

Local Agenda Action 21

Motto - Mandate - Movement in the post-Johannesburg decade

By Konrad Otto-Zimmermann

Secretary General, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)

Local Action 21 was launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development Local Government Session as a *motto* for the second decade of Local Agenda 21.

Local Action 21 is 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.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development Local Government Session in Johannesburg, South Africa, local government leaders from around the world, as well as representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UN-HABITAT and the World Health Organization (WHO), joined ICLEI in launching *Local Action 21* as the next phase of Local Agenda 21. 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 grounded in action to create sustainable communities and cities, while protecting the global common goods. It will support local governments' ongoing efforts in response to Agenda 21, the Rio Conventions, the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Declaration.

The local government preparatory process towards the Johannesburg Summit, facilitated by ICLEI in cooperation with all major local government associations over a two year period leading up to the Summit, has shown tremendous momentum and achievements in local, participatory sustainable development planning. Though many of the 6,400 Local Agenda 21 processes worldwide have resulted in action plans, there is the concern that a certain LA21 fatigue may slow down their implementation, or other issues replace LA21 on

Commitments by local governments

6. We reaffirm our strong commitment to Agenda 21, and further commit ourselves: ...

Over the next decade, to build upon the successes of Local Agenda 21 and accelerate implementation through Local Action 21 campaigns and programmes that create sustainable communities and cities while protecting global common goods;

Requests to national governments

8. We ask our national governments: ...

To launch and support national campaigns for local sustainable development planning and the protection of global common goods so as to support Local Action 21.

Local Government Declaration to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002

public agendas. Local Action 21 strategies will ensure the unwavering, systematic implementation of local action plans over the next decade.

In order to make our communities and cities more sustainable, a political culture of community involvement, stakeholder participation and consensus building must continue to be built, fostered and maintained. This has been the focus of Local Agenda 21 processes throughout the world. Through these sustainable development planning processes, community visions have been developed, priority issues determined, and concrete goals and targets for action set.

Local governments are determined to enter a decade of accelerated, effective implementation.

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 and address specific factors that prevent a great number of them from becoming sustainable: issues such as poverty; injustice, exclusion and conflict; unhealthy environment; and insecurity. We see the way forward in pro-actively *creating sustainable communities and cities*.

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. We see the way forward in *protecting global common goods*.

Thirdly, Local Action 21 will introduce and anchor instruments in municipal management to ensure unwavering implementation, effective monitoring and continual improvement.

We see the way forward in instituting *municipal sustainability management* that applies state-of-the-art systems and tools.

Sustainable communities and cities

Local Action 21 calls for specificity in order to create sustainable communities and cities. The most effective action will focus on the priority concerns of individual communities. Four *focal areas* have been defined for Local Action 21 initially:

Viable local economies

to eradicate poverty, addressing Target 1 of the Millennium Development Goals and Targets. While poverty cannot be alleviated where structures maintain inequality, it is of equal importance to create a supportive framework for endogenous as well as foreign direct investment, access to modern technology, local entrepreneurship and diversification of local production as well as 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.

One quarter to one third of all urban households in the world live in absolute poverty. It is estimated that 650 million urban dwellers live in life-threatening conditions of poverty and environmental degradation, and this number is expected to more than double by 2025.¹

Today, with a global economy of \$30 trillion, 1.2 billion people still struggle to survive on less than \$1 a day, at least half of them children.²

Poverty is single largest determinant of health and the number one killer world-wide.³

¹ UN Centre for Human Settlements, *Implementing the Habitat Agenda*, 2001, London, p. 3.

² United Nations, *Report of the Secretary General on We the Children*, New York, 2001.

³ Healthy Cities Network, World Health Organization < www.who.dk/healthy-cities >

If current trends continue, the next decade will witness a surge in urban poverty.⁴

The global migration of job seekers to urban centers fuels the already high unemployment in many cities. Creating jobs in an urban world will require massive investment to accelerate employment growth in the industrial and service sectors. Recent employment creation has often come at the expense of job quality. Some 80 to 90 percent of new jobs in Latin America are in the informal sector of the economy characterized by low wages, poor working conditions, and little job security. The informal sector also accounts for 60 percent of employment in urban Africa.⁵

The World Summit on Sustainable Development saw the world's leaders agree to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than \$1 a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (a reaffirmation of Millennium Development Goals).

Just and peaceful communities

addressing the social aspect of sustainability and the ability of a community to allay tensions between diverse ethnic and religious groups. The methodology of Local Agenda 21 (consensus building on community visions and goals) may help to moderate social conflicts where they form a major obstacle to sustainable development. Just and peaceful communities must overcome the high degree of inequality, gender disparity, and social exclusion existing in many places, thereby providing supportive conditions for the development of viable local economies and the alleviation of poverty.

From 1990-1999, armed conflicts, including civil strife and ethnic, religious or other social clashes, 163 million people were killed injured or otherwise affected. In addition these conflicts caused almost 100 million people to become homeless.⁶

There have been over 9.5 million refugees and hundreds of thousands of people have been killed in Africa from conflicts and civil wars.⁷

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, there is estimated to have been around 2.5 million deaths since the outbreak of the fighting in August 1998, with the majority dying of malnutrition and disease that has resulted from the war. 33 per cent of the population is now considered vulnerable. Other effects of the conflict in Congo include: more than two million people internally displaced, 16 million people have critical food needs, 45 per cent of people have access to safe drinking water, at least 37 per cent, or approximately 18.5 million people, have no access to any kind of formal health care, 40 per cent of children do not attend school.⁸

In Colombia in the year 2001: more than 300 people "disappeared", more than 4,000 civilians were killed outside of combat and over 1,700 people were kidnapped by armed opposition groups and paramilitary forces. Hundreds of massacres (the majority by army-backed paramilitaries) were reported and over 300,000 civilians were forcibly displaced.⁹

In Northern Ireland three decades of sectarian violence saw more than 3,600 people killed.¹⁰

In Spain, in its 34-year campaign for an independent Basque state Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA) has claimed responsibility for the deaths of more than 800 people.¹¹

Eco-efficient cities

addressing the environmental issues related to air quality, energy efficiency, integrated water resources management, waste stream management, eco-mobility, and others. Through the efficient use of natural resources and switching from fossil to solar energy in its various forms (renewables), more liveable and stable environmental conditions can be provided to the

⁴ The Panos Institute, *Governing Our Cities*, 2000, London, p. 6.

⁵ Worldwatch Institute, news release dated 2 September 1999.

⁶ UN Centre for Human Settlements, *Cities in a Globalizing World*, 2001, London, p. 182.

⁷ U.S. Committee for Refugees, Reports < www.refugees.org > , 2002.

⁸ Figures based on reports from Oxfam, UN Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the International Rescue Committee, including *A Forgotten War - A Forgotten Emergency: The Democratic Republic of Congo*, Oxfam GB Policy Papers, December 2000.

⁹ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2002*.

¹⁰ Sandro Contenta, *Loyalists gun down their own*, Toronto Star, Dec. 8, 2002.

¹¹ *Guardian Unlimited*, August 28, 2002, < www.guardian.co.uk/theissues/article/0,6512,780872,00.html >

community and its economy in the longer term. An eco-efficient city is better prepared for future global environmental resource conditions.

The emissions from cars, industrial processes, waste treatment processes, hazardous materials and the excessive use of pesticides and fertilisers all release toxic substances into the air, food or water. Heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are of particular concern since they do not degrade in the environment for decades and accumulate in, and are toxic to, plants, fish, animals, and humans.¹² POPs are found almost everywhere - in our food, soil, air and water. Wildlife and humans around the world carry amounts in their bodies that are at or near levels that can cause injury.¹³

Preliminary estimates suggest that up to one-third of the global burden of disease can be attributed to negative environmental indicators, such as polluted water and air.¹⁴

Urban air pollution is linked to the premature death of over 500,000 people each year in developing countries and imposes costs equivalent to about 2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). In many cases the costs represent 10 to 15 per cent of GDP of the urban areas themselves.¹⁵

Species loss and ecosystem disruption is causing a complex range of circumstances with consequences to human health. In response, governments and communities worldwide are now concerned with the purification of air and water, maintenance of soil fertility, mitigation of floods and droughts, detoxification and decomposition of wastes, maintaining concentrations of vital gases and water vapour in the atmosphere, and controlling infectious agents in the environment.¹⁶

Trees in Chicago have been estimated to remove 5,575 tons of air pollutants per year, providing air cleansing worth more than US\$9 million. Urban forests in the Baltimore/Washington region remove 17,000- tons of pollutants per year, providing a service valued at \$88 million.¹⁷

Resilient communities and cities

addressing the ability of communities to be prepared for, and cope with unexpected events such as natural or industrial disasters and economic crises, and by ensuring urban infrastructure designed to withstand events such as earthquakes, heat and drought, floods etc. Urban resilience will have a positive impact on the quality of life for the poor who are most affected by disasters and crises. Because investment seeks low risk, managing cities towards more resilience will create better conditions for investment and thereby the creation of viable local economies.

More than two billion people were affected by disasters during the 1990's.¹⁸

Disasters are getting both more frequent and more serious. During the 1990s, their number increased threefold and their cost, in real terms, rose ninefold.¹⁹

Many cities are located in areas prone to earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural disasters. Increased urbanization in high hazard areas around the globe has led to increased vulnerabilities.²⁰

Worldwide, floods cause nearly one third of all economic losses, half of all deaths, and 70 per cent of homelessness. Damaging floods have become more frequent and more severe. Flooding is a prime cause of cholera and other water-borne and food-borne infections.²¹

Floods are the type of disaster that people have the greatest hand in exacerbating. Urbanization alone increases the risk of flooding by covering the land with impervious surfaces. Urbanizing 50 per cent of a watershed can increase the frequency of floods from once every 100 years to once every 5 years.²²

In 1998 Hurricane Mitch caused 10,000 deaths and an estimated \$8.5 billion damage in Central America (higher than the combined GDP of Honduras and Nicaragua, the two nations most affected). The storm left half of the people in Honduras homeless and 70 per cent

¹² UNEP, UNICEF & WHO, *Children in the New Millennium: Environmental Impact on Health*, 2002.

¹³ Clifton Curtis and Tina Skaar, *Ubiquitous and Dangerous*, UN Environment Programme, *Our Planet - Chemicals and the Environment*, 2002.

¹⁴ Op. cit. UNEP, UNICEF & WHO.

¹⁵ World Bank Clean Air Initiative <www.worldbank.org/wbi/cleanair/index.htm>

¹⁶ Op. cit. UNEP, UNICEF & WHO.

¹⁷ World Resources Institute, *World Resources 2000-2001, People and Ecosystems*, p 142.

¹⁸ Op. cit. UN Centre for Human Settlements, p. 182.

¹⁹ Geoffrey Lean, *At a Glance: Disasters*, UNEP *Our Planet - Disasters*, 2001.

²⁰ Op. cit. UN Centre for Human Settlements, p. 184.

²¹ Janet Abramovitz, *Averting Unnatural Disasters*, State of the World 2001, p. 125.

²² Op. cit. Janet Abramovitz, p. 132

without clean water. More than 70 per cent of the crops were destroyed (agriculture accounts for half of the export revenue). The UN estimated that the Mitch storm set the region's development back by 20 years.²³

In City of Kobe, Japan, in 1995, an earthquake killed over 4,500 and injured almost 15,000 people. More than 67,000 buildings in the city collapsed. Water and transportation infrastructure failed.

The Bhopal disaster in India in 1984 killed 8,000 people and injured 50,000.²⁴

In 2001 in Toulouse, France, a fertiliser factory (one of 1,250 factories in France classified as high-risk) exploded, killing 31 people and injuring 2,442. More than 500 homes became uninhabitable, 85 schools and colleges were damaged, telephone lines were cut and affected the network as far as 100km away.²⁵

On average \$1 invested in mitigation saves \$7 in disaster recovery costs.²⁶

The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) offers its support to local governments worldwide that want to engage in programs addressing these focal areas.

Protecting global common goods

Sustainable development calls for an integrated approach to creating sustainable communities and cities. Every policy, plan or action towards liveable cities must at the same time protect global common goods upon which people's lives depend. Global common goods that local governments are determined to protect include air, climate, water, soil, biodiversity, health and food.

Through Local Action 21, local governments contribute to the implementation of the so-called WEHAB agenda. This acronym stands for "five specific areas where concrete results are both essential and achievable", according to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan (speech on 17 May 2002):

Water and Sanitation. (Provide access to at least 1 billion people who lack clean drinking water and 2 billion people who lack proper sanitation.)

Energy. (Provide access to more than 2 billion people who lack modern energy services; promote renewable energy; reduce over-consumption; and ratify the Kyoto protocol to address climate change.)

Health. (Address the effects of toxic and hazardous materials; reduce air pollution, which kills 3 million people each year; and lower the incidence of malaria and African guinea worm, which are linked to polluted water and poor sanitation.)

Agricultural production. (Work to reverse land degradation, which affects about two thirds of the world's agricultural production.)

Biodiversity and ecosystem management. (Reverse the processes that have destroyed about half the world's tropical rainforests and mangroves and are threatening 70% of the world's coral reefs and decimating the world's fisheries.)

Local governments are already engaged in a number of international campaigns and programs addressing the protection of global common goods and the WEHAB goals:

²³ Op. cit. Janet Abramovitz, p. 123.

²⁴ Op. cit. Geoffrey Lean.

²⁵ UNEP, *Ammonium Nitrate Explosion in Toulouse France*, 2001 < www.uneptie.org/pc/apell/disasters/toulouse >

²⁶ Op. cit. Janet Abramovitz, p. 124.

Local Climate and Air Quality Action.

ICLEI's *Cities for Climate Protection™ Campaign (CCP)* works with over 550 local governments worldwide to cut emissions that cause global warming and air pollution. These cities account for 10% of global CO₂ emissions. Actions that reduce these emissions not only protect the global climate but also improve the quality of life in our communities; The CCP contributes to both the WEHAB Energy and Health agendas. The CCP provides a strategic framework and tools for local governments to quantify their emissions, to set reduction targets and to implement and monitor these targets.

Local governments are also engaged in other networks and programs for climate protection including, among others, the Climate Alliance.

ICLEI runs the international Cities for Climate Protection Campaign with the explicit aim to support local-level performance, so that cities help their national governments meet their targets under the UNFCCC. ICLEI's campaign approach and experience helps build local government capacity to support the effective implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), and thereby supports UNDP Capacity 21 program's core activity of MEA capacity development.

More than 1 billion people worldwide are estimated to live in urban settlements where air pollution levels exceed health standards.²⁷

Motorized transport produces more air pollution than any other human activity and in congested city centres traffic can be responsible for 80 - 90 per cent of nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons and a large portion of the particulates.²⁸

A recent study of six cities in developing countries found that the social costs of all environmental impacts amount to a total of US\$3.8 billion, of which health impacts account for 68 per cent.²⁹

It has been estimated that Bangladesh could avoid 15,000 deaths and save \$200 - \$800 million annually by reducing air pollution in the cities of Dhaka, Cittagong, Rajshahi and Kluna.³⁰

Local Water Action.

ICLEI's Water Campaign provides local governments with a framework to support their unique water management efforts. The Campaign identifies three local water agendas for specific target action: municipal operations, the urban community, and the local watershed. The Water Campaign is based on a series of performance milestones that advocate the systematic identification and evaluation of water resource management challenges facing local governments. The Water Campaign contributes to the WEHAB Water & Sanitation and Health agendas.

About 220 million urban dwellers, or 13 per cent of the world's urban population, do not have access to safe drinking water. About twice this number lack access to sanitation.³¹

As of 2000, about 35 per cent of urban wastewater was treated in Asia and 14 per cent in Latin America; only a negligible percentage of treatment was reported in Africa.³²

People are more likely to die before 40 years of age in countries where access to water and sanitation is low.³³

During the last century, the combined municipal and industrial use of water worldwide grew 24 times while agricultural use of water increased only five times.³⁴

²⁷ Op. cit. UN Centre for Human Settlements, p. 103.

²⁸ Op. cit. UN Centre for Human Settlements, p. 131.

²⁹ Op. cit. World Bank Clean Air Initiative Website

³⁰ Op. cit. UNEP, UNICEF & WHO.

³¹ Op. cit. UN Centre for Human Settlements, p. 14.

³² World Health Organization, UN Children's Fund, *Global Water Supply and Sanitation Assessment*, 2000.

³³ UN Centre for Human Settlements, *State of the World's Cities*, 2001, p. 44

³⁴ Op. cit. UN Centre for Human Settlements, *Cities in a Globalizing World*, p. 114.

Only one percent of the world's water resources is freshwater available for human use.³⁵

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development worldwide commitments were made to, by the year 2015, halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation.

Local Land and Soil Action.

Local governments have started building networks and developing programs and campaigns that address land use management and soils protection. Efforts include ICLEI's European Soils Network, the Soil and Lands Alliance of European Cities and Towns, and the proposed international Cities Against Desertification program. To some extent, these activities will make a contribution to the WEHAB Agricultural Production agenda.

More than 250 million people are directly affected by desertification and 1 billion people in more than 100 countries are at risk. Desertification and deforestation are a significant threat to the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions of the world - which account for 40 per cent of the Earth's land surface.³⁶

In Africa, land degradation is threatening economic and physical survival. As desertification advances, one person in six in Mali and Burkina Faso has had to leave land turning to dust. About 135 million people are in danger of becoming environmental refugees.³⁷

The consequences of desertification include: reduction of soil productivity; damaged vegetation cover and disappearance of edible plants; increased flooding; reduced water quality; sedimentation; health problems due to wind-blown dust, including eye infections and respiratory illnesses; lowered food production; and loss of livelihoods compelling migration.³⁸

"Researchers are now realizing that the world's soils, especially those in the tropics, are teeming with life and harbor more undescribed species than dwell on the Earth's surface. Harvesting the secrets of this understudied realm promises huge benefits and improved knowledge towards the goal of delivering sustainable development, towards eradicating poverty" - Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme

Local Biodiversity Action.

While many cities are engaged in biodiversity protection through conscious land use and green-space management, an international local government program or campaign has yet to emerge, which would make a contribution to the WEHAB Biodiversity & Ecosystems Management agenda.

It is estimated that one third of global biodiversity has been lost since 1970.³⁹

Plant and animal species are disappearing at 50 to 100 times the natural rate.⁴⁰

Erosion of biodiversity results in the loss of medicines, useful genetic materials, and ecotourism revenues. It is also threatens the basis of ecosystem productivity.⁴¹

Urbanization can change the structure and composition of vegetation of a region, whereby indigenous plants are replaced by non-native species. For example, in the former West Berlin, approximately 40 per cent of more than 1,400 plant species currently identified in the city are non-native, and nearly 60 per cent of native species are endangered.⁴²

Local Health Action.

The Healthy Cities network is a network coordinated by the WHO for more advanced healthy

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Op. cit. UNEP, UNICEF & WHO.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ UN Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification < www.unccd.int/main.php >

³⁹ World Wildlife Fund, *Living Planet Report 2000*.

⁴⁰ Klaus Töpfer, Editorial, UN Environment Programme, *Our Planet - Biological Diversity*, 2000.

⁴¹ World Resources Institute, *World Resources 2000-2001 People and Ecosystems*, p 51.

⁴² Ibid., *World Resources 2000-2001 People and Ecosystems*, p 142.

cities that are willing to work in close partnership with WHO and each other on urban health development. By December 2001, there were already 46 cities from 25 countries enlisted for the WHO Healthy Cities network for Phase III (1998-2002), with new cities still applying. This activity contributes to the WEHAB Health agenda.

Within Local Action 21, local government campaigns for the protection of global common goods run by ICLEI, other local government associations, and the World Health Organisation will all strengthen this movement.

"The health of people living in towns and cities is strongly determined by their living and working conditions, the quality of their physical and socio-economic environment and the quality and accessibility of care services." - World Health Organization Healthy Cities⁴³

Rapid, unplanned urbanization creates unhealthy environments and an increased burden of disease. Health problems arise from a variety of sources: poor quality air, water, and sanitation and urban crowding. Disparities are found among and within cities.⁴⁴

One million people die annually from air pollution in the urban environment.⁴⁵

Diseases drain billions of dollars from the gross domestic products of developing countries.⁴⁶

HIV/AIDS is now the world's fourth biggest cause of death. There are at least 36 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the world. Less than two percent have access to medical treatment.⁴⁷

Measures like improved water and sanitation, household energy, housing, vector control and pollution management could prevent up to 29 per cent of the total burden of disease in sub-Saharan Africa. Health sector interventions that target the disease clusters associated with these environmental risks could reduce it by a further 28 per cent.⁴⁸

Capacity for Sustainability Management.

Programs and campaigns can be effective vehicles to initiate, direct and support development. Performance towards sustainability, however, requires long-term, persistent implementation of action plans. We must move from 'waves' of activities to routines. Ideally, the pursuit of the Local Agenda 21 must become part of an unquestioned, regular municipal routine de-coupled from changing political majorities. This requires strategies for anchoring principles and criteria in municipal decision making, and appropriate information and controlling instruments in municipal management.

The *Earth Charter* and the *Melbourne Principles* provide such principles and criteria for conscious decision making.

Eco-Procurement and *Eco-Investment* are practices that orient municipal routines towards agreed sustainability goals.

Environmental Budgeting (*ecoBUDGET*[®] model developed by ICLEI) as a mechanism established parallel to financial budgeting ensures the ongoing control of environmental quality and the use of natural resources through the periodic (annual) setting of targets, controlling and reporting. *Triple Bottom Line* reporting provides information on social, economic and environmental performance and supports the accountability of municipal decision makers and managers.

ICLEI is committed to support capacity building of municipalities to introduce and apply sustainability management.

⁴³ Op. cit. Healthy Cities Network website.

⁴⁴ National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control < www.cdc.gov/nceh/default.htm >

⁴⁵ Ian Johnson and Kseniya Lvovsky, Double Burden, UN Environment Programme, Our Planet - Poverty Health and the Environment, 2001.

⁴⁶ World Health Organization, World Health Report 2002 - Reducing Risks, Promoting Healthy Life, 2002.

⁴⁷ Ibid. (Also: Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS)

⁴⁸ Ibid.

Johannesburg Call

Leaders and representatives of local government across the globe who gathered at the Johannesburg Summit 2002 adopted the *Johannesburg Call*. They acknowledged "*that ours is not an equal, fair or just world. ... We recognise that without political commitment, nothing will be achieved. We therefore pledge our unwavering commitment to eradicating poverty, correcting the imbalances between the developed and developing world and fundamentally reshaping our world. We also commit ourselves to developing very practical, realistic Action Plans and to implement them through Local Action 21 programs to realise these goals. ... The time to act is now. Let us not lose this opportunity; there may not be another.*"

ICLEI continues to encourage all local authorities to engage in Local Agenda 21 processes and involve citizens and stakeholders in sustainable development planning to jointly agree on a vision, goals and a local action plan towards sustainability.

ICLEI encourages all local authorities to continue their efforts once a Local Agenda 21 has been agreed, and to resist possible 'LA21 fatigue'. ICLEI encourages local authorities, citizens and stakeholders to engage in Local Action 21 strategies aimed at:

- removing barriers to local sustainability,
- generating global benefits from local action, and
- ensuring unwavering implementation of sustainable development.

Local Action 21 Support, Monitoring and Reporting

Local Action 21 will unfold as local governments take up the challenge, and as national governments as well as supra- and international organisations provide support for their efforts.

ICLEI's Local Agenda 21 Coordination at the World Secretariat in Toronto, Canada will serve as the Local Action 21 focal point:

Local Action 21 Focal Point

ICLEI World Secretariat

Toronto, Canada

Telephone +1-416 / 392-1462

Fax: +1-416 / 392-1478

E-mail: LA21@iclei.org

Web: www.localaction21.org