

**INTERVENTION OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES CONSTITUENCY
(LGMA)
AT THE OPENING PLENARY OF COP17
November 28, 2011**

Delivered by Gino Van Begin, Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI - As Focal Point for Local Governments and Municipality Authorities Constituency (LGMA)

Mme. President, distinguished delegates,

Gathering the global climate community in Durban coincides at a time when humanity is facing extreme weather conditions more often and goes through major social and economic changes, particularly affecting urban areas and communities worldwide.

Despite existing difficulties, nations can reach successes in Durban, if you choose to engage more with local and sub-national governments as “governmental stakeholders” as recognized in the Cancun Outcomes of last year.

In the next 2 weeks, you will hear the progress we achieved through our Global Cities Covenant on Climate – the Mexico City Pact, and the carbon Cities Climate Registry as the local response to measurable, reportable, verifiable climate action as well as the Durban Adaptation Charter which will be adopted here at the Durban Local Government Convention.

Now, is the time for nations to ensure that COP17 “urbanizes” the global climate agenda and engages with local and sub-national governments.

Mayors and local government leaders will be looking forward to continuing fruitful collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat, the Presidency of COP17/CMP7 and the Parties to sustain this goal. Further delay is not an option.

Thank you for your attention!