



**Konrad Otto-Zimmermann**  
Secretary General

8 September 2005

## It's ICLEI's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary today!

Dear Members, Partners and Friends of ICLEI !

It is a privilege for me to write to you on the occasion of the  
**15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.**

I clearly remember the uplifting moment when ICLEI was founded by local government leaders adopting the ICLEI Charter at the end of the “World Congress of Local Governments for a Sustainable Future” at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 8 September 1990. ICLEI's founding took place under the auspices of the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The world congress had attracted more than 200 local governments from 43 countries. This was two years before the historic UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro. I am happy to see so many of our founding Members whom I met for the first time in New York 15 years ago still actively involved in our work.

*„Municipalities are already facing very demanding challenges and problems. These challenges will only grow as the pace of likely global change increases. For this reason, local governments must not only reform themselves, but invest in their own capacity. For this purpose, local government can turn to ICLEI as a strategic partner, supporting an effective and exciting new municipal movement for ecological development.“*

Jeb Brugmann,  
ICLEI Founder,  
1993



I would like to congratulate *Jeb Brugmann*, ICLEI's Founder and Secretary General for the first ten years, for having had the original idea, vision and courage to create a new local government association dedicated to local environmental initiatives – an organization that has proven to meet the needs of its Members and to be sustainable.

ICLEI maintains an ongoing exchange with its Members. Beyond electing the Executive Committee and approving the Strategic Plan every three years, Members are actively involved in our campaigns and programs, and participate in networks and events. Many members have provided substantial support to our work by hosting and funding offices, projects and events.

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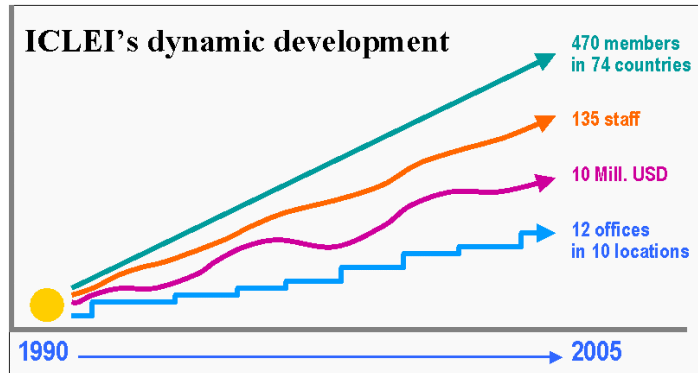
### ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

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Telephone +1-416 / 392-1462, Fax +1-416 / 392-1478, Email: [secretary.general@iclei.org](mailto:secretary.general@iclei.org), Web: [www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)

ICLEI has evolved from the „International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives“ to become „Local Governments for Sustainability“. Within 15 years, ICLEI has experienced almost linear growth in all areas: membership, budget, offices, staff. Thus **ICLEI has become one of, if not the, largest local government association worldwide**. ICLEI can be proud of itself.

### What is ICLEI?

- ICLEI is all the Member local governments that have founded the association, that give it a challenging mandate, and that work together as a movement „to achieve tangible improvements in global sustainability with special focus on environmental conditions through cumulative local actions“ (from our Mission Statement).
- ICLEI is an Executive Committee of 23 local government leaders from all continents who take the right constructive decisions and have always motivated staff by appreciating their creativity and dedication.
- ICLEI is an Advisory Council of eight renowned people who lend us their unique expertise and experience.
- ICLEI is 135 staff members who are motivated by our mission, committed to our cause, efficient in our work and forming a worldwide network of friends.



*One of the strengths of ICLEI is that it focuses the efforts of individuals and governments at the local level, always aiming towards attainable sustainability goals at the small scale. These local results accumulate across the globe in ICLEI's over 470 town, counties and associations worldwide, realizing an enormous overall march towards global sustainability. Its ability to unite communities towards this common goal is the distinguishing power that sets ICLEI apart from other international organizations. Over the last 15 years, ICLEI has maximized this strength by inspiring and earning the respect of local community leaders around the world. Toronto is proud to have been the host of ICLEI's World Secretariat since 1991. In this time, ICLEI has grown to become the largest international association of local governments.*



David Miller  
Mayor, City of Toronto, Canada

- ICLEI is an informal network of partners, who follow our work with interest, provide information and enrich our work with good suggestions.

Let me express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you: Members, Executive Committee, Advisory Council, Partners & Friends, and Colleagues.

### What are the reasons for ICLEI's success?

- ICLEI is a product of visionaries who combine creativity with the dedication of an NGO and the drive of entrepreneurs.
- ICLEI is an association of local governments concerned about the global future, dedicated to sustainable development through local action, and committed to change.
- ICLEI does not attempt to represent all of local government, nor to cover all subject areas. It is a focussed organization not forced to enter into compromises with those in favor of adverse agendas.

- ICLEI strives to be innovative, to do cutting edge work. This keeps Members interested, staff motivated, and the association recognized.
- ICLEI's strengths are in its concrete programs and campaigns, providing tools and expertise at the local level and making a difference where it matters.
- ICLEI does not spend its resources on representation. It spends them on substance and action.
- ICLEI does not attract staff by high salaries, but by its exciting mission, friendly teams and room to convert ideas into action. Our staff delivers more than we can ever pay.
- ICLEI is open to partnerships and cooperation. By this I mean true, balanced partnerships that create synergy through symbiotic relationships. We are partnering with Metropolis and cooperating with other local government networks and associations as well as with United Nations agencies in various ways. We have offered United Cities and Local Governments our partnership and proposed that – as a first step – the associations agree on mutual membership; we are awaiting UCLG's response.
- ICLEI seeks continuous improvement to increase efficiency.

*We share with ICLEI all your dreams and all your efforts. We share your commitment to*

**Metropolis** 

World association of the major metropolises  
Asociación mundial de las grandes metrópolis  
Association mondiale des grandes métropoles

*sustainable development and our members, many of whom are also members of ICLEI, share your engagement in implementing effective policies and exchanging real experiences on sustainable development. ... The continued confidence of voluntary members during the last 15 years is the best recognition that ICLEI has a positive impact on local governments and their day to day policies on sustainability issues. ... Faced with global change, local and metropolitan governments are in need of global organizations which make sure that their voice is heard in all world decision-making forums and at the same time contribute locally at solving sustainability problems. ICLEI and Metropolis share these objectives and will both certainly, as global organizations, cooperate to make sure that the urban areas are seen as a sustainability option and not as a sustainability problem.*

Josep Roig  
Secretary General of METROPOLIS

### Our anniversary gift:

ICLEI's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary is reason enough for all of us to celebrate. However, we decided to not spend resources on a celebration event, but instead to give the ICLEI community a special gift: today we **launch the new ICLEI website** with a fresh look and upgraded services for the benefit of our Members, partners and staff. It gives me great pleasure to herewith inaugurate the website and invite you to take a moment to visit it at <[www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)>.

### Another anniversary: *eco*BUDGET

Allow me to add, on a more personal note, that ***eco*BUDGET celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary** at this time. It's 20 years ago that I presented the idea of Environmental Budgeting at an expert meeting and subsequently published the concept in the journal of the German Association of Cities. When I joined ICLEI in 1992 to develop our work in the European region, I was excited that ICLEI decided to include Environmental Budgeting in our program portfolio. Since 1995, *eco*BUDGET has been pilot-tested and proven that it is an excellent environmental management system for local governments, at first in Germany, then at European scale, and now in two Asian cities. *eco*BUDGET is a system that local governments should routinely apply in parallel to their financial budgeting and management procedures. ICLEI's *eco*BUDGET agency is prepared to provide advice and training.

*The creation of ICLEI 15 years ago, in which UNEP was closely involved, was very forward looking. The role of cities in managing our environment, both locally and globally, has become crucial since that time. And this will only continue to grow. ICLEI's recent change of name into "ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability" - perfectly reflects the increasingly important role of cities in achieving global sustainability. ... Our work to support cities has only just started, the importance of cities will continue to increase and thus the need for organisations like ICLEI. UNEP will continue to work closely with ICLEI to show that environment has no boundaries and that it is the key to sustainable local, and global, development.*



Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Executive Director  
United Nations Environment Programme

Before I close, I would like to make you aware of two upcoming major events:

- The **4<sup>th</sup> Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change** will convene local government leaders worldwide on the occasion of the United Nations climate conference in **Montréal, Canada, from 5-7 December 2005**. I urge Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Council leaders of our Member local governments to participate in this important event.
- The **2006 ICLEI World Congress** „Out of Africa – Local Solutions for Global Challenges“ will be held in **Cape Town, South Africa, from 27 February – 3 March 2006**. Our President, Executive Mayor Amos Masondo of Johannesburg, and I invite all of you to come to Cape Town, learn, exchange, debate and decide following our common motto “Local Action Moves the World”.

Please, find more details in the attached aide-memoire.

Thank you for your support, which makes me and all of ICLEI look forward to another five years of work before we can celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Greetings to all of you around the globe,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Konrad Otto-Zimmermann'.

Konrad Otto-Zimmermann  
Secretary General

Enclosure:

Aide-memoire on website and events

## Aide-memoire to ICLEI Members and Partners

- ICLEI's new global website: [www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)
- The **4<sup>th</sup> Municipal Leaders Summit on Climate Change in Montréal, Canada, from 5-7 December 2005** will convene local government leaders worldwide on the occasion of the United Nations climate conference. The Summit will be hosted by the city of Montréal and organized by ICLEI, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and Metropolis. This year, in which many parts of the world have been affected by major flooding, has once more taught us how the impacts of climate change increasingly hit us. The experiences of cities must be considered and the voice of local government must be heard when the Canadian government, as host to the UN meeting, aims "to lead efforts to produce an effective and inclusive agreement including the United States and that sets targets for emerging, developing nations such as China and India". I therefore urge Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Council leaders of our Member local governments to participate in this important event.
- The **2006 ICLEI World Congress** „Out of Africa – Local Solutions for Global Challenges“ will be held in **Cape Town, South Africa, from 27 February – 3 March 2006**. For the first time ever, the World Congress will take place in the Southern Hemisphere. The 2006 Congress will be a dynamic event with keynote presentations, reports, debates, workshops, networking events, site visits and an interactive exhibition. We will review progress with Local Action 21 and learn about best practice experiences with local governance; building resilient, peaceful and secure communities; alleviating poverty; protecting global environmental goods such as biodiversity, water and the global climate; sustainable procurement and sustainability management instruments. Members, partners, friends and staff of our association will convene to review our achievements and set the course for our future work. Our President, Executive Mayor Amos Maseko of Johannesburg, and I invite all of you to come to Cape Town, learn, exchange, debate and decide following our common motto "Local Action Moves the World".

