

LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAJOR GROUP

CSD-14

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CLOSING STATEMENT

Local governments continue to demonstrate leadership and commitment to the achievement of local sustainable development, exemplified in their success in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The network of 675 local governments worldwide that have established reduction targets and are implementing policies account for about 15 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

In AUSTRALIA, the 209 active cities have to date reduced emissions by over five million tonnes, which at the current rate in the European carbon emissions trading regime, is worth between 100 and 150 million Euros. In 2004-2005, corporate measures in these 209 councils saved at least \$5.1 million Australian dollars.

In CANADA, up to half of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions are under the direct or indirect control or influence of municipal governments. There are currently 133 cities in Canada committed to greenhouse gas reductions.

The 10 cities reducing greenhouse gas emissions in INDONESIA have identified that 90% of their estimated annual carbon reductions are coming from waste reduction and waste management, and are acting accordingly.

In MEXICO, there are nine municipalities purchasing energy efficient products through the PEPS Program, and since the fall of 2005, \$1 million

US in purchases have generated estimated annual reductions of more than 5,000 megawatt hours, and savings of at least \$726,000 US annually.

Iloilo City in the PHILIPPINES, represented here last week by its Mayor, has estimated \$US 14 million in savings in fuel and financial savings from the retrofit of streetlights and traffic policy enforcement.

In Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA, retrofits in the Kuyasa housing settlement, recognized as a registered CDM project, is reducing household energy use by 75 per cent.

In the UNITED STATES, the 165 cities implementing climate reduction strategies represent 20 per cent of the US population, approximately 55 million people. In 2005, these 165 cities reported annual reductions of 23 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions resulting in annual savings in excess of \$535 million.

The barriers and obstacles that local governments face in further achieving sustainable development have been identified, and now need to be addressed. Local authorities urge the CSD to partner with us to overcome these obstacles.

Thank you.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

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