

**Local Leadership for Climate: Solutions to the Climate Emergency**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of September – 15:00-18:00

Conference room 2, UNHQ, NYC

**NBS Enhancing Subnational Climate Action****INTERVENTION BY****GINO VAN BEGIN, SECRETARY GENERAL, ICLEI – LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

Original Question by moderator:

“How can we use the UNFCCC events (COP25, COP26) to enhance ambition and mainstream NBS for cities into NDCs?”

ICLEI suggestion Preferred question:

"In the age of climate emergency in an Urban World, what type of innovation is needed to ensure synergy along climate-land-nature nexus among global processes on (UNFCCC/COP25-COP26-Chile) (UNCCD/COP14-India) (CBD/COP15-Kunming) so that nature-based-solutions in cities can help raise both climate ambitions as well as secure our livelihoods within the planetary boundaries"

683 words

Global agreements adopted in 2015 and 2016, namely 2030 agenda and SDGs, the Paris Climate Agreement and the New Urban Agenda, have collectively introduced a new and strong momentum by refreshing commitments of national governments and global institutions on sustainability.

For institutions like ICLEI who have been championing the legacy and spirit of the 3 Rio Conventions and the Agenda 21 since early 1990s, this renewed commitment offers enormous opportunities to deliver our goals on sustainability through multilevel, collaborative and holistic efforts and seize the potential of the new Urban World that we are experiencing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

However, our pace of collaboration is much slower than the pace of the destruction we are exerting in this Planet. Our planet is facing emergency at all levels be it climate, be it natural destruction, be it social and economic unrest. But through the technological achievements and active engagement of citizens, we have never been so close to create a new type of a civilization as well, which mainly needs a new way of governance at all levels.

This is why, these Summits over the next days, and in particular this session is so important to break down silos of all types and focus on coherence and convergence by all means.

This change in the way we solve our problems is most visible in our new response to climate emergency and the way we implement the Paris Agreement.



As the focal point of local and regional governments in the UNFCCC process since 1995, Paris Climate Agreement is so valuable for us, because it refers to engagement of all levels of governments and defines a very ambitious long term goal as the collective commitment of all nations.

However, we all know that the current NDCs are designed in the philosophy of the pre-Paris Agreement era, therefore they have to be revised, strengthened and delivered by all actors involved, by the latest in 2020.

We have made a giant progress on this effort in 2018 when we convened Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues through 60 sessions in 40 countries. Here in NYC, then in Santiago and then in Glasgow, where Bonn will play a key role throughout the route, we are urging national governments to come up with new NDCs that benefit connect climate agenda to integrated, sustainable urban and territorial development

And now through the next couple of months, we have the biggest challenge and once in a lifetime golden opportunity; to create a true climate-land-nature nexus through a multilevel and collaborative approach, so that we can make the NDCs deliver the Paris Agreement.

And we have even more reasons to be hopeful that we can do this; just 2 weeks ago, the Desertification COP14 in India hosted for the first time a Local and Regional Governments Day which concluded with a specific paragraph for our constituency. The Kunming biodiversity COP15 in 2020 now has a vision for 2050, which we hope will make Kunming the Paris moment of biodiversity and at the same time, when CBD has the strongest established regime for engaging of all levels of government.

By the time we reach to COP26 in Glasgow in 2020, we should make sure all these positive practices are reflected into the new NDCs. And meanwhile, we also have to benefit from the achievements of the climate process. For example, the carbonn Climate Registry, the global data reporting platform developed by ICLEI in 2010 was one of the first data providers of the NAZCA Platform of the UNFCCC since 2014, which now became the Global Climate Action Portal. Building on this experience, we are offering the CitiesWithNature platform of ICLEI as the global data provider for the CBD and Kunming outcomes as well.

And finally, I would like to announce that that over the next decade, ICLEI and the City of Bonn will step-up their efforts through a 10-year initiative, UrbanEra4Life, that aims to drive local action. This initiative will respond to the current climate emergency, advances livelihoods in harmony with nature, and ensures the convergence of all sustainability agendas through integrated and multilevel collaboration.



<b>Session 2</b>	<b>NBS Enhancing Subnational Climate Action</b>
<b>Time</b>	16:00-17:00
<b>Structure</b>	<p>Moderated panel discussion with local leaders, international experts, civil society representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Highlight opportunities of how NBS can support cities to further strengthen resilience and increase emission reductions/removal;</li> <li>– Identify tools, areas of collaborative action, key opportunities and milestones in lead up to 2020 for subnational governments to enhance ambition;</li> <li>– Discuss initiatives to help cities act on opportunities and potential commitments at subnational levels.</li> </ul>
<b>Participants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>National Government Representatives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Aupito William Sio, Minister of New Zealand</li> <li>• H.E. Mr. Xie Zhenhua, Special Representative for Climate Change Affairs of the People’s Republic of China</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Mayors / Governors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Erion Veliaj, Mayor of Tirana, Albania</li> <li>• Mr. Powes Parkop, Governor of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea</li> <li>• Mr. Arthur Virgilio Neto, Mayor of Manaus, Brazil</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Representatives UN and civil society</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</li> <li>• Ms. Inger Anderson, Executive Secretary of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)</li> <li>• Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)</li> <li>• Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)</li> <li>• Mr. Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)</li> <li>• Mr. Scott Francisco, Co-founder of Cities4Forests</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Frances Seymour, Distinguished Senior Fellow, WRI</li> </ul>
<b>Format</b> (60 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 minutes kick-off presentation to highlight opportunities for NBS to strengthen resilience and enhance emission reduction/removal for cities</li> <li>• 25 minutes moderated panel discussion on what is happening already</li> <li>• 15 minutes moderated panel discussion on next steps to 2020</li> <li>• 10 minutes wrap up and closing</li> </ul>

1600 ***The NBS Opportunity for Cities*** Introduction by H.E. Special Representative Xie Zhenhua and moderation by Frances Seymour.

1610 ***What is happening already: Cities raising climate ambition through NBS through land use planning, finance pathways and resilience -includes announcements, commitments.***



Speakers will be given a four-minute time limit.

- (1) Trees and green spaces in cities: Advancing Sustainable Development Goals
  - Speaker: Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of UNECE
  - Question: “What are the benefits for urban residents – in terms of cooling, clean air, health, biodiversity – of having more trees in cities, and how is the UNECE proposing to support cities to capture those benefits?”
- (2) Forests surrounding cities: Enhancing resilience
  - Speaker: Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of Food and Agriculture Organization
  - Question: “How can protecting or restoring forests surrounding cities enhance their resilience to climate change, and how is your Great Green Wall for Cities initiative proposing to help them?”
- (3) Forests everywhere: The role of cities in realizing forests’ mitigation potential
  - Speaker: Mr. Scott Francisco, Co-founder of Cities4Forests
  - Question: “Recognizing that the largest mitigation potential exists in “faraway” forests, and that urban consumers have a large “footprint” on those forests, how can cities include such forests in their climate mitigation plans?”
- (4) NBS in practice: Experience in developing and developed countries
  - Speakers: Mr. Powes Parkop, Governor of Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, Mr. Erion Veliaj, Mayor Tirana, Albania, and Mr. Arthur Virgilio Neto, Mayor of Manaus, Brazil
  - Question: “How have NBS within, around and external to your cities enhanced climate action of your city?”

1635 ***Next steps on the path to 2020: cities leading the way to carbon net zero and resilience through NBS: How can we use events over the next 15 months to advance our common agenda?***

A speaker on each topic to address each specific question in less than 4 minutes.

- (1) Milestones in urban policy arenas:
  - Speaker: Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Director UN HABITAT
  - Question: “How can we use cities-focused events over the next 15 months to encourage integration of NBS into cities’ climate mitigation and adaptation strategies?”
- (2) Milestones in nature-focused policy arenas:
  - Speaker: Ms. Inger Anderson Executive, Director of UNEP
  - Question: “How can we use events such as the CBD COP15 to further collaboration between cities and proponents of NBS?”
- (3) Milestones in climate mitigation and adaptation policy arenas:
  - Speaker: Mr. Gino van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI
  - Question: “How can we use the UNFCCC events (COP25, COP26) to enhance ambition and mainstream NBS for cities into NDCs?”

1655 ***Closing remarks and summary*** Minister Aupito William Sio of New Zealand