

Local Authorities Statement on Advancing the Implementation of CSD decisions

Tuesday 11 May 2010

Thank you Madam Chairman. Thank you also to the honourable panellists for their insightful presentations.

With over half of the world's population already living in cities, effective implementation of CSD decisions is dependent upon local action.

In the CSD 17 shared vision document the role of urban areas in improving food security is acknowledged. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability has since then launched a program for local authorities to directly address this issue – which the distinguished panellist Thomas Forster mentioned in his presentation. ICLEI is also implementing relevant programs in the areas of biodiversity and climate. Work remains to be done to build international, regional, national and subnational networks on urban-rural linkages.

With regards to sustainable consumption and production, waste and transport, local authorities have a clear vision of the framework needed to enable local solutions.

We need to focus on sustainable procurement in cities. Cities have the potential to popularise and normalise sustainable procurement principles due to the density and high consumption rates of urban areas. Cities can play an important role in creating more awareness of the cost and benefits of sustainable procurement and promoting a cradle-to-cradle approach.

Local authorities have the potential to guide behavioural change on waste management. As the global population continues to grow and flock to urban areas, local authorities will need to become more actively engaged in waste management policies. Local authorities are heavily involved in the way household waste is handled; they will therefore play a vital role in guiding changes in the waste-related behaviour of individuals. The international community should facilitate an environment wherein local authorities are empowered to conduct environmentally sound waste management practices.

We must work together to reduce the demand for urban travel. Urban spaces must be planned in a way which allows a reduction in travel distance and time. This means discouraging urban sprawl and improving pedestrian, bicycle and public transit infrastructures. In addition, a shift to more

sustainable modes of urban travel is necessary. To bring about such a shift, numerous measures can be implemented. One option is the introduction of pricing policies targeting car users, which reflect health and environmental costs of car use. Uniting local and national levels in spatial and transport planning would be beneficial. Increasing diesel tax rates would discourage freight shipping and encourage fuel efficient transport such as trains. Finally, we must improve public transit and promote and provide incentives for non-motorized transportation such as walking and cycling.

We remain committed to our common objective - sustainable development - and to working together towards effective implementation.

Thank you, Madam Chair.