of local governments for sustainability brings such ambitions together. We therefore must seek to increase our membership and the commitment of our members. In order to inspire change, we must combine our voices and work together through this variety of campaigns, programs and initiatives.

It seems fitting to now remind ourselves of our Mission:

“We, as ICLEI, are here to build and serve a worldwide movement to achieve tangible improvements in global sustainability through local actions”.

This also means reducing our cumulative footprint. To do this, we must first realize what our current state is. I am pleased that our membership agrees to examine the value of an ICLEI’s Footprint initiative. I have this vision that we would meet at our next World Congress with all our footprints in hand. This would be a strong signal of our ambition and commitment to jointly reducing our global impact.

We have shown here that we are a strong movement. I hope that the inspiration and motivation that we received from being here in Cape Town will accompany you in your work around the world.

On behalf of the Vice President, Stephen Kabuye and the entire Executive Committee, I thank you for your active participation.

David Cadman  
President of ICLEI  
Cape Town, 3 March 2006