



**United Cities and Local Governments  
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis  
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**UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PRESS RELEASE  
Executive Bureau and Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit**

**World agreement on climate: Local governments present their claims**

**On 2 June 2009, in Copenhagen, Denmark:** the 150 mayors, elected officials and local and regional government representatives, present for the Executive Bureau of UCLG, agree on a united call of cities and regions to the Parties which will negotiate, in Copenhagen, in December, a new global agreement on climate. They presented precise and concrete amendments to the text currently under negotiation in the framework of the COP 15 of the United Nations.

Under the Presidency of Bertrand Delanoë, Mayor of Paris and President of UCLG, and Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul and Co-President of UCLG, and in the presence of their active partners in this area: David Cadman, President of ICLEI, and Bärbel Dieckmann, Mayor of Bonn and President of the World Council of Mayors on Climate Change, the members of the Executive Bureau of UCLG agreed on a strategy to adopt towards the COP 15:

To lobby their governments to ensure that the text under negotiation:

- will recognize the role of cities and local authorities- the level of government which is most in touch with citizens- in the implementation of national climate change strategies ;
- will allow local and regional authorities to widen their capabilities and knowledge, particularly through exchanging experiences ;
- will finally put in place financial mechanisms adapted to the needs of cities that will allow them to fulfill their commitments.

On the occasion of the Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit, that took also place in Copenhagen from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> of June, cities and regions have demonstrated their mobilization and their concrete commitments. Over the course of the opening ceremony, Bertrand Delanoë reminded all present of the urgent need to act on climate change: 'The state of the planet leaves us without time. Now is the moment to decide and act. The time for delays is over.'

The President of the Association of Danish Municipalities, Erik Fabrin, opened the Summit in the presence of over 700 participants.

The Prime Minister of Denmark, Lars Lokke Rasmussen, called for an ambitious global agreement and for the mobilization of elected leaders and local officials across the world: 'I call upon you to use all your power to change our course and to lead by example.'

The participants appealed strongly to national governments for ambitious climate agreements. They reaffirmed their readiness to support and assist national governments to obtain these agreements, but they also reaffirmed the necessity of involving local governments to ensure that these agreements are far-reaching.