

Funding for adaptation has to be bottom-up

To cover the shortfall of finance for urban adaptation, there needs to be a change in global financing systems from the current top-down approach to a locally orientated demand-driven approach. In short, an inversion of global adaptation financing is needed.

5 June 2011

BONN/Germany – At the current level of commitments from governments 200 billion US dollars will be available for climate change adaptation funding over the next 20 years. However, according to UNFCCC estimates up to 67 billion US dollars will be needed annually by 2030.

To cover the lack of adaptation funding there needs to be a change in global financing mechanisms and acknowledgement that the majority of the costs of adaptation will be borne by urban areas.

In short, an inversion of global adaptation financing is needed. The current top-down approach in funding needs to be replaced by a locally orientated demand-driven approach.

A white paper on 'Financing the Resilient City', was launched today at ICLEI's Resilient Cities 2011 congress in Bonn, Germany. It identifies shortfalls in the global funding structures for adaptation, and sets out innovative ways to overcome them.

Jeb Brugmann, author of the white paper, says: "What is needed is to build on local expertise and institutions and fund what is needed locally, rather than conventional global financing mechanisms determining what local action is eligible for funding."

Mexico City's Mayor Marcelo Ebrard underlines: "The architecture that is available now is not working, why, because it is not designed to help the cities; it is designed to work with the national governments." Communities should be involved in the decision making and delivery of local adaptation action as well, argues Mayor Didas Massaburi of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

"The challenge for the international architecture is to let go of the command and control wish over climate funds", confirms Paul Clements-Hunt, Head of the UNEP Finance Initiative.

The white paper also puts forward the idea that financing mechanisms have to be broadened to allow for more private investments in addition to existing global climate funds. Andrew Steer, the World Bank's Special Envoy for Climate Change, supports this idea: "We have got to be more imaginative in our environmental financing, managing to make things more comfortable for investors, and maximizing returns".

The 2011 Bonn Declaration of Mayors advocates for the implementation of the following findings of the white paper:

- Mainstreaming new adaptation and resilience standards into conventional urban development projects.
- Developing specialized financial instruments for comprehensive local adaptation and resilience upgrading projects in urban areas.
- Building additional local institutional capacity to prepare, structure and manage large scale redevelopment.

Over 30 mayors have discussed the adaptation and financing challenges that their cities are facing with Andrew Steer of the World Bank, Christiana Figueres of the UNFCCC, UN-HABITAT's Joan Clos and Michel Liès of SwissRe, at the Mayors Adaptation Forum that is part of the Resilient Cities congress.

A key element in transforming financing mechanisms to be demand-driven is to make local climate action measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV). MRV for local action allows cities to identify which climate actions are most efficient and effective, and therefore most attractive to funders. The carbonn Cities Climate Registry and the Mexico City Pact are enabling cities to make firm commitments, and to measure and report their climate change actions.

C40 and ICLEI have just this week announced that they will establish a global standard for accounting and reporting greenhouse gas emissions to boost cities' ability to access funding and implement actions.

Many of the world's cities are already feeling the effects of climate change such as more powerful and frequent storms, longer dry seasons and droughts, or more severe flooding. Because of this, the world's cities and local governments are also at the forefront of adaptation and resilience building.

Herbert Bautista, Mayor of Quezon City, Philippines, said his city is already working on long term projects on vulnerability and risk assessment for example with the World Bank, but that additional resources need to be made available for implementing actions.

- end of press release -

Access the ICLEI **white paper 'Financing the Resilient City'** here

- [4 page summary](#) [pdf]
- [full white paper](#) [pdf]

Download the **Bonn Declaration of Mayors**, the outcome document of the Mayors Adaptation Forum.

- [Bonn Declaration of Mayors 2011](#) [pdf]

Photos of Resilient Cities 2011 and the Mayors Adaptation Forum 2011 can be found on <http://resilient-cities.iclei.org/bonn2011/press-media/>

More information needed?

About Resilient Cities 2011, 3-5 June 2011, Bonn, Germany

Resilient Cities is the global platform for learning, cooperation and networking on all aspects of urban resilience and adaptation to climate change, and is convened by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the City of Bonn, and the World Mayors Council on Climate Change. Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT is the patron for the 2011 congress. Participants coming from a wide array of backgrounds are given the opportunity to take an active part in exchanging strategies and sharing experiences, including Mayors, Governors, Councillors, Chiefs of Sustainability Units, Disaster Risk and Emergency Managers, Directors of Resource and Environmental Development, Urban and Regional Planners and Consultants, Private Sector Solutions Providers, Researchers, Municipal Associations or Engineers.

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

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About the Mayors Adaptation Forum 2011, 4-5 June 2011, Bonn, Germany

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

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

About ICLEI

More than 1200 local governments and their associations, representing over 440 million people in 70 countries, constitute ICLEI's membership. ICLEI is a global association of local governments and municipal organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development.

As a movement, ICLEI runs the world's largest climate program of cities that links local action to national goals and internationally agreed targets.

ICLEI provides information, delivers training, organizes conferences, facilitates networking and city-to-city exchanges, carries out research and pilot projects, and offers technical services and consultancy.

www.iclei.org

About the World Mayors Council on Climate Change (WMCCC)

The World Mayors Council on Climate Change is an alliance of committed local government leaders advocating an enhanced recognition and involvement of Mayors in global efforts to address climate change. The Council plays an instrumental role in building political leadership around the Mexico City Pact and carbon Cities Climate Registry (cCCR). The World Mayors Council has been supported by ICLEI since its inception in 2005.

www.worldmayorscouncil.org

About the Mexico City Pact and the carbonn Cities Climate Registry (cCCR)

The Global Covenant of Cities on Climate ('Mexico City Pact') was launched at the World Mayors Summit on Climate in Mexico City in November 2010. To date it has been signed by over 180 Mayors and representatives of local governments. The Pact sets out why cities are strategic actors in combating global warming, and establishes a set of voluntary commitments to promote strategies and actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting cities to the impacts of climate change.

By signing the Pact, cities and local government have also committed to register their emission inventories, commitments, climate mitigation and adaptation measures and actions in a measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) manner through the carbonn Cities Climate Registry. The Registry is operated by ICLEI's Bonn Center for Local Climate Action and Reporting (carbonn).

www.worldmayorscouncil.org/the-mexico-city-pact

www.citiesclimateregistry.org

Any questions? Please contact

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