

African Mayors CLIMATE CHANGE DECLARATION



Drafted on the occasion of the Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2011 Congress (LOCS2011)
27 February – 3 March 2011, Cape Town, South Africa

Preamble

1. Building upon and strengthening the **'African Local Government Declaration on Climate Change'** that emerged from the African pre-Copenhagen Local Government Climate Roadmap Summit, 29-31 July 2009 in the City of Tshwane, South Africa, as convened by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – Africa, UCLGA and partners.
2. We, the African local governments listed below in Annex 1, came together in Cape Town on the occasion of the Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2011 Congress (LOCS2011), as convened by ICLEI Africa and supported by UCLGA and partners and issued the **African Mayors Climate Change Declaration 2011** to prioritise key concerns of African local governments ahead of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties 17 (UNFCCC COP17).
3. Drawing on the strength of West African Adinkra cultural symbols (characterised by greatness, charisma, leadership; divinity of Mother Earth; cooperation, inter-dependence; adaptability; and knowledge, life-long education) which underpinned our deliberations at LOCS2011.
4. Calling upon the City of Durban on behalf of African local governments, their associations and partners to present this declaration to the high level segment of the UNFCCC COP17 taking place in Durban, South Africa, at the end of 2011.
5. Calling upon the cities of Durban as the UNFCCC COP17 host city, Cape Town as LOCS2011 host city and all African local governments to commit to using their good offices and networks to ensure the adoption by COP17 of the precepts of this declaration and their immediate and continued implementation.
6. Endorsing continued regional and global climate advocacy and awareness raising efforts by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in partnership with UCLG and others on behalf of the Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency.
7. Taking into account progress made within the global climate negotiation context, particularly in Cancún on the occasion of the UNFCCC COP16 where local governments were formally recognised as key government stakeholders in global climate change efforts.
8. Commending the numerous references to local governments in the UNFCCC COP16 Decision on “Outcome of the work on Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA)”.
9. Requesting ICLEI Africa and UCLGA to coordinate further mobilisation of African local governments in support of this declaration ahead of the UNFCCC COP17 in partnership with our national and regional networks.

Strong and
Comprehensive
Post - 2012 Global
Climate Agreement

Durban 2011
UNFCCC COP17

Cancún 2010
UNFCCC COP16

Copenhagen 2009
UNFCCC COP15



Statements

1. Acknowledging the particular 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 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) assessment reports, local and international research and on-the-ground experience.
2. Recognising that African vulnerability is exacerbated by high levels of poverty and limited adaptive ability.
3. Recognising that vulnerability is experienced differently within geographical regions and social groups, particularly by marginalised groups.
4. Affirming that the African continent has the fastest growing urban population and that our urban centres are the site of substantial development pressure, which is at the frontline of response to climate change.
5. Asserting the critical need for key local government competencies, legal mandates, policy frameworks and resources with regard to climate response, particularly in the context of spatial planning, urban design and disaster risk reduction.
6. Recognising that the local government constituency is a key partner in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which need to be delivered within a changing climate context.
7. Acknowledging Africa's substantial current and future infrastructure requirements for poverty alleviation and economic development.
8. 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.
9. Acknowledging that as a continent, Africa has to date contributed little to the problems associated with human induced climate change and therefore is accountable for a marginal proportion of the consumption of 'carbon space'.
10. 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, including the strengthening of support for post-disaster recovery.
11. Acknowledging that to date the African continent, and in particular local governments, have not benefited proportionally from the existing climate financing mechanisms.

We call on the UNFCCC Parties to

1. Deliver an equitable and comprehensive MRV (Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable) global climate framework deal in Durban on the occasion of the UNFCCC COP17.
2. Recognise Africa's local governments as pivotal partners in implementing climate change action.
3. Build and develop a just and pro-poor framing of the global response to climate change.
4. Realise a visible commitment and adequate resources towards adaptation commensurate to the anticipated impacts and associated costs, also at local level.
5. 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.
6. Commit to ambitious MRV emission reduction targets for developed countries.
7. Initiate a process of emission targets for developing countries that are cautious and reflect local levels of development and future growth needs.
8. Commit to inclusion of city-wide programmes in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and simplification of this mechanism in promotion of local government access and participation.
9. Support Africa's enormous potential for low carbon and green economic growth, especially in relation to local job creation opportunities.
10. Establish a framework for technology transfer flows and capacity building (in all directions) that provides access for African local governments to the scientific and technological advances of the industrialised countries.

11. Elevate and support indigenous knowledge systems and approaches in support of climate response action.
12. Support the empowerment and capacity development of African local governments as the main platform for climate response implementation.
13. Provide support for African local governments, whilst recognising the local solutions and initiatives that are already in place.
14. Support the inclusion of ecosystem services approaches within the global climate adaptation framework.
15. Emphasise the value of ecosystem services in climate stability and include actions to ensure healthy ecosystems as key component of the global mitigation framework.
16. Recognise water as the primary medium through which climate change influences the livelihoods, security and well-being of societies.
17. Affirm the need for both total and residual risk compensation in the context of climate change.

Commitments

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

1. Mainstream climate change action to local government through high level political commitment and enabling local policy and institutional mechanisms.
2. Recognise the Mexico City Pact and carbonn Cities Climate Registry as an effective response mechanism of local governments to Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable (MRV) climate action.
3. Strive for continental and global agreements among local and sub-national governments that recognise and reflect the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities towards climate change.
4. Work towards an inversion of climate finance mechanisms, which currently requires urban mitigation and adaptation projects to be fitted under the funders' rules, enabling cities and towns to optimise their local infrastructure projects according to the unique local conditions and needs, with finance institutions adapting their rules to accommodate funding of locally designed projects.
5. Utilise, draw upon and share appropriate indigenous knowledge in finding solutions to the global climate crisis.
6. Promote the empowerment, participation, involvement and contribution of local communities, specifically including marginalised groups, in addressing climate change.
7. Develop and implement localised medium and long-term adaptation strategies, low carbon development plans and green economic actions that address poverty and development needs.
8. Mainstream climate change action in all local decision making, day-to-day operations, planning and development, financial systems and human resource allocations.
9. Compile locally grounded long-term baseline data related to emissions and climate change impacts and to consider reporting this through the carbonn Cities Climate Registry.
10. Recognise and value ecosystems at all scales for their local and global contribution to climate stability.
11. Continuously engage local and national governments across the globe, our local communities and other role players on the issue of climate change towards integrated climate solutions and sustainable development in Africa.
12. Recognise and commit to the need for rapid change and more radical solutions towards resilient cities and communities in addressing climate change.



Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2011

About the Local Climate Solutions for Africa Congress 2011

(27 February – 3 March 2011, Cape Town, South Africa)

Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2011 (LOCS2011) was the first African climate change congress held under the ICLEI Africa Urban Leadership for African Sustainability (ULAS) programme. The congress, which was co-hosted by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the City of Cape Town and supported by a wide range of partners, attracted 380 registered participants from over 50 African cities.

Mayors and high-level dignitaries from more than 25 West, East, Central and Southern African countries, including many key South African local and national government representatives were in attendance. LOCS2011 was strategically timed ahead of the upcoming global climate negotiations (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties 17 - UNFCCC COP17) taking place later this year in the Durban. A significant outcome of LOCS2011 was the formulation and adoption of this African Mayors Climate Change Declaration 2011.

In the months ahead of COP17, this African Mayors Climate Change Declaration 2011 will be driven forward by the City of Durban (as COP17 hosts) and the City of Cape Town (as LOCS2011 hosts) and others and will be presented to nations and the international community on the occasion of the UNFCCC COP17.



ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability,

a steadily growing and widely recognised global association of more than 1220 cities, local governments and their associations, in 70 countries, plays a leading role in convening local governments in various international and United Nations forums related to sustainable development. On the ground ICLEI offers a wide suite of training and capacity building tools and projects, local sustainability planning and project implementation, exchange programmes, sharing of good practice and building leadership and networks in an urban context – all towards more sustainable, resilient and efficient cities and towns across the globe.



United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Founded in May 2004, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government. The cities and association members of UCLG are present in 136 UN Member States across seven world regions – Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Eurasia, Middle East and West Asia, Latin America and North America. Over 1000 cities are direct members of UCLG, as well as 112 national associations.

Annex 1. LOCS2011 participating African local governments and their associations

- Municipality of Cotonou, Benin • Commune De Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso • Municipality of Bujumbura, Burundi • Bafut Council, Cameroon • Tinto Council, Cameroon • Communaute Urbaine De Yaoundé, Cameroon • Kinshasa, DRC • City of Libreville, Gabon
- Yendi Municipality, Ghana • Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Ghana • Blantyre City Council, Malawi • Mairie Du District Bamako, Mali • Moka Flacqe District Council, Mauritius • Municipal Council of Port Louis, Mauritius • Maputo Municipal Council, Mozambique
- Municipal Council of Xai-Xai City, Mozambique • Municipality of Walvis Bay, Namibia • Municipality Swakopmund, Namibia • Lagos State Government, Nigeria • Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Nigeria • Nyabihu District, Rwanda • Kampala City Council, Uganda
- Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly, Ghana • Entebbe Municipal Council, Uganda • Ville De Dakar, Senegal • City of Cape Town, South Africa • Saldanha Bay Municipality, South Africa • Chris Hani District Municipality, South Africa • Capricorn District Municipality, South Africa • City of Johannesburg, South Africa • Cape Winelands District Municipality, South Africa • City Of Ekurhuleni, South Africa • Sedibeng District Municipality, South Africa • Hessequa Municipality, South Africa • eThekweni Municipality, South Africa
- Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, South Africa • Motheo District Municipality, South Africa • Sol Plaatje Municipality, South Africa • Steve Tshwete Municipality, South Africa • Mbombela Municipality, South Africa • Msunduzi Municipality, South Africa
- Buffalo City Municipality, South Africa • Dar es Salaam City Council, Tanzania • Temeke Municipal Council, Tanzania • Kasese District Local Government, Uganda • Kampala City Council, Uganda • Lusaka City Council, Zambia • Chongwe District Council, Zambia
- City Of Harare, Zimbabwe • Bulawayo City Council, Zimbabwe • South African Local Government Association (SALGA) • Botswana Local Government Association (BALA) • National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG) • Rwandese Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA) • Association of Local Government Authorities of Kenya (ALGAK) • Urban Councils Association of Zimbabwe (UCAZ) • National Association of Local Governments in Benin • Freetown City Council, Sierra Leone • Municipality of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia • City of Rabat, Morocco • Municipality of Nirop du Rip, Senegal