

Local Authority statement on the institutional framework for sustainable development during the Rio2012 PrepCom II

Delivered by Susanne Salz, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, on 8 March 2011

Thank you, Chair.

Local Authorities welcome the opportunity to discuss the institutional framework for sustainable development. We hope significant and necessary improvements can be achieved at the occasion of Rio 2012.

One of the issues we urge UN member states to consider in this context is the multiplicity of actors in the world today. In Rio in 1992 the concept of the nine Major Groups was introduced. The world has changed since 1992, and actors that are not national governments have continued to increase the roles they play in an ever-more interconnected world. The governments of the world's sovereign states and the United Nations system continue to be the primary actors in the field of sustainable development governance.

At the same time, they can draw on important support by other actors, such as business, local government and civil society. These non-state actors significantly contribute to sustainable development. The institutional framework for sustainable development should take this into consideration. Non-state actors need to have a place in the

institutional framework for sustainable development alongside national governments and UN entities.

As the discussions continue and sharpen on the road to Rio, the Local Authority Major Group looks forward to considerations on the best ways to include actors such as business, local government and civil society in the future institutional framework for sustainable development.