

FINAL REMARKS OF THE AFRICAN CITIES SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

Leading to an African Local Government Statement on Climate Change

- Local governments in Africa, while only producing 3.6 percent of global emissions as a continent, feel the disastrous impacts of climate change.
- The impacts at the local level are many, including the disappearance of lakes that would negatively impact on the water, food and hydro supply; increased droughts; and rising temperatures leading to increased energy use and health problems.
- Although African cities will contribute to the mitigation of climate change, they are especially focused on adaptation, and support to adaptation, given the impacts of climate change on their cities
- African cities should be given access to global climate change funds, for example the GEF
- There is also the need for more awareness-raising among African local governments on the impacts, and also on the role of local governments in addressing the issue.
- African local governments need to face these challenges, but are often restricted by limited resources and powers.
- There is the need to link climate change to current policies, programs and infrastructure development overall at the local level.
- There is a call for African local governments to establish a network of local governments addressing climate change. All local governments need to work together through existing platforms. The global initiative,

ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, offers the tools and mechanisms, and should be tailored to better identify and respond to the circumstances unique to Africa.

- African local governments need to raise their voices collectively to the international negotiations on climate change, and in particular the upcoming international climate change conference that will be held in Nairobi this coming November.

- City-to-city partnerships between developed and developing country cities need to be established so that local governments can be working together globally to reduce climate change. This will become even more significant as the world becomes even more and more urban.

- Mayors of African local governments can also raise their voices on this issue politically by participating in ICLEI's World Mayors Council on Climate Change.

- To have an impact achieve these aforementioned points, ICLEI and UNEP are pledging to work together to better engage African local governments on climate change.