

**Local and regional issues in global climate change negotiations, within the UNFCCC process with a particular focus on COP 16**

**This memo for the file was written by  
Progress Consulting S.r.l. and Living Prospects Ltd.  
It does not represent the official views of the Committee of the Regions.**

More information on the European Union and the Committee of the Regions is available on the internet at <http://www.europa.eu> and <http://www.cor.europa.eu> respectively.

Catalogue number: QG-31-13-832-EN-N  
ISBN: 978-92-895-0689-2  
DOI: 10.2863/75146

© European Union, 2010  
Partial reproduction is allowed, provided that the source is explicitly mentioned.

# Table of Contents

- 1. The local and regional level in the global climate change negotiations..... 1**
  - 1.1 Introduction ..... 1
  - 1.2 Local and regional climate change stakeholders, their activities and policy positions..... 2
- 2. Case studies ..... 19**
  - 2.1 Concrete commitments of local and regional authorities..... 19
  - 2.2 Local and regional authority policy advocacy ..... 21
- 3. Analysis of the policy process ..... 25**
  - 3.1 Major events towards COP16 ..... 25
  - 3.2 Towards an effective representation of LRAs in the political process .. 29
  - 3.3 Main negotiation issues and input by the principal LRA lobbyists ..... 31
- 4. Recommendations ..... 35**
- Appendix I – References ..... 37**





# **1. The local and regional level in the global climate change negotiations**

## **1.1 Introduction**

The United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010, encompasses several events: the sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP16) and the sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP); the thirty-third sessions of both the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA); the fifteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP); and the thirteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA).

Following the public statements of both the newly-named UN climate chief and the UN Secretary-General on the unlikely possibility of achieving a binding global climate treaty at the Cancun conference, climate negotiators are already looking beyond Cancun to the meeting of South Africa in late 2011, as the next best chance to achieve such an objective.

Sub-national and local government (LG) advocacy efforts in international climate negotiations are a long-term process, engaging a large number of local and regional organisations, networks and forums. In this perspective, the objective of local and regional authorities (LRAs) is to maintain the momentum reached at COP15 through the upcoming COP16 in Cancun and beyond. To achieve this objective, their associations have joined forces, using a wide spectrum of activities, including: bilateral meetings with national delegations during UN preparatory negotiation events; the organisation of mobilisation events, aiming at advancing local climate action at global level; the launch of public commitments, in the form of declarations, treaties or conventions; and the development of mechanisms and tools supporting the achievement of the targets set in these commitments.

## 1.2 Local and regional climate change stakeholders, their activities and policy positions

An inventory of key organisations, networks and forums related to the global climate change negotiations, along with information on their relevant activities and policy positions is presented in Table 1 below.

**Table 1**

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	<b><u>ICLEI</u> – Local Governments for Sustainability</b>
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<p><i>An international association of local governments who have made a commitment to sustainable development. This is the Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency Focal Point of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In addition to its own observer status, it acts on behalf of local governments, facilitating dialogue with national governments and the UNFCCC Secretariat.</i></p>
<b><i>Key Activities</i></b>	<p>ICLEI’s climate work is structured along two main axes, LG Mobilisation and LG Advocacy. Activities, mainly campaigns and events advancing local climate action at global level, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Running the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign, a framework supporting community action.</li> <li>- Co-organising a series of targeted events, notably the ‘6th European Sustainable Cities and Towns conference’ in Dunkirk, France, in May 2010 and the ‘1st World Congress on cities and adaptation to climate change, resilient cities 2010’ in Bonn, Germany, in May 2010.</li> <li>- Organising scheduled broader-reaching events, such as the ICLEI anniversary congress and several national congresses focusing on sustainability issues, including climate change.</li> </ul> <p>Advocacy action in the UNFCCC processes is integrated into the <a href="#">Local Government Climate Roadmap</a> (see also Table 2 on jointly developed and/or implemented activities) and includes, among others, active participation in four UNFCCC Climate</p>

<p><b>Policy positions</b></p>	<p>Talks (three events in Bonn and one in China, see also section 3.1 – Major events towards COP16) with the aim of preparing for COP16. In agreement with LG organisations involved in climate action and their networks, advocacy efforts and awareness-raising will be continued through COP16 and COP17, aiming at an international climate deal. ICLEI is also a Supporting Structure to the Covenant of Mayors.</p> <p><i>‘Local governments can – and should - play an important role in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and adapting to a changing climate.’</i> This position is based on the belief that LRAs are best placed to influence the public, as well as the decision-making and purchasing powers, and hence to accelerate local climate action. Moreover, their position (and implementing powers) allows them to plan and respond faster than other levels of government, an important factor in global climate change response. ICLEI works on the integration of sustainability into decision-making and implementation processes, focusing on local climate action.</p>
--------------------------------	---

<p><b>Institution</b></p>	<p><a href="#">United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)</a></p>
<p><b>Status</b></p>	<p><i>An international organisation representing local governments, with cities and national associations of local governments as members.</i></p>
<p><b>Key activities</b></p>	<p>LG Mobilisation activities include the organisation of the 3rd Congress of United Cities and Local Governments and the 1st Local and Regional Leaders World Summit, due to be held in Mexico City from 16 to 21 November 2010.</p> <p>LG Advocacy action in the UNFCCC processes is integrated into the <a href="#">Local Government Climate Roadmap</a>, with the UCLG climate negotiation group actively participating in the preparatory negotiation rounds in Bonn, Germany and Tianjin, China.</p>
<p><b>Policy positions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Local and sub-national governments should be recognised in the AWG-LCA negotiating text.</li> <li>(ii) Local and sub-national governments should be granted access to the international funds, to be established for adaptation and mitigation actions.</li> </ul>

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	<a href="#">World Mayors Council on Climate Change</a>
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<i>An alliance of committed local government leaders advocating an enhanced recognition and involvement of mayors in multilateral efforts addressing climate change and related issues of global sustainability.</i>
<b><i>Key activities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cooperating with other networks of LRAs on the Local Government Climate Roadmap: involvement in the UNFCCC processes with advocacy action in the main events.</li> <li>- Co-organising mobilisation events such as the <a href="#">10/10/10 Global Work Party</a> (<i>‘a day to celebrate climate solutions’</i>, used to promote practical actions to reduce carbon emissions).</li> <li>- Setting up the <a href="#">Mayors Adaptation Forum</a>, as the high-level segment of the 1st World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change in Bonn, Germany, in May 2010. The members of the forum have adopted the Bonn Declaration of Mayors and defined their adaptation roadmap. In collaboration with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the Mayors Adaptation Forum 2010 launched the ‘Making Cities Resilient’ campaign.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Policy positions</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Supporting an enhanced recognition and involvement of mayors in international efforts addressing climate change and global sustainability.</li> <li>(ii) Through the Mayors Adaptation Forum, promoting the commitment of mayors to increase the resilience of their communities.</li> </ul>

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	The Covenant of Mayors Office ( <a href="#">COMO</a> )
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<i>A European Commission Energy policy initiative managed by a consortium of local and regional authority networks.</i>
<b><i>Key activities</i></b>	The work of COMO focuses on: networking within the Covenant; the promotion of the Covenant of Mayors; monitoring the implementation of the Covenant by participating cities; provision of technical support; supporting liaison with other actors in the Covenant (sharing of know-how, replication and multiplication of successful measures) as well as with other relevant EU initiatives and policies. Covenant signatories create adequate administrative structures and submit a sustainable energy action plan outlining the measures and policies they will implement to achieve their objectives.
<b><i>Policy positions</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Public recognition and visibility of cities involved in the Covenant.</li> <li>(ii) Signatory towns and cities voluntarily commit to go beyond the objectives of EU energy policy in terms of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through enhanced energy efficiency and cleaner energy production and use.</li> </ul>

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	<b><u>EUROCITIES</u></b>
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<i>A network of major European cities, bringing together the local governments of more than 140 large cities in over 30 European countries.</i>
<b><i>Key activities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cooperating with other city networks in the ‘Local Government Climate Roadmap’.</li> <li>- Actively engaging in climate change and energy-related European initiatives, notably the Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign and the European Mobility Week EPOMM-PLUS.</li> <li>- Promoting of the <a href="#">EUROCITIES 2008 Declaration on Climate Change</a>.</li> <li>- Running the <a href="#">Green Digital Charter</a>.</li> <li>- Participating in the consortium, led by Energy-Cities, that is responsible for running the Covenant of Mayors Office (COMO).</li> </ul>
<b><i>Policy positions</i></b>	<p>(i) Advocates a post-2012 global climate agreement and recognition of cities’ efforts in climate change mitigation. As stated in the 2008 declaration, ‘<i>only concerted action involving all public policies can provide an effective response to the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adjusting public policies.</i>’ Also, it is argued that Member States (MS) and cities must work together as part of a global movement in order to achieve the targets set by world climate conferences, with MS delegating to cities the authority and competence to act on a local level to reduce emissions and the European Union providing sufficient funding to support relevant local initiatives.</p> <p>(ii) Commitment by cities, through the Green Digital Charter, to work together to deliver on the EU climate objectives using digital technologies that increase energy efficiency, facilitate emissions reductions and forestall climate change.</p>

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	European Federation of Regional Energy and Environment Agencies ( <a href="#">FEDARENE</a> )
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<i>A European network of regional and local organisations that implement, coordinate and facilitate energy and environment policies.</i>
<b><i>Key activities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promoting the <a href="#">Declaration of the European Regions for Development of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources</a>.</li> <li>- Participating in the consortium, led by Energy-Cities, in charge of running the Covenant of Mayors Office (COMO).</li> </ul>
<b><i>Policy positions</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Regions that have not yet defined quantitative objectives to take immediate action should be encouraged and motivated to do so.</li> <li>(ii) The visibility of the commitments and actions of European regions in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources should be enhanced.</li> </ul>

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	Assembly of European Regions ( <a href="#">AER</a> )
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<i>An independent network of European regions, with over 270 regions from 33 countries and 16 interregional organisations as members.</i>
<b><i>Key activities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organising the ‘<a href="#">Climate Change and Cooperation for Development</a>’.</li> <li>- Developing innovative regional and local solutions for the prevention and adaptation conference in La Rábida, Andalucía (Spain), on 26 May 2010.</li> <li>- Supporting the Declaration of the European Regions for Development of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources</li> </ul>
<b><i>Policy positions</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The attention of the regions should be focused on the climate change challenges.</li> <li>(ii) Regions should be encouraged to mainstream environmental concerns into their policy-making processes.</li> </ul>

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	European Islands Network on Energy and Environment ( <a href="#">ISLENET</a> )
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<i>A network of European Island Authorities that promotes sustainable and efficient energy and environmental management; an initiative of the Islands Commission of the CPMR (Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions), supported by the EU Institutions and the Western Isles Council.</i>
<b><i>Key activities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting the implementation of the ISLE-PACT project.</li> <li>- ISLENET is a Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign Associate.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Policy positions</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) It actively promotes the adoption of local energy saving strategies and renewable energy projects.</li> <li>(ii) Through the ISLE-PACT project it supports the commitments of island groups to develop Local Sustainable Action Plans aiming at meeting or exceeding the 20/20/20 EU sustainability targets.</li> </ul>

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	<a href="#">C40 Climate Leadership Group</a>
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<i>A group of large cities committed to tackling climate change.</i> <sup>1</sup>
<b><i>Key activities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organising the Large Cities Climate Summits, to help mayors deliver action in combating climate change, with an upcoming event in Sao Paulo from 31 May to 2 June 2011.</li> <li>- Organising the C40 Hong Kong Workshop 'Low Carbon Cities for High Quality Living', in Hong Kong on 5-6 November 2010, bringing cities together to discuss the challenges and opportunities of creating modern, low-carbon, high quality, liveable metropolitan centres.</li> <li>- Supporting the development and implementation by the member cities of Climate Change action Plans.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Policy positions</i></b>	<p>Cities form a major part of the climate change issue, and must therefore also be a key part of the solution; this can be achieved through the increased energy efficiency of city infrastructure (buildings, outdoor lighting, and transportation systems), effective use of resources and clean energy production at the district level in parallel with the sourcing of clean energy from large-scale suppliers.</p>

---

<sup>1</sup> Involving, among others, the following EU cities: Athens, Berlin, London, Madrid, Paris, Rome and Warsaw.

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	<b><i>Energy-Cities</i></b>
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<i>A European association of local authorities, representing more than 1 000 towns and cities, active in shaping their energy future.</i>
<b><i>Key activities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leading the consortium in charge of running the Covenant of Mayors Office (COMO)</li> <li>- Publishing opinions on EU legislative documents in the field of energy and climate change.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Policy positions</i></b>	<p>With regard to the EU 2020 Energy strategy, it advocates the introduction of a new Community instrument: ‘URBAN – Sustainable Energy’, the empowerment of local authorities with financial engineering assistance to implement energy-efficient projects, and the launch of a public forum on the EU Energy Strategy through the prism of territorial cohesion.</p>

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	<a href="#"><u>Climate Alliance</u></a>
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<i>A European network of local authorities committed to the protection of the world's climate.</i>
<b><i>Key activities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting the implementation and monitoring of measures taken by its members aimed at the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.</li> <li>- Participating in the consortium, led by Energy-Cities, that is responsible for running the Covenant of Mayors Office (COMO).</li> </ul>
<b><i>Policy positions</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Collaboration at all levels of decision-making (EU, national states, regions, local communities) is essential to reach emissions reduction targets; decisions taken at community level alone are not sufficient for that purpose.</li> <li>(ii) The member cities and municipalities commit to a continuous reduction of greenhouse gas emissions at their source, targeting a 10% reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions every five years, expecting thereby to achieve the milestone of halving per capita emissions (reference year 1990) by 2030 at the latest. The long-term target is to achieve a sustainable annual level of 2.5 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per inhabitant.</li> </ul>

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	<a href="#"><u>Council of European Municipalities and Regions</u></a>
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<i>An organisation of European local and regional governments, with over 50 national associations of towns, municipalities and regions from 38 countries, representing together some 100 000 local and regional authorities.</i>
<b><i>Key activities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Co-organising the Sustainable Cities and Towns Conference in Dunkirk (19 – 21 May 2010) on ‘Delivering sustainable cities – the local leadership challenge’.</li> <li>- Several national sections of the Council act as focal points of climate change-related policy action. For instance, the French Association of the European Council of Municipalities and Regions (AFCCRE) has invited all French associations of local authorities to prepare a ‘common statement of French local authorities on climate change’.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Policy positions</i></b>	Reiterates the commitment of local and regional authorities for active policies on climate change and the need to recognise their role in the mechanisms and agreements adopted in the next COP.

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	Union of Baltic Cities Commission on Environment ( <a href="#">UBC EnvCom</a> )
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<i>A voluntary, proactive network mobilising the shared potential of over 100 member cities for the environmentally sustainable development of the Baltic Sea Region.</i>
<b><i>Key activities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engaging member cities in an on-going dialogue on how to make the Baltic Sea Region more sustainable.</li> <li>- Exchanging information, either by organising meetings or by facilitating learning through the sharing of members' experiences.</li> <li>- Organising the 'Practical Solutions To Climate Change' international competition, addressing organisations in the Baltic Sea Region and the Nordic countries with new business concepts, practices and technologies that can assist municipalities and other local and regional actors to better control the effects of climate change.</li> <li>- Organising of the 'Sustainable solutions for combating Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region' joint meeting of UBC Energy, Environment and Transportation Commissions, in Gdynia, Poland, on 17-19 March 2010.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Policy positions</i></b>	Promotes the implementation of the <a href="#">Aalborg commitments</a> by local authorities of the Baltic Sea region.

<b><i>Institution</i></b>	<a href="#">ManagEnergy</a>
<b><i>Status</i></b>	<i>A technical support initiative of the Intelligent Energy - Europe (IEE) programme of the European Commission that aims at assisting actors from the public sector, and their advisers, working on energy efficiency and renewable energies at the local and regional level.</i>
<b><i>Key activities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing and managing a website containing databases on case studies and good practices, e-newsletters, a directory of energy agencies and information on relevant European policy and legislation.</li> <li>- Organising capacity-building workshops.</li> <li>- Organising networking events.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Policy positions</i></b>	Through its activities, it promotes the Covenant of Mayors, as well as energy efficiency and renewable energies at the local and regional level; however, as a technical support initiative, it does not actively advocate a specific policy position.

In addition to these, there are initiatives directly linked to global climate change negotiations and which are designed and/or implemented jointly by more than one actor, as reported in Table 2 below.

**Table 2**

Initiative	Actors involved
<p>The <a href="#">World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement</a> is a declaration by Mayors and other elected leaders from local governments around the world. The Agreement advocates a number of actions, one of which is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 60% from 1990 levels worldwide and by 80% from 1990 levels, in industrialised countries, by 2050.</p>	<p>ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC), United Cities and Local Government and the C40 Climate Leadership Group.</p>
<p>The <a href="#">Local Government Climate Roadmap</a> is an LG advocacy journey that began at COP13 in Bali in 2007 and will continue until the adoption of a strong, comprehensive and global post-2012 climate regime. The roadmap includes a series of mobilisation and advocacy activities (events) and has so far achieved preliminary referencing to sub-national and local governments by national negotiators. It provides a solid framework for all actors and for local governments in particular, to maximise their contribution to climate protection and adaptation to climate change.</p>	<p>A large number of local government organisations and their networks. The global partners of the LG Climate Roadmap are: (i) ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability; (ii) United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG); (iii) <a href="#">Metropolis</a>; (iv) C40 Climate Leadership Group (C40); and (v) World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC). ICLEI acts as the international Roadmap facilitator.</p>
<p><a href="#">Carbann Cities Climate Registry</a> is a voluntary MRV (Measure, Report, Verify) system for local authorities. It has been developed specifically for cities and local governments as a mechanism ensuring transparency and accountability of local climate action through a commitment to regular reporting. It is planned to be launched at the World Mayors Summit on Climate (WMSC/CCLIMA), in Mexico City, on 21 November 2010.</p>	<p>Supported by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Mexico City, and operated by the Bonn Center for Local Climate Action and Reporting – carbann</p>

Initiative	Actors involved
<p><a href="#">The Copenhagen Climate Catalogue</a> is a global catalogue of city commitments to combat climate change. It lists local governments' mitigation targets, actions and achievements. It has been developed to present a strong case for local governments during the international climate negotiations on a post-2012 global climate agreement.</p>	<p>Introduced by ICLEI and the City of Copenhagen during COP15.</p>
<p><a href="#">Call for a new model of solidarity for climate change</a>. Representatives of European local and regional authorities stressed the need for joint action involving EU Member States, cities, provinces and regions, in order to successfully adapt water management to the impacts of climate change. The call for a new model of solidarity among governance levels was made during the Local Governments' Day entitled '<i>Cities adapt: local water strategies in a changing climate</i>', in Munich, Germany, on 13 September 2010.</p>	<p>Organised by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and Climate Alliance.</p>



## 2. Case studies

### 2.1 Concrete commitments of local and regional authorities

#### *The Covenant of Mayors*

The Covenant of Mayors operates as a platform, linking and supporting local authorities that voluntarily commit to the implementation of concrete actions with the aim of going beyond the EU Member States target of cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 20% by 2020.<sup>2</sup>

Towns and cities wishing to make this formal commitment embark on a three step approach, involving the signing of the Covenant, the submission of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and regular reporting on implementation results. New signatories are requested to create appropriate administrative structures, by adjusting and optimising their internal administrative capacities (including allocating adequate financial and human resources), as well as to develop both a Baseline Emission Inventory and a SEAP; the latter is to be approved by the competent municipal council, prior to submission. Each local authority commits to mobilise and involve stakeholders (such as the local or regional Energy Agencies, local professional associations, etc.) and citizens in the entire process, including in the design, implementation and monitoring of the SEAP. During the long SEAP implementation phase, good internal and external communication is essential to ensure wide support; citizens' information, communication, awareness-raising and motivation strategies are, moreover, considered crucial to stimulate behaviour changes. Monitoring and regular evaluation, feeding into a follow-up adaptation of the action plan, allows for continuous improvement of the SEAP, while regular (bi-annual) reporting on implementation certifies that interim results comply with the planned objectives.

---

<sup>2</sup> Currently there are about 2,100 signatories and 110 supporting structures i.e. public administrations (national and regional public bodies, counties, provinces, agglomerations, mentor cities etc.) that are in a position to provide strategic guidance as well as financial and technical support to municipalities having the political will to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors, but lacking the skills and /or resources to fulfil its requirements.

## **Examples of concrete commitments in climate change policy-related action by Covenant of Mayors signatories**

The city of Hannover (Germany) has set ambitious targets for climate protection within the scope of its Climate Alliance 2020 programme. The programme consists of several projects that are implemented in parallel by local industries, office building managers and residential house-owners, each having its own climate protection goals, but together adding up to an overall target of cutting local CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40% by the year 2020.

[Newcastle City Council](#) (UK) has committed to tackle climate change and work with residents and partners to reduce the city's carbon emissions by 34% (from 1990 levels) by 2020, while providing significant employment opportunities for residents, reducing energy bills and boosting the local economy.

The process requires substantial resources and capacities from the participating LRAs, but at the same time provides significant opportunities for assistance, through a network of supporting structures, a series of workshops and other capacity-building or awareness events, as well as the availability of a pool of best practices in climate change mitigation.

The overarching principle guiding the actions of the Covenant signatories is their vision for a sustainable energy future, shared by all stakeholders, from leading politicians to citizens and interest groups. This vision is considered to be an important local asset, with significant value for the promotion of local territories to the rest of the world.

The Covenant of Mayors provides opportunities for greater visibility of the key actions of its signatories and supporting structures. The main tools used in this sense are its website and the 'local energy days' series of events. Additionally, Covenant signatories and supporting structures may propose examples of local initiatives that have been successfully implemented in their territories, to become Benchmarks of Excellence and thus be considered for replication by other cities.

### *[The ISLE-PACT project](#)*

The ISLE-PACT project is committed to developing Local Sustainable Energy Action Plans in European islands, with the aim of meeting or exceeding the EU 20/20/20 sustainability targets.<sup>3</sup> It is an initiative similar to the Covenant of

---

<sup>3</sup> Currently there are 12 participating groups of European Islands (over 60 islands).

Mayors, except that it targets islands, undertaking to put programmes, actions and investments in place to help achieve the overall objective of reducing their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by more than 20% by 2020. The process recognises the specific features of islands, including fragile ecosystems, structural handicaps such as loss of population and high tourism flows, resulting in seasonal fluctuations in energy demand. ISLE-PACT is co-financed by the European Commission, DG Energy and has established links with the Covenant of Mayors.

The islands participating in the process are requested to demonstrate their political commitment to EU sustainable energy objectives, by signing a binding declaration, the Pact of Islands. The key actions that need to be implemented by signatories to the Pact of Islands include: the development of Island Sustainable Energy Action Plans (ISEAPs) to guide them through the achievement of their overall target; the production of a pipeline of priority bankable sustainable energy projects; the identification of a number of financing tools and mechanisms that will secure the financing required to implement the bankable projects in their island regions; the development of methodologies and tools to monitor progress in implementing ISEAPs, assess environmental and socio-economic factors, as well as track progress in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; and the launch of a strong information campaign, to increase the level of awareness of islands' efforts to contribute to the fight against climate change.

Further to a tangible contribution to EU climate change policy targets (20-20-20), the initiative is expected to steadily improve local economic conditions in the participating island communities, by creating new jobs and enhancing energy-related sectors of the local economy. Through the actions implemented, the local authorities involved will develop their capacity to support and finance sustainable energy projects. Moreover, they will have a positive effect on public awareness, with regard to the value of sustainable energy plans and green investments.

## **2.2 Local and regional authority policy advocacy**

### *[ICLEI](#) – Local Governments for Sustainability*

In the international climate negotiations ICLEI aims to emphasise the crucial role of cities and local governments in climate protection, making sure that this key role is recognised by national negotiators in the anticipated post-2012 climate agreement. Relevant advocacy action forms part of the LG Climate Roadmap and is the result of collaborative action with major global networks of local governments (see also inventory of stakeholders in Table 1).

During the advocacy efforts that followed COP15, ICLEI and the Roadmap process focused on ensuring that the importance of the climate change mitigation and adaptation role and the actions of local and sub-national governments were formally acknowledged in the global negotiations, particularly through references in the negotiating texts on Long-term Cooperative Action (LCA) and on the Kyoto Protocol (KP). With the initial aim having been achieved to a substantial degree, ICLEI now works to maintain relevant references up to the final adoption of the agreement.

### **REGIOCLIMA – Regional Cooperation towards Adaptation to Climate Change**

The purpose of the REGIOCLIMA project is to enhance cooperation among selected EU regions aimed at avoiding risk and reaping the benefits from a changing climate. To achieve this specific objective, the project: (i) emphasises the need to adapt to climate change through awareness-raising and understanding of opportunities and threats; (ii) supports the broad public debate about adaptation strategies opened by the EC, with relevant policy action within the EU and in relation to LRAs; and (iii) jointly develops the capacities (in terms of knowledge, skilled staff, policy tools and access to EU-wide regional cooperation mechanisms) of the participating regional authorities and institutions to facilitate adaptation to climate change. Through its policy formulation component, REGIOCLIMA attempts, among other things, to facilitate the integration of adaptation into existing and forthcoming legislation and policies. As part of this process, stakeholders from all governance levels, including LRAs, national authorities and EU-level organisations, have been invited to offer their feedback and expertise on specific Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) issues raised by the REGIOCLIMA partners. The Open Dialogue on CCA is structured on two levels: the EU level, which includes two questions on governance, of an all-encompassing nature, allowing for a generic, EU-wide analysis of the framework on CCA policies; and the local level, with questions on specific sectors of interest for each country in focus. The results of the Open Dialogue process is expected to allow for relative inputs, feeding into the production of CCA policy-related papers (i.e. documents containing policy guidelines/suggestions for the modification of current sectoral policies to include climate change provisions). The latter will, in turn, be used as the basis for the work of the project partners in policy advocacy to national authorities, towards the integration of CCA provisions to sectoral policies. This advocacy action is not directly linked to COP16, although it addresses the position of the Committee of the Regions in global climate negotiations ‘*on cross sectoral mainstreaming of climate change concerns*’.

ICLEI maintains a continuous presence at all major events towards COP16 (see also analysis under paragraph 3.1) with its advocacy activities primarily focusing on targeted bilateral meetings with national delegations. The key message conveyed is the will of local governments to move forward on their level of commitment in taking action against climate change, with clearly defined responsibilities, and in delivering solutions.

European members of ICLEI have long been engaged in climate protection and have assisted in both the creation of a significant knowledge base and the sharing of experiences and good practices with other cities. Their initiatives have provided ICLEI with key inputs in its global climate advocacy efforts for cities and local governments.

ICLEI's climate change advocacy action forms part of its five-year strategy (2010-2015) 'Our plan for the future', guiding its overall environmental work through three key elements: 'Rapid Action and Radical Solutions', as a response to the urgent sustainability needs; 'A Planet of Cities', calling for the recognition of local governments as major actors; and 'Connecting Leaders', to develop a strong profile as required to stand alongside national governments in global negotiations.



## 3. Analysis of the policy process

### 3.1 Major events towards COP16

Following the Copenhagen Climate Convention, and with a view to working towards COP16, four UN Climate Change Conferences accompanied by side events were organised, with worldwide participation. In the same period, local authorities and their networks convened on several occasions, to underline the significance of local government climate actions, as well as to enhance their involvement in the international climate negotiations. These events are presented below along with an analysis of their impact, of their interest for the EU and of the instruments used to gain visibility and recognition for the role of LRAs.

[11th session of the AWG-KP<sup>4</sup> and 9th session of the AWG-LCA](#) – 9-11 April 2010, Bonn, Germany.

The first, post Copenhagen, sessions of the AWG-KP and AWG-LCA focused on the organisation of follow-up work of both working groups towards COP16. Delegates agreed on the need to allocate more meeting time in order to facilitate a successful conclusion of their work at the meeting in Cancun, and therefore concurred to hold two additional meetings between the round of climate negotiations in May/June in Bonn and COP16. The sessions were preceded by preparatory meetings of the Group of 77+China, the African Group, the small island developing States and the least developed countries. Specific EU interest was not formally expressed, other than the apparent commitment of the delegates to work towards a globally accepted agreement. No specific instruments were used by local and sub-national governments and their networks to gain visibility and recognition for of the role of LRAs, apart from direct discussions with Parties.

[6th European Sustainable Cities and Towns conference](#) – 19-21 May 2010, Dunkirk, France.

The key message delivered at the event was about further recognition for the role of LRAs in the creation of smart, sustainable economies. More than 1,800 participants approved two political declarations aiming to shape the future role of local governments in global sustainability and climate-related policy, namely

---

<sup>4</sup> In December 2005, the Conference of the Parties, serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), established a working group called the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP), the aim of which was to discuss future commitments for industrialised countries under the Kyoto Protocol. In Copenhagen, at its fifth session, the CMP requested the AWG-KP to deliver the results of its work, for adoption by CMP6 in Cancun.

the ‘*Dunkerque 2010 Local Sustainability Declaration*’ and the ‘*Dunkerque 2010 Call on Climate Action*’. Both declarations were presented to the high-level representatives of the Council of Europe, the (Spanish) EU Presidency, the Committee of the Regions, the European Commission and several national governments, for use in their respective work and policy-making. The Local Sustainability Declaration asks of participating European cities and towns that they ensure all citizens can fully participate in a low-carbon lifestyle. Moreover, local authorities accepting the declaration acknowledge that change can only be made with the support of governments and institutions at the national and international levels. At the same time, the Call on Climate Action urges local governments to send strong messages to national and international governments for them to reach an agreement at COP16. Of particular interest to the EU, with regard to its commitment to play a leading role in CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, is the call for more ambitious targets if a meaningful post-2012 climate agreement is to be achieved. This political declaration also acknowledges the importance of full integration of actions by local and regional governments, towards a low-carbon, climate resilient and green economy in Europe. The message delivered through the two declarations is expected to serve as a support document through the Climate Change Talks and other meetings until COP16 in Mexico.

[\*12th session of the AWG-KP and 10th session of the AWG-LCA\*](#) – 1-11 June 2010, Bonn, Germany.

The discussions resulted in a draft negotiating text aimed at addressing the wider interests of all Parties and due to be revised in the subsequent climate talks leading to COP16. The text included numerous references to the role of local and sub-national governments in adaptation, capacity-building and Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). During the event, the Dunkerque 2010 Call on Climate Action was distributed to all representatives of national delegations and international organisations attending the two sessions, together with an official letter requesting the inclusion or maintenance of specific references to local governments in the negotiating text of the international climate agreement. The role of LRAs was further highlighted through a series of four interventions by the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency, with references to the numerous local voluntary climate actions, as well as to the concrete commitments of local governments calling for a 30% reduction of GHG emissions by Annex-I Parties by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050. Specific EU interest was not formally expressed, but the move away from procedural discussions into more substantive debates was appreciated.

[\*13th session of the AWG-KP and 11th session of the AWG-LCA\*](#) – 2-6 August 2010, Bonn, Germany.

As with the previous sessions, a draft proposal text was produced in the Kyoto Protocol (KP) negotiations, which governments will be able to consider until the 14th session in Tianjin, China (see next event below). The KP draft includes a proposal for decisions on issues such as the impact of agriculture on emissions; carbon markets and mechanisms; greenhouse gases; and the effects on different countries of moving to a low-emissions future. The proposal provided a clear direction for governmental work towards COP16: governments, in order to achieve the desired outcomes at COP16, must radically narrow down the choices outlined in the proposed negotiating text. The LCA meeting gave governments a final opportunity before COP16 to be clear on their individual (as opposed to collective) positions; countries therefore reinserted established positions into the LCA text. The role of LRAs was once again highlighted through an intervention by the LGMA constituency that pointed to the benefits of harvesting the potential of local governments in global mitigation efforts, as well as to the need to support city-to-city cooperation, and to advance access of cities and local governments to global climate finance architecture. Furthermore, the intervention announced the upcoming launch of the ‘carbonn Cities Climate Registry’, confirming the commitment of local governments to a measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) local climate action, up to and beyond 2012. Of particular interest to the EU was the inclusion in the proposal of a new text on MRV, as well as the progress made on methodology and accounting at the KP session.

[14th session of the AWG-KP and 12th session of the AWG-LCA](#) – 4-9 October 2010, Tianjin, China.

Delegations at the KP discussions succeeded in terms of releasing a new draft of the Kyoto Protocol negotiations, though questions remain with regard to the length of the text (it is at least as long as the previous draft) and the lack of further clarification on commitments to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions on the part of developed countries. The EU showed strong leadership and gained positive results, with a number of developed countries joining the EU in signalling their strong support for continuing the Kyoto Protocol with a second commitment period. However, a controversy arose, with developed countries expressing concerns about the fact that none of the developing countries refer to the Copenhagen Accord and developing countries voicing increasing frustration about developed countries not taking steps to confirm further reduction commitments in the Kyoto Protocol. During the LCA session, several new papers were released, though the sections dealing with mitigation were rejected by developing countries, with respect to content and process. With regard to LRAs, through an intervention by the LGMA constituency at the KP plenary session, the belief of the local governments that successful ‘*climate*

*action at the local level can be scaled up with an enhanced support of national governments and global climate funds*’ was highlighted. The KP and LCA sessions were preceded by the side event [World Mayors Summit on Climate/Next Phase of Global Local Climate Action](#), where local government representatives had the chance to present plans for the ‘Mexico City Pact’ and the ‘carbon Cities Climate Registry’, and by preparatory meetings of the Group of 77+China, the African Group, the small islands developing States and the least developed countries (from 28 September to 3 October 2010).

[World Mayors Summit on Climate \(WMSC\)](#) – 21st November 2010, Mexico City, Mexico.

The event addresses mayors from all over the world, whose cities show commitment to, or interest in, policies against the effects of climate change. As announced, during the summit participants will be invited to sign the Global Cities Climate Covenant, known as the ‘Mexico City Pact’. The Covenant is voluntary and intends to demonstrate to the international community the advanced commitment of cities to combat climate change, with regard to the adoption of measures for both mitigation of GHG emissions and adaptation to a changing climate. Signatory cities will also consent to monitor and report on their progress through the carbon Cities Climate Registry (cCCR), a transparent, scientific tool. Through the presentation of concrete commitments by cities, the event is also seen as an opportunity for local authorities to call for access to finance and technology for the implementation of climate policies. The outcome of the summit will be presented at the COP16 negotiations, as an additional means to highlight the significance of local government actions and the added value of granting them a stronger involvement in the international climate negotiations. Representatives from EU cities and regions, as well as from the Committee of the Regions will participate in the event, though specific sessions with particular interest for the EU are not foreseen.

### **Other relevant events of interest to the EU and/or LRAs:**

- *Future of Cities* – 5-7 October 2010, Incheon, South Korea. At the event, ICLEI launched its Strategic plan 2010-2015, emphasising, among other things, the recognition of local governments as major actors in key environmental issues as well as a strong profile of LRAs in climate change policy.
- *World Climate Solutions* – 29-30 September 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark. The event focused on smart city solutions, addressing issues such as clean energy and green buildings, synergies between national and local policies, as well as partnerships between city and business leaders.
- *1st World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change* – 28-30 May 2010, Bonn, Germany. The Congress addressed the theme ‘Resilient Cities 2010’ and focused on approaches and solutions for climate change adaptation and resilience-building in cities and municipalities, including local adaptation practices. It sought to support the implementation of the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme on Adaptation by providing a forum for exchange, learning, networking, debating and policy-making.

## **3.2 Towards an effective representation of LRAs in the political process**

The large number of cities and regions committed to reduce carbon emissions and the diversity of approaches used to achieve the relevant targets set by mayors and local leaders have shown that where there is political will, the necessary technology and capacities can be found and the delivery of solutions to climate change challenges thereby becomes feasible.

Tackling climate change in a coherent way, together with national governments, is a broadly recognised necessity. The examples of the Covenant of Mayors, as well as of similar initiatives of local government networks, show that success stories at the local level can be quickly replicated and/or scaled up at national, regional and even global level, provided there is enhanced support from experienced structures. Moreover, sharing of capacities and exchange of good practices can be facilitated by national governments and global climate funds. In this context, effective collaboration between local and national governments is expected to maximise concrete commitments in climate-related action.

The capacity of LRAs to positively address climate change mitigation and adaptation issues has been repeatedly proven through their formal commitments,

as well as their concrete plans and actions. The will of local governments to move forward on their level of commitment in taking action against climate change is a powerful negotiating argument. The progress of local governments in the use of a reliable MRV system is expected to further support this argument. Tracking national governments' climate action in a measurable, reportable and verifiable way is among the top negotiation topics between national governments at the UN Climate Talks. Any controversy between developed and developing countries with regard to the emission reduction targets would have no meaning without the development of a practical system to monitor relevant actions at the national level. Local governments have made significant progress in this respect, having developed an advanced tool that facilitates transparent tracking of progress in climate change actions: the carbon<sub>n</sub> Cities Climate Registry (cCCR).

The cCCR is a state-of-the-art mechanism allowing cities to disclose their climate action information to the world and thus prove without doubt the significant mitigation and adaptation work done at the local level. The use of an MRV system that makes it possible for local governments to be transparent, accountable and ambitious in the way they define climate action is expected to open up the way for direct funding towards local government climate initiatives. Given this stated political will, with more funding available, it will only be a matter of time before cities and regions respond with further commitments to climate action.

Initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors facilitate networking among stakeholders. Moreover, the use of supporting structures that are common for all signatories enhances the uptake of aligned approaches, raising the potential for synergies between climate-related actions. At the same time, the obligation for regular progress reporting enables collective monitoring and aggregation of results. The latter is of particular importance for LRA's climate advocacy work, as it highlights the significance of their contribution to the national climate efforts and thus improves their position in the global climate negotiations.

### **3.3 Main negotiation issues and input by the principal LRA lobbyists<sup>5</sup>**

The two key broad climate negotiation issues facing LRAs are (i) the recognition of the role of local and sub-national governments in climate action and (ii) the need for support of their climate mitigation and adaptation activities so as to maximise their contribution to a global climate solution.

On the one hand, LRAs worldwide request that their role be recognised in future international climate agreements and decisions. As a result of intensive collaborative advocacy work towards parties negotiating the international climate framework under the UNFCCC process – mainly through the LG Climate Roadmap, in-country mobilisation, promotion of positions to the EU and other negotiating alliances, and numerous bilateral meetings with national delegations – a significant number of relevant references have been added to the KP and LCA negotiating texts. The challenge now is to succeed in maintaining inclusion of these references through to the final agreement.

On the other hand, LRAs request that their active involvement in tackling climate change be adequately supported, to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the existing and future UNFCCC Agreements, through long-term cooperative action now, up to and beyond 2012. Negotiations, such as the type and size of support, particularly with regard to technical capacities (sharing of skills, technology and/or experiences) and financing (access to, and level of, funding), are still open, though clear references have been made in the LCA negotiating text, to both capacity-building and the provision of financial resources and investment, at local and sub-national level in developing countries.

Specific climate negotiation issues are presented below, in decreasing order of opportunities for the Committee of the Regions to effectively highlight and "sell" the message of LRAs:

#### **A. On a ‘Shared Vision’**

Local and regional governments are clearly recognised as key governmental stakeholders in climate mitigation and adaptation in the ‘Shared Vision for Long-term Cooperative Action’. The LGMA Constituency strongly supports

---

<sup>5</sup> Organisations admitted as observers to sessions of the UNFCCC Convention bodies have formed themselves into loose groups – acknowledged as constituencies – to collectively manage their activities; each has a focal point, facilitating exchange of information and effective interaction with the UNFCCC Secretariat. For local governments, the constituency is Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA), with ICLEI being the focal point. In this sense, in the analysis that follows, LGMA summarises the input of principal LRA lobbyists.

the maintenance of relevant references recognising the specific role of local and sub-national governments in addressing climate change in the shared vision statement of the future agreement. Moreover, it requests that the difference between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders be stressed, on the basis that the former have jurisdictional powers to implement mitigation and adaptation measures, represent elected local leadership, and are the closest to citizens.

## B. On ‘Mitigation’<sup>6</sup>

1. All levels of government must be included in the ‘Enhanced action on mitigation’ in a coordinated effort to tackle negative impacts of climate change, both in developed and developing countries. The key position of the LGMA Constituency is that *‘local and sub-national governments are (governmental) key stakeholders for enhanced action on **mitigation**, both in developed and developing countries’*.
2. The success of climate action at the local level can definitely be scaled up with enhanced support from national governments and global climate funds. Currently, several national-local partnerships are being designed and implemented in developed and developing countries. This potential could be further exploited if standardised baselines at the local level were used for the determination of additionality. The LGMA Constituency strongly supports the use of *‘standardized baselines at (both the national and) sub-national level for determination of additionality and calculation of emission reductions and removals’*.
3. Tracking of national governments' climate action in a measurable, reportable and verifiable way is a prerequisite to the success of any future agreement, and is thus a key negotiation issue where LRAs can show significant, concrete progress. Local governments have, in fact, satisfied this need through formal processes for the regular reporting of their actions (as in the Covenant of Mayors) and intend to go one step further with the development and use of the carbonn Cities Climate Registry (cCCR).

---

<sup>6</sup> Further to the negotiation issues addressed in this section, the following is indirectly of interest to the Committee of the Regions: ‘Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAS)’ by developing countries should also address the local and regional levels. The LGMA Constituency advocates the definition and funding of NAMAS by developing country parties that include climate change projects and programmes at the local and regional level.

### C. On ‘Adaptation’

All levels of government, including the regional and local levels, must be part of the ‘enhanced action on adaptation and its means of implementation’. The key position of the LGMA Constituency is that *‘local and regional governments must be included as key governmental stakeholders for implementation of **adaptation** actions, both in developed countries and in developing countries’*. Arguments used to support this position are based on the direct link of adaptation to the key functions of LRAs as urban and rural infrastructure and service providers. Several cities and regions are, moreover, in a position to provide examples of adaptation measures, having acquired valuable experience in the design and implementation of climate-resilient and climate-friendly communities.

### D. On ‘Technology and innovation’

Local and sub-national governance levels have a role in technology and innovation action. The LGMA Constituency supports the position that broad participation of stakeholders at national, local and community levels, along with the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC, the principle of learning-by-doing and the best available science, should guide the *‘Enhanced action on technology and innovation’*, as well as the identification of technology needs.

### E. On ‘Capacity-building’

1. Collaboration between cities should be strengthened as a means to address emerging capacity-building needs. The position of the LGMA Constituency is that *‘City-to-city cooperation on climate mitigation and adaptation must become a fundamental part of the implementation of capacity building and should receive appropriate direct funding’*.
2. Emerging capacity-building needs require strengthening of competences at all governance levels. The LGMA Constituency supports the position that *‘local, sub-national, national or regional capacities, skills, capabilities and institutions must be strengthened to address emerging capacity-building needs, particularly those related to the enhanced implementation of the UNFCCC’*.
3. Access of local governments to global carbon financing should be strengthened. The LGMA Constituency advocates a revision of the provisions of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) towards an increased

capacity of local governments that would allow for better and easier access to global carbon financing.

F. On ‘Financial resources and investment’

Financial assistance towards developing countries should be provided for actions of various sizes and implemented at all levels. The position of the LGMA Constituency is that *‘developing countries should be provided with long-term, scaled-up and new additional assistance to implement urgent, short, medium and long-term adaptation actions, programs and projects at local, regional and national level’*.

## 4. Recommendations

Local government advocacy efforts have demonstrated a very positive response by LRAs to the key challenges posed in the climate negotiations at a global level. LRAs and their networks have managed to activate a significant number of cities and regions and to engage them in concrete commitments and action plans, as well as to develop and use a transparent MRV system for tracking their actions.

In this context, it is in the interests of the Committee of the Regions to support the increased mobilisation of LRAs towards concrete commitments on mitigation and adaptation targets that exceed those set by nations participating in the UNFCCC negotiation process, in order to promote both the feasibility of GHG emission reduction solutions and the potential for mainstreaming local climate actions. Such an approach would strengthen the position of the CoR, supporting further progress on the global climate change agenda, as well as an internationally binding agreement on reduction targets. In addition, the CoR could advocate the potential future mainstreaming of local and sub-national climate actions being formally supported by national governments and/or regional initiatives, i.e. the local/regional level could lead by example.

However, with a view to an internationally binding agreement on specific reduction targets, it is important for the CoR to ensure that the development realities in towns, cities and regions be taken into account, in order to avoid commitments that would require radical changes in the functioning of the LRAs involved. This is especially relevant to LRAs currently lacking the institutional capacity and/or experience to successfully implement large-scale climate actions. Moreover, particular attention should be given to the role of cities and regions as infrastructure and service providers (due to their importance in mitigation and adaptation actions), as well as to the role of LRAs in citizens' involvement (as a means to support long-term commitment).

The CoR could also ensure that any commitment made is linked to easy access to both support structures and adequate financing, in order to facilitate the full involvement of cities and regions in climate actions. The CoR could advocate the development of international mechanisms for public and private financial support, the need for the establishment of enabling environments for investments supporting adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer, and capacity-building at local and sub-national levels. In this context, LRAs would benefit from financing mechanisms that meet medium- and long-term financial requirements.

The CoR, in its efforts to advocate the recognition of the key role of LRAs, could emphasise the experience gained from initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors, showing that mitigation and adaptation is feasible not only from a technical point of view, but also from a local governance perspective. Well-planned and well-governed cities and regions show that high living standards can be decoupled from high GHG emissions: a strong argument for the CoR towards proving that well-managed municipalities and regions are an important part of the global climate solution.

Furthermore, the concrete commitment of the Covenant of Mayors signatories shows that cities and regions can play a significant role in the design and implementation of climate-resilient and climate-friendly communities, provided there is adequate political will. It is therefore equally important for the CoR to highlight the vision of the Covenant of Mayors signatories for a sustainable energy future, shared by all stakeholders, from leading politicians to citizens and interest groups, as the overarching principle guiding the planned and implemented actions and also as one of the key success factors of the initiative.

Additionally, the CoR could stress the formal process used by the Covenant of Mayors signatories to regularly report on their actions, emphasising their commitment to transparent tracking of progress in local climate change initiatives in line with national efforts for measurable, reportable and verifiable results.

## Appendix I – References

- Corfee-Morlot, Jan, Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Michael G. Donovan, Ian Cochran, Alexis Robert and Pierre-Jonathan Teasdale (2009), '[Cities, Climate Change and Multilevel Governance](#)', OECD Environmental Working Papers N° 14, 2009, OECD publishing, © OECD
- Covenant of Mayors (2010), '[The Covenant of Mayors](#)', Convention text.
- EUROCITIES (2009), [EUROCITIES Declaration on Climate Change](#).
- European Commission (2010), 'Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on International climate policy post-Copenhagen: Acting now to reinvigorate global action on climate change', [COM\(2010\) 86 final](#), {SEC(2010) 261}.
- European Union (2010), '[How to develop a sustainable energy action plan \(SEAP\) – Guidebook](#)', The Covenant of Mayors.
- Global Cities Covenant on Climate (2010), '[The Mexico City Pact](#)'.
- ICLEI (2010), [Messages to the G20, COP10 CBD, COP16 UNFCCC](#).
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) (2010), '[Summary of the Bonn Climate Change Talks 9-11 April 2010](#)', Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 12 No. 460.
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) (2010), '[Bonn Climate Change Talks](#)', Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 12 No. 461.
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) (2010), '[Bonn Climate Change Talks 31 May-11 June 2010](#)', Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 12 No. 472.
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) (2010), '[Bonn Climate Change Talks 2-6 August 2010](#)', Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 12 No. 473.
- International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) (2010), '[Summary of the Bonn Climate Change Talks 2-6 August 2010](#)', Earth Negotiations Bulletin, Vol. 12 No. 478.

- Kern Kristine (2010), ‘Climate Governance in the EU Multi-level System: [The Role of Cities](#)’, [Fifth Pan-European Conference on EU Politics, University Fernando Pessoa and Faculty of Economics of Porto University, Porto \(Portugal\), June 23-26, 2010.](#)
- Local Government Climate Roadmap (2010), ‘[From Copenhagen to Cancin to South Africa COP15 - COP16 - COP17](#)’, UCLG & ICLEI.
- [Local Government Climate Roadmap \(2009\)](#), ‘Local action for climate protection and adaptation – briefing sheet 1’, ICLEI & UCLG.
- Local Government Climate Roadmap (2010), ‘[Local government amendments proposed related to sub-national and local governments in the latest AWG-LCA negotiating text \(FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/14\)](#)’
- LGMA Constituency (2010), [Intervention of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency at the opening plenary of the 12<sup>th</sup> AWG-LCA](#), Tianjin, 4 October 2010.
- LGMA Constituency (2010), [Intervention of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency at the opening plenary of the 14<sup>th</sup> AWG-KP](#), Tianjin, 4 October 2010.
- Local Government Climate Roadmap (2010), ‘[Local government amendments proposed related to sub-national and local governments in the latest AWG-KP negotiating text \(FCCC/KP/AWG/2010/CRP.2\)](#)’
- McKim, Derek (2010), ‘[ISLE PACT Sustainable Energy Action Plans for Islands](#)’, Outer Hebrides presentation, ISLE-PACT event, Green Week 2010, Brussels.
- Newcastle Partnership (2010), ‘[Citywide Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan 2010 – 2020](#)’, Draft for Public consultation.
- The World Bank (2009), ‘[Climate Resilient Cities: A Primer on Reducing Vulnerabilities to Disasters](#)’, e-ISBN: 978-0-8213-7775-8.
- UNFCCC (2010), ‘Negotiating Text’, [Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention](#), Twelfth session, Tianjin, 4–9 October 2010.

Opinions and Resolutions of the Committee of the Regions:

- CoR (2010), Draft resolution on the Cancún Climate Summit - [The contribution of the CoR to the UNFCCC COP16](#), 29 November–10 December 2010, CdR 284/2010 EN/o.
- CoR (2009), 80<sup>th</sup> plenary session, 17-18 June 2009. Resolution on '[Climate Change: The Road to Copenhagen](#)' adopted on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009.