

Resilient Cities 2011

2nd World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change

Bonn, Germany, 3 - 5 June 2011

SESSION DESCRIPTION

As of 13 May 2011

C3 Resilience to climate change: national and state-level legislation and local government response

Date: Saturday, 4 June

Time: 9.00-10.30

Room: tbc

Session language: English

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Organized by: UN-HABITAT

OBJECTIVE

A small but increasing number of countries around the world have adopted or are in the process of adopting legislation that specifically addresses adaptation to climate change, and that carves out a substantial role for local governments in meeting this challenge. In the present session we will review the cutting-edge experiences of three developing and middle income countries in this area: the Philippines, Mexico, and South Africa. For each country we will: (i) review the salient features of the relevant legislation, (ii) learn how (if at all) the local government sector was (or is being) consulted in the process of developing this legislation, (iii) note any supplemental programmatic efforts by the national government or others to help local authorities to implement these laws, and (iv) hear about the challenges faced by local governments in implementing these laws. Finally audience members will be invited to pose questions and begin to draw inferences from these ground-breaking experiences that can inform similar efforts in other countries.

METHODOLOGY

- The session facilitator will provide an overall introduction to the session topic and contributors, before handing over to the first presenter. (5 minutes)
- Each of the three main presenters (from the Philippines, Mexico, and South Africa) will be allotted 15 minutes for their presentations. (3 x 15 minutes = 45 minutes)
- The respondent, who will begin to draw common threads and glean lessons from the previous presentations, will be allotted 10 minutes. (12 minutes)
- The facilitator will manage final questions and answers before delivering closing remarks. (28 minutes)

CONTRIBUTORS

Facilitator *Robert KEHEW, Human Settlements Advisor, UN-HABITAT. Nairobi, Kenya. Mr. Kehew coordinates the Technical Support Team of UN-Habitat's Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI).*

Panelist *Christopher ROLLO, Officer-in-Charge and Knowledge Management Specialist, UN-Habitat, the Philippines. UN-Habitat is supporting the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in implementing key aspects of the Philippines's ground-breaking Climate Change Act (2009) and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (2010).*

Panelist *Alejandro CALLEJAS, Sub-Secretary, Secretariat of Environment, Housing and Natural History of the State of Chiapas, Mexico. For the past two years, among his other activities Sr. Callejas has directed all of the State's climate change-related undertakings. Previously Sr. Callejas supported UN-Habitat's disaster response and sustainable urban development activities in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, the capital*

city of Chiapas, following a series of devastating floods in that city. Sr. Callejas will discuss Chiapas's recently passed Law on Adapting to and Mitigating Climate Change (2010).

Panelist *Mthobeli KOLISA, Executive Director, Municipal Infrastructure and Services, South African Local Government Association (SALGA), South Africa. On behalf of SALGA, Mr. Kolisa served as a member of the local government team that contributed to South Africa's recently released Green Paper on National Climate Change Response (2011). This Paper represents a milestone in the process of developing a more comprehensive policy and legal framework to address climate change.*

Panelist *Gotelind ALBER, Sustainable Energy & Climate Policy; formerly Managing Director, Climate Alliance of European Cities, Germany. In her research, Ms. Alber has applied a framework on 'modes of urban climate governance in multi-level systems' to the issue of climate change in cities. Drawing on this framework, she will begin to identify common threads and glean lessons from the case studies of Mexico/Chiapas, South Africa and the Philippines, as well as experiences elsewhere.*

Further recommended reading
