

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



The African Local Government Declaration on Climate Change was coordinated by ICLEI –Local Governments for Sustainability - Africa, on behalf of African local governments, and in partnership with various other organisations. (see front page).

What is ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability?

- An international association of over 1100 local governments in 68 countries that represents the interests of local authorities within the United Nations and at international policy forums.
- A movement driving positive change on a global scale through programs and campaigns on local sustainability.
- A resource centre offering information, tools, networking, training and consulting services.

Growth

ICLEI was created in 1990 as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, when 200 local governments from 43 countries convened at its founding conference at the United Nations in New York. ICLEI started with the idea that a single municipality has a significant impact and that on a global scale, the cumulative effect of concerted local action can be profound.

The ICLEI Africa Secretariat

ICLEI Africa, the Africa Regional Office, is based in Cape Town, South Africa and collaborates closely with the global ICLEI Network and other regional offices around the world in sharing tools, materials and strategies specifically designed and implemented at the local level, as well as supporting local governments in advocacy and representation at sustainable development forums.

For more information

www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap

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AFRICAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Emerging from the African Pre-Copenhagen
Local Government Climate Roadmap,
Summit held 29-31 July 2009 in the City of
Tshwane, South Africa



As agreed on 31 July 2009 in Tshwane, South Africa

ICLEI
Local
Governments
for Sustainability

Local Solutions to Global Challenges
Connecting Leaders - Accelerating Action - Pioneering Solutions



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 – Local Governments for Sustainability - Africa, UCLG -Africa and other partners.
- We endorse the ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability 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 aimed at supporting emission reduction efforts of 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.

