

**INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES (LGMA) CONSITUENCY
DELIVERED BY ICLEI – LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
AT THE OPENING OF UN BONN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (SB44/APA1)
16 May 2016, Bonn, Germany**

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Madam President, Your Excellencies, distinguished delegations, dear colleagues,

The historic Paris Agreement opens a new era in the global efforts on climate change that is universal, ambitious, and inclusive. Local and subnational leaders and their networks welcome this achievement as the last chance for humanity to save climate for current and future generations. We also congratulate governments at all levels and people of France and COP21 Presidency for your leadership. But now, there is no time to waste. And no individual and institution have any excuse for inaction. Below you can find our 5 priority points;

- 1- **Parties must ensure entry Into Force of the Paris Agreement in 2016:** Parties must speed up all their domestic legislative efforts to ensure appropriate number of ratifications are deposited so that the Paris Agreement enters into force in 2016.
- 2- **We encourage Parties to enhance engagement of Local and Subnational Governments to Scale-up Ambition and Accelerate Action:** Parties now have the opportunity to tap fully the potential of local and subnational governments. This should build upon the Paris Agreement preamble para.15, all references to Non-Party Stakeholders in Dec.1/CP21, the fact that more than 50% of all INDCS have a vision for local and subnational action, and our already existing initiatives.
- 3- **We call for synergy at all levels and processes:** 2016 is the year of governance. Inside the UNFCCC, Parties should make sure consolidation of all channels in particular through the work of COP Champions, announcements under the LPAA, initiatives of the Secretariat and activities of Convention Bodies. Outside the UNFCCC, Parties should seek for appropriate coordination with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular through SDGs, Addis Ababa and Sendai Framework, the work of UN Environment Assembly and other Rio Conventions, the upcoming HABITATIII Conference, and the agenda of the UN Secretary General Office.
- 4- **We commend the UNFCCC Executive Secretaries:** We would like to particularly express our deepest appreciation to the extraordinary leadership and passionate work of Christiana Figueres over these most critical past 6 years. We also would like to warmly welcome Her Excellency Minister Espinoza in this new post and are excited to support her, based on the legacy of the Mexican Government to engage all stakeholders since COP16 and in particular as being the pioneers of the Friends of Cities to the UNFCCC.
- 5- **We call for a strengthened the UN Climate Change Secretariat:** The dedication and professionalism of the UNFCCC Secretariat had been instrumental in this success over the years. Taking into account that the seat of ES is leveraged to the level of Under Secretary General, we invite Parties to increase their contributions to this house, in particular to enable an increased support to engage Non-Party Stakeholders in this new era.

I thank you.