

OPENING STATEMENT – LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAJOR GROUP
OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO
UNEP

Nairobi, 15 February 2016

Thank you, Ms. Chair.

Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

My name is Yunus Arikan, from ICLEI on behalf on Local Authorities Major Group.

Local Authorities Major Group fully aligns itself with the joint statement on the outcomes of Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum.

We would like to highlight 2 points as our priority over this week and at UNEA-2.

The first point is related to UN governance. We are happy to welcome numerous references for enhanced engagement of local and subnational governments in all the outcomes of major intergovernmental process in Sendai, Addis, NY and Paris as well as the strong relation of all these reference to the agenda of UNEA. As 2016 will be the year of implementation including improvement of the UN's governance model and functioning, we encourage UNEA and environmental community to be actively involved for implementation, follow-up and review. This engagement should seek for a benefit from the new initiatives like UN Subnational Climate Action Hub and Lima-Paris Action Agenda and seek appropriate synergies through the upcoming appointments in the leadership of UN SG, UNEP ED, UNFCCC ES.

2016 will also see the 3rd Un Conference on Human Settlements, called HABITATIII, which will focus on the New Urban Agenda. We strongly encourage OECPR to include a specific agenda at UNEA-2 that will enable Ministers and environment community to provide substantial inputs in the preparations of the HABITATIII, with a view to preserve and improve the environmental dimension in this agenda. Engagement of UNEA will provide value contributions to the global consultations on the New Urban Agenda. This is extremely important and essential considering the urgency and transformative potential of sustainable development of cities, regions, and territories, as well as many cross-cutting issues between UNEP and UNHABITAT pursuant a SDG on sustainable cities, joint Agendas, Headquarters and Committee of Permanent Representatives and the already active engagement of UNEP in the Policy Units and Thematic Preparations.

I thank you.

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