

Press release

For immediate release

Equipping cities with the tools they need to become resilient

Bonn, Germany, 3 June 2011- The urban population is set to double in coming years, meaning the present urban infrastructure will need to expand to twice its current level in a short space of time. In addition, 80 percent of the expected €70 billion per year in climate change adaptation costs are to be borne by urban areas. These challenges need to be addressed immediately - now is the time to make sure that the cities of the future are both resource-efficient and resilient.

The Resilient Cities 2011 world congress in Bonn, Germany, from 3-5 June will provide a global platform for cities on resilience and adaptation to climate change. The event is organised by ICLEI, together with the City of Bonn and the World Mayors Council on Climate Change under the patronage of UN-HABITAT's Executive Director Joan Clos.

Resilience can be seen as a concept that allows future cities to withstand the adverse effects of climate change, in times when resources will be less available and environmental disaster risks increase. Being resource efficient is a vital aspect of creating a sustainable future for the projected 6.3 billion urban dwellers in 2050.

David Cadman, ICLEI President and Councillor of Vancouver, says that Resilient Cities 2011 is "fulfilling a growing need: to bring together in a single place the knowledge, the experience and the solutions required by local governments and their partners to adapt to climate change". He stresses that cities and local governments are already being affected by climate change, and they need to find solutions and act now.

Over 30 mayors will gather to discuss practical climate adaption measures at the Mayors Adaptation Forum, which takes place from 4-5 June, in parallel to the congress. The mayors will explore how to drive forward the Mexico City Pact and the carbon Cities Climate Registry (cCCR) for measurable, reportable and verifiable climate action. The Forum will be chaired by Mayor of Mexico City Marcelo Ebrard and Mayor of Bonn Jürgen Nimptsch.

The outcomes of the World Bank's Mayors Task Force on Urban Poverty and Climate Change will also be discussed, and the mayors will meet with World Bank Special Envoy Andrew Steer on how to reduce climate risks of the urban poor. UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres will also be present and will explain how urban resilience strategies can be supported by the emerging international climate regime.

Word count: 391

Background:

The membership of **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability** is made up of more than 1200 local governments and their associations, representing over 440 million people in 70 countries. ICLEI is a global association of local governments and municipal organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. As a movement, ICLEI runs the world's largest climate program of cities that links local action to national goals and internationally agreed targets. ICLEI provides information, delivers training, organises conferences, facilitates networking and city-to-city exchanges, carries out research and pilot projects, and offers technical services and consultancy.

The Mayors Adaptation Forum 2011 (MAF) forms the Mayors' segment of the Resilient Cities 2011 congress. The Forum is convened by the World Mayors Council on Climate Change and led by the Councils Chair and Vice Chair, Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard and Bonn Mayor Juergen Nimptsch. Participation in the Forum is an outstanding opportunity for Mayors and Governors to collectively demonstrate local leadership on climate resilience on a global scale. The outcomes of the Forum will be directly conveyed to the climate negotiators present at the June 2011 session of the UN climate talks in Bonn which immediately follow the Resilient Cities congress. Attendance to the Forum is by invitation only.

The World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC) is an alliance of committed local government leaders advocating an enhanced recognition and involvement of Mayors in global efforts to address climate change. The Council plays an instrumental role in building political leadership around the Mexico City Pact and carbon Cities Climate Registry (cCCR). The World Mayors Council has been supported by ICLEI since its inception in 2005. **Resilient Cities 2011** is sponsored by SwissRe, and supported by the Foundation for International Dialogue of the Savings Bank in Bonn, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the European Regional Development Fund and the State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia.

More information:

<http://resilient-cities.iclei.org/bonn2011>

<http://resilient-cities.iclei.org/bonn2011/press-media>

www.worldmayorscouncil.org

www.iclei.org

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