

Mr. Chair, Distinguished participants of this side event.

It is a pleasure to address you here today as Chair of ICLEI Europe and as Minister for Environment, Energy and water of Brussels Capital Region.

I would like to make some introductory remarks with regard to the current intergovernmental negotiations as well as to give you some examples of concrete action we undertake in Brussels Capital Region

First with regard to the Doha negotiations: I can speak on behalf of the many Councilors, Mayors, and Governors of the World who ask this intergovernmental conference to concretely engage local and subnational governments as part of the efforts to raise the level of ambition and accelerate action on climate change.

Experience over one decade demonstrates that Parties who are front runners on climate action today have also been those who have effectively engaged their local and subnational governments in climate actions.

Thus, we invite the Parties to make a difference in the current flow of climate negotiations and include the concept of “partnerships for action” in the new climate regime.

We encourage the climate negotiators to follow the good practices of other intergovernmental processes this year, such as the COP on Biodiversity and Rio+20, who have decided on such partnerships for action with local and subnational government.

Local and subnational governments are ready to inspire and unite the world to raise level of ambition and accelerate action on climate change, in particular through innovative instruments that were launched in a consistent manner since Copenhagen, such as the Mexico City Pact, the carbonn Cities Climate Registry, and the Durban Adaptation Charter.

In concrete terms, we ask the Parties to include an appropriate chapter, section, or a paragraph on sustainable, low-carbon, low-emission, climate-resilient urban development in your ADP Workplan WorkStream-2 to raise level of ambition. We have noted the clear intentions to do so by many Annex-I and Non-Annex-I Parties at the roundtables since May 2012.

We are confident that such a new vision in ADP will help to advancing actions while negotiations progress, and at the same time may bring the much needed technical and financial support to scale up actions at the local level to raise global level of ambition.

As with regard to our actions in Brussels Capital Region: