



SESSION DESCRIPTION

D5 Mayors Adaptation Forum

Advancing local action on climate-biodiversity-desertification through Rio Conventions

Panel discussion

Date: Friday, 30 May 2014
Time: 11:00-12:30
Rooms: S30-32

Language: English
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Organized by: ICLEI World Secretariat and World Mayors Council on Climate Change

OBJECTIVE

The three Rio Conventions—on Biodiversity (CBD), Climate Change (UNFCCC), and Desertification (UNCCD)—derive directly from the 1992 Earth Summit. Since 2001, these 3 Convention Secretariats established a Joint Liaison Group as an informal forum for exchanging information, exploring opportunities for synergistic activities and increasing coordination, including convening Rio Conventions Pavilion at numerous global events.

Local authorities enjoy being actively engaged in these processes through the concept of “Mayor Groups” that has been introduced in the global governance through Agenda 21 adopted in Rio 1992. In terms of biodiversity, specific decisions and action programmes have been adopted by Conference of Parties since 2008 which are being jointly implemented with the national governments and the Secretariat in close collaboration with local and subnational authorities. In terms of climate change, local and subnational governments are recognized as governmental stakeholders since 2010 and specific initiatives are being intensively discussed in terms of engaging in raising the global level of ambition in the pre- and post- 2020 period, as well as with the opportunities of the 2014 UN Climate Summit. In terms of desertification, new opportunities of engagement exist within the scope of 2008-2018 Strategy for Implementation, where local authorities can scale up the initial efforts in late 1990s.

This session will enable these local government representatives and the 3 Rio Convention Secretariats to meet for the first time jointly with a specific focus on implementation at the local level. The meeting will aim to highlight options of synergies both at the global and local level in particular focusing on cross-cutting issues including urban biodiversity, ecosystem and community based adaptation, urban-rural linkages and food security.

OUTCOMES

Participants will gain a better understanding of:

- Understanding the institutional framework and highlighting good practices for engagement of local governments in each 3 Rio Conventions; and
- Highlighting cross-cutting priority action areas that are specifically relevant for local



governments in the implementation of 3 Rio Conventions.

METHODOLOGY

- The facilitator will open the session with a short introduction of the session and speakers. **(10 minutes)**
- Each speaker will be given time to describe their work, taking into account the relevant guiding questions. **(4x 10 minutes)**
- The facilitator will manage questions and answers from the audience, starting with the discussant. **(35 minutes)**
- The facilitator will conclude with closing remarks. **(5 minutes)**

Guiding questions:

1. What are the specific benefits and challenges engaging local governments in reaching to the global goals of 3 Rio Conventions?
2. What are the specific benefits and challenges of reflecting provisions of 3 Rio Conventions in urban sustainable development policy and practices?
3. What additional policy and practices are needed to advance the implementation of the 3 Rio Conventions at the local and global level?

CONTRIBUTORS

- Facilitator *Yunus Arikan, Head of Global Policy and Advocacy, ICLEI World Secretariat, Bonn, Germany*
- Panelist *Daniele Violetti, Chief of Staff, Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)*
- Panelist *Neil Pratt, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, Deputy Director, Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Montreal, Canada (tbc)*
- Panelist *Louise Baker, Coordinator of External Relations, Policy and Advocacy Unit, Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Combatting Desertification (UNCCD)*
- Panelist *David Cadman, President, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability*

Further recommended reading

3 Rio Conventions:

<http://www.cbd.int/rio/> - http://unfccc.int/meetings/rio_conventions_calendar/items/2659.php -
http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/ngo/items/3667.php - <http://www.cbd.int/en/subnational> -
<http://www.unccd.int/en/Stakeholders/Pages/home.aspx>

Local Governments at 3 Rio Conventions: <http://www.cbc.iclei.org/> - <http://www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap>
