

Global Cities Covenant on Climate

“The Mexico City Pact”

Acknowledging that cities play a strategic role in the fight against climate change, because they are centres of economic, political and cultural innovation, host to half of the world population, and manage vast public resources, infrastructure, investments and expertise;

Recalling that between 1992 and 2007, whilst the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol were designed, numerous local governments demonstrated leadership and implemented innovative actions to combat climate change at the local level;

Reminding that as today half of the world's population lives in cities; that the International Energy Agency estimates that cities accounted for 67% of the world's primary energy demand and more than 70% of global CO₂ emissions in 2006. With continued urbanisation and urban growth, energy use in cities is projected to increase to 73% of the global total, and CO₂ emissions to 76%, by 2030;

Noting that since our cities are at increased risk of the devastating consequences of global climate change, particularly affecting the urban poor, many cities around the world, despite limited budgets and capacities, are already developing and implementing local adaptation strategies to address problems caused by climate change, even in the absence of a binding global commitment on adaptation;

Recognizing that since 2007, when national governments embarked on the UN Climate Roadmap, local governments signed the World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement and developed a parallel *Local Government Climate Roadmap* to mirror and influence the on-going work of the Conference of the Parties (COP), with the purpose of seeking recognition for local climate action within global climate governance;

Emphasizing that during COP15 in 2009, when the Copenhagen Accord was announced with national commitments and actions of governments, local governments published the *Copenhagen World Catalogue of Local Climate Commitments*, which identified more than 3,500 voluntary greenhouse gas reduction commitments of local governments in countries of Annex 1 and Non-Annex 1 countries;

Welcoming and seeking synergies with regional initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors in Europe and the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement in the U.S.A;

Inviting more cities, local and regional governments to initiate action or accelerate their climate efforts, both in developed as well as in developing countries;

Acknowledging that our local commitments and actions must be measurable, reportable and verifiable in order to attract recognition and support from existing or new multilateral institutions and funding mechanisms;

Considering that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has determined that reductions in greenhouse gases emissions must limit the increase of global temperatures to less than 2 degrees Celsius by the end of this century;

Gathering on the eve of COP16, at the World Mayors Summit on Climate, in Mexico City on 21 November 2010, we state the following:

WE, THE MAYORS AND LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES BY SIGNING THE GLOBAL CITIES COVENANT ON CLIMATE "THE MEXICO CITY PACT", WE COMMIT TO:

1. Reduce our local greenhouse gas emissions voluntarily

We shall promote measures, public policies, laws, plans and campaigns to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in our cities, taking into account our individual resources and capacities to do so.

2. Adopt and implement local climate mitigation measures designed to achieve our voluntary reduction targets

If we have set targets for reducing GHG emissions, we will adopt and implement measures to achieve them, in areas such as sustainable transportation, proper waste management, energy efficiency, as well as implement low carbon options that help to green our local economies and lifestyles.

3. Develop local adaptation strategies to address the local impact of climate change

We shall design appropriate local adaptation plans and implement climate change adaptation and preparedness measures with operational mechanisms that improve the quality of life of our inhabitants, in particular the urban poor, who are most vulnerable to the harmful impacts of climate change.

4. Register our emission inventories, commitments, climate mitigation and adaptation measures and actions in a measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) manner

With a view to launch and follow-up on our commitments, we will enter our climate actions in the **carbonsn Cities Climate Registry**. Acknowledging our common but differentiated responsibilities in responding to climate change, we agree to make our actions transparent and provide regular information and data so that our efforts can be measured, reported and verified.

5. Seek the creation of mechanisms that allow direct access to international funding for local climate actions

We will seek the development of mechanisms to directly access financing for our registered mitigation and adaptation actions and in doing so, we will seek the support of various national governments and multilateral funding institutions.

6. Establish a *Global Cities Covenant on Climate Secretariat*

We agree that a Global Cities Covenant on Climate Secretariat will be established to follow-up on actions arising from this instrument and to promote the Global Cities Covenant on Climate with other local and regional authorities. We request the Secretariat to undertake all efforts to facilitate cooperation, exchange and expertise on climate mitigation and adaptation among all signatories of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate.

7. Promote the involvement of civil society in the fight against climate change

We will engage our citizens in our actions to address climate change, and will support proposals from civil society that encourage changes in lifestyles that contribute to our local climate actions.

8. Advocate and seek partnerships with multilateral institutions and national governments on our local climate actions

We agree to cooperate actively with each other to advocate support before multilateral institutions and national governments – within the scope of the UNFCCC process and beyond -, to seek recognition and support for our measurable, reportable and verifiable local climate actions, and to implement sub-national, national, regional and multilateral frameworks that are complementary to our climate actions and which may result from multilateral climate negotiations.

9. Promote partnerships and city-to-city cooperation

We agree to seek active partnerships and promote city-to-city cooperation among all signatories of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate, including sharing information and knowledge, capacity building and technology transfer in all areas relevant to climate mitigation and adaptation.

10. Spread the message of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate and, in particular, encourage and invite other leaders of local and sub-national governments to join our climate actions.

TRANSITIONAL PROVISION:

In the case that signing Mayors require their decision to be processed through other instances of their governments; their signature will be subject to ratification in an 8 months term.

Signed by:

(Name of the authorised representative of the city or local government)

Representing (the city of ____)

Date:

Annex 1

The carbonn Cities Climate Registry

The carbonn Cities Climate Registry will be launched on 21 November 2010 in Mexico City at the World Mayors Summit on Climate (WMSC / CCLIMA).

Under the auspices of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change and with the endorsement of United Cities and Local Governments and Club of Madrid, the carbonn Cities Climate Registry (cCCR) has been developed with support from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and Government of Mexico City. The cCCR will be operated by the Bonn Center for Local Climate Action and Reporting – carbonn.

The carbonn Cities Climate Registry is a mechanism for cities and local governments that ensures transparency and accountability of local climate action through a commitment of regular reporting.

By being included in the carbonn Cities Climate Registry, cities demonstrate leadership in transparency and accountability of local climate action and will be better prepared for verification of their commitments, performance and actions, which should facilitate their direct access to global climate funds.

The carbonn Cities Climate Registry aims to be the global response of cities and local governments for measurable, reportable, verifiable climate actions that are also being discussed by the UNFCCC.

By signing the Global Cities Covenant on Climate, the signatories agree to enter their climate actions in the carbonn Cities Climate Registry and to submit their official documentation as a part of a regular reporting system on their greenhouse gas reduction commitments, on the performance of their GHG emissions and their portfolio of mitigation and adaptation actions through the online infrastructure of carbonn.

The carbonn Cities Climate Registry has two sections:

- Section 1 is for cities that wish to undertake mitigation and climate change adaptation measures and that, by signing the Global Cities Covenant on Climate, pledge to take the first steps, such as preparing their emissions inventory, design and implement a Climate Action Plan and will adopt local legislation that favours GHG emissions reductions, among other measures.
- Section 2 is for those cities that have already climate actions in place and which they wish to be measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV).

Signatories of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate are requested to enter their climate data (i.e. commitments, performance and actions) in the carbonn Cities Climate Registry within eight (8) months from the date of signatory of the Covenant.

Cities included in the carbonn Cities Climate Registry will also be ranked through a carbonn Cities Climate Index based on their commitments, performance and actions.

The information submitted to the carbonn Cities Climate Registry, will be handled with full confidentiality whereas the data output will be transparent and online.