

**Municipal Leaders' Statement at the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – UNFCCC COP 8, in New Delhi, India.**

We, as local government leaders representing over 500 municipalities around the world participating in ICLEI's International Campaign "Cities for Climate Protection", wish to address the Conference of the Parties in its Eighth session to reiterate our message to the United Nations, that Local Action Moves the World.

We take this opportunity to inform delegations and parties about the innovative work being undertaken in cities. While nations debate on how to tackle human induced climate change, local governments have taken the lead implementing real on-the-ground actions that protect both global climate and local environment. By becoming more energy efficient and using renewable energies, and by implementing innovative waste management and transportation strategies, municipalities worldwide are preventing millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere. At the same time, the municipal actions bring about real economic benefits, improve the quality of urban service delivery, and enhance community livability, thus meeting sustainable development objectives.

ICLEI has helped the Cities for Climate Protection local governments to implement greenhouse gas emissions reduction projects around the world. In Denver, USA, employee transportation measures have cut 1,500 tonnes of carbon by encouraging use of public transportation, and avoiding the use of single occupancy vehicles. Once the full phase of retrofitting streetlights in Jabalpur, India takes place a reduction of 3000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be achieved. Waste water treatment plant retrofit in Potchefstroom, South Africa, resulted in a 78% emissions reduction in one year, equivalent to 7,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>. The retrofit included a system to capture methane that is now used to replace diesel in the plant's incinerator.

We, municipal leaders attending COP 8, hope to capture the attention of national delegations, financial institutions, and representatives from the private sector and civil society, to foster financial resources and channel investment to projects that can truly make a difference: to the local level. We ask specifically that there be development of innovative finance mechanisms that target municipal projects. We are encouraged by initiatives such as the World Bank's Community Development Carbon Fund: We request that multilateral institutions, national governments and private sector entities develop analogous funds and

financial program directed toward financing urban and local government carbon reduction measures.

Lack of access to financing is a primary obstacle to local government's ability to implement carbon reduction projects. We are concerned that high transaction costs and complicated requirements may prevent local government from accessing CDM and other financing options. We request that the Parties in their deliberations recognize the benefit of local government action and work to ensure that the various funding mechanisms rules, and programs positively support and encourage the implementation of local government emission reduction measures.

We are here to attest that local governments are key drivers in the struggle to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and request the assurance that the viewpoint of local authorities is heard in global climate negotiations and in the decision making process of countries.

New Delhi, 28 October, 2002

**Names of Municipal Leaders attending the COP 8 meeting:**

Aaron Peskin, **County Supervisor, City of San Francisco, USA**

Amanda Nair, **Executive Director: Planning, Transportation and Environmental Affairs, City of Johannesburg, SA**

Deborah Ortega, **Councilwoman, City of Denver, USA**

Herry H. Zudianto, **Mayor, Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

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Jim Mazziorelli, **Representative, Massachusetts State Legislature, USA**

Ross Anderson, **Mayor, Salt Lake City, USA**

Satish Roopa, **Executive Mayor, Potchefstroom, South Africa**

Bharti Vyas, **Mayor, Vadodara, India**

Viswanath Dubey, **Mayor, Jabalpur, India**

Ranadhir Reddy, **Additional Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad, India**

Yesuratnam, **Mayor, Guntur, India**

Naresh Regmi, **Assistance CEO, Kathmandu Metropolitan city corporation, Kathmandu, Nepal**

Bishnu Lamichhane, **CEO, Bhaktapur Metropolitan city corporation, Bhaktapur, Nepal**

Kesara Senanayake, **Mayor, Kandy Municipal Council, Kandy, Sri Lanka**