

## CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

### CITIES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**Acknowledging** that by 2030, two thirds of humanity will live in urban centres where more than 75% of all energy is consumed today.

**Understanding** that all cities are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, especially fast-growing cities in developing countries.

**Recognising** that cities and local authorities are critical when it comes to practical climate actions and that if genuinely empowered and resourced, they have the potential to lead emission reductions to ensure that ambitious targets for the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions are met.

**Recalling** the Decision on Cities and Biodiversity adopted by the Conference of the Parties on Biodiversity in its 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Drawing** lessons from the success of the implementation of the Rio Agenda through Local Agenda 21 and the successful measures that are being implemented by cities around the world on sustainable energy economy through energy savings and the application of new and existing renewable and high efficiency technologies, to reduce dependence on fossil and nuclear fuels and aim for lowest-carbon options.

**Recognising** that cities and local authorities play a critical role in designing and implementing energy and infrastructure guidelines, investment promotion, and consumer awareness campaigns, all of which have direct effects on energy consumption, and in particular on water, energy biodiversity and Communication, Education, and Public Awareness;

**Welcoming** the commitment demonstrated by the **World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement** by reaffirming the will of local authorities to accept the challenge and co-responsibility to take action to prevent the dangerous effects of climate change;

**Noting** that, while responsibilities for implementation of the Convention rest primarily with the Parties, there are multiple reasons for promoting the engagement of cities and local authorities and fostering collaboration with the global local government associations as key partners to the UNFCCC.

#### **The Parties:**

- in accordance with and respecting national constitutions and legislation, recognise the role of cities and local authorities in the implementation of National Climate Change Strategies and Action Plans, and shall therefore facilitate the adoption by cities and local authorities of practices that support the implementation of these strategies and action plans, as well as support the consistency between local climate change strategies and action plans with National Strategies and Action Plans;
- are committed to engage with the local authority leadership and/or their local authority associations to provide enabling structures and effective framework conditions for climate cooperation with cities and local authorities;
- shall empower cities and local authorities so that they have the abilities, the capacities and the resources required to take necessary action at the local level and to support the Parties in their efforts to meet the agreed targets and to implement local climate mitigation and adaptation strategies;
- shall include local authority delegates in the national delegation to the Conference of the Parties and relevant decision making processes hereafter.

#### **The Conference of the Parties:**

- commits to include the development and implementation of local policies in the agenda of the UNFCCC
- requests the UNFCCC Secretariat to strengthen cooperation with cities and local authorities and facilitate their meaningful contribution to the conference decisions