

AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE – Emerging from the African Local Government Climate Roadmap Summit held 29-31 July 2009 in Tshwane, South Africa

Preamble

- We, the undersigned African local governments, came together in the City of Tshwane, in July 2009, at a Climate Change Roadmap Summit for African Local Governments convened by ICLEI Africa, UCLG Africa and other partners.
- We endorse the ICLEI and UCLG international declaration to the Parties and the conference of the parties; and issue the following additional declaration to prioritise key concerns of African local governments.

Statements

- Acknowledging the vulnerability of the African continent, including coastal and inland urban and rural areas, to the impacts of climate change, as per the outcomes of the IPCC assessment reports, local and international research and on-the-ground experience
- Recognising that African vulnerability is exacerbated by high levels of poverty and limited adaptive ability
- Recognising that vulnerability is experienced differently within geographical regions and social groups, particularly by marginalized groups
- Affirming that the African continent has the fastest growing urban population and that our urban centres are the site of substantial development pressure, which are at the frontline of response to climate change
- Asserting the critical need for key local government competencies with regard to climate response, particularly with regards to long term spatial planning
- Recognising that local government is a key partner in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which need to be delivered upon within a climate change context
- Acknowledging Africa's substantial current and future energy requirements in poverty alleviation and economic development
- Recognising, as detailed in the IPCC 4th Assessment, that a 2 degree Celsius rise in temperature is likely to be exceptionally damaging for the African continent, with scientists anticipating a decrease in crop yields of up to 50% by 2020
- Acknowledging that as a continent, Africa has to-date contributed very little to the problems associated with human induced climate change and therefore is only accountable for a marginal proportion of the consumption of 'carbon space'
- Recognising that science increasingly shows that even aggressive mitigation measures are not going to eliminate the need for the world to adapt to climate change impacts and that the longer the delay in mitigating climate change, the greater will be the demand for adaptation; and
- Acknowledging that to date the African continent has not benefited proportionally from the existing carbon financing mechanisms established.

We call on the UNFCCC Parties to:

- Recognise Africa's local governments as key partners in implementing climate change action
- Build and develop a pro-poor framing of the global response to climate change
- Realise a visible commitment [substantial resources] towards adaptation commensurate with the anticipated impacts and associated costs;
- Establish an adaptation framework that is flexible, accessible, supportive of long-term, sustainable development and responsive to the African local government reality, and its diverse regional characteristics
- Commit to ambitious emission reduction targets for developed countries
- Initiate a process of emissions targets for developing countries that are cautious and reflect local levels of development and future growth needs
- Support Africa's enormous potential for low carbon economic growth, especially in relation to local job creation opportunities
- Establish a framework for technology transfer flows (in all directions) that provides access for African local governments to the scientific and technological advances of the industrialised countries
- Elevate and support indigenous knowledge systems and approaches in support of climate response action
- Support the empowerment and capacity development of African local governments as the main platform for climate response implementation;
- Support the inclusion of ecosystems service approaches within the global climate adaptation framework;
- Emphasise the value of ecosystems services in climate stability and include actions to ensure healthy ecosystems as key component of the global mitigation framework
- Affirm the need for both total and residual risk compensation.

Commitments

In meeting the challenges of climate change, we avail ourselves to supportive partnerships and commit ourselves to the following:

- To mainstream climate change response into local government through high level political commitment
- To utilise, draw on and share indigenous knowledge in finding solutions to the global climate crisis
- The empowerment, participation, involvement and contribution of local communities, specifically including marginalised groups, in addressing climate change
- The development of localised medium and long-term adaptation strategies and low carbon development plans that address the issue of poverty and African development potential
- The inclusion of climate change in all local decision making, day-to-day operations, planning and development, financial systems and human resource allocations
- The establishment of locally grounded long-term baseline data related to emissions and climate change impacts;
- To recognise and value ecosystem services for their local and global contribution to climate stability
- To continuously engage local, national and international government and other role players on the issue of climate change towards integrated climate solutions and sustainable development in Africa.

Annex 1

Partners of the African Local Government Climate Roadmap Summit:

- ICLEI Africa
- United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA)
- South African Cities Network (SACN)
- UN-HABITAT
- South African Local Government Association (SALGA)
- The South African Government Department of Environmental Affairs
- Sustainable Energy Africa (SEA)



Annex 2

List of Local Governments and Local Government Associations that attended the Summit

City of Saint Louis Government, Senegal
City of Lusaka, Zambia
Kasese District Local Government, Uganda
Kampala City Council, Uganda
Oshodi/Isolo Local Government, Nigeria
North East District, Botswana
Arusha Municipality, Tanzania
Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso
Maputo City Council, Mozambique
Walvis Bay Municipality, Namibia
Douala 4 Municipality, Cameroon
Mombasa City Council, Kenya
City of Matlosana, South Africa
Motheo District Municipality, South Africa
Mangaung District Municipality, South Africa
City of Tshwane, South Africa
Lekwa-Teemane Local Municipality, South Africa
City of Cape Town, South Africa
EThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, South Africa
City of Johannesburg, South Africa
Sedibeng District Municipality, South Africa
City of Tlokwe, South Africa
Sol Plaatje Municipality, South Africa
Cape Winelands District Municipality, South Africa
Bergriver Municipality, South Africa
Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, South Africa
Waterberg District Municipality, South Africa
Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality, South Africa
Modimolle Local Municipality, South Africa
Capricorn District Municipality, South Africa
Mopani District Municipality, South Africa
Lesedi Local Municipality, South Africa
Maruleng Local Municipality, South Africa
Thabazimbi Local Municipality, South Africa
Amathole District Municipality, South Africa
Ehlanzeni District Municipality, South Africa
Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality, South Africa
Tswelopele Local Municipality, South Africa

South African Local Government Association
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
Rwandan Association of Local governments
Association for Local Governments of Tanzanian
Mozambique Association of Local Governments
Botswana Association of Local Authorities
Association of Local Governments of Kenya
Lake Victoria Regional Local Authorities