

# Local Government and the Johannesburg Summit

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## 1.0 Introduction

The United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development took place in Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August - 4 September 2002. At the Summit, governments and stakeholders gathered to address the biggest challenges facing our world today and to find better ways to implement *Agenda 21*, to eliminate poverty and to protect the environment.

There were 21,000 registered participants (9,000 national delegates, including 104 heads of state; 8,000 representatives of Major Groups and agencies; and 4,000 journalists). Tens of thousands of additional people attended related civil society events. All major local government associations were involved in the Summit, with an estimated 1,000 local government delegates attending.

Many of the local government delegates, as well as hundreds of other senior-level local leaders, participated in a two-year preparatory process before the Summit. Through this process and their presence at the Summit, local governments and their associations set out to evaluate their successes since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, detail the opportunities for *Agenda 21* and Rio Convention implementation at the local level and present concrete proposals to rapidly pursue these opportunities. This document outlines the successful outcomes from the local government process and the Summit. It begins with the five key outcomes achieved by local governments in Johannesburg, and then looks in detail at the local government preparatory process and the Summit experience. It concludes with a list of the next steps for accelerated action at the local level.

## 2.0 Key Summit Outcomes for Local Governments

Five key outcomes for local governments were achieved at the Johannesburg Summit. These are outlined below.

### 2.1 Inclusion in Summit Documents (Type 1 Outcomes)

During the Summit process, local governments focused their collective energies on two primary objectives: (a) gaining recognition for the crucial sustainable development implementation role played by local governments and (b) obtaining commitments to strengthen local governments, improve governance and build capacity at the local level. These were seen as the key starting points to support effective local action in all areas of sustainable development.

Recognition was achieved in the official Summit texts. From this perspective, the formal outcomes of the Summit were successful for local governments. However, many local leaders are unsatisfied with the inability of governments at the Summit to come to agreement on specific, time-bound targets or concrete actions. The two documents adopted by national governments at the Summit are the *Johannesburg Declaration* (5 pages) and the *Plan of Implementation* (77 pages), the latter of which is seen as relatively weak and disorganized. All official Summit documents and reports can be found on the

UN Summit Secretariat website <[www.johannesburgsummit.org](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org)>.

### 2.1.1 *Johannesburg Declaration*

The Johannesburg Declaration is a political statement of commitment to the Summit outcomes. In this document, national governments pledged to address sustainable development “*at local, national, regional and global levels*” (para. 5), and to involve all Major Groups in this process. The text was written and presented by the Government of South Africa at the conclusion of the negotiations and adopted at the Closing Plenary.

### 2.1.2 *Plan of Implementation*

The *Plan of Implementation* was agreed upon by consensus reached after a lengthy and difficult negotiation process. It is meant to focus on action and outline the steps national governments must take to tackle the most pressing issues facing our earth, our societies and our communities today. The top priority issues were identified by the UN Secretary General prior to the Summit as **w**ater and sanitation, **e**nergy, **h**ealth, **a**griculture and food security, and **b**iodiversity (known collectively as WEHAB). The issues that proved to be most difficult to agree upon were finance and globalization, renewable energy targets, the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol, natural resource degradation, and governance mechanisms.

The plan is a lengthy and inconsistent document with only a few new targets, resources or commitments from national governments. As a clear path to action and cooperation on specific issues is not mapped out, it can only provide a point of reference for national and local governments who have been inspired by the Summit process to commit to moving from agenda to action.

The section “Strengthening Institutional Frameworks” does however contain specific language in paragraphs 148-149 that outlines mechanisms to support local authorities and encourage local-level action to accelerate implementation.

**Enhance the role and capacity of local authorities as well as stakeholders in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit and in strengthening the continuing support for local Agenda 21 programmes and associated initiatives and partnerships, and encourage, in particular, partnerships among and between local authorities and other levels of government and stakeholders to advance sustainable development as called for in, inter alia, the Habitat Agenda.** (Plan of Implementation, para. 149)

With regards to the other sections and specific sustainability issues, the acknowledgement of local authorities and local-level action appears to a varying degree throughout the document. The strongest recommendations for local action relate to:

- poverty eradication
- disaster prevention
- sustainable agriculture

- desertification
- eco-tourism
- capacity building

Annex 1 provides a comprehensive list of references in the Summit texts to action or consultation at the local level.

## 2.2 Profile and Recognition

Throughout the Summit preparations, the achievements of local authorities in the past decade and their potential to accelerate implementation were frequently lauded. The profile of local initiatives and recognition of local governments' special role in implementation was greatly increased as a result of the Summit.

High-level representatives frequently acknowledged and lent their support to the work of local authorities, highlighting Local Agenda 21 (LA21) in particular. National delegates from every global region took the plenary floor to announce that sustainable cities or local-level governance issues were a priority for their government and to endorse text referring to local action or local authorities.

The other Major Groups (stakeholder groups recognized in *Agenda 21*) frequently look to local authorities as a key partner for sustainable development. At the Multistakeholder Dialogues in advance of the Summit, an overarching consensus emerged from all the Major Groups and many national interventions that local authorities were catalysts for concrete action and meaningful stakeholder participation and that national governments must support and collaborate with local governments. Support for local authorities also appears in several position papers and statements prepared for the Dialogues.

The high profile afforded local authorities during the Summit process was strengthened by successful events such as the **Local Government Session** (see Section 4.1) and the ICLEI side event (see Section 4.3.1). The Local Government International Preparatory Meeting in Vancouver, Canada, and well-received publications such as *Local Strategies for Accelerating Sustainability* and *Local Government Response to Agenda 21* also had a great impact (see Section 3.0).

## 2.3 Multistakeholder Participation

The determined efforts and impressive input from local governments and the other Major Groups resulted in a newly recognized and confirmed place for stakeholders in multilateral negotiations on sustainable development. The voice of Major Groups was heard throughout the process, particularly through multistakeholder events. The World Summit process set a precedent for meaningful participation by stakeholders closely knit into the weave of the official events. This was due in great part to the commitment of the UN Summit Secretariat and Ms. Zehra Aydin-Sipos, Major Groups Focal Point, to involve and consult with the Major Groups whenever possible.

The Government of South Africa was also determined to increase the access of civil

society participation in the Summit. ICLEI was invited by South African president Thabo Mbeki to represent local authorities in the Civil Society Consultative Forum of the Chair for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. This group met with the President once immediately prior to the Summit and once again after the Summit opened.

At the Summit the Major Groups enjoyed permanent seating and speaking rights on the plenary floor alongside national governments and delegates from international agencies. As well, more than 100 local leaders were invited to join their national delegations to the Summit. This allowed local representatives closer contact with decision makers and improved access to information and negotiations.

Another small victory was achieved when local authorities and other Major Groups convinced the UN to create access badges that correctly identified delegates from Major Groups (i.e., previously local government representatives received badges labelled NGO).

Although the participation of Major Groups was high, this did not appear to affect the final outcomes in a meaningful way. The conclusions and recommendations that emerged from the Multistakeholder Dialogues and Major Group papers were left out of the official text drafting process almost entirely. Despite a handful of references to local-level action, it was never fully reflected in the texts that many national governments and all Major Groups strongly argued that strengthening local authorities and improving governance at the local level should be a priority to accelerate sustainable development implementation.

## 2.4 A Global Cadre of Local Leaders Committed to Sustainability

The level of participation from the local government sector in the Summit process was very high, especially given that local governments generally do not have the resources nor mandate to engage actively in international policy and decision-making fora. About

*"I would like to counteract a certain feeling of disappointment that was expressed by some colleagues in regard to the insufficient recognition that local authorities have received in the UN documents. The written papers are meaningful, but it seems to me that deeds are more relevant. And the facts are that the local world was well represented at the Summit, and played an active and committed role. Those of us who had the chance to attend lived through self-critical and realistic sessions where many proposals were put forward.*

*"We were very pleased about the contributions made by towns and cities, and we reflected upon the challenges that we face. And what is more important, we oriented our task for the next decade. From "agenda" to "action": action, in order to take concrete daily steps to further the use of renewable energy, to reduce the production of waste, to promote public transport, to stimulate fair trade and international co-operative mechanisms, etc. We know that there is a long road ahead, but our commitment to continue moving forward is firm."*

Ms. Imma Mayol, Deputy Mayor, Barcelona, Spain

450 local governments and all the major local government associations were involved in the Summit preparations, consultations and representation. It is estimated that 1,000 local government delegates attended the Summit.

This participation of local leaders has resulted in a renewed commitment with specific objectives and new ideas to accelerate sustainability in communities around the world. Another result is greatly increased capacity. A sizeable number of local leaders are now prepared and empowered both to approach their national governments and other key

decision makers regarding sustainability initiatives and also to access the international arena to promote local governments' interests and positions. In a rapidly globalized world, international advocacy for local governments will become increasingly important.

## **2.5 Cooperation Among Local Government Associations**

The process of preparing and presenting input to the World Summit from local authorities was an exercise in partnership involving all the major local government associations. In a fully participatory and consultative fashion, ICLEI facilitated an in-depth consultation and evaluation process and continued to work closely with its partners to prepare reports and develop a strategy to influence the Summit outcomes. Association representatives came together on several opportunities to speak on behalf of local governments at Summit events.

This process saw the key local government actors in the international arena work together in an open and cooperative partnership to achieve shared objectives. This inspired a new spirit of unity and cohesion in the local government community. Annex 2 contains a list of the association partners involved in the local government Johannesburg Summit program.

## **3.0 Local Government Preparations for the Summit**

Over a two-year period, ICLEI facilitated the local government input and preparations for the Johannesburg Summit. This was accomplished with the support of the UN Summit Secretariat and in partnership with major international associations of local governments. These included the World Association of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC), the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), the World Federation of United Cities, the Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities, the Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis), Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements (CITYNET), Eurocities and the Arab Towns Organization.

The Local Government Preparatory Process emphasized consultation, coordination and fair representation on the basis of geographical region and gender. ICLEI gathered feedback and consulted with local government leaders and a wide range of regional and international associations. The objective was to strengthen the input to the Summit by incorporating ideas from many perspectives.

ICLEI conducted a series of activities as part of the preparatory process:

- a worldwide survey on LA21 undertaken jointly with the UN Secretariat for the Johannesburg Summit and with the collaboration of UN Development Programme (UNDP)/Capacity 21
- 13 regional and sub-regional consultation meetings with local government leaders and technical experts
- an international “Think Tank” meeting of experts

- two official Local Government Dialogue Papers and supporting reports submitted to the UN and published as Summit documents in six languages
- a Local Government International Preparatory Committee Meeting (*Local Agenda to Action: Building a Sustainable Future*, Vancouver, Canada, 27 Feb. - 1 March 2002)
- a series of case studies examining local successes, *Local Strategies for Accelerating Sustainability*
- local government delegations at the UN preparatory meetings for the Summit, particularly in the four official multistakeholder sessions
- an official parallel event, the Local Government Session, at the Johannesburg Summit
- local government participation and representation at the Johannesburg Summit

Annex 3 presents a detailed description of these activities.

The key finding of the review process was that significant movement toward sustainability has occurred at the local level and needs to be encouraged and supported to further accelerate progress. Advances in sustainability have been made through good governance and changes in the daily functions of local government in areas of natural resource management, urban development, waste management, public health promotion, social services and educational activities. Local governments have developed partnerships with other spheres of governments and Major Groups to accelerate sustainable development.

These results of the review process were submitted to the UN in the Local Government Dialogue Paper. The paper recommended that if national governments want to succeed in meeting their commitments under *Agenda 21* and the Rio Conventions they must give local governments adequate legislative and constitutional authority and access to resources to fulfil their role. Further, to accelerate the movement toward sustainability, governments and Major Groups must form “working alliances” and partnerships for action, especially at the local level.

Working alliances are envisaged as focused, task-oriented cooperations between all spheres of government with the aim of jointly addressing priority sustainable development challenges. This concept provides a framework for coherent public action without imposing generic, top-down solutions and without inhibiting local innovation and distinctiveness. Local governments are the key to this type of cooperation and partnership. They have the unique ability to facilitate the participation of stakeholders in decision-making processes and to implement policies that are appropriate to local contexts.

#### **4.0 Local Government at the Johannesburg Summit**

##### **4.1 Local Government Session**

27 - 30 August 2002, Crowne Plaza Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa

ICLEI organized the four-day Local Government Session at the Johannesburg Summit in

cooperation with major local government associations and in partnership with several UN agencies. The session, entitled *Local Action Moves the World*, was designed for local government to convey its expectations and positions for the Summit to other delegates. It was one of the Summit's largest parallel events with 900 participants from 69 countries. With 38 partners, it was also one of the most broad-based and comprehensive project partnerships ever involving local government associations, local authorities, national governments and international agencies. Annex 4 lists the event partners.

The session provided an opportunity for local government to present its sustainable development messages and successes to a broader audience of national governments, stakeholders and international agencies. The event was successful in generating a high profile for local governments at the Summit. It received significant media attention. Mr. Nitin Desai, the Secretary General of the Summit; Dr. Klaus Töpfer, UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Executive Director; Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, UN Habitat Executive Director; Mr. Zéphirin Diabré, UN Development Programme Associate Administrator; Mr. Mohamed El-Ashry, Global Environmental Facility Chief Executive Officer and Chairman; Mr. Mats Karlsson, World Bank Vice President; and 13 national ministers were among the speakers.

*It was a great opportunity for participants from developed and developing countries to share their experience of successes and shortcomings in the past ten years on Agenda 21; and most importantly to agree to proceed with action and to continue on the road to sustainable development.*  
Mr. David Wakudumira, Mayor, Jinja Municipal Council, Uganda

The program focused on building sustainable communities and cities while protecting global common goods such as air, climate, water resources, soil, biodiversity, and health. Case studies of local government successes were presented to demonstrate the role of

local governments as key implementation agents. Concrete local strategies for accelerating sustainability were discussed in a series of roundtables. These provided an avenue for discussing how to overcome barriers to accelerated implementation and identifying the tools and mechanisms required to advance this commitment to sustainability at the local level.

As a reflection of the call for partnerships to implement the Summit outcomes, the Local Government Session provided a spotlight for the announcement of various partnership programs (Type 2 initiatives). Working at the local level, these partnerships will accelerate action in such areas as water and sanitation, governance, transportation, local procurement, and environmental management (see Section 5.2.2).

<b>Local Government Session in Numbers</b>			
Registered participants	650	Speakers and presenters	188
Drop- in participants	250	Plenaries	8
Local governments represented	230	Sessions	20
Mayors and presidents	120	Special side events, seminars	15
Countries represented	69	Event partners	38
National ministers	13	Total budget	US \$550,000

ICLEI invited the editors of the international journal *Local Environment* to provide daily web-based reports summarizing events at the Local Government Session and the key issues at the Summit affecting local governments worldwide. These reports were distributed daily for the first week of the Summit and posted on the web for those who could not attend. The reports are available on the session webpage <[www.iclei.org/lgs](http://www.iclei.org/lgs)>.

#### 4.1.1 Session Results

##### a) Launch of *Local Action 21*

Local government leaders from around the world, as well as representatives from UNDP, UNEP, UN Habitat and the World Health Organization (WHO), joined ICLEI in launching *Local Action 21* as the next phase of LA21. Consistent with the Summit's focus on implementation, Local Action 21 represents a move from “agenda” to “action” and is a reaffirmation of the principle of thinking globally and acting locally.

Local Action 21 is conceived as a motto, mandate and movement for advancing sustainability at the local level. It is a *motto* for the second decade of Local Agenda 21 and a *mandate* to local authorities worldwide to move from agenda to action and ensure an accelerated implementation of sustainable development. Local Action 21 strengthens the LA21 *movement* of local governments to create sustainable communities and cities while protecting global common goods (see Section 5.2.1).

##### b) *Johannesburg Call*

The *Johannesburg Call* was presented to the Local Government Session plenary by the South African Local Government Association and the City of Johannesburg. It was accepted by acclamation and later delivered to the Summit directly. This statement is a response to the discussions and conclusions raised at the session which resulted in a passionate call to action embracing the new Local Action 21 strategy. It is available online <[www.iclei.org/johannesburg2002](http://www.iclei.org/johannesburg2002)>.

##### c) *Local Government Declaration*

The finale of the Local Government Session featured the endorsement of the *Local Government Declaration* by the World Associations of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC). This document represents the considered view of world local government associations. It was derived from the Local Government Dialogue Paper submitted earlier to the Summit by ICLEI (see Section 3.0). The Local Government Declaration describes local government principles and commitments for sustainability and calls for specific actions from national governments and international agencies in relation to the World Summit.

The Local Government Declaration was circulated to local government associations for consultation over several months, endorsed in the closing plenary of the Local

Government Session and later presented to the UN Summit by the president of WACLAC. The declaration text is available online in English, French, Spanish, and German <[www.iclei.org/johannesburg2002](http://www.iclei.org/johannesburg2002)>.

## 4.2 Formal Representation at the Summit

At the Summit, local governments sought recognition of the importance of implementation at the local level and the need for cooperation between all levels of government in order to achieve sustainable development. Local governments pushed for support from national governments and international organizations to strengthen and build local capacity.

*“While there is much debate about the overall achievements of the World Summit it was clear that Local Government had made progress and that strong local government and governance is vital for achieving sustainability objectives. The Local Government Session gave local government the platform to position itself as a key driver and implementer of the sustainability agenda. This was reinforced by the wealth of practical implementation programs that were presented during the session. I believe the message that local government plays a vital role is getting through to national and regional governments.”*

Mr. John So, Lord Mayor, Melbourne Australia

The UN Summit Secretariat emphasized stakeholder input into the Summit proceedings which resulted in many opportunities for formal representation by local authorities. Last minute decisions on the Summit agenda meant little or no advance notice of these opportunities, so although local government representatives were hampered by lack of time to prepare, they made the most of each opportunity.

### 4.2.1 Thematic Plenaries

Specific priority and cross-cutting issues (WEHAB) were examined in depth during six thematic plenary sessions with a “TV-style” panel format (26 - 28 August). These plenaries were moderated very successfully by Mr. Jan Pronk, Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the Summit. Each plenary began with the presentation of a framework paper prepared by the UN to introduce recommendations for action in the issue area. The *Chairman's Summary of the Plenaries* and video footage of each plenary is available online <[www.johannesburgsummit.org](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org)>.

Representatives of local authorities were invited to participate in the panel discussion of five of these plenaries. As local authorities also enjoyed permanent seats on the plenary floor, representatives attending the plenary could participate in the discussion that followed.

#### Local Government Panellists in the Thematic Plenaries:

- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management: Hon. Beate Weber, Lady Mayor, Heidelberg, Germany
- Agriculture and Food Security: Hon. Sakhumzi Somyo, Mayor, Amatole District, South Africa
- Cross Cutting Issues: Ms. Kaarin Taipale, Chair, ICLEI
- Water and Sanitation Issues: Hon. Stephen Kabuye, Mayor, Entebbe, Uganda
- Energy Issues: Mr. Harvey Ruvin, Clerk, Miami-Dade County, USA

#### **4.2.2 Plenary Statements**

Local authorities had two opportunities to make short presentations to the Summit during the plenaries for statements from non-state entities (29 - 30 August):

- a) Statement by Councillor Alan Lloyd, President, WACLAC and IULA, presenting the Local Government Declaration and the Johannesburg Call following the conclusion of the Local Government Session.
- b) Statement by the Hon. Joan Clos i Matheu, Chairman, UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA), and Mayor, City of Barcelona, Spain.

#### **4.2.3 High Level Roundtables**

Heads of state attended the second week of the Summit. Local government delegates attended several meetings with the national leaders.

First, four roundtable events were hosted by the South African president under the theme "Making It Happen" (2 - 4 September). These were attended by heads of states and international organizations.

The following representatives participated in the roundtables on behalf of local authorities:

- Father Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, President, South African Local Government Association
- Ms. Kaarin Taipale, Chair, ICLEI
- Mr. Mario Cassio, President, Federation of Latin American Cities and Associations of Municipalities
- Councillor Alan Lloyd, President, WACLAC and IULA

The results of these roundtables were released in the Chairperson's Summaries of the Roundtables <[www.johannesburgsummit.org](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org)>.

#### **4.2.4 Multistakeholder Event**

The second opportunity to interact with the heads of state was at the only formal multistakeholder event at the Summit. The event took place during the closing plenary and featured statements from each of the Major Groups. Mr. Mario Cassio, President of the Federation of Latin American Cities and Associations of Municipalities, spoke on behalf of local authorities.

#### **4.2.5 Coordination**

Formal representation of local authorities during the Summit was coordinated by ICLEI in conjunction with WACLAC and UNACLA. ICLEI was responsible for liaising with the UN Summit Secretariat and the other Major Groups. Access to the Summit building and briefing of speakers was organized through the Local Government Bureau in facilities provided by the City of Johannesburg (see Section 4.3.4).

*“In order to develop adequate responses to these challenges, mayors and local officials called on national and international bodies to strengthen the institutions of local government, to recognize local government as a vital sphere, and to mitigate the local-level impacts of globalization, particularly within the developing world and countries with economies in transition. Local officials demanded a profound shift from the current development model, and committed themselves to the values and principles of the Earth Charter.”*

Mr. Peter Clavelle, Mayor, Burlington  
Vermont, USA

## **4.3 Informal Representation**

### **4.3.1 Interaction with National Delegates**

During the Summit, senior local government officials worked together cooperatively and informally to increase recognition of local governments' role in the implementation of sustainable development and to be acknowledged in the Summit outcomes.

There are a number of serious logistical and strategic challenges that face Major Groups and others who wish to contribute to official UN talks. Speaking opportunities are limited and there are significant restrictions to accessing up-to-date information. Direct communication and contact with national delegates are also limited. As such, local government delegates employed various methods to maximize contact with key decision makers.

- Representatives approached their national delegations, and attended delegation briefings where possible, to discuss the Summit negotiation process and share the local government position.
- Text recommendations were distributed widely to key decision makers.
- In order to bring a discussion of local action into the Summit venue, ICLEI held an official side event entitled *Water, Climate and Agenda 21: Implementation and Action by Local Governments*. It took place on the first day of the Summit with an excellent turnout and a very high level of participation.
- All of the major groups, including local authorities, enjoyed permanent seating in the main Summit plenary directly behind the national delegations. This allowed local government delegates further interaction with national delegates.
- For several days, access to the Summit venue itself was highly restricted for security concerns. Local governments were allotted a handful of building passes to share. The receipt and distribution of these passes was coordinated by ICLEI through the Local Government Bureau and several dozen representatives were able to attend the sessions.

### **4.3.2 Briefing of Local Government Delegates**

Three briefing sessions were convened to inform local leaders attending the Summit and the Local Government Session. At these meetings, ICLEI and other association representatives presented updates and key strategic information. In advance of the Summit, ICLEI circulated a series of briefing notes to update representatives on plans for the Summit, strategic considerations, and opportunities for formal and informal representation.

Local governments and their representatives are not generally prepared to engage in

international multilateral negotiations. The system, its terminology and protocol, and the issues addressed tend to be unfamiliar. Participation in the Summit and its preparations allowed a number of committed local leaders to gain valuable experience with these types of negotiations. Building on the success of their participation at the Summit, local governments will continue to require capacity building and preparation to effectively participate in multistakeholder dialogues and multilateral negotiations in the future. It is hoped that this contact will also bring local leaders to a deeper understanding of the global impact of local actions.

### **4.3.3 Media Relations**

Information on local government activities at the Summit was disseminated through a variety of means, including daily updates, web reports, special publications and general media.

ICLEI provided media outreach at the Summit in order to engage the press and to increase the profile of local government action and its messages. A media relations officer and support team interacted with journalists from print and TV outlets with local, national and international purviews. The media officer worked closely with the City of Johannesburg to promote local coverage. During the Summit, a media office was established in the Local Governmental Bureau. ICLEI provided services to the journalists attending the Summit such as press releases and conferences, arranging interviews with key figures, and media registration at the Local Government Session.

#### *a) Press Conferences*

- Local governments: Key implementing agents of sustainable development (introduction to key issues and messages of local authorities), 26 August, UN Media Centre. Video footage available online <[www.johannesburgsummit.org](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org)>.
- Local Action - Global Strategy (following the opening of the Local Government Session), 28 August, Crown Plaza.
- Launch of “Local Action 21,” 30 August, Crown Plaza.

#### *b) Media Releases* (available online <[www.iclei.org/johannesburg2002](http://www.iclei.org/johannesburg2002)>)

- Introductory press release to raise awareness and make the press familiar with local issues at the global level (12 August).
- Invitation to Local Government Session and media schedule (distributed from 20 August).
- Political goals of local government (also distributed by the UN - 25 August).
- Press conference by International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, prepared by the UN Department of Public Information (26 August).
- Results of the ICLEI side event, with invitation to attend the Local Government Session opening and subsequent press conference (27 August).
- Invitation to attend press conference on the closing day of the Local Government Session.
- Results of the Local Government Session (31 August).
- Bicycle partnership that saw ICLEI bikes transferred to the City of Johannesburg (3

September).

- Conclusions of the Summit from the viewpoint of local governments (6 September).

Since the end of the Summit, ICLEI has been working to communicate the relevant outcomes for local governments by contributing articles to various journals and newsletters.

#### 4.3.4 Local Government Bureau

ICLEI coordinated a base of operations for local government representatives for the duration of the Summit called the Local Government Bureau. The City of Johannesburg (Region 3) generously provided centrally located offices. This space and its resources were essential to coordinate an effective presence at the Summit, to facilitate delegates' participation, and to provide a space for networking and strategic discussions. The bureau was a meeting point, information post and media relations center with live video transmission of the Summit proceedings. Delegates relied on the bureau for regular updates and bulletins, special assistance, access passes, meetings, and messages.

The experience of having the Local Government Bureau at the Summit demonstrated the importance of establishing a centrally located base of operations to support and provide access to information for local government delegates. The bureau was highly utilized and local government access to the Summit would have been greatly reduced without this resource. As efforts at earlier Summit preparatory meetings were hindered without an office space, access to this type of resource should be explored with municipal partners for future UN meetings.

## 5.0 Objectives and Outputs

### 5.1 Objectives Achieved

The coordination of the Local Government Preparatory Process and participation in the Summit was a two-year, multi-faceted program with a total budget of US\$ 1.4 million. The program met its stated objectives as shown below.

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Achieved</i>
to evaluate and, where possible, quantify the impact of local actions since 1992 to implement <i>Agenda 21</i> and the Rio Conventions;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Survey on Local Agenda 21 and resulting global and regional reports: <i>Second Local Agenda 21 Survey</i>, <i>Local Governments' Response to Agenda 21</i>, <i>Summary Report of Local Agenda 21 Survey with Regional Focus</i></li> <li>• 18-month consultation process.</li> </ul>
to facilitate regional assessments of the local opportunities and barriers to their pursuit, and to formulate strategies for the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 regional consultation meetings held from December 2000 - August 2002</li> <li>• International Think Tank meeting</li> </ul>

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Achieved</i>
further implementation of <i>Agenda 21</i> and the Rio Conventions;	convened at the Stavanger Forum, Norway, June 2001
to prepare a sophisticated, representative, and fully briefed Local Government Delegation to participate in the Johannesburg Summit Preparatory Process, consisting of mayors and other senior local government representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Government International Preparatory Meeting in Vancouver, Canada, March 2002 (over 200 senior officials, association representatives and experts convened to plan for the Summit)</li> <li>• Approximately 450 local governments and 50 associations of local governments attended the Summit and preparatory events; prepared and briefed by ICLEI and WACLAC</li> <li>• Active collaboration among all major international associations in preparing and participating in the Summit</li> </ul>
to submit reports to the Johannesburg Summit process which detail the opportunities for <i>Agenda 21</i> /Rio Convention implementation at the local level and present concrete proposals to governments, the international community, and other Major Groups to rapidly pursue these opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Local Action Moves the World</i> (Local Government Dialogue Paper)</li> <li>• <i>Implementing Sustainable Development: Proposals by Local Government</i> (2<sup>nd</sup> Dialogue Paper)</li> <li>• <i>Local Strategies for Accelerating Sustainability, Case Studies of Local Government Success</i></li> <li>• <i>Second Local Agenda 21 Survey Report</i></li> <li>• <i>Local Governments' Response to Agenda 21: Summary Report with a Regional Focus</i></li> <li>• <i>Local Government Declaration</i></li> <li>• <i>The Johannesburg Call</i></li> <li>• Launch of Local Action 21</li> </ul>

Through an extensive preparatory process and active participation at the Summit, local governments increased the recognition of their distinct and integral role in the implementation of sustainable development and received a mandate for future broad-based action at the local level. Specifically, the Johannesburg Summit program for local governments resulted in:

- the engagement of about 450 local governments and 50 associations of local governments in every region of the world
- the active collaboration of all the major international associations in the Summit consultations and preparations
- a global cadre of local leaders with increased capacity to serve as champions of local sustainability initiatives in the international community

- a renewed local government commitment to *Agenda 21* through the introduction of *Local Action 21*, a strategy to stimulate action on LA21
- active involvement of local government in many of the key initiatives arising from the Summit, such as Type 2 implementation partnerships (see Section 5.2.2)
- recognition in the Summit outcomes of the importance of local-level action to achieve sustainability and the role of local authorities as key implementation agents
- the articulation of support from the international community for specific strategies and mechanisms to realize local implementation opportunities

## 5.2 Major Outputs

### 5.2.1 Local Action 21

*Local Action 21* is envisaged as a strategy to support expanded and accelerated sustainable development implementation in the 6,400 local governments who have undertaken participatory action planning processes and to encourage Local Agenda 21 activities in many more. Local Action 21 was devised as a direct result of consultations undertaken for the Summit and it was launched at the Local Government Session.

*"Stronger local governance, fresh approaches to partnership and creative thinking about sustainable urbanization. Is any of this really new? Not much. But the same wine has been maturing for a number of years. It needs a new bottle to turn local agendas into local action that changes the lives of local people during the next decade."*

Mr. Rodney Green, Chief Executive,  
Leicester City Council, UK

As local governments worldwide strive to move from agenda to action in the post-Johannesburg decade, Local Action 21 will serve as the "motto, mandate and movement" towards change. It will be grounded in action to create sustainable communities and cities while protecting the global common goods. Local Action 21 will support local governments' ongoing efforts to respond to *Agenda 21*, the Rio Conventions, the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Declaration.

What does it mean for Local Agenda 21 to enter the stage of Local Action 21? First, it will mean assisting communities to go beyond general sustainable development planning, to ensure that action plans are implemented to address specific factors that prevent them from becoming sustainable-poverty, injustice, exclusion and conflict, unhealthy environment, and insecurity. Secondly, Local Action 21 will reduce cities' further contribution to the worldwide depletion of resources and environmental degradation, which have severe repercussions on cities and their inhabitants. Thirdly, Local Action 21 will introduce state-of-the-art systems and tools in municipal management to ensure unwavering implementation, effective monitoring and continual improvement.

### 5.2.2 Implementation Partnerships

Local governments responded to the call for Type 2 outcomes from the Summit, specifically for the development of "Implementation Partnerships." These partnerships are meant to be international, voluntary and self-organized cooperation agreements that

will become practical mechanisms to achieve the Summit objectives as outlined in the *Plan of Implementation*.

Implementation partnerships announced by ICLEI at the Local Government Session:

- Resilient Communities
- Environmental Management Capacity Building for Local Government
- Local Procurement for Development and Sustainable Global Markets
- Local Integrated Resource Management for Better Management of Cities and Towns
- Global Water Campaign of Local Governments
- Sustainable Urban Transportation, A Transition to Action

Several other partnerships focusing on local action were also submitted to the Summit Secretariat. In addition, many of the large single-issue partnerships that emerged from the Summit are likely to have high levels of local involvement. The full list of Summit partnerships is available online <[www.johannesburgsummit.org](http://www.johannesburgsummit.org)>.

## 6.0 Next Steps

ICLEI is following up on its Johannesburg Summit program and the Summit outcomes at both the UN/international and local government levels. The proposed programs for immediate follow up from the Summit, outlined below, will provide conceptual guidance and support for the implementation of Local Action 21. Some of the programs will be run as Type 2 Implementation Partnerships. Activities will include research and development, networking, pilot projects, and program coordination.

- *Implementation Guide for Local Governments*  
ICLEI is proposing the preparation and dissemination of an Implementation Guide designed to help local governments understand and respond to the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit. This would involve the identification of programs and projects that local governments could undertake to meet targets found in the Plan of Implementation. This Guide is conceived as a short-term low-cost project.
- *Local Action 21 Resource Guide*  
Realizing that several possible options and strategies exist to achieve sustainable development and that the variety of sources of information and operations is often intimidating to local governments, it is proposed that a Local Action 21 Resource Guide be developed. Such a guide would be used by local governments to access source materials and also to review current management processes. The guide, designed as a booklet with accompanying CD-Rom, will be a toolbox of sustainable development planning resources for local governments. It is proposed that this guide be supported with references to proven sustainable development cases as were presented at the Local Government Session.

The guide will contain resources related to the components of Local Action 21:

- a) Creating sustainable communities and cities, in particular by removing major

barriers to local sustainability:

poverty: viable local economies

inequity and conflict: just and peaceful communities

environmental degradation: eco-efficient cities

insecurity: resilient communities and cities

b) Protecting global common goods such as air, climate, water, soil, biodiversity, food and health

c) Applying sustainability management for unwavering implementation (principles, policies and practices, and mechanisms)

- *Viable Local Economies Program*

This proposed program would assist communities to go beyond general sustainable development planning and specifically tackle the issue of poverty and thereby address the first target of the UN's Millennium Development Goals. Since poverty cannot be alleviated where structures maintain inequality, it is important to create a supportive framework for internal as well as foreign direct investment, access to modern technology, local entrepreneurship and diversification of local production, and improved market access for locally produced products. Public-private partnerships may be a vehicle to support this. A basic requirement is the conscious development of local human resources through education and vocational training.

- *Resilient Communities Partnership Program*

This partnership program aims to support the development of greater resilience in the institutions, infrastructure, and social and economic life of cities and towns worldwide. A resilient community is a city, town or neighborhood that reduces vulnerability to extreme events (i.e., natural or industrial disasters) and responds creatively to economic, social and environmental change in order to increase its long-term sustainability.

This initiative focuses on introducing policies, tools and methods developed in the disaster management community to the established worldwide movement for sustainable communities. In this way, preventative disaster management know-how will be linked with established local methods for participatory sustainable development planning. Further, the initiative will engage communities involved in LA21 activities in the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

- *Water Campaign for Local Governments*

By drawing upon the milestone approach, as taken in ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, the Global Water Campaign will assist local governments in preventing water pollution, promoting public health and reducing water consumption. The implementation of Campaign Milestones will be supported through development and adoption of a local government water code and the provision of training, planning tools, technical assistance and financial resources.

- *Environmental Management Capacity Building for Local Government*

This capacity building project aims at providing a global training and guidance

program for the local implementation and application of environmental management systems (EMS). The program is based on the “Training Resource Kit on EMS” prepared by Potchefstroom University in South Africa and published by the UN Environment Programme, the International Federation of Consulting Engineers and ICLEI. A global strategy for EMS implementation will be established.

- *ecoBUDGET® Pilot Program*  
The *ecoBUDGET* pilot project involves seven European local authorities that are working to demonstrate the suitability of environmental budgeting as an integrative, sustainability-related approach for environmental management at the local level. They will implement ICLEI's *ecoBUDGET* environmental management system, already adopted by four German local authorities and now piloted throughout Europe through this project funded by LIFE Programme 2001.
- *Local Integrated Resource Management (LIRM)*  
LIRM brings the management of financial, human and natural resources in local authorities under a “triple budgeting framework”, i.e. integrated management. By managing resources in an integrated manner local authorities will be able to gain a comprehensive view of all available resources and to plan, act, control, balance and report on the consumption of these resources. LIRM will also create new synergies and efficiencies through integration. The project involves the development and pilot implementation of LIRM in municipalities throughout the world.
- *Local Procurement for Development of Sustainable Global Markets*  
This initiative will integrate sustainable development into local governments' procurement policies in order accelerate penetration of sustainable products into export and domestic markets. The initiative extends the concept of green purchasing to include a broad range of products and standards that meet criteria related to social justice, equity, and workplace health and safety. A pilot project is currently being developed with five cities in the South.

“So what did I and the New Zealand delegation gain from this experience? A greater awareness of what we are attempting to achieve in New Zealand. A belief that we are able by consensus and our consistent integrity to work towards a more sustainable world.

“I have often thought that if we ran as fast as we could, we could never catch up. But I am revising that. I think that we have been running very fast, and if Johannesburg delivered anything from my colleagues and my delegation, it was that we CAN achieve the results we have been searching for.”

Mr. Robert Harvey, Mayor, Waitakere, New Zealand

- *Sustainable Urban Transportation, A Transition to Action*

Effective economic-transportation systems require the public and private sectors to work together to build communities around efficient and sustainable transportation. This effort will engage medium sized and growing urban municipalities to develop and implement sustainable transport plans that allow for the efficient movement of people and goods with the least detrimental social and environmental impact. The project will incorporate tools and training, city-to-city exchanges, locally appropriate sustainable transport indicators, pilot programs and research.

In addition to these specific Summit follow-up

programs, ICLEI will continue to serve its local government Members and others in the local government community in their efforts to further implement sustainable development. ICLEI supports these efforts through its international campaigns and programs on LA21, climate and water, information services, training programs, and technical services.