

Local and Subnational Authorities towards Rio+20

LAMG suggestions for Zero Draft of the Rio+20 Outcome document

As of 23 February 2012

From a local and subnational authorities' perspective that recognizes the key role of local and subnational authorities in achieving sustainable societies and focuses on a sustainable urban future, the **Zero Draft is a good base for further development.**

We believe that in order to improve the achievement of sustainable development on the ground, it is important to ensure the territorial dimension of any agreements reached by means of, among others, the establishment of sub-systems of governance at and the access to adequate funding by local and subnational levels of government.

Supporting existing text

In that regard, the local authorities major group welcomes the efforts made towards a global governance including the local and subnational levels and the clear recognition of the key role of local and subnational authorities in the definition of and provisions for the implementation of the sustainable development policies made in the Zero Draft. **We strongly call for the preservation of these references during the negotiating process, and the inclusion of subnational level, in particular of the following paragraphs:**

Par. 20 (II. Renewing Political Commitment- [C. Engaging major groups])

20. We also acknowledge the essential role of local [insert:**and subnational**] governments and the need to fully integrate them into all levels of decision making on sustainable development.

Par. 22 ([D. Framework for action])

22. We commit to improving governance and capacity at all levels - global, regional, national, [insert:**and subnational**] and local – to promote integrated decision making, to fill the implementation gap and promote coherence across institutions.

Par. 44 (IV. Institutional framework for sustainable development- A.

Strengthening/reforming/integrating the three pillars)

44. We recognize that strong governance at local, [insert:**and subnational**], national, regional and global levels is critical for advancing sustainable development. The strengthening and reform of the institutional framework should, among other things:[...]

Par. 59, 61, 62 (D. Regional, national, local)

We support the proposals of sustainable development governance reform in

- paragraphs 105 to 111 (V. Framework for action and follow-up - Accelerating and measuring progress)
- and the creation of a Sustainable Development Council.

Priority suggested changes

II renewing political commitments, B. Assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps

16. We acknowledge the diversity of the world and recognize that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind and the protection of the Earth's life support system. We emphasize the importance of culture for sustainable development **[insert: and call for an in depth consideration which may enshrine culture as fourth pillar of sustainability]**. We call for a holistic approach to sustainable development which will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature.

III. Green Economy; C. Framework for Action

Paragraph 38, " We encourage all States to develop their own green economy strategies through a transparent process of multi-stakeholder consultation **[insert: and coordination at a multi-governmental level]**.

- Insert a new paragraph on Green Urban Economy, such as:

Additional paragraph after current paragraph 40: "We encourage Local and Subnational Authorities to develop Green Urban Economy strategies, with concrete goals and benchmarks of progress, to support the national green economy strategies."

Insert new alinea in par. 42:

42. We realize that to make significant progress towards building green economies will require new investments, new skills , technology development, transfer and access, and capacity building in all countries. We acknowledge the particular need to provide support to developing countries in this regard and agree:

a) [...]

h) To develop international and national financial mechanisms accessible to subnational and local governments to implement sustainable development's programs.

IV. Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD)

[51 bis: We resolve to further enhance the participation of local and subnational authorities in all UN sustainable development settings by incorporating them into a new Stakeholder Group called 'Governmental Stakeholders'.]

(Note: UNFCCC COP16 recognized Governmental Stakeholders to be Local and state/regional governments. Parliamentarians could also be included.)

OR

62. We recognise the need to integrate sustainable urban development policy as a key component of a national sustainable development policy and, in this regard, to empower local authorities to work more closely with national governments. We recognize that partnerships among cities have emerged as a leading force for action on sustainable development. We commit to support international cooperation among local authorities, including through assistance from international organizations.**[Insert: "We commit to full participation of Local and Subnational Authorities in global sustainable development policy-shaping".]**

Further ideas and suggested changes

I. Preamble

[3. bis We resolve to define a sustainable world scenario for the year 2050 as guidance for decisions and actions required to reach the agreed state of the world.]

IV. Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD)

[44 bis The future IFSD shall be designed to ensure healthy, happiness and decent livelihoods for all people, while aligning natural resource extraction and use with the ecosystems services available, through a green economy.]

V. Framework for Action and Follow-Up

[water]

68. We recognize the necessity of setting goals for **[insert: good governance for access to water supply and]** wastewater management, including reducing water pollution from households, industrial and agricultural sources and promoting water efficiency, wastewater treatment and the use of wastewater as a resource, particularly in expanding urban areas

69. We renew our commitment made in Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) regarding the development and implementation of integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans. We reaffirm our commitment to the 2005-2015 International Decade for Action “Water for Life”. We encourage cooperation initiatives **[insert: and especially decentralized cooperation]** for water resources management in particular through capacity development, exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned, as well as sharing appropriate environmentally sound technologies and know-how

72. We commit to promote an integrated and holistic approach to planning and building sustainable cities [through support to] **[replace with: by creating enabling and supportive conditions for]** local authorities **[insert: to be effective guardians of environmentally sustainable human settlements and through supporting]** efficient transportation and communication networks, greener buildings and an efficient human settlements and service delivery system, improved air and water quality, reduced waste, improved disaster preparedness and response, **[insert: urban ecosystems management and biodiversity]** and increased climate resilience, **[insert: all with a view to protect cultures and traditions and enhanced social inclusion and cohesion].**

[72. bis: We request that a UN Decade on Sustainable Urbanization is launched.]

[72. ter: [We commend the local authorities around the world already taking a leading role in making cities and human settlements more sustainable. We commit to the development of national policies in close consultation with subnational governments and to set up financing mechanisms to accelerate the implementation of sustainability plans and projects in urban areas.]

[72. quat: We support the creation of a Global Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Framework to enable cities and human settlements to measure and share, as well as accelerate progress towards increased sustainability. The Framework should be based on sustainable development principles and should establish verifiable and transparent indicators. Recognizing that there is no “one size fits all” solution, local authorities, informed by citizen participation and with national support, are encouraged to create their own road maps to achieve the following key elements of sustainable urban systems: 1. Compact, mixed-use urban design and transportation planning; 2. Healthy social and cultural conditions (green and equitable economy, lifelong education, acknowledgment of diversity of cultures, community capacity and governance, well-being); 3. Healthy bio-geo-physical conditions (water, air, food, soil, materials and resources, reduced waste); and within the

context of 4. Global ecological imperatives (living within Earth’s carrying capacity, improved disaster preparedness and response, increased climate resilience).]

[72. quint. We furthermore recommend the following timeline for the development of the Global Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Framework and pledge to help cities and human settlements share best practices and encourage the preparation of an annual progress report.

- **2012 -- 2015**
 - **Global Sustainable City and Human Settlement standards and indicators first draft completed in partnership with cities and human settlements, international city networks, and local government associations.**
- **2015 – 2017**
 - **Initial GSCHS evaluations are completed by interested cities and subnational governments with the support of regional and national government and the United Nations, with corresponding GSCHS Action Plans created with the assistance of local government associations and the NGO sector as appropriate, ensuring outreach and dialogue ongoing with citizens and citizens groups.**
 - **Cities and human settlements implementing GSCHS Action Plans are supported by national supportive policies and financing mechanisms.]**

87. We reiterate the call for disaster risk reduction to continue to be addressed in the context of sustainable development and placed within the post-2015 development agenda. We call for increased coordination among **[insert: local,]** subnational, national, regional and international levels for a robust response to environmental emergencies and improved forecasting and early warning systems, as well as closer coordination between emergency response, early recovery and development efforts, including adoption of a post “Hyogo Framework” and its integration into development policy.

[87 bis. We recognize the need to support local and subnational governments on financial, technical and institutional support to reduce disaster risk.]

Add a new section on culture:

[Culture]

98. We underline the importance of the right to participate in cultural life as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. We highlight the critical importance of cultural diversity for sustainable development.

99. We recognize the importance to include culture in all national and local integrated long-term planning for sustainable development. Culture provides the soul of a sustainable development which is meaningful to all peoples and to humanity.

100. We acknowledge the need to an in-depth analysis on the relation between sustainability and culture during the next years through a “UN Decade on Culture for Sustainable Development”.

[Gender equality]

103. We call for removing barriers that have prevented women from being full participants in the economy and unlocking their potential as drivers of sustainable development, and agree to prioritize measures to promote gender equality in all spheres of our societies, including education, employment, ownership of resources, access to justice, political representation **[insert: and participation including at local and subnational level]**, institutional decision-making, care giving and household and community management.