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Local Action Driving Transformation

Proceedings of the International Conference on Climate Action (ICCA 2015)



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Contents

International Conference on Climate Action	05
Speech Dr Barbara Hendricks	08
Speech Stefan Wenzel	11
Speech Henri Djombo	13
Speech Dr Joan Clos	16
Hanover Declaration	20
Thematic Clusters	
Agents of Change	23
Governance	24
Finance	25
Infrastructure	26
Ecosystems	27
Networks and Groups	28
Climate Action Award for Local Government.....	29
Welcoming Address Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter	30
Welcoming Address Professor Martin zur Nedden	33
Climate Neighbourhoods.....	34
Climate Culture	38
Reflections Rob Hopkins	40
Climate Non-Conference 2015	42
Visual Transfers from the Panels.....	44

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International Conference on Climate Action

Context and Introduction

Municipalities play a strategic role in mitigating climate change and adapting to its consequences. As sub-national players, they implement global and national goals and programmes at local level and are often pioneers and models in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

On 1 and 2 October, 450 participants from 27 countries attended the International Conference on Climate Action (ICCA2015). Under the theme “Local Governments Driving Transformation”, conference participants representing different levels and sectors of municipal climate action, took the opportunity to exchange experiences, learn from one another and encourage each other in their efforts. Political strategies, necessary framework conditions, and successful mechanisms for implementation were discussed.

In a year that sees many conferences, the ICCA2015 added an important perspective to the global

discussions. Shortly after the UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York, where heads of state and government adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in the context of conferences such as the European Union Capitals and Large Cities Meeting on Climate in Paris, the ICLEI World Congress in Seoul and the 100 per cent Climate Neutrality Conference in Sønderborg, the ICCA2015 emphasised the importance of sub-national climate action and reinforced the position of municipalities in promoting sustainable development. With a view to the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC in Paris in December 2015 and the Habitat III Conference in Quito in 2016, the ICCA2015 formulated a strong message to these political forums: Climate action and climate adaptation strategies need to be firmly rooted at local level. Linking up global and local thinking patterns and action is therefore, more than ever, part of the future agenda.



The opening of the ICCA2015 was attended by representatives from the fields of politics, industry and science and was held in the Orangery of Schloss Herrenhausen. Over 400 participants from 27 countries attended the conference.



Schloss Herrenhausen in Hanover provided the perfect setting for the International Conference on Climate Action (ICCA2015).



Lower Saxony Environment Minister, Stefan Wenzel, and Federal Minister Dr Barbara Hendricks expressed their support of Greenpeace. Greenpeace used the ICCA2015 as an opportunity to draw attention to the need to protect the Arctic.



The Climate Neighbourhoods were open to the public and focused on participation and young initiatives.

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony and the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu) welcomed participants to *Schloss Herrenhausen*. The Climate Protection and Energy Agency of Lower Saxony (KEAN) organised further activities open to the public. The so-called Climate Neighbourhoods hosted an exhibition and several interactive events.

The core programme of the conference built on experiences from the Climate Dialogue project and facilitated an intensive exchange of experiences, made possible through the use of interactive and practice-oriented formats. Eighteen workshops, divided into six thematic clusters and additional activities focused on “the culture of climate action”, gave participants ample opportunity to enter into discussion and network at international level.

The Climate Action Award for Local Government 2015, organised by the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu) in cooperation with the Association of German Cities (Städtetag), the German County Association (Landkreistag) and the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund), showcased outstanding examples of local climate action. Nine

awardees were announced and presented their innovative and creative projects during the award ceremony held on 1 October at the ICCA2015. The winners were awarded €25,000 each, which will be reinvested in climate action.

The essence of each of ICCAs’ elements was incorporated in the conference conclusions. Throughout the entire conference, Cluster Leads and rapporteurs for each topic worked on the final document and ensured, that the diversity of topics and perspectives was reflected. In doing so, the Hanover Declaration confirms the key role played by municipalities in this transformation process. This process requires continuous learning and a long-term change in our behaviour, our way of thinking and the underlying structures to successfully tackle climate change.



Participants could choose from eighteen Workshops in six thematic clusters and three forums on climate culture.



Federal Environment Minister Dr Barbara Hendricks emphasised the important role of municipal involvement in climate action.

Speech Dr Barbara Hendricks

The Federal Environment Minister emphasised: “Climate action and climate adaptation strategies must have sound foundations at local level.”

– Salutation –

I am very impressed by the lively group that has come together here in Hanover. You have worked hard in addressing the core challenges facing local climate action. In addition, we are hearing a wide variety of ideas and voices in the Climate Neighbourhoods next door. You have drawn up important conclusions which we, as negotiating actors, will take to Paris.

Climate change is a challenge for every one of us. We need willingness on the part of all governments, and we need commitment at municipal level. A transition is taking place in our cities and municipalities towards a new way of life that respects the ecological boundaries of the planet. A transition towards a carbon-neutral energy supply, sustainable mobility and environmentally sound buildings. We need municipalities that

know how important climate action is for the future. And we need municipalities that network beyond national borders and learn from each other. At the beginning of the week I returned from the UN summit in New York, where we adopted the 2030 Agenda. At the summit the United Nations made combating climate change and protecting the environment a priority. That sent a strong signal. We are currently receiving the good news that countries are making a commitment to climate action – including countries such as Brazil, China and the United States.

In the EU we agreed to reduce CO₂ by at least 40 per cent by 2030 and by 80 to 95 per cent by 2050. Germany aims to be at the upper end of that range.

I am convinced that restricting climate change is a pre-requisite for combating poverty, hunger, war and the movement of refugees.

Pope Francis made that impressively clear in his encyclical. Professor Schellnhuber, you were instrumental in that. Francis writes: “We are not faced with two separate crises. [...] but rather one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.” And that is precisely the point – climate action and eliminating poverty go hand in hand.

We need an agreement at the climate change conference in December. That is why I would like to thank you in advance for all the important impetus which you will send with us to Paris. I will make sure that the Declaration of Hanover is heard there. We want to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius. For this, we need an agreement in which all countries – developed, developing and emerging economies – make a commitment according to their capabilities. Richer countries must help those that are financially weaker. Our long-term goal is a world without fossil energy sources.

The local, municipal level will be the first to feel the impacts of climate change, which will be apparent in those places where streets are flooded, heat islands form or where drinking water is becoming scarce. One thing is certain, climate change is not some scenario of the distant future. We are already experiencing its effects today. And we are the last generation that will still be able to restrict its impacts to a manageable level.

Last December I was at the climate summit in Lima, a city of nearly eight million inhabitants, which draws its water from the glaciers of the Andes and from precipitation. Climate change will make rainfall patterns more unreliable and shrink the glaciers. The city faces enormous difficulties in securing its drinking water supply for the long term. A second example is the Philippines, which is extremely vulnerable to typhoons due to its location in the Pacific. When the Philippines was hit by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013, from one day to the next

4.3 million people in the provinces of Leyte and Samar were made homeless, while more than 10,000 lost their lives.

Climate change has arrived in Germany too. Of course we cannot always blame climate change for every extreme weather event. Nevertheless, North Rhine-Westphalia alone was hit by two devastating storms last year, crippling towns and cities for days. Both Düsseldorf and the Ruhr were affected by major storms in 2014, while one storm in the Münster region caused 292 litres of rain per square metre in just seven hours. In Germany too, such events will become more frequent. Climate action and climate adaptation strategies must have sound foundations at local level. And they need to involve all stakeholders. That is why I have made municipal climate action a focus for support. Last December we adopted the Climate Action Programme 2020. It comprises a range of measures aiming to ensure that we achieve our target of reducing CO₂ emissions by 40 per cent by 2020.

A key aspect for me in this context was the expansion of our National Climate Initiative. We have increased its funding to over 300 million euros. Just yesterday, new funding guidelines entered into force which improve support for poorer municipalities and for the modernisation of municipal facilities.

What precisely are we supporting? One example is enabling municipalities to employ climate managers. Climate managers bring municipal administrators together with stakeholders from outside, and put measures into practice. We have found that the enormous potential still available in many areas is still not widely known. For instance, energy efficiency. We are supporting measures here too, such as switching to LED street lighting, energy modernisation of building services and bicycle path construction. Since 2008 we have implemented over 8,000 projects.

Another focus is on networking. Again and again, when I visit municipalities, I meet people who have launched amazing projects. The city of Bottrop, for instance, where the main industry used to be mining, decided to be a leader in the field of climate friendly urban development. Over 200 projects were implemented, including the socially sound modernisation of residential buildings of the 50s and 60s. Today Bottrop rightly calls itself the “innovation city”. Cities will only be attractive in future if they accept the challenge of climate change. Cities like Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Freiburg and Münster show that green



From left to right: Professor Dr Hans Joachim Schellnhuber (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research), Minister Henri Djombo (Minister for Sustainable Development, Forestry Economy and the Environment, Republic of Congo), Federal Environment Minister Dr Barbara Hendricks, Rob Hopkins (Transition Network) and host Inka Schneider during the High Level Panel segment.

urban spaces and sustainable mobility enhance quality of life for those living in cities.

And climate action pays off. It is an economic stimulus package for SMEs and skilled trades. It makes cities cleaner and more worth living in. It makes infrastructures future-proof.

Every two years, the Federal Environment Ministry conducts a survey of environmental awareness in Germany. One result of the 2014 survey stands out: Four out of five of those questioned want to move away from car-centric cities and promote cycle paths and public transport. Most people no longer see the car as a status symbol but as just one mode of transport among many.

And speaking of cars: If we are talking about Germany's pioneering role in climate action these days, we have to say a few words about the Volkswagen affair. I would like to state loud and clear that cheating on the limit values is a short-sighted action. In the long term we will need cars that do not emit any pollutants at all.

We should work on developing cars like that rather than trying to circumvent prescribed limit values.

We have to ensure the climate change conference in December is a success. In one year's time we will adopt a New Urban Agenda in Quito. This agenda will form the basis for globally sustainable urban development over the next twenty years. The transition must begin where people live and work.

ICCA 2015 has shown that municipalities and local players are ready to tackle climate change. Here in Hanover we have succeeded in developing concrete recommendations for local climate action. That gives us momentum for a positive outcome in Paris. I promise you that your voices will be heard – across borders and continents. I can only encourage you to continue your cooperation – across borders and continents. This conference is an excellent example of how fruitful such exchange can be.

Thank you very much for your commitment.

[...]

Thank you very much!

Speech Stefan Wenzel

The Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony opened the ICCA2015

– Salutation –

Today, two months ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, we have invited you here – representatives of local governments, scientists, and politicians from 27 countries – to discuss your perspectives on climate change, to share some success stories about climate protection, and to formulate a joint message to the Paris conference.

The Paris conference and world leaders are not the only decision makers when it comes to averting dramatic change to our climate. None of the technological revolutions so far in the modern industrial era have been the result of an international treaty. Every breakthrough has been due to the irresistible momentum created by pioneers – we have only to think of the IT revolution, which is still in progress today.

Nothing is as powerful as a good idea at the right time. The story of the German energy transition is a story of many good ideas which began in garages, small workshops and engineers' offices. Nowadays they would be called startups. And it was local communities, cities and municipal areas which became the first testing grounds for new forms of energy.

Anyone looking for examples of innovative projects today inevitably encounters municipal projects and initiatives. These are inspiring projects and demonstrate what can currently be achieved, both technically and socially.

When heads of government talk of generating 40 per cent of electricity from renewable sources or of cutting CO₂ emissions by 40 per cent over 15 years, some local leaders are less than impressed.

We are currently witnessing a change in global awareness: people are becoming increasingly aware of the fragility of our Earth. To “protect our common home” was the phrase the Pope used. “Oikos”, the linguistic root of the words ecology and economy, is a symbol of the balance of our Earth's ecosystem. It is crucial to our survival that we stop trying to

subdue the Earth and start preserving its balance; and that will only be possible if it is done fairly. The catchphrase for this is “climate justice”. Only by looking at the whole picture will we be able to overcome the challenge.

This is why we want to pool our experience of what works and take this knowledge to Paris as a code of best practice. We want to embolden heads of government to take visionary decisions. That was the idea and the motivation behind the ICCA 2015 conference.

We have all been brought together here by the major challenge of climate change.

- The last report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change showed with stark clarity that our climate is changing faster than previously thought, and in large part this is caused by humans. This has been confirmed by numerous measurements and observations. The global average temperature, for instance, has risen by 0.85°C in not much more than the last 100 years (1880–2012); and each of the last three decades has been warmer than every decade since 1880.
- As a result, our climate system is being thrown ever further off balance. Temperatures are climbing, oceans are warming, glaciers are melting, and extreme

temperatures are becoming more common, as are droughts and floods.

- Needless to say, heavy demands will be placed on the Climate Change Conference in Paris, including ambitious climate change goals to stay below the target of two-degree and, in particular, a credible process of checking and monitoring. The two-degree target must be the absolute maximum possible temperature rise permitted. Even if the two-degree target is met, we can still expect to see dramatic consequences.
- We are running out of time, and the consequences of climate change are becoming ever more apparent. For instance, recent studies show that desert areas on the African continent have doubled over the last three decades. But an encouraging phenomenon in the Sahel region shows that this can be stopped; according to satellite pictures of the area taken over the last ten years, the trend is now in reverse. Scientists claim that this is directly connected to reforestation programmes in the region, which have also started to benefit local water control.
- Climate change leads to more and more people leaving their homelands due to drought and floods. Even now some of the refugees rushing to Europe are climate refugees.
- According to a Hamburg University study, the number of climate refugees is likely to rise to 200 million in the next 30 years if we do not stay below the two-degree target. The most affected regions are the desert transition zones of Africa, Bangladesh and many islands in the South Pacific.
- Also affected, to some extent at least, is Syria, currently the world's most-fled country. Prior to the conflict raging there today, Syria had suffered more than six years of crop failure due to lack of rain. The result was soaring food prices leading to unrest, which in turn gave rise to a horrific civil war.
- The worst consequences of climatic changes often affect regions which are already struggling. Such regions are often those which have contributed the least to climate change and usually lack the resources to adapt to its consequences.
- Effective global climate protection is therefore also an effective way of ending the misery of refugees. At the same time, of course, the international community needs to invest a lot more in fighting global hunger and poverty if this is to work.

The consequences of climate change can be felt all over the world, even in Lower Saxony.



Minister Stefan Wenzel (Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony) welcomed participants to the ICCA2015.

- Although Lower Saxony will have no problems with desertification or a shortage of food and water, even this wealthy state will be considerably burdened by climate-related issues in areas such as coastal protection or land and forest management.
- We are building higher floodbanks to check rising sea levels, and there are already plans for more cooling green zones and fresh air corridors to counter rising temperatures. However, what cannot be avoided by technological means are the changes to our flora and fauna. Our children will no longer be familiar with many of the animal and plant species which are still with us today. Our farmers will have to grow different crops and foresters will have to adapt the tree population.

Municipalities have always been, and will continue to be, a significant force in energy supply. Indeed, their role is still expanding due to the energy transition that we have embarked on in this country. Increasingly they will have to act as mediators, reconciling various interests with one another. They must ensure that spaces are set aside for renewable energy purposes such as production, storage, or transport. They must also ensure good conditions for investors and help to establish local networks. In addition, they often face the difficult task of allaying people's

reservations and fears. They usually do an excellent job of this. Role models in this respect are the bioenergy villages of the rural district of Göttingen and the bioenergy region of Wendland-Elbetal. And Jühnde is now renowned well beyond Germany's borders. In these places, civic engagement and municipal policies have made a visible difference. There are good examples of this throughout Lower Saxony.

In these municipalities, we often see civic participation on a completely new level. We see people contributing their time, expertise, and money to energy cooperatives or the Transition Town initiative, which aims to maintain good standards of living despite consuming fewer resources. In close cooperation with municipal authorities, they shape their communities to a far greater extent than they could through municipal elections and local referendums.

If municipalities play an active role in the energy transition, it is not as though they do not benefit from it themselves. On the contrary. According to the agency for renewable energies, renewables in Germany in 2012 were worth almost 17 billion euros, of which 11 billion euros went to the municipalities. The decentralisation of the energy system actually brings more money to the municipalities.

Speech Henri Djombo

The Minister for Sustainable Development, Forestry Economy and the Environment of the Republic of Congo: "We know that solutions to these global problems are of primary interest to cities and local communities."

— Salutation —

It is a pleasure and an honor for me to be among you once again and to share with you the experience of an African country on the subject of "Local Action for Solutions" in the fight against climate change.

First of all, I would like to reiterate my thanks to Ms. Barbara Hendricks and Mr Stefan Wenzel for inviting me to participate in this high-level panel, which is one of the preparatory stages of COP21 in Paris.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, 2015 is a crucial year, since the Post-2015 Development Agenda as well as Sustainable

Development Goals to supplement the Millennium Development Goals were adopted last week in New York. It is also a crucial year because of the issues at stake at the 2015 Climate Change Conference COP21, which will take place in Paris in December 2015 - exactly two months from now - and which aims to lead to the signing of a new climate agreement.

The Government of the Republic of the Congo ratified the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, as well as most multilateral agreements on the environment. Thus, in cooperation with the other members of the international community, the Congo is committed to finding

solutions to the global problems which have been undermining our planet for the past few decades. We know that solutions to these global problems are of primary interest to cities and local communities. Stakeholders such as NGOs, associations, the private sector, the public sector and of course local and indigenous communities, are thus increasingly involved in actions taken by the state.

We all want this agreement to be legally binding and backed by quantified commitments from the Parties in the form of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

The Congo's National Sustainable Development Strategy was developed with the participation of all stakeholders; its implementation will follow the same path, as will the development of the REDD+ National Strategy as well as environmental and social safeguards. Local communities were asked to express their concerns, which were taken into account in these strategic documents.

There remains the delicate question of how to fund these programmes. It is to be hoped that a sustainable answer will be found in Paris, within the framework of negotiations that, in contrast to those held in Copenhagen, are comprehensive and inclusive.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you also know, the Congo is a developing country which belongs to the world's second-largest river and forest basin. It has few industries and its agricultural sector is underdeveloped. Its greenhouse gas emissions are therefore very low. The main greenhouse gas emitting sectors are those of transport, energy, cement manufacturing, and forestry. However, because natural forests cover 65 per cent of the Congo's territory, or 23 million hectares, and because of the country's sustainable forest management policy, in the end more gases are absorbed than are emitted. Evidence of this is provided by the country's gross deforestation rate of 0.08 per

cent, or 17,000 hectares per year - one of the world's lowest. Indeed, having placed forest management and forest certification at the heart of its activities, my country intends to have management plans for all forest concessions by no later than 31 December 2016, and to have most of them certified in the medium term. 2.5 million ha of forests are already FSC-certified, representing 32.5 per cent of the world's FSC-certified forests; this certification follows the highest standards and this achievement is the result of genuine political commitment. With its positive experience, my country has thus become a model of sustainable tropical forest management and is recognised as such by the international community.

The Republic of the Congo, a country with low greenhouse gas emissions, submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution within the prescribed time limit. It will present this contribution, which is based on a calculation of its future greenhouse gas emissions, at COP21. It has also quantified its resource needs for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

For this contribution, most of the country's development and consumption sectors were analyzed in order to calculate emissions within a trend scenario and a conditional low-carbon scenario, for 2025 and 2035, as well as the corresponding costs. In a low-carbon conditional scenario, planned reforestation should largely compensate for unplanned deforestation, which will itself be minimised. The President of the Republic launched the 2016–2025 reforestation programme aimed at establishing one million hectares of multispecies forest plantations to increase the permanent forest area and the national carbon sequestration capacity, diversify the economy and combat poverty. The private sector was called upon to invest massively in this sector through various incentives, including free land.

As part of this programme, oil palm plantations will be set up in the savanna, charcoal kilns as well as individual furnaces will be improved, and all forests under concession will be certified.

In the agricultural sector, 50 per cent of savannas will have been developed by 2035, with improved traditional food production, but also the development of high-efficiency production, in order to achieve food security by using improved organic materials and minimal amounts of fertiliser and pesticides in agriculture and forestry. This development would be the result of collaboration between product



In his speech, Henri Djombo, Minister for Sustainable Development, Forestry Economy and the Environment, Republic of Congo, underlined the importance of international cooperation on climate policy and biosphere reserve conservation.

processing agro-industries and farmers' cooperatives controlling the land.

Investment in industry, mining and cement production will be strongly encouraged in order to contribute to the diversification of the economy. With a view to low-carbon development, a particular focus will be electricity and biomass from agricultural plantations and wood waste.

Broad public access to electricity, culture, and modern amenities, as well as the development of public transport and tourism, will have an impact on the carbon footprint of household consumption and transport.

The percentage of energy from renewable sources in the energy mix, currently at 75 per cent, could drop to 50 per cent in a trend scenario and be brought back to 75 per cent in the low-carbon scenario. This would be obtained by exploiting the country's vast hydroelectric resources to supply cities and industries. Rural electricity would be provided mainly by biomass plants and micro-dams, which are less expensive and ensure a local supply.

In a trend scenario emissions would be multiplied by three in 2025 and by six in 2035, whereas in a low-carbon scenario they would be multiplied only by 1.5 and 3 respectively. If the additional annual contribution envisaged by the international community is provided, the Republic of the Congo will be able to commit to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent by 2025.

Biodiversity conservation will need special attention and consistent development in order to act as a lever for the development of ecotourism, which will make the country a prime international destination. The capital invested so far in lodges is from Germany and I would therefore like to further strengthen our cooperation in this area.

My country is committed, alongside the international community, to ensuring the success of COP21, so that a legally binding international climate agreement may be signed in Paris. The cumulative contributions to date still leave us a long way from the objective of limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C by 2050. Considering that global temperature increased between 0.5 and 0.85°C over a century and a half as a result of the poor production and consumption models that prevailed up to now, and we are already recording the temperatures we have seen in summer, we can only imagine the situation we would face in the coming years if we were to multiply this rate of change by 2.5 or by 4.

Let us remember one thing: it is not the Earth itself which is threatened, it is human life and natural ecosystems. Let us therefore take a united stand, for even economic competition will be meaningless if we remain caught up in our selfishness and our self-destructive behavior.

Thank you.

Speech Dr Joan Clos

Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme: “It is my conviction that there will be no development without sustainable urbanisation.”

— Salutation —

It is my honor and great pleasure to address the 2015 International Conference on Climate Action organised by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment; the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Ministry of Lower Saxony and the German Institute for Urban Affairs. I would like to thank the organisers for convening this important event dedicated to two defining trends of our time: urbanisation and climate change.

This meeting is happening at a very important moment for the global development agenda, and in particular for urbanisation and climate change: Last weekend the world witnessed the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals. This was an unprecedented step which consolidated our vision of urbanisation as a tool, and an engine, for development. The vital role of urbanisation for sustainable development is reflected strongly in SDG 11, and in no less than other five goals and forty targets.

The upcoming COP21 in Paris in December is another opportunity to move forward, closely linked to the implementation of the SDGs. It too is closely linked to sustainable urbanisation.

Cities contribute up to 70 per cent of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions. People living in cities are exposed to the negative effects of climate change. The solutions to this global challenge, whether through mitigation or adaptation, will largely be found in cities.

Habitat III, in October 2016 in Quito, will be the first global UN conference after the SDGs summit and COP21. Habitat III will be an opportunity to assess the last 20 years of urbanisation in the world, as well as to rethink the current model of urbanisation and develop a new urban agenda.

In this context, the strong role of cities and local actors is clear. Local authorities, in close cooperation with central authorities, have a crucial role to play in establishing and enforcing rules and regulations as well as promoting urban design and financial schemes.

Beyond this, local authorities often have the vision and skills needed to proceed, to address the challenges of these three critical issues.

The question is: how are we going to achieve economic, social and environmental prosperity at the same time as the global population is growing so fast? How are we going to optimise the good benefits of urbanisation, while ensuring environmental sustainability?

We have no choice. We must adopt new urban models that reduce greenhouse emissions which are at the same time productive and safe.

That said, I would like to stress that, while climate change in itself is of key importance, it is one element in an agenda that must address the broader challenge of sustainable development, in all its three dimensions.

I would like to highlight three pertinent issues:

- Land management
- Affordability
- Employment

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The majority of the world's population is now urban. Urbanisation affects us all, as sustainable urban development remains one of the most urgent challenges of our century. As the urban population will



During the opening of the ICCA2015 Dr Joan Clos emphasised the challenges for cities in climate change.

grow by three billion people in the next 30–40 years, the dynamism of cities represents a major sustainable development opportunity.

In UN-Habitat, we believe strongly that urbanisation is not the ‘problem’ behind the many of the challenges the world is facing today. In fact, urbanisation is one of the ‘solutions’.

Well planned urbanisation is a driving force and a source of development which has the power to improve and change the lives of billions of people. By getting urban development right, cities can create jobs, improve social inclusion and protect local ecosystems. Cities, if planned and managed well, are engines of national economic growth, social prosperity and environmental sustainability.

However, the advantages of urbanisation are not guaranteed, unless appropriate legislation, good planning, and adequate financing schemes are put in place.

If we want to achieve our goal of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development), we need to invest in three key aspects. First, adequate rules and regulations are needed to improve the lives of the people sharing common services. Second, better spatial planning and design is also required to density and the connectivity of cities. And third, a

financial plan is fundamental to sustain the functioning of the city in order to generate prosperity.

We cannot leave urbanisation to be spontaneous. We have already learnt about the dramatic consequences of spontaneous urbanisation. We need a change of paradigm. In this new paradigm, the role of Local Authorities is crucial as they will be the lead implementers at the local level. They also have the closest level of accountability towards the citizens.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cities, especially in the developed world, contribute around 70 per cent of the greenhouse emissions. With increasing urbanisation and concentration of large numbers of people, disaster risk is also increasing. If we want to keep the planet within the 2 degrees target, we must move away from urban development that is based on fossil fuels and creates environmental risk.

Therefore, good and sustainable urbanisation, that promotes compactness, connectivity, and walkability, is good for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Agglomeration and proximity provides opportunities for energy efficiency. The proportional provision of public space, streets, and parks is also critical, but is currently not happening. Compact and connected urban development results in lower greenhouse gas emissions and it reduces the running costs of infrastructures.

Actively engaging with local authorities and including their accomplishments in reporting, will help member states to achieve ambitious Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. Despite their crucial role in accelerating climate change action, cities and sub-national authorities have so far only marginally benefited Climate finance and multilateral climate funds.

A very useful tool in the financing of urbanisation is Land Readjustment. This is a very elegant and economic instrument to realise urban development plans in already built-up areas. The long experience of Germany in land readjustment after the Second World War is a great example.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Habitat III is an exceptional opportunity to rethink the Urban Agenda, in which governments can build a new model of urban development, promoting equity, welfare and shared prosperity, leaving no one behind.

It will be the first global summit following the adoption of the 2030 agenda, and hopefully, a new climate COP21. Its preparatory process has opened an inclusive debate, involving all urban stakeholders at both national and local authorities. The debate is focused on the role of sustainable urbanisation as an engine of economic growth and prosperity. More than ever, the power of well-planned urbanisation for development is well recognised. And this is a crucial achievement for us.

Habitat III is a unique platform to discuss the important challenge of how cities, towns, and villages are planned and managed in order to fulfill their role in shaping the implementation of new global development and climate change goals.

Habitat III will offer a chance to explore the implications of a new Paris Climate Agreement through an urban lens.

I encourage you to take an active part in the preparations for Habitat III. [...]

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,
More than 95 per cent of the global urban growth will take place in developing countries in the forthcoming years. Local governments can be the drivers of transformation at the local level in meeting this challenge.

However, to realise this potential requires a redesign of the local authority in the developing world. This is not only a question of capacity building. It is deeper than that, because the level of expenditure per capita by local authorities is nowhere near required.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen,
I would like to place on record my appreciation for the efforts of the French Government, represented here by Ambassador Philippe Etienne for their efforts towards the COP in Paris. In particular, I would like to acknowledge their special attention to the role of cities and sub-national entities for climate action.

We are already working together on this issue in collaboration with the office of the Secretary-General of the UN, and I look forward to bringing this important perspective to the Paris Conference.

I would like to thank the hosts for organising this event and for bringing together the Government of Germany, and its federal states, cities and universities in an integrative manner.

It is my conviction that there will be no development without sustainable urbanisation. Thank you for your commitment and for giving me the opportunity to be here with you in a moment of strategic reflections on how to achieve more prosperous and sustainable cities.

Thank you very much.

ICCA2015

International Conference on
Climate Action

Internationale Kommunale
Klimakonferenz

Hannover

1. – 2. Oktober

Schloss Herrenhausen

www.icca2015.org

The Orangerie hosted the Climate Neighbourhoods with events and an exhibition open to the public.



Participants crossing the courtyard, where several events took place throughout the conference.

Hanover Declaration

Local Governments Driving Transformation

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS: BUILD UPON LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE LEADERSHIP!

The International Conference on Climate Action 2015 (ICCA2015) showed that local governments and actors, as well as their networks and partners, are currently making very concrete and effective contributions to climate action – mitigation and adaptation. In essence, local authorities are making climate action a fundamental service for their citizens.

More and more local authorities are demonstrating real leadership, pursuing extremely ambitious targets that go way beyond targets set at national and international levels. The necessary next step is for others to follow and learn from the experiences of pioneers in the field.

Political strategies at all levels should be tailored to recognise, encourage and enable all local

authorities' climate action by:

- setting ambitious targets
- establishing appropriate frameworks at the national and international levels that enable local authority climate leadership
- creating incentives for all local authorities
- providing long-term and predictable finance.

Given these necessary conditions, local authorities can fulfill their essential roles as key players in the transformation process.

It will be crucial to continue the international exchange on local climate action among local authorities, subnational and national governments and other stakeholders as initiated at ICCA2015.

Hanover Declaration: Local Governments Driving Transformation

Accelerated climate change and its impacts on humans and ecosystems call for resolute action at all levels. Ambitious targets and strategies on all political levels are required to limit average global warming to below two degrees Celsius and enable adaptation to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The global transformation to a climate-friendly society is possible. This is demonstrated by numerous examples being implemented locally in many regions of the world and in varying economic and structural contexts. Climate action and adaptation strategies need to be firmly established locally to realise the desired global impacts in the long term.

The key goal of the International Conference on Climate Action (ICCA2015) in Hanover on October 1–2, 2015, was to showcase the many positive examples of successful local government climate policy and to explore further potential. The German Federal Environment Ministry, the Ministry for Environment,

Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony, and the German Institute of Urban Affairs invited representatives from local authorities, politics, networks, foundations, and the scientific community to come together to present and discuss their approaches and exchange views and experiences on political strategies, the necessary framework conditions and successful implementation. The many examples of successful climate policy and effective implementation strategies from all regions of the world showed that local governments are indeed driving the transformation!

The ICCA2015 was very encouraging. It was extremely impressive to see how creative, energetic and credible many local authorities are in shaping the *Energiewende* - energy transition - and how they are making the most of the opportunities that social and economic transformation offer. It was also remarkable to see how far many local authorities have already come, and how resolutely they are pursuing their goals. We can learn a lot from these examples and can use them as a basis to draw up very specific recommendations for steering and shaping climate policy at local level.



Host Inka Schneider, Deputy Director-General at the BMUB Dr Karsten Sach and Lower Saxony Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Protection, Stefan Wenzel during the summary of the conference outcome.

The ICCA2015 is part of a series of conferences, campaigns and initiatives this year focusing on the challenges of climate change and sustainable development, and highlighting how crucial it is to involve all actors, especially local authorities and local stakeholders, in climate action and adaptation to climate change.

- The UN's universally applicable Sustainable Development Goals have just been adopted in New York. All countries have agreed to implement sustainable development in all areas so that current and future generations can live healthily in a safe environment.
- Our focus now turns to the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference in Paris in December 2015, where ambitious and binding climate targets have to be defined and specified for all countries. Concrete contributions for implementing these targets before the entry into force of the new agreement, i.e. before 2020, will be compiled in an "Agenda of Solutions".
- In exactly one year's time, the United Nations will host the third summit on urban development: Habitat III will be held in Quito in October 2016. A New Urban Agenda will be adopted to define the foundations for the global, sustainable urban development of cities – including megacities – and human settlements over the next 20 years. The key challenge will be to shape the global urbanisation process in an integrated, inclusive, safe, sustainable and climate-friendly way.

- Local authorities are key actors in all these processes. They are central to structuring the necessary transformation towards a low-carbon way of life and the decarbonisation of the economy, as well as to adapting to the unavoidable impacts of climate change.

The best possible legal and financial conditions need to be created to enhance the effectiveness of local action. The ICCA2015 showed that local authorities and actors, and their networks and partners, are ready and willing to make very concrete and effective contributions to climate action and adaptation to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The goal of political strategies at all levels has to be to encourage them and to offer greater support. The message from Hanover to Paris, especially for the Agenda of Solutions, is to highlight the essential role of local authorities as key players for the transformation process.

Local climate action and sustainability at local level cannot be implemented through programmes alone. Comprehensive transformation processes are needed with local authorities playing a leading role, making investments and setting the framework. They are the ones that actually create, practice, and implement solutions locally. They are the ones in direct contact with the public, which is particularly important: for transformation to succeed in towns and districts, all



The presentation of conference conclusions brought the participants together again and stressed the special role of local commitment in the field of climate action.



In her video message, Anne Hidalgo (Mayor of Paris) highlighted the major challenges of climate change and the need for an international agreement at COP21.



In his video message, Achim Steiner (UNEP Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations) addressed the importance of local governments and actors for the implementation of the SDGs as well as climate action and adaptation measures.



The participatory process in the Climate Neighbourhoods was also included in the Hanover Declaration.



Both panels were documented graphically to ensure the inclusion of their results in the Declaration.

major groups need to be involved, across all ethnic, confessional and gender groups. At the local level, many stakeholders directly benefit from active climate policy if rights are respected and obligations are shared fairly. Transformation requires a continuous process of learning and change across the entire system: for individual capacities and capabilities, in communication and cooperation between different

stakeholders, in political, legal and economic structures and in the values, thinking patterns and behaviour embedded in our cultures.

The following findings and recommendations on steering and implementing effective strategies for climate action and adaptation at local level were discussed at the ICCA2015:

Agents of Change

Cluster Lead: Professor Dr Olav Hohmeyer,
Flensburg University

Agents of change are needed for local climate action. Many local authorities, administrations, key stakeholders and citizens in towns and districts with profound expertise and passionate commitment are already far along the path to climate action and sustainability. The ability to trigger and implement changes at the administrative level, to actively involve civil society and the private sector, and to communicate effectively about climate action, climate change adaptation and sustainability are all crucial in this context.

CLIMATE ACTION NEEDS TO IDENTIFY AND DRAW UPON AGENTS OF CHANGE WHO

- put decisive efforts for climate action at the top of their agenda
- understand, initiate and accompany processes to transform systems
- have comprehensive expertise and skills (capacity building)
- have good networks, positive reputation and are endowed with influence and power
- are able to transfer knowledge and best practice effectively and efficiently (know-how management) and
- can act as multipliers to convince and mobilise as many stakeholders and citizens as possible (participation) in order to jointly advance transformation and to develop a diverse range of sustainable lifestyles.



Participants actively contributed their experiences to the workshops.



Dialogue and discussion about matters of strategy took center stage at the ICCA2015.



Prof Dr Olav Hohmeyer (Flensburg University, right) during the presentation of the cluster results.

Governance

Cluster Lead: Berthold Goeke,
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature
Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

Climate action strategies and their implementation require coordinated action at different levels and by different stakeholders in order to mobilise all social groups. Decision-making frameworks and processes the subjects of continuous development as local democracy and its broad spectrum of formal and informal participation processes are constantly evolving. Positive examples and approaches need continuous, long-term support, both in terms of finance and in terms of services supplementing local capacities and competencies, particularly in small and poor communities. National programmes supporting climate action need to address local political leaders – often in voluntary office – together with administrations in order to help build political will.

WE NEED GOVERNANCE THAT

- recognises and formalises climate action
- is characterised by strong, visionary and decisive local leadership as well as participatory and inclusive processes, so as to ensure that “collective wisdom” creates optimal solutions
- integrates aspects of climate action, adaptation to climate change, and sustainability into all areas of action by local authorities
- is flexible enough to allow for creative new ways of local climate action
- promotes knowledge management and learning processes through good internal communication and continuous coordination
- considers potentially negative social side effects of transformation
- develops a diverse range of sustainable lifestyles.



Dr Minu Hemmati (standing) leads the Climate Dialogue project, carried out by adelphi on behalf of the BMUB.



Participants at the workshop “Local Climate Protection as an Introduction to Transformation Processes.” Host: Klaus Hoppe.



Cluster Lead Berthold Goeke (BMUB) in conversation with Dr Karsten Sach (BMUB) and Minister Stefan Wenzel.

Finance

Cluster Lead: Ben Finkelstein,
Government of British Columbia, Canada

Local climate action requires long term, predictable and suitable funding. To achieve this, the right framework conditions are needed. It is essential for stakeholders at national, subnational and local level to confer and cooperate on this and also to address the issue of financing climate action across all government operations (such as health, urban development, housing affordability, and social).

WE NEED FINANCE THAT

- facilitates long-term investment in climate action and adaptation to climate change – recognising tremendous infrastructure deficits (investments here are especially urgent) - and secures local authorities' capacity to act
- incorporates and mobilises investments and loans from private companies in a coordinated and integrated system of public funding
- includes alternative instruments such as revolving funds, energy cooperatives, crowd funding, or leasing models and
- guarantees the socially equitable participation of all parties in climate action
- sets the right incentives and provides support for behavioural change towards a low-carbon, climate-proof society.



To ensure the inclusion of participants, the workshop was interpreted simultaneously into as many as six languages.



Making climate action socially responsible and inclusive was one topic in the Finance Cluster.



Ben Finkelstein (Government of British Columbia, Canada) during the presentation of results from the Finance Cluster.

Infrastructure

Cluster Lead: Holger Robrecht,
ICLEI European Secretariat

Local authorities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Heavy rains and heat waves are becoming increasingly frequent, affecting the urban climate. They can lead to substantial infrastructure damage (energy grids, roads, buildings, etc.) and can also pose threats to people. Although there are still uncertainties, we know enough to take relevant action.

Urban areas are especially sensitive to climate change due to their density of population and infrastructure, and intensity of economic activity.

In view of the fact that towns and cities are the main cause of environmental and climate changes but are also most affected by them, they are key players in sustainable development. Forward-looking urban development has to take account of climatic changes and their impacts. Adaptation to climate change is a service of general interest and is in keeping with the precautionary principle.

URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE HARDWARE OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION. WE NEED INFRASTRUCTURE, ADAPTATION MEASURES, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT THAT

- coordinate adaptation with other urban and regional development tasks
- use as their guiding principle “quality of life and well-being”
- fully exploit the benefits of available climate friendly technologies
- support towns and districts to become resilient
- withstand extreme weather events, promote switching to renewable energy sources and prevent emissions
- include construction and modernisation programmes that increase energy efficiency in new and existing buildings and expand programmes to address adaptation to climate change - for example by identifying and outlining urban climate hazards
- implement settlement structures and mobility concepts that are climate friendly and that include disadvantaged areas.



Discussing examples of good practice during a workshop on energy-efficient building and construction.



Participants at the workshop “Adapting to Climate Change.”



Holger Robrecht (ICLEI European Secretariat) highlighted the challenges for the Infrastructure Cluster.

Ecosystems

Cluster Lead: Chantal van Ham,
Int. Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Local ecosystems such as urban green spaces, wetlands, forests and peatlands are extremely sensitive to climatic changes. They are also important CO₂ sinks and reservoirs, and provide multiple other benefits, such as reducing the impact of heavy rainfall or the urban heat island effect, securing a clean drinking water supply and improved health and wellbeing. It is essential, in both urban and rural areas, to protect these ecosystems and to use them to support and advance climate action.

Small islands in particular are facing huge challenges in this regard and have experience in how we can all learn from mistakes and crises - a crucial ability for the transformation process.

WE HAVE TO PROTECT OUR ECOSYSTEMS BY

- incorporating the role of ecosystems in urban areas as an integral part of climate action, climate change adaptation and local food security
- designing appropriate ecosystem-related strategies for cities growing as well as shrinking in size, managing spaces in the most effective manner
- integrating ecosystem-based approaches for mitigation and adaptation in the 2015 climate agreement and national and subnational planning and implementation processes and
- combating forest loss, conserving, restoring and expanding forests as important CO₂ sinks and peatlands as important CO₂ reservoirs.
- Indigenous peoples have an important role as stewards of their environments and in reducing climate vulnerability.
- It is crucial that we learn from the challenges and experience of small islands in dealing with climate change and that we support their efforts in making the transition to a sustainable future.
- In addition, learning exchanges and increased coordination between the local climate action community and the nature conservation community should be encouraged and supported.



The goal of all workshops was an interactive exchange.



Challenges facing indigenous peoples were described by Mr Leonides Suarez Perdomo (Corporacion Solano, Colombia).



Chantal van Ham (International Union for the Conservation of Nature, IUCN) presenting the results from the Ecosystems Cluster.

Networks and Groups

Cluster Lead: Svenja Schuchmann,
Climate Alliance (European Secretariat)

Communication and cooperation are key catalysts for climate action. Networks and groups with a wide spectrum of structures and members are extremely important, whether multinational local authority networks, regional collaborations or town partnerships. They all support a process of exchange, mutual learning and mobilisation. They also illustrate that many local authorities and other stakeholders are already resolutely implementing ambitious climate targets and effective adaptation strategies. They promote visions and values, give voice to local communities and their successes as well as their needs, and help in reaching those who might lag behind. By developing and sharing common tools, they facilitate the harmonisation of methods and can provide essential benchmarking.

In doing so, they provide tangible as well as intangible outputs, both of which need to be financed. Networks need reliable support for their work, from members as well as national governments and international institutions.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES NEED TO BENEFIT FROM EXISTING NETWORKS AND GROUPS THAT

- connect up local authorities: regionally, nationally and globally, and strengthen local influence on multi-level governance frameworks
- bring together different players: policymakers, administrations, the private sector, the scientific sector and civil society and
- enable exchange and promote knowledge transfer
- facilitate cooperation and use existing partnerships for climate action.



Examples from France, Poland, and Germany illustrated grown structures and partnerships between cities.



Discussing benefits and best-practices of multinational cooperation.



As lead for the Networks and Groups Cluster, Svenja Schuchmann (Climate Alliance) presented the results during the closing session.

Climate Action Award for Local Government

The annual award ceremony took place on 1 October 2015 and distinguished good practices of local climate action

Author: German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu)

Together with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu) organises the annual “Climate Action Award for Local Government” in cooperation with the Association of German Cities, the German County Association and the German Association of Towns and Municipalities. The Award aims at honouring German municipalities and regions which have carried out exemplary climate action projects.

The Award is part of the National Climate Initiative, through which the Federal Environment Ministry has been initiating and supporting numerous projects on emissions reduction and energy efficiency since 2008. The aim of the Federal Government is a 95 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Germany by 2050, compared to 1990 levels.

The climate action steps taken in municipalities and regions are of vital importance in reaching eco-political goals. At the same time, the municipalities are faced with the challenge of having to choose effective climate action measures adapted to their local environments. The winning projects from 2009-2014 represent a wide

variety of measures available for effective climate action – ranging from climate action in local government properties through cooperation strategies with relevant stakeholders to civic participation initiatives. Other municipalities and regions are urged to learn from and emulate these climate action activities and come up with their own ideas. The successfully completed projects prove that climate action is worthwhile!

Once again, this has been proven in this year’s Award. The “Climate Action Award for Local Government 2015” attracted some 119 applications. The winners receive a cash award of €25,000 each, which will be reinvested by the municipalities into climate action projects.

This year’s awards ceremony took place on 1 October 2015 in Hanover during the International Conference on Climate Action, ICCA. The conference was organised by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony, and the German Institute of Urban Affairs.



The award ceremony opened with a panel discussion with Franzjosef Schafhausen (BMUB), Stefan Schostok (Association of German Cities (DST) / Lord Mayor of the State Capital of Hanover), Bernhard Reuter (German County Association (DLT) / District Councillor for the District of Göttingen) and Roland Schäfer (German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB) / Mayor of Bergkamen).



The Parliamentary State Secretary during her welcoming address.

Welcoming Address Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter

The Parliamentary State Secretary welcomed the winners and guests of the Climate Action Award for Local Government

– Salutation –

I am delighted to have the opportunity tonight, during the International Conference on Climate Action, the ICCA 2015, to present the winners of the Climate Action Award for Local Government 2015.

Prizes are regularly awarded here at the conference for special commitment to climate action. Today's event concludes the eighth round of the competition. I would like to extend a special thank you to the team of the German Institute of Urban Affairs and the associations of local governments for their support and cooperation.

It is always a special task for the ministry and myself to be part of the selection process and the award ceremony. The competition as always met with a great response from local government players: We had a total of 119 entries. And once again, choosing just nine winners from among these outstanding entries has been no easy feat! When 110 entries do not

receive an award, some might wonder whether it is worth the effort local governments have to go through to apply.

And every time the answer is YES! Competitions offer an opportunity to make commitment to climate action visible and to honour it. Tonight's motto is: "Local climate action at its best." Awarding prizes to outstanding examples of climate action at local level is an inspiration to others; copying is expressly encouraged.

In particular with a view to international action and the global challenges of climate change we should encourage each other and learn from one another – from our success but also from our mistakes. We should cooperate as equal partners, pool resources, try out tested approaches and in this way expand the joint know-how for implementing climate targets. The ICCA 2015 aims to make a substantial contribution.



The prize winners and awards presenters after the ceremony.

The German government has declared its goal to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent by 2020 compared to 1990.

By 2050 we even want to cut our emissions by 80 to 95 per cent.

Municipalities in Germany receive comprehensive support through the National Climate Initiative. The Local Authorities Guideline, a support programme tailored specifically to the needs of municipalities, offers grants for very different types of projects: from initial advice, drawing up and implementing climate action strategies to investment measures. Since it was launched in 2008, more than 7,500 projects in about 3000 municipalities have benefited from the guideline.

The programme is regularly updated to take account of current needs, and I am happy to tell you that today a new guideline entered into force - optimised and containing additional attractive offers!

Support for investment has been stepped up in particular. Switching exterior lighting and street lights over to LED is eligible for support again, the support for sustainable mobility has been increased and municipalities with tight budgets are eligible once more for more investment funding. Special attention is also given to climate action in childcare centres, schools, recreation centres for young people, sports venues and indoor pools. All priorities for support remain, for example increasing the staff for climate management in municipalities. Join us! You can submit your applications from now until 31 March 2016. Supporting municipalities and local actors is a key

political concern of mine. We need climate action that starts where people live and work. Local projects have shown that climate action is important, climate action is feasible – and climate action is profitable.

Climate action
is no longer
considered
only as a challenge
in many places, but
as an opportunity.

An opportunity to save energy, lower costs, advance regional value added and make our cities and municipalities more liveable and fit for the future. There is a wide range of different projects - from climate measures for municipal premises and educational campaigns for children and young people to campaigns with public participation.

Stakeholders from almost 30 countries have come to the ICCA 2015. That shows that climate action is being taken seriously and that there is great willingness to take action. The ICCA 2015 sends out a positive and strong signal to the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris.

I am looking forward to an inspirational award ceremony.

Thank you for your attention.



The awarded examples of local climate action were met with applause.



Parliamentary State Secretary congratulates winners of the Climate Action Award for Local Government.



Professor Martin zur Nedden, Research Director and Managing Director of the German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu), talking to Stefan Wenzel, Environment Minister of Lower Saxony.

Welcoming Address Professor Martin zur Nedden

Municipalities in Germany combating climate change - stepping up climate action and adaptation with model projects and support.

Advancing climate action and adaptation to climate change requires the commitment of a wide range of actors. Municipalities play a key role in this, not least because they act as multipliers for local actors – citizens, social service providers, SMEs and many others. Germany's municipalities acknowledge the challenge and their responsibility, and for many years have been implementing ambitious and effective climate action. The German Institute of Urban Affairs (Difu) supports them in these tasks. Difu, the largest urban research institute in the German-speaking world, has been assisting municipalities for over 40 years with research, training and information support for local government. Difu facilitates processes, provides impetus and promotes experience exchange.

Since 2009, Difu and the Federal Environment Ministry have held an annual conference on municipal climate action in Germany in cooperation with leading local authority associations – the Association of German Cities (Deutscher Städtetag), the German County Association (Deutscher Landkreistag) and the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund). In 2015, this conference was part of the International Conference on Climate Action, thus raising its profile beyond Germany's borders as well. Exemplary local government projects presented at the conference

highlighted the many faces of local commitment and the range of approaches taken by cities, municipalities and counties. The applicants for the Climate Action Award for Local Government, an annual competition introduced in 2009 by the Federal Environment Ministry and Difu in cooperation with the local authority associations, are also a testament to the great level of commitment. The nine winners of this year's Climate Action Award, announced at the ICCA, were Beckum Town, Rheinberg Town, the cities of Siegen, Mannheim and Offenbach, Harsefeld Municipality, the counties of Oldenburg, Northeim and Traunstein. Each winner received a prize of €25,000.

I warmly congratulate all the winning municipalities and thank them and all competitors for their initiative and dedication. Furthermore, I would like to expressly thank all those involved in the ICCA for making the conference such a great success. These excellent examples and the drive shown by the many participants are very encouraging. Their enthusiasm is an incentive to local governments to continue their climate action efforts, and motivate new players to take their own measures for local climate action.

*Professor Martin zur Nedden
Research Director and Managing Director
German Institute of Urban Affairs*



Climate Diplomacy Panel (from left to right): Dr Hermann Ott, Nick Reimer, Franzjosef Schafhausen, Stefan Wenzel, Monika Zimmermann, Professor Dr Miranda Schreurs and Inka Schneider.

Climate Neighbourhoods

Participation and mobilisation

The Climate Neighbourhoods event was held in the Orangery of the Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen. The event and exhibition space was made interactive and open to the public with particular focus on participation and mobilisation, showcasing over 80 projects geared to that end. In addition, the programme included rounds of discussions, plays and activities for schools and young people.

In his opening address, The Minister for the Environment of Lower Saxony, Stefan Wenzel stressed the role of municipalities, civil society and local initiatives as pioneers in climate action. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary at the BMUB, also highlighted this important potential and underlined the incentive function of voluntary commitment at national level in the run-up to COP21. Following this, Philippe Etienne, ambassador for the Republic of France in Germany, reported on the ongoing preparations for COP21 and the need for all stakeholders to be involved in the negotiations. Henri

Djombo, Minister for Sustainable Development, Forestry Economy and the Environment, Republic of Congo and Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat stressed that particular attention also needs to be given to the different stages of economic development and the link between climate action and urbanisation. The opening of ICCA2015 also marked the launch of the competition “Klima kommunal 2016” in Lower Saxony. Municipalities throughout Lower Saxony are invited to submit climate action projects by 29 February 2016 in the hopes of becoming Lower Saxony’s Climate Municipality of 2016 (Niedersächsische Klimakommune 2016).

This was followed by the Climate Diplomacy Panel comprising Stefan Wenzel (Minister for the Environment of Lower Saxony), Franzjosef Schafhausen (BMUB), Monika Zimmermann (ICLEI World Secretariat), Dr Hermann Ott (Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy), Professor Dr Miranda Schreurs (Freie Universität Berlin) and Nick Reimer (Chief Editor of *klimaretter.info* and author). The panel discussion was kicked off with statements given by a municipality representative and two young activists from the group “youthinkgreen” about their expectations for the ICCA2015 and COP21. An interactive segment by the Rimini-Protokoll theatre company highlighted how challenging it can be to reach an agreement on ambitious targets (please also refer to page 10 for further information). The main points discussed during the panel were the complex nature of formal decision processes, the involvement of relevant stakeholders and different levels, and the important role of cities and education, especially for women.



The Climate Neighbourhoods event was both informative and interactive.

Youth and Education

The second day of the Climate Neighbourhoods event focused on youth and education. Over 200 pupils attended the event to learn about a wide range of exciting school and youth projects and get involved in climate action.

As part of the Climate Challenge project, youth organisations reached a special agreement with the Minister for the Environment of Lower Saxony, Stefan Wenzel: they want to demonstrate how easily successful climate action can be achieved and thus providing policy-makers with valuable pointers. If the participating youth organisations succeed in collecting 30,000 climate points, the minister has to fulfill his pledge. In the first round, this is a movie screening made possible with muscular strength: together with other volunteers the minister will provide the necessary electricity using a bike powered generator.

The Youth State Theatre of Braunschweig invited the audience to participate in their play “The Climate Conference”. The play focused on the role of the individual consumer and personal political involvement, which were also key themes of the Forum on Food and Culture (see page 21 for more details).



Environment Minister Stefan Wenzel (third from right) takes on the Climate Challenge.



Climate-friendly food was the focus of the forum on food and culture.

The Climate Neighbourhood programme ended with a Fishbowl Discussion with pupils. They spoke with Federal Environment Minister Dr Barbara Hendricks, Minister for the Environment Stefan Wenzel and Rob Hopkins (Transition Network), among others, about their visions for the future and possibilities for getting involved.

Messages to Paris: a model of the Eiffel Tower invited participants to send their messages to the COP21 in Paris

A five-metre-high model of the Eiffel Tower took centre stage at the Climate Neighbourhoods event. The model represented the Conference of the Parties (COP21) being held in Paris in December 2015. Visitors were invited to write their personal messages for political representatives down on postcards, which made the project an important means of participation.

The initiative was carried out by the “youthinkgreen – jugend denkt um.welt” youth organisation from Osnabrück and supported by adelphi. The Climate Protection and Energy Agency of Lower Saxony (KEAN) organised the event.

„Youthinkgreen – jugend denkt um.welt“ is a non-profit organisation that aims to promote education on the



Participants of “The Climate Conference.”



During a fishbowl discussion pupils met with representatives from politics and civil society.

environment and sustainability. The organisation provides young people with an international platform for exchange and supports them in their joint commitment to sustainability, climate action, environmental awareness and social responsibility.

The youthinkgreen organisation from Osnabrück is actively involved in environmental protection and climate action in the local area and has initiated various sustainability projects such as “Plastiktütenfreies Osnabrück” (a campaign to get rid of plastic bags in Osnabrück – www.keineplastiktueten.jimdo.com) and “Nimm mich!” – a shopping guide for sustainable shopping in Osnabrück (www.youthinkgreen.org/projekte/nimm-mich-osnabrueck).

The youth organisation from Osnabrück was represented in Hanover by 13 of its members, who were involved in many ways in various parts of the programme: they were part of the editorial team for the Hanover



Youthinkgreen Ursulaschule Osnabrück in front of the Eiffel tower model.

Declaration, took a position in the Fishbowl Discussion with Federal Minister Dr Barbara Hendricks, other youth organisations and pupils on the topic of local climate action, and initiated a network meeting to facilitate an exchange between youth organisations and conference participants.

As the ICCA2015 came to an end, the messages collected through their Eiffel Tower project were delivered by bike to the conference centre and presented during the concluding discussion. This allowed for the voices of the public and civil society to be incorporated into the Hanover Declaration, thus reflecting the broad spectrum of opinions and ideas.

From the participation process in the Climate Neighbourhoods

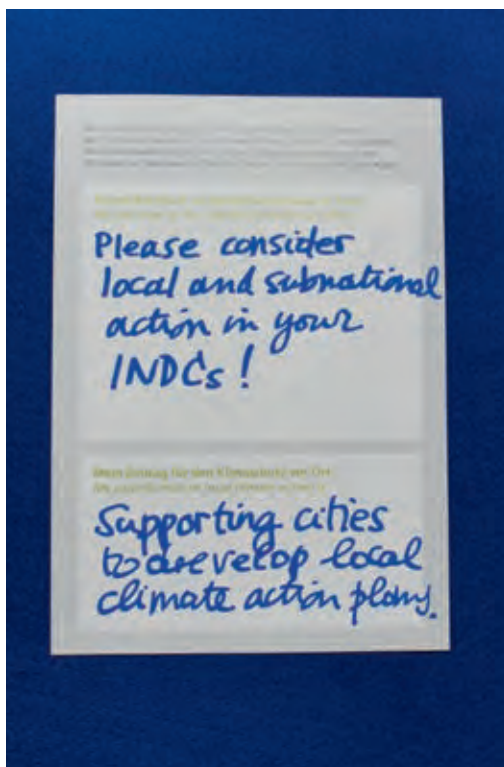
– Extract from the Hanover Declaration –

A broad range of climate projects were presented to the public in the Climate Neighbourhoods. There were discussions, exhibitions, films, theatre performances and activities for schoolchildren and young people, enabling the voices of individual stakeholders, citizens and young people to be heard.

The following examples illustrate their concerns and wishes, and the determination of local authorities, major groups, networks, scientists, members of the public and young people from Germany and all over the world:

What is important to me for local climate action?

Increasing awareness of climate change, global warming, and climate policies. More people need to support climate action, so that more can be achieved and



One of the messages to the COP21 in Paris.



The collected messages were transported to the conference centre with a cargobike.



Members of youththinkgreen – jugend denkt um.welt collecting messages from the model of the Eiffel Tower.



Federal Minister Dr Barbara Hendricks also delivered a message during her visit to the Climate Neighbourhoods.



Youthinkgreen – jugend denkt um.welt with Minister Stefan Wenzel (in the middle) and Lothar Nolte (KEAN, right).

changed. There should be more support for activists and project groups at local level to show that they enjoy respect and appreciation. We need more creativity and ideas so as to improve situations. We need more and better bicycle lanes and bus connections in order to make them more attractive and thus achieve reductions in CO₂ emissions.

What message am I sending to the climate change conference in Paris?

Stop making empty promises and start acting, otherwise we cannot move forward.

Communicate more clearly about the two-degree goal, because it must be adhered to and some countries are already bearing the consequences of climate change. Get all countries on board, because just a few is not enough. We need to punish those who do not follow the rules, and nuclear power needs to be limited further while renewable energies need to be promoted more.

The world must be conserved for future generations. Promoting environmental protection (locally) helps people understand climate action and shows them what they can do, how they can change and how they can stop acting the way industry is telling them to. Mass meat production must be stopped – eat less meat!

How am I contributing to local climate action?

Using public transport and bicycles and trying to not use cars; flying less; only switching on lights when needed; using heating only in winter or autumn; using renewable energy sources; driving an electric vehicle; participating in climate projects and organisations; creating less packaging waste; separating waste; consuming less.



Lothar Nolte (Executive Director of KEAN) and members of "Youthinkgreen-jugend denkt um.welt Osnabrück" presenting the conclusions from the Climate Neighbourhoods.

Climate Culture

Processes and the daily practice of climate action

Authors: Andrea Steckert, Claudia Schury

It is necessary to further develop our cultures so that climate protection and sustainability are deeply rooted in our values, perception, and behaviour. Culture permeates all we do. And culture and arts can help create awareness and shape people's behaviour. Hence, ICCA2015 considered the procedures of international climate diplomacy (the 'culture of global negotiations') as well as issues of nutrition and climate-friendly eating habits.

Play "World Climate Conference" and Climate Diplomacy Panel

The annual Conference of the Parties (COP) within the UN framework is a major political and media event with its own structure and dynamics. Climate diplomacy means the negotiation of compromises between countries in order to decide on joint contracts and commitments in the field of climate policy. It has thus become a key instrument in international policy. But what is the process of these negotiations and how do delegates from over almost 200 countries make joint decisions?

The reality of what happens over the course of several rounds of negotiations was summarised by means of a three hour long model simulation in a play staged by

the internationally renowned Rimini-Protokoll theatre company. During the play, the audience becomes actively involved and assumes the role of the delegates. Over the course of three hours, the audience not only receives an insight into the negotiation process, but is also given the most important facts by experts, gets first-hand experience of the conflicts, the discourse of opposing opinions and interests, and at the end is asked to determine the CO₂ savings potential for their delegation.

For the ICCA 2015, the company's playwright, Imanuel Schipper, gave an insight into the project and thus created an inspiring setting for the Climate Diplomacy Panel with this interactive, artistic piece. The panel discussion on current challenges and opportunities of global climate politics took place between the Minister for the Environment of Lower Saxony, Stefan Wenzel, Franzjosef Schafhausen (Director-General for Climate Policy, European and International Policy at the BMUB), Monika Zimmermann (Deputy Secretary General, ICLEI World Secretariat), Dr Hermann Ott (Senior Advisor, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy GmbH), Professor Dr Miranda Schreurs (Director of Environmental Policy Research Centre at the Freie Universität Berlin) and Nick Reimer (Chief Editor of klimaretter.info)



Participants of the Climate Diplomacy Panel with voting cards for the play.



Franzjosef Schafhausen (BMUB) and playwright Imanuel Schipper (Rimini-Protokoll) in dialogue.



Participants of the forum “On everyone’s lips – the art of climate-friendly nutrition.”



Focus of the forum on food and culture: healthy and climate friendly nutrition.

Dr Dr Wam Kat (international activist cook, author etc.), Antje Schiffers (artist, international artist initiative MyVillages) and Monika Krocke (City of Frankfurt, *Klimagourmet-Woche*) gave the workshop momentum and exemplified the increasing number of great examples that are cropping up in art, in the everyday life of new social movements and in many local projects. The discussion allowed for a fresh look to be taken at current innovations, opportunities and risks as well as for issues to be raised and ideas gathered for municipal climate policy. Afterwards, the participants prepared and consumed climate-friendly food together.

Forum on Food and Culture: “On everyone’s lips – the art of climate-friendly nutrition” (workshop and dialogue)

The forum on food and culture entitled “On everyone’s lips – the art of climate-friendly nutrition” included an expert workshop and the subsequent “dialogue around the kitchen table”, held as part of the Climate Neighbourhoods event.

Our choice of what we eat plays a vital role in our daily practices and impacts heavily on our personal carbon footprint. Even though climate friendly food has become a hot topic, many people have yet to gain a suitable new perspective on food and what they actually buy. Thus, it is the ideal field in which to develop awareness and encourage climate-friendly practices. The workshop, hosted by Andrea Steckert (Pestel Institut Hannover) together with Claudia Schury (Climate Alliance) started with the question, as to how citizens and municipalities can provide practical support for the cultural change in the food sector required for climate action.



Dr Dr Wam Kat talked about activism and initiatives.



Antje Schiffers talked about arts and culture.

Reflections Rob Hopkins

The founder of the Transition Town Network talked about his experiences on the local level during the panel “Local Action for Solutions”

In my talk at ICCA, I talked about a new project Transition Network is undertaking called “21 Stories of Transition.” It is our contribution to COP21, where rather than producing a list of policy demands, we instead invited Transition groups to send us the stories they would like us to share at COP. We received many of them, and in the end chose 21 stories that capture the work of 39 Transition groups in 15 countries. Rather than just being small and insignificant community-led projects, what “21 Stories” shows is that these projects are having real and measurable impacts.

For example, just the stories featured in this book have:

- inspired 18,527 hours of volunteer input
- put £1,032,051 worth of complementary currency into circulation
- created 43 new social enterprises
- raised over £13,155,104 for investment in renewable energy
- led to 131,049 more miles being cycled
- produced 17,800 MWh of renewable electricity a year, saving 7,450 metric tons of CO₂ annually
- saved 1,352,277 miles of car travel
- harvested over 500kg of fruit as well as vegetables for over 550 households per week
- begun work on building projects with a value of £5,150,371

And that is just the measurable ones. What about the connections made, the sense of being part of a community, the sense that change is possible? I told the conference some of the stories, such as the Repair Café in Pasadena, USA, who repair peoples’ good for free, supported by people from across the community, and by the nearby CalTech and NASA. One person said to me “I cannot believe the guy who built the Mars Landing Rover just fixed my electric shaver!” But in such a project, what are they really repairing?



Rob Hopkins during his contribution at the high-level panel “Local Action for Solutions.”



Initiatives and projects used the outdoor areas to present their ideas.



The Fishbowl discussion offered pupils a chance to talk about their concerns.



Potentials and conditions of local initiatives were a focus of the high-level panel.

I shared how the Transition community energy projects in “21 Stories” have, between them, raised over £13 million in investment, mostly from local people, and saved over 9,000 metric tons of CO₂ through the electricity they have generated. But in such projects, what are they really generating? I talked about a food growing project in the centre of Brussels, where the community took over the street after local officials blocked it to try to prevent kerb crawlers, and built a food garden in which 13 families now grow food, in the middle of the street. As one of the group told me: “It changed the street enormously because before it was never a street that you would walk by or stop in, and now I get to stop here and spend several hours a week taking care of my little plot of land. And even for the people who are not part of the group, it changed the perception of what a neighbourhood is. We see a lot more people smiling and stopping by to chat and spend some time here.”

Again, I asked, what is a garden like this actually growing? What is it cultivating?

For me, Transition, and bottom-up responses are a key part of the puzzle that COP21 needs to solve. We can now look at Transition as being a form of economic development as well as all the other things it is. It does something that cannot be done from the top. As one Transitioner I



Dr Thomas Köhler talked about his experiences at Transition Network Hanover during the Fishbowl discussion.

interviewed for “21 Stories” told me, “it changed my relationship to the problems.”

I closed my talk with a quote from one of the founders of Bath & West Community Energy, one of the stories in the book. He told me: “We do not need governments to show us how to make the changes we need, but we do need governments to work with us to create the conditions within which change can flourish, scale and be embedded at a societal level.”

It was an honour to be invited to speak at ICCA2015, and I hope that bringing this voice of what people are already doing on the ground, responding to the climate crisis by starting to live in the way we will all need to live and celebrating the benefits of doing so, was useful.



A spontaneous visit from a brass band, which marched from the Non-Conference to the ICCA2015, had participants at the evening reception on their feet and dancing.

Climate Non-Conference 2015

The Transition Network Hanover promoted an exchange between civil society groups with their event held on the University campus.

Authors: Dr Thomas Köhler, Ralf Boje

The Transition Town approach calls for direct involvement in climate action by adopting a resource friendly lifestyle. Such a lifestyle is best suited to community-wide projects, which in turn serve to upgrade the local area. Examples range from urban gardening, community farming, tiny house projects, energy cooperatives right up to neighbourhoods sharing tools and grocery shopping. Transition Town initiatives have been cropping up at a global level for a few years now and as a result have created a network for a new reductionist model for wealth and good living.

The Transition Town Hanover initiative immediately warmed to the guiding principles of the ICCA2015, that is to say illustrating various approaches to climate action at municipal level. With the help of Transition Town co-founder, Rob Hopkins, it was possible to organise a grass-roots event bringing together various actors, who were all equally interested in cooperating on climate action.

The fact that there were so many representatives constitutes a success in itself. It meant 25 times climate action in all different forms and a wide range of perspectives from different actors and organisations - which, with almost no exceptions, were part of international networks. Examples include joint pilgrimages, carbon sequestration in the ground or through planting trees, civil disobedience, lifestyle transformations and the establishment of cooperatives in the energy and agriculture sectors.

Diversity is reflected here at many different levels and is expressly sought.

What stands out here at all levels is that education, participation and involvement are always linked to taking concrete action. In this context, the Federal Government's policy that has led to a drop in the

establishment of energy cooperatives was criticised. Local communities and organisations that actively promote and take climate action need reliable and long-term support.

Explicit language is needed to clearly spell out our common task of cutting back on 80-90 per cent of our emissions. There is already consensus within the climate movement that transformation of our energy system and the use of 100 per cent renewable energies also means that no more money should be invested in the support and utilisation of fossil fuels.

One suggestion, which received a lot of attention, was to support managers of change. If 5,000 jobs with a salary of 5,000 Deutsch Marks could be created to build cars, then it should also be possible to create 5,000 jobs with a salary of 2,500 euros with a view to working together with citizens and policy-makers to develop local concrete alternatives.

At the Non-Conference, ideas and commitments were brought to life through a number of practical examples, activating all the senses: to see, hear and even taste climate action - some examples could even be realised directly on the spot. For instance a group very impressively made a fully-functioning solar cooker out of basic materials in front of the building.

Minister Dr Barbara Hendricks, Minister Stefan Wenzel, Rob Hopkins and others had the opportunity to taste this change. At the Schnippelparty, a meal was prepared from vegetable waste - foodstuffs from farmers and supermarkets that can no longer be sold solely due to their appearance and would otherwise have been discarded - using a solar-powered cooker.

Cooperation between Transition Town Hanover, the Climate Non-Conference and ICCA2015 began much earlier than this. Dr Thomas Köhler (Pestel Institute), is working on the Climate Dialogue project under the National Climate Initiative. Adelphi is responsible for carrying out the Dialogue on behalf of the BMUB and, as part of the project, coordinates a consortium, which includes the German Institute of Urban Affairs



Dr Thomas Koehler (Pestel Institut Hanover) explains the concept of a Schnippelparty, which was held in the courtyard of Schloss Herrenhausen, to Federal Environment Minister Dr Barbara Hendricks and Lower Saxony Environment Minister, Stefan Wenzel.

(Difu), the Climate Alliance and the Hanover-based Institutes EBUS and Pestel. The project is focused on networking and facilitating a dialogue between policy-makers, experts, municipalities, local actors, civil society, and the scientific community.

The goal is to bring different actors and perspectives together to reflect on current challenges. There are certainly obstacles to be overcome when collaborating with diverse climate action stakeholders.

This was analysed more closely by Dr Köhler during the Climate Dialogue with special regard to the Transition movement, who concluded that building bridges is the way forward to develop new forms of cooperation.

On this note, the events in Hanover were successful in gradually initiating more interaction between participants, some of whom were unknown to each other, of both conferences through Rob Hopkins'

contributions to the Non-Conference and the ICCA2015, and the surprise brass band concert on the evening of 1 October at *Schloss Herrenhausen* – all of which led to joint discussions and open conversations as well as participation in the concluding segment of ICCA2015.

The conferences proved to many participants how important and useful individual networks and cooperations are and that we need to learn how to navigate between the “worlds” of different actors and movements in order to bring our wide range of skills, motives and ideas together.

Visual Transfers from the Panels

The discussion and outcomes of the panels Climate Diplomacy and Local Action for Solutions were presented in visual form.





