

FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE IPCC
Nairobi, Kenya, 11 - 13 April 2016

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SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6) PRODUCTS

Special Reports

Commentary from the Co-chairs of Working Groups I, II and III on each of the proposals for Special Reports contained in document IPCC-XLIII/INF. 7

Additional contribution from ICLEI

(Submitted by the Acting Secretary of the IPCC)



DR. MANNAVA V.K. SIVAKUMAR

Acting Secretary

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Secretariat

World Meteorological Organization

7bis Avenue de la Paix

1211 Geneva 2

Switzerland

Objective: Support to the South African proposal for an IPCC Special Report on Cities and Climate Change

Dear Dr. Sivakumar,

We are writing to you today to express our strong support to the proposal put forward by South Africa for an IPCC Special Report on Cities and Climate Change, during the IPCC 43rd Session to be held in Nairobi on April 11-13, 2016.

Local and subnational governments have always been supportive of the work of IPCC¹. Cities are already facing the impacts of climate change² and are highly vulnerable to a range of climate hazards, including sea level rise, street flooding, landslides, droughts, epidemics and severe heat waves, which threaten the health, well-being and livelihood of citizens.

Cities are integral to fighting climate change. While they are responsible for 37–49% of global GHG emissions, and urban infrastructure accounts for over 70% of global energy use³, research shows that urban policy decisions made by 2020 could determine up to a third of the remaining global carbon budget that is not already ‘locked-in’ by past decisions⁴.

The Paris Agreement and the COP21 Decision recognized the key role of Non-Party stakeholders, including cities, in the global response to climate change. During the Climate Summit for Local Leaders held in Paris during COP21, 440 Mayors and subnational leaders pledged to *“deliver up to 3.7 gigatons of urban greenhouse gas emissions reductions annually by 2030 — the equivalent of up to 30 % of the difference between current national commitments and the 2 degree emissions reduction pathway identified by the scientific community”*. Cities are already using the Compact of Mayors as a common global platform to measure their contributions to NDCs in terms of GHG reduction goals and climate action plans.

¹ <http://www.iclei.org/details/article/iclei-welcomes-new-ipcc-bureau-and-commends-debra-roberts-election-as-ipcc-co-chair.html>

² According to research by C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group and Arup, 70% of cities that are members of C40 reported they are currently experiencing the impacts of climate change. (<http://cam3.c40.org/#/main/home>)

³ http://urbanleds.iclei.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Resources/AR5Cities.pdf

⁴ http://www.c40.org/blog_posts/one-third-of-the-world-s-remaining-safe-carbon-budget-could-be-determined-by-urban-policy-decisions-in-the-next-five-years

The international community has a huge opportunity to strengthen COP21's momentum and drive urban policy-making if the IPCC decides to make a Special Report on Climate and Cities that clarifies the linkages, potential governance, policy, financial options and instruments to support mitigation and adaptation actions in urban areas, where more than half of the world's population lives. Such a comprehensive, global, and authoritative resource on cities and climate change represents a significant opportunity to simultaneously advance scientific knowledge, policy, and action at local, national and global levels.

Through our three leading global city networks, C40, ICLEI and UCLG, thousands of cities and local governments of all sizes across all continents find inspiration, collaboration and support to implement bold climate action at local level. In partnership with other organizations like the New Climate Economy Global Commission, UN-SDSN, CDP, WRI and UN-Habitat, among others, we produce abundant, high-quality data and research on all aspects of the increasing amount of city climate actions, that we would be happy to share with the IPCC, once it decides to make a Special Report on Cities and Climate Change. With the support of the worldwide community of city practitioners, such a report will certainly be a milestone in IPCC history.

Yours sincerely,



EDUARDO PAES

Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Chair of C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group



PARK WON-SOON

Mayor of Seoul, South Korea
President of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability



KADIR TOPBAS

Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey
President of UCLG – United Cities and Local Governments