

STATEMENT TO THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT PLENARY

BY TAKEHISA MATSUBARA

MAYOR OF NAGOYA, JAPAN

ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LOCAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES (ICLEI)

7 December 1997

Mr. President, Distinguished delegates:

I am the Mayor of the City of Nagoya, Japan. I am here to announce that local governments firmly believe that we have a crucial role in global climate protection and that we are highly motivated to do so to our best ability.

Our city, Nagoya, is a member of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, or ICLEI, and we are a participant in the international Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. I am representing ICLEI on this occasion.

The 2.2 million people of Nagoya are part of the global community. Together with other urban communities around the world they account for almost 50% of the people of the earth. Through COP3, I sincerely hope that this enormous urban village will be united for the prevention of climate change.

ICLEI is the international environmental agency of over 250 of the local governments that make up this urban global village. Its mission is to build and serve a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve measurable improvements in the global environment.

Cities for Climate Protection is an ICLEI campaign that aims to fight global climate change by mobilizing local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Presently, over 200 cities are in the campaign. These represent over 100 million people and account for 5 to 6% of total global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Local governments have been present in this Convention process since the beginning. ICLEI presented the Helsinki Declaration in Rio when the Framework Convention on Climate Change was born. Last week, a delegation of 15 elected local officials came here to COP 3 following the 4<sup>th</sup> Cities for Climate Protection World Summit hosted by my city and Aichi Prefecture. They presented to COP3 a report on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions that campaign cities are achieving. In addition, the delegation presented the Nagoya Declaration.

The Nagoya declaration calls on COP3 to set an initial reduction target for Annex 1 countries, relative to 1990 levels, for the year 2005, with the ultimate target of 20% for the year 2010. Most of the CCP cities that have set targets for themselves have chosen 20% or better, and many are now on paths to achieve their targets.

If Premiers, Prime Ministers, and Presidents could be mayors for one week in cities that

are successfully reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the Parties would realize that aggressive reduction targets are realistic. To date, cities in the campaign have reduced at least 42 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> since 1990, and in doing so have derived a wide range of economic, social, and environmental benefits, like cleaner air.

Local governments believe that an early legally binding target around the year 2005 is crucial as a political signal from national governments that they are making a serious effort to combat climate change. Without an early legally binding target, it will become harder for local elected officials to maintain their voluntary political commitment to aggressive emissions reductions over the long term.

Please be assured, as you go into the final negotiations of the Kyoto outcome, that local governments will work with you to implement aggressive emissions reductions strategies. In the Nagoya Declaration local governments have pledged to give full support to their national governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We look forward to the post-Kyoto process and the contribution that we may make as partners in implementation.

In the end, it is cities that may suffer the most adverse effects of climate change. And it is cities that have the most to gain by reducing emissions. As urban economies become more efficient, cities will become a nicer place to live in.

Thank you very much.