

UN Climate Change Conference - June 2019 (SBSTA50/SBI50)

INTERVENTION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES (LGMA)* CONSTITUENCY

AT THE JOINT OPENING PLENARY OF SBSTA50/SBI50

Delivered by Jisun Hwang, Senior Climate Advocacy and Policy Officer,
ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability**

Thank you Mr Chair.

My name is Jisun Hwang from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) and I am delivering this statement on behalf of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency.

Building upon the COP24 invitation to Parties in considering the outcome, inputs and outputs of the Talanoa Dialogue to prepare their NDCs,¹ the LGMA constituency has stepped up its environmentally sound urban and territorial planning to support NDC implementation.

Inspired by the Katowice outcomes, since the beginning of 2019, a number of major fora have been convened to highlight the importance of having an enabling framework for cities and regions to exercise their vital roles in climate action and sustainable development.

The 4th UN Environment Assembly hosted the first Cities Summit². The International Conference on Climate Action (ICCA) produced the Partnership Declaration on Collaborative Climate Action,³ supported by relevant initiatives.⁴ The 2019 Urban 20 Tokyo Mayors Summit called for multilevel collaboration to ensure a just transition and promote inclusive urban

¹ Decision 1/CP.24, paragraph 37. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/10a1.pdf>.

² See

<http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/27511/Cities%20Summit%20Outcome%20document%20-%20V3-clean%5b2%5d.pdf?sequence=26&isAllowed=y>

³ See <https://www.icca2019.org/partnership-declaration-on-collaborative-climate-action/>.

⁴ See <https://www.icca2019.org/press/initiatives-collaborative-climate-action/>.

* Facilitated by [ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability](http://www.iclei.org/) in its capacity the focal point of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency to the UNFCCC and on behalf of [Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments](http://www.iclei.org/)

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development.⁵ The First UN-Habitat Assembly⁶ provided a milestone for the urban and climate community. The R20 Austria World Summit⁷ urged governments at all levels to cut emissions on a science-based trajectory through NDC revision by 2020. The Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2019 offered innovative solutions to strengthen resilience at the subnational level.⁸

Regarding climate finance, we join COP24 in welcoming the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) decision to hold its 2019 Forum on sustainable cities.⁹ We have been underscoring the importance of vertical integration for NDC implementation to close the finance gap in connection to SDGs. In close collaboration with the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA), ICLEI and C40 as the LGMA Focal Points in the SCF process call for mechanisms that enable early stage project preparation and capacity building for local and regional governments.¹⁰

Regarding the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), ICLEI will convene an annual meeting on cities and climate change science to implement its NWP action pledge which is gradually turning into a platform for an annual review of delivery of the Paris Agreement through multilevel action.¹¹ The first meeting will be co-organised with the COP24 Presidency on 26 June, entitled, “Driving Change Together – Special Joint Event on Multilevel Action with a focus on E-Mobility and Adaptation.” ICLEI will provide further science-policy-practice input on transformative urban adaptation and climate resilient development by engaging at the 11th Research Dialogue (RD11).

At SB50, ICLEI is also proudly supporting the first World Renewable Energy Day on 22 June.

Looking ahead for the next two weeks of SB50, the LGMA constituency reaffirms its commitment to advancing ambition through multilevel and collaborative climate action.

Thank you Mr Chair.

⁵ See

https://www.seisakukikaku.metro.tokyo.jp/en/diplomacy/2019/05/images/01_communique_tokyo_engl.pdf.

⁶ See <https://unhabitat.org/habitatassembly/>.

⁷ See <https://www.austrianworldsummit.com/>.

⁸ See <http://resilientcitiesasiapacific.iclei.org/rcap-2019.html>.

⁹ Decision 4/CP.24, paragraph 9. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/10a1.pdf>.

¹⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ICLEI-%20C40%20-GCoM-CCFLA%20proposition.pdf>.

¹¹ See <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwp/Pages/item.aspx?ListItemId=28633&ListUrl=/sites/nwp/Lists/MainDB>.

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