

KEY MESSAGES of
LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAJOR GROUP (LAMG) at
FIRST UNIVERSAL GOVERNING COUNCIL OF UNEP
(GC/GMEF27 and GMGSF14)

Nairobi, 17 February 2013

Local Authorities Major Group welcomes the recognition of UNEP as the global authority on environmental issues as one of the most significant outcomes of the Rio+20 process.

Building upon the fact that road to global sustainability goes through world cities and towns, as stated by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the Rio+20 Global Town Hall, Local Authorities Major Group further underlines the value of paragraph 42 of “The Future We Want” document that acknowledges the important role that local and subnational authorities and communities can play in the global efforts to reach sustainability all levels and in all sectors of our societies.

In the last couple of years, we are happily observing a growing interest from national governments to actively engage local and subnational governments. This includes Nagoya Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities, and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, preparation GEO5 for Local Government as the first specialized product of GEO5, and recognition of local and subnational governments at global climate regime as governmental stakeholders.

At a time when majority of world’s population starts to live in urban agglomerations, as being the closest level of governments to worlds’ citizens, and through their experience, capacity and ambitions, local and subnational governments are ready to mobilize their full support to contribute constructively to national and global commitments and initiatives on sustainability, including pursuing more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, facilitating appropriate access to information concerning the



This text is produced by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and Network of Regional Governments for Sustainability (nrg4sd) that are acting as representatives of Local Authorities Major Group (LAMG) at UNEP Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MFGC).



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environment in our territories, facilitating access to finance and means of implementation and advancing participatory mechanisms at all levels.

Thus, at this historic first universal Governing Council Meeting, local and subnational governments encourage Member States and UNEP to ensure multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance that guarantees a rapid implementation of all principles of sustainable development, including full operationalization of paragraph 42 of the “The Future We Want” document.

Developing tailored role and processes in global environmental policy-making and consultation, initiating new partnerships to scale-up multilevel implementation, facilitating and diversifying flow of information on monitoring of global progress could be considered as priority areas of new and additional options of this new process.

It is also important to underline that this process should be implemented in close synergies with the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as the construction of a new global climate regime by 2020 where local and subnational governments are actively participating as well.

Being fully aware of the scale and urgency of the ecological, social and economical problems that humanity is facing today, local and subnational governments encourage and urge national governments and global community to turn this first universal governing council of UNEP as an important opportunity to start a new era of global efforts on sustainability with inclusive, ambitious and concrete partnerships.



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