

(Korean) Civil Society Proposal to ICLEI

1. We gathered here at the <Civil Society Forum for 2015 ICLEI World Congress> taking place on April 10, 2015 in Seoul, South Korea, on the occasion of <ICLEI Congress 2015: Sustainable Solutions for an Urban Future> held from April 8 to 11, 2015. Our aim is to share local initiatives for sustainable development and seek partnership between civil society and local governments towards urban substantiality.

Urban Sustainability and Global Commitments

2. The United Nations views a city – where poverty, health issues caused by environmental pollution, and damages from climate change and natural disasters are most concentrated – as a primary unit for action in achieving global sustainable development, forecasting that approximately 70% of global population will be living in cities by 2050. UN brings in urban agenda as the 11th sustainable development goal of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
3. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) refers to “the integration of biodiversity value into local development and planning process”(target 2) and “the establishment of Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans(LBSAP)”(target 17) in its <Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: Aichi Biodiversity Targets> adopted in CBD-COP10, Nagoya, Japan in 2010. In addition, the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change(UNFCCC-COP16) recognized the important role of local governments for global climate change efforts in its official decision with para. 7 of Dec1/CP16, and UNFCCC-COP19 resolved with para. 5 of Dec1/CP19 to facilitate the sharing among Parties of experiences and best practices of cities and subnational authorities for greenhouse gas reduction and climate change adaptation.
4. Amidst such efforts to raise the international awareness of the critical role of local governments for global sustainable development, local governments across the world officially launched the Compact of Mayors, an agreement by international city networks to reduce city-level emissions and vulnerability, and to enhance resilience to climate change during the session on cities at the UN Climate Summit held in New York on Sept. 23, 2014.

Urban Sustainability and ICLEI

5. We acknowledge that ICLEI - with 1,000 cities from 86 countries around the world as its members - is the world's largest local government network for sustainability and the main actor for enhancing the capacity of local governments for sustainable development including climate change, biodiversity, green economy, etc. We highly appreciate ICLEI for advocating local action as a pivotal element in the international negotiations on sustainable development for the last 25 years.
6. Nevertheless, we are sorry that many ICLEI members still have not enough interest in taking real action for local sustainability, and concentrate only on the environmental area. Furthermore, we also regret that local governments see citizens as an objective to be mobilized for their policy performances rather than as a partner to discuss with for their decision-making and implementation.
7. This situation is obvious in Korea although around 90% of local governments established their Local Agenda 21 and there has been a partnership system between civil society and local governments for sustainable development, so called 'Local Agenda 21 movement' for the last 20 years.

Urban Sustainability and the Importance of Civil Society

8. Just as the attainment of global sustainability hinges on the achievement of urban substantiality, the sustainability of a city that encompasses complex and diverse economic, social and environmental problems can be truly achieved only by citizens' voluntary participation and their creativity, which in turn determines the future course of a sustainable city.
9. Local NGOs' activities are the priming water to invigorate grassroots politics and enhance the quality of lives of its residents. Such active civil society is a driving engine that enables a shift from the existing paradigm of economic growth to sustainable development encompassing not only economic development but also social inclusion and environmental protection. This is because only a civil society based on the principle of cooperation can overcome economic inequalities, gender discrimination, political repression and environmental degradation stemming from the mechanism of market and power based on the principle of competition.
10. Despite such a vital role of civil society towards urban sustainable development, major areas of discussion at the <ICLEI World Congress 2015> point to a growing interest in cooperation with business and experts, while showing a lack of interest in facilitating civil society and the partnership system with civil society groups.

(Korean) Civil Society Proposal to ICLEI for Urban Sustainability

11. Based on our awareness on the international context of urban sustainability, we have organized the Organizing Committee of Civil Society Forum for ICLEI World Congress 2015 in February 2015. It consists of 96 Korean NGOs in the areas of environment, urban agriculture, and health, and around 100 Korean local partnership bodies for sustainable development. We distributed the draft of (Korean) Civil Society Proposal to ICLEI among participants during the Civil Society Forum on April 10, and received their opinions through a plenary session and 5 thematic sessions.
12. We here resolve to take a civil leadership for urban sustainability, and propose to ICLEI and ICLEI offices to strengthen the partnership with civil society groups towards urban sustainability as follows:

First, enhancing the partnership between local governments and civil society groups to implement urban sustainability in the following areas:

- **Governance:** Creating an institutional foundation to increase partnerships among civil society, local government, and local legislative council for active civil participation and a sustainable community in the spirit of civil society as a partner for policy decision-making, not as the objective to be mobilized for policy performances.
- **Climate Change and Energy:** Cooperating between civil society and local governments for the establishment of a bottom-up decision-making energy system, the expansion of a civil-led community-based energy system, the transition from the centralized energy system to the decentralized one, and the improvement of citizens' awareness on the right to use energy as well as to take a responsibility of the consumption.
- **Green Transport:** Establishing the bicycle and pedestrian oriented urban transportation policy, and creating an institutional foundation for the participation of citizens and NGOs as decision-makers.
- **Urban Ecology:** Creating a cooperative model among citizens, NGOs, urban farmers and local governments to preserve urban farming areas and the diversity of indigenous seeds, and to facilitate urban farmers.
- **Urban Safety and Environmental Health:** Establishing an agenda to ensure the right to know about urban safety and environmental health from chemicals and toxic materials, and to create the role of civil society groups and community for a safe and healthy city for all.

Second, strengthening the partnership between local governments and civil society to accelerate local autonomy and decentralization

Local autonomy and decentralization is essential for local sustainability. Local governments in the world have made efforts for its recognition nationally and internationally. As its development depends on the political and policy capability of local civil society, local governments need to support the capacity building of local civil society and have the partnership with civil society groups to accelerate it.

Third, establishing a partnership system between ICLEI and global civil society through a regular global civil society forum on the occasion of ICLEI Congress

Civil society is a crucial partner for ICLEI to advocate the important role of local government and local community in the international governance system for sustainable development, and to promote its policies and programs for local sustainability. Calling for further cooperation between ICLEI offices and global civil society, we suggest ICLEI to hold a regular global civil society forum on the occasion of an ICLEI Congress as an official communication and collaboration channel between both.

April 10, 2015

Participants in the Civil Society Forum for ICLEI World Congress 2015

(Local Network) Green Citizens' Committee of Seoul, Seoul Citizens' Commission for "One Less Nuclear Power Plant", Seoul Best Taxi Drivers, Korea Green Mother Association

(National Network) The National Network of Environmental Organization of Korea, Local Sustainability Alliance of Korea(LSAK), The Korean Network of Urban Agriculture, The Korean Network of a Community without Carcinogen, Korea NGOs' Energy Network