

EUROPEAN-LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN MAYORS FORUM

Political Statement on energy and climate action

Brussels, 4th June 2015

WHEREAS European, Latin American and Caribbean Leaders will gather in Brussels on 10-11 June 2015 under the theme "Shaping our common future: working for prosperous, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens"

WHEREAS cities are a crucial part of the legitimate institutional framework of countries; any international action they undertake is loyal to their respective national governments, so that they can only reinforce the relations between countries;

WHEREAS international agreements between cities are, in the 21st century, among the main vectors for spreading peaceful and constructive cooperation between peoples;

WHEREAS climate change presents the unique opportunity for local governments to develop win-win cooperation schemes and share common visions in their respective fields of competence in line with national priorities and positions on climate change;

WHEREAS local governments are key actors to achieving the common goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the actions undertaken by local government are ever more intensifying to address climate change, they can be even more significant if supported by national governments and international cooperation;

RECOGNISING that universal access to basic services, especially access to energy, is an inalienable right of states and individuals and that enhancing resilience of human settlements to natural disasters and the fight against climate change must take place within a framework of respect for human dignity;

ACKNOWLEDGING that many cities in Latin America have already assumed leadership in committing and taking action to face climate change and more than 6,000 European cities have signed the Covenant of Mayors initiative, in their common commitment to curb greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change;

WE, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF LATIN AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION COMMIT TO SHARE A LONG-TERM VISION, TO:

- Share a global goal of decarbonizing our territories by 2050, with goals appropriate to the realities of our respective cities, and thus taking all actions in our competency to reach the objective;
- Make the greatest efforts to ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all our citizens, making the best use of local energy resources to match energy demand;
- Develop or improve resilience strategies which increase our cities capacities to better respond to energy supply disruptions resulting from natural disasters and adverse impacts of climate change;
- Mobilise civil society in our geographical areas to take part in the implementation of sustainable energy as well as climate mitigation and adaptation policies;
- Promote cooperation between cities in order to facilitate Latin America and the Caribbean's access to clean energy technologies on favorable terms.

- Define intermediate targets, appropriate to our regional context that are aligned and go beyond (not in Spanish version) national targets, as part of the pathway to achieve our long-term shared vision;
- Develop and approve, within two years following the adhesion to this statement, Climate Action Plans for each of our local territories;
- Share our experiences with other local authorities in other regions of the world, inviting them to join our efforts, expanding collaboration and participation which our regions can deliver to find solutions to the challenges our societies are facing through climate change;
- Hold the EU-CELAC Mayors Forum every two years, meeting alternatively in the two regions, in order to establish a space for reflection to exchange points of view and good practices on decisions undertaken on the local level to improve quality of life of our citizens;

WE, THE MAYORS, CALL ON:

The European, Latin American and Caribbean Leaders to acknowledge the role of local actors as key actors in achieving global objectives for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change.

The European, Latin American and Caribbean Leaders to associate local governments at development and implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

The European, Latin American and Caribbean Leaders to consider local energy and climate action as priorities in their respective support programmes as well as inform and involve the cities in the preparation of policies and financial plans concerning the local level in the sphere of their competences.

The European, Latin American and Caribbean Leaders to support the implementation of energy and climate actions at the local level.

The European, Latin American and Caribbean Leaders to strengthen the capacities of local governments, to provide direct access to financing, to encourage the transfer of technology and knowledge, to ensure access to information and experiences to this end.

The European, Latin American and Caribbean Leaders to support the extension of the Covenant of Mayors initiative to other regions of the world.

Other local and regional authorities to endorse this political statement and recognise it as part of a global political movement to tackle climate change based on the principles of multi-level governance, involvement of citizens, integrated approach and common vision respecting the differences.

Brussels, 4th of June 2015