OUTCOMES OF WARSAW DIALOGUES on Scaling-Up Local and Subnational Climate Action

Best Practices and Key Points from Side Events & Roundtables related to Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA).

The purpose of this document is to communicate:

- **best practices at the local and subnational levels to combat climate change;**
- **suggestions how national level governments could help spread and scale-up successful local actions** developed and implemented by local and subnational governments recognized as governmental stakeholders.

This content reflects the recurring themes of dialogues during COP19, including an ADP2.3 workshop on urbanization, side events, and other documents and initiatives.[1] The document aims to contribute to and strengthen the vision of the Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change – Local Government Climate Roadmap 2013-2015, adopted by more than 20 national, regional and global networks of local and subnational governments.

Overall, national and international efforts could:

- **be harmonized and integrated with subnational efforts;**
- **boost capacity, expertise, support and awareness of best practices of local and subnational governments.**

Unifying themes of dialogues concerning local actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change:

Best practices of local and sub-national governments include strategizing and then reporting progress that
(1) is regular, robust, comprehensive, standard and simple (communicated and understood by stakeholders);
(2) is holistic (shows synergies between reducing environmental harm, prosperity, health and well-being);
(3) is actionable and mindset-altering (informs and mobilizes individual and political will to make rational choices);
(4) contains ambitious, well defined goals and actions and indicators of progress toward attaining them;
(5) conveys reality and inspires with positive examples of progress and includes adaptations measures.

National governments (unilaterally and cooperatively) could help by
(1) building expertise and capacity and integrating local with national and international data tracking;
(2) benchmarking, identifying best practices, allowing localities freedom to innovate, and spreading awareness;
(3) removing irrational subsidies and providing long-term regulatory certainty;
(4) helping to identify synergies between emissions performance and other indicators of well-being;
(5) setting and supporting ambitious efficiency and clean energy usage targets;
(6) encouraging "community aggregation" (to purchase green power) and extended producer responsibility.

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[1] Sources include (listed in alphabetical order): BtG, C40, Covenant of Mayors, the Durban Adaptation Charter, EUROCITIES, ICLEI, LEDS Global Partnership, the Nantes Declaration, NRG4SD, ORU/FOGAR, Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport, SLoCaT, Sustainable Urban Transport Project, TRANSfer, UCLG, Urban Climate Change Research Network, WRI, and WWF.

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INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION OF WARSAW DIALOGUE ROUNDTABLE CONVERSATIONS

On November 20, 2013 at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, roundtable discussions were held as part of the Warsaw Dialogues on Scaling-Up Local and Subnational Climate Action.

Warsaw Dialogues consisted of high level meetings: Mayors roundtable discussion and Government roundtable discussion.

Mayors Roundtable, moderated by ICLEI President – David Cadman, was attended by Mayor of Warsaw – Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Mayor of Grand Rapids – George Hartwell, Deputy Mayor of Bonn – Angelica Kappel, Mayor of Amuwo Odofin Local Government - Adewale Ayodele and Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat - Dr. Aisa Kacyira. Participants discussed innovative ways of stepping up the pace of climate action at the local level.

Government Roundtable was facilitated by Ronan Dantec – Senator of Loire-Atlantique. Szymon Tumielewicz - Representative of Polish Ministry of the Environment, Robert Kehew - Leader of Climate Change Planning Unit of UN-Habitat and Sir David King - the Foreign Secretary's Special Representative on Climate Change, UK discussed possibilities of cooperation between governments and local authorities for scaling-up climate actions.

The idea of Warsaw Dialogue was to engage all of the participants into thematic conversations on Energy Efficiency of Buildings and Cities' Infrastructure, Adaptation, Waste Management and Transportation. The aim of the thematic roundtables was to develop suggestions for national governments on how local actions could be scaled-up and implemented in other areas.

On November 21, 2013 at National Stadium, official "Cities Day" was held.
One of the key highlights of the "Cities Day" was the exchange between Mayors and the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Ministers from France, Netherlands, Marshall Islands, Nicaragua, South Korea, Uganda and Poland. Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz–Waltz of Warsaw, Poland; Mayor George Heartwell of Grand Rapids, USA; Mayor Gustavo Petro of Bogota, Colombia; Mayor Frank Cownie of Des Moines, USA; City Manager Penny Ballem of Vancouver, Canada; Senator of Loire-Atlantique Ronan Dantec, France; Mayor Julio Gerardo of Recife, Brazil; Deputy Mayor Angelica Kappel of Bonn, Germany, Mayor Tunc Soyer of Seferihisar, Turkey; Governor Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan of Delta State, Nigeria and Deputy Mayor Dr. Tang Jie of Shenzen, China took part in this high level interaction.

The following pages contain specific observations about challenges, best practices, and what national governments could specifically do to help local and sub-national governments in four areas:
   (1) **energy efficiency of buildings and cities' infrastructure**
   (2) **transportation**
   (3) **waste management**
   (4) **adaptation**

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Energy Efficiency of Buildings and Cities' Infrastructure

Suggestions for national level:
   (1)   allow flexibility and creativity and leadership at urban level
   (2)   training and spreading of expertise, and knowledge platforms
   (3)   financial support
   (4)   remove counter-productive incentives
   (5)   provide long-term certainty in terms of direction of national policies

Challenges:
   (1)   inefficiencies in construction and performance of buildings
   (2)   lack of awareness of need for sustainable solutions
   (3)   preservation of historical buildings while retrofitting/modernizing
   (4)   lack of citizen/stakeholder engagement/behavior that would conserve energy
   (5)   rapidly expanding informal settlements

Best practices:
   (1)   stakeholder education and engagement and knowledge platforms
   (2)   ambitious, well defined goals and regular reporting of progress
   (3)   tracking data to develop synergies between low carbon, economic growth, and human well-being
   (4)   building codes favoring green technology and passive design
   (5)   city government who leads by example
   (6)   electricity generation using renewable resources
   (7)   increased density
   (8)   public facilities are audited and retrofitted or built to improve efficiency
   (9)   coordination vertically and horizontally with other units/levels of government
   (10) cooperation with university, private, NGO, and other partners

Transportation

Suggestions for national level:
(1) allow flexibility and creativity and leadership at urban level
(2) training and spreading of expertise and knowledge platforms
(3) financial support
(4) remove counter-productive incentives on fuels or ban or tax low efficiency vehicles
(5) provide long-term certainty in terms of direction of national policies

Challenges:
(1) congestion and accidents
(2) urban sprawl (distances between homes, workplaces, recreation, and other facilities)
(3) local and global pollution, including particulates, smog, GHG emissions, noise
(4) behavioral/cultural norms – e.g., some favor automobiles for perceived status or freedom
(5) vulnerability to fuel price rises or disruptions

Best practices:
(1) stakeholder engagement and cooperation with citizens and businesses and universities
(2) ambitious, well defined goals, and readily understandable, regular, and public reporting of progress
(3) integrate transportation with other aspects of urban planning taking a holistic approach
(4) public transportation infrastructure expansion based on return-on-investment analysis
(5) education, awareness, and encouragement of cultural shifts to use lower carbon intensity options
(6) dedicated bus and bike and pedestrian lanes
(7) restrictions or congestion fees for private vehicle usage in certain areas of cities
(8) connectivity between rail, bus, and mini-bus stops
(9) formalization of infrastructure, parking management
(10) city government who leads by example

Waste Management

Suggestions for national level:
(1) allow flexibility and leadership at urban level, but provide long-term policy clarity
(2) training and spreading of expertise and knowledge platforms
(3) financial support
(4) remove counter-productive incentives or ban use of materials that are not recyclable
(5) encourage supply loops: manufacturers designing products to be disassembled and materials reused

Challenges:
(1) methane and other byproducts and side effects of decomposing organic waste
(2) eWaste (toxics from consumer electronics), wastewater, and related public health challenges
(3) if informal waste streams are formalized, disruption of informal recycling by disadvantaged
(4) manufacturers not responsible for product disposal – burden imposed on local communities
(5) behavioral/cultural challenges – even if waste segregation possible, people not using it

Best practices:
(1) stakeholder engagement and cooperation with citizens and businesses and universities
(2) ambitious, well defined goals, and readily understandable, regular and public reporting of progress
(3) waste management integrated with other aspects of urban planning taking a holistic approach
(4) waste management based on return-on-investment analysis
(5) education, awareness, and encouragement of cultural shifts
(6) segregating (either by generator or at a facility), recycling or repurposing or recovery of materials
(7) harvesting waste (gases, materials, sludge, and in some cases solid waste) as fuel
(8) green building codes that reduce construction waste
(9) policies such as returnable bottle deposits and prices to reduce water and resource use and waste
(10) city government who leads by example

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Adaptation

Suggestions for national level:
    (1)   allow flexibility and creativity and leadership at urban level
    (2)   training and spreading of expertise and knowledge platforms
    (3)   financial support
    (4)   harmonization and vertical integration with national and international public health agencies
    (5)   coordination and preparedness and drills of first responders and citizens to disasters and unrest

Challenges:
    (1)   vulnerability of transportation and other infrastructure and buildings to extreme weather events
    (2)   public health risks and vulnerability of communities to sea level rise
    (3)   rapidly expanding informal settlements and infrastructure in developing countries
    (4)   vulnerability of food and water sources
    (5)   risk of civil unrest and disorder in the event of weather-related crises or food or water shortages
    (6)   protect and increase the role of green areas in the cities and building the connection between open space area and the inner cities

Best practices:
    (1)   stakeholder engagement and cooperation with citizens and businesses and universities
    (2)   ambitious, well defined goals, and readily understandable, regular and public reporting of progress
    (3)   adaptation with other aspects of urban planning taking a holistic approach
    (4)   adaptation and zoning based on return-on-investment analysis
    (5)   education, awareness, and encouragement of cultural shifts to prepare for changes and disasters
    (6)   energy and water conservation, rainfall capture, leakage stoppage, wastewater and gray water reuse
    (7)   re-localized agriculture & urban greenhouses
    (8)   relocation of at-risk populations and wetlands and forest restoration
    (9)   real-time data for citizens on air quality & weather conditions on screens throughout city
    (10) city government who leads by example and climate change commission chaired by mayor
    (11) information system for citizens about upcoming weather extreme, specially hot waves