

Thank you Madam Executive Secretary,

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in collaboration with other local government networks and likeminded institutions has been striving for several years at the global, regional, national and local levels for local and subnational governments to be recognised and supported for the significant and tangible contributions that they make in advancing towards a sustainable future. We therefore unequivocally support for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 that calls for making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

It was through joint, concerted and persevering efforts at every level that the inclusion and adoption of this goal has been achieved. And that it is in a similar manner that it would need to be implemented for us to realise the targets that we set for ourselves. *Leave no one behind* is the essence of the SDGs, which inherently demands an inclusive and coordinated approach.

In addition, nations should also let everyone be inspired by the pioneers, in particular those advancing the sustainability by implementing Agenda 21 since 1992, including with pioneering examples by ICLEI and its members. The SDGs will pave the way for a fully transformative agenda if they are considered as the floor, not the ceiling, and if the ambitions of today are mainstreamed as the norms of tomorrow in every community and jurisdiction.

Madam, Executive Secretary, the year 2015 also saw a number of other historic achievements; the Paris Climate Agreement which recognizes the importance of engagement of all levels of governments and various actors in addressing climate change. Para.34 of Addis Ababa Action on Finance refers to supporting of local governments in particular in the field of environmental investments and Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction foresees empowerment of local governments including the preparation of local plans in addition to national ones.

Obviously, the governance of the whole process is one broad issue that will occupy most of the debates in 2016. For our region, hosting of third Preparatory Committee of HABITATIII Conference on Sustainable Urban Development in Surabaya in July 2016 will be one of the most important milestones.

It has to be noted that in the preparatory process of HABITATIII, Asia Pacific Urban Forum 6 was the only UN meeting taking place before the start of the informal negotiations on the outcome of HABITATIII Conference.

Therefore, our meeting – APFSD plays a very important role.

ICLEI would like to invite all participants APFSD to call to global community that Goal:11 and the Paris Climate Agreement should be anchored in the heart of the New Urban Agenda that will be adopted at HABITATIII so that the urban development can be brought back into the global efforts on sustainability, and ensure its full alignment with the provisions of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development.

At ICLEI we believe in nurturing mutually beneficial and reinforcing partnerships so that the impacts are exponential. We therefore support the forging of partnerships between local governments, local communities, financial institutions, research institutes, civil society organisations, and the private sector to develop and implement solutions that are inclusive, equitable, and which create lasting impacts for sustainable and resilient development in support of the SDG Goal 11.

ICLEI would also like to take this opportunity to emphasise the point that the SDGs, especially Goal 11, should be considered as a foundation, and not the ceiling, for our ambitions and endeavours of today so that these maybe mainstreamed into the norms of tomorrow.

Thank you