

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 7.2

Post travel report by Councillor Cathy Oke, 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments, Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, November 2018

19 February 2019

Presenter: Councillor Cathy Oke

Purpose and background

1. To report to the Future Melbourne Committee on Councillor Cathy Oke's participation in the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments (Summit) and a series of high level meetings in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt in November 2018.
2. Councillor Cathy Oke is the First Vice President of ICLEI, the second highest political representative within the ICLEI global association and performed the host role for the Summit. Councillor Oke is also President of the Board of ICLEI World Secretariat and a member of the Global Executive Committee.
3. The City of Melbourne is the host city for the ICLEI Oceania regional office. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments, supported by a team of global experts, driving sustainable urban development worldwide. Active in 100+ countries, ICLEI impacts over 25 percent of the global urban population

Key issues

4. The Summit held from 23 to 24 November 2018 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, gathered governors, mayors and other subnational government leaders from around the world to engage directly with national leaders and their key stakeholders at CBD COP 14. Over 350 delegates from 46 countries, 55 cities and local governments and 15 regions were present. 78 speakers contributed to a diverse Summit program over two days. Engagements focused on city and state level actions to mainstream biodiversity solutions into the new global developmental framework.
5. The Summit was an official parallel event to the CBD COP 14, and was organized by the ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center (CBC), in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) and the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD). It was co-convened with the South Sinai Governorate, Egypt.
6. As ICLEI First Vice President, Councillor Oke, played a prominent leadership role throughout the Summit. The roles played by Councillor Oke and the outcomes gained through Summit and associated activities are detailed in the summary included as Attachment 2, the media release as Attachment 3 and letter of appreciation to Councillor Oke as Attachment 4.
7. There were no costs to Council associated with Councillor Oke's participation in the Summit.

Recommendation

8. That the Future Melbourne Committee notes the report by Councillor Cathy Oke on participation in the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments and a series of high level meetings in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt in November 2018.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 7)
2. Summary of key commitments and outcomes (Page 3 of 7)
3. Summit Media Release (Page 4 of 7)
4. ICLEI – Letter of appreciation (Page 6 of 7)

Supporting Attachment

Finance

1. Costs associated with Councillor Oke's travel to the Summit were funded by ICLEI and Councillor Oke. There was no cost to Council.

Conflict of interest

2. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Occupational Health and Safety

3. The travel advice of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was noted and appropriate safety and awareness precautionary steps were undertaken.

Relation to Council policy

4. The Manager Governance and Legal has confirmed that the travel costs accord with the requirements of the travel guidelines outlined in the Councillor Expenses and Resources Guidelines.
5. The objectives of the travel align with the Council Plan goal 'A City that cares for its environment and a range of international engagement, environmental and sustainability strategies and policies'.

Environmental sustainability

6. Councillor Oke's hosting of the Summit aligns with Priority 6 within the Nature in the City strategy, namely to demonstrate local and global leadership in conserving biodiversity and creating and sustaining healthy urban ecosystems.
7. The carbon emission resulting from air travel identified in this report will be offset with the purchase of credits.

SUMMARY OF KEY COMMITMENTS AND OUTCOMES

6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments

November 2018

Overview of key roles

As ICLEI First Vice President, Councillor Oke's leadership role throughout the Summit included the following:

1. Speaker and moderator at the Summit Opening and Closing sessions.
2. Facilitating the endorsement and adoption of the Sharm el-Sheikh Communique for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People with high level Summit attendees.
3. Presenting at the Media conference for nrg4SD's Subnational coalition.
4. Presenter, moderator or chair at Summit round tables and focus sessions:
 - 4.1. Round table 2 – Mainstreaming biodiversity into infrastructure at local and subnational level.
 - 4.2. Focus session 4 – The contribution of the European Union local and subnational authorities towards the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.
 - 4.3. Focus session 6 – From Global decisions to local actions.
 - 4.4. Focus session 8 – A roadmap for collective subnational action in support of a new Action Agenda for Nature.
5. High level intervention to COP14 Plenary to present the Communique on behalf of Local and Sub National governments / 6th Global Biodiversity Summit.
6. Participation in the workshop for the Interact-Bio meeting, presenting Nature in the City.
7. Participation in the video of COP14 activities by Dr Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, Arab Republic of Egypt.
8. Facilitated negotiations on inclusion of cities in the COP text.

Overview of key outcomes

Attachments 3 (Summit media release) and 4 (letter of appreciation from ICLEI) provide an overview of key outcomes achieved through the Summit and the benefits of Councillor Oke's role and support throughout Summit activities.

MEDIA RELEASE



**6th Global Biodiversity Summit
of Local and Subnational Governments**

26 NOVEMBER 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

ALL LEVELS OF SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE WORLD UNITED IN CALL TO ACTION FOR 'NATURE AND PEOPLE'

The 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments, an official parallel event to the CBD COP 14, culminated on 24 November with the adoption of the Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People, an urgent call to action for strengthened commitment to multi-level integration, collaboration and action to stem biodiversity loss and restore biodiversity health for the sake of people and nature.

The Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People, which builds on consecutive previous Summit outcomes and declarations, was presented to the CBD COP 14 Plenary by Dr. Cathy Oke, First Vice President of ICLEI, as the outcome of the Summit.

"The Sharm el-Sheikh Communiqué calls on all levels of government and their partners to take action in light of the most recent global assessment reports, which so clearly point to the need for significant, rapid and collective action," says Ms. Kobie Brand, Global Director of the ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center. "Never before have there been so many diverse and simultaneous opportunities for us to build and exchange knowledge, pioneer new, systemic solutions and develop a shared vision for an urban future that incorporates nature and all it offers."

The Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué calls for significantly stepping up efforts by all CBD Parties and their subnational actors to work together to realize, enable and unlock to the fullest potential the rich, diverse and collective contributions of all levels of subnational governments and that of our growing urban populations to contribute directly and measurably to the attainment of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

"This Summit and its outcomes demonstrate the spirit of multilevel cooperation and vertical integration between all levels of government to mainstream biodiversity into all sectors and promote nature-based solutions," says Natalia Vera, Secretary General: Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD). "We welcome many more actors, networks and initiatives to join this growing

Email:
biodiversity@iclei.org

Web:
www.cbc.iclei.org/event/6thbiodiversitysummit/



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**COP 14-COPMOP9-COPMOP3
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 2018**





community of leading subnational actors under the auspices of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, co-chaired by the SCBD, ICLEI and nrg4SD.”

The Sharm el-Sheikh Communiqué further calls on CBD Parties and partners to increase and unlock mechanisms for collaboration and enable frameworks; accelerate efforts for awareness-raising, capacity building and facilitating scientific knowledge transfer; and enable and promote the implementation of current and past COP Decisions related to subnational governments.

In addition, it calls on Parties and partners to continue to increase efforts to collaborate with the other global sustainable development governance processes and Conventions to ensure that systemic and inter-related solutions are developed and adopted under the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

“When we arrive at another milestone in this century – 2020 – we must reach new heights in our biodiversity conservation efforts. For the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity to succeed in biodiversity conservation, it is crucial that subnational governments and cities play a significant role,” says Dr. Lena Chan, Senior Director, International Biodiversity Conservation Division at National Parks Board, Singapore. “We must together commit to the 6Cs (1) CONSERVE representatives of all ecosystems in core conservation areas; (2) CONNECT these conservation areas ecologically; (3) CREATE or enhance or restore or rehabilitate existing ecosystems; (4) COLLECT scientific data; (5) COLLABORATE and cooperate with everyone and promote citizen science; and (6) CONTINUOUSLY monitor our biodiversity efforts, using tools like the Singapore Index on Cities’ Biodiversity.”

The Summit also announced a Subnational Roadmap and Action Agenda of activities towards CBD COP 15 and beyond, particularly on collective contributions to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The Subnational Roadmap and Action Agenda will capture all levels of subnational governments’ future plans to significantly scale up their own and shared actions; strengthen their partnerships; and scale up ambitions to ensure on-the-ground success of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as called for by the Executive Secretary of the CBD, under the auspices of the Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity, supported and adopted by CBD Parties in 2011 at COP10 in Nagoya, Japan.

“As the future is urban, our constituency of all levels of subnational governments is ready to accelerate our Action Roadmap towards the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in support of the global Roadmap Process of the Parties,” says Dr. Cathy Oke, First Vice President, ICLEI Presidium, and Councillor, City of Melbourne, Australia. “We want Sharm el-Sheikh to be remembered as a key meeting on the pathway towards bending the curve, and we want Beijing to give momentum to biodiversity at the same level Paris gave to climate.”

CitiesWithNature (www.CitiesWithNature.org) a game changing new global initiative was also announced at the Summit by founding partners ICLEI, TNC and IUCN. CitiesWithNature provides a shared platform for all cities, regions and other subnational authorities to connect and engage in mainstreaming nature into cities and regions in ways that benefit both people and nature. It serves as the ‘one stop shop’ for all levels of subnational governments to share and report on their actions in contributing to making progress on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets and shaping the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

To view the Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People, please click here. (<http://bit.ly/SummitCommuniqué>)

14 DECEMBER 2018

DR. CATHY OKE
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, ICLEI &
COUNCILLOR CITY OF MELBOURNE,
AUSTRALIA



6th Global Biodiversity Summit
of Local and Subnational Governments

DEAR CATHY,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE 6TH GLOBAL
BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT OF LOCAL AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

On behalf of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD), we thank you sincerely for your participation as speaker, moderator and, session chair at the **6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments** held on 23 and 24 November in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt as official parallel event to the CBD COP14.

It was an honour to have you, as ICLEI's First Vice-President, playing such a prominent role throughout the 6th Summit. Your strong and inspiring leadership, high standards and passion for nature, cities and ICLEI encouraged and motivated us to organize and run a very fruitful and meaningful 6th Summit. We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from our 2018 Biodiversity Summit partners, delegates and observers. Your wonderful performance in delivering the Communique to COP 14 Plenary on the 26th November made us truly proud and happy, and we thank you sincerely for your leadership and contributions towards the success and wide reach of the Summit.

The 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments was an **important milestone in showcasing our diverse and widespread innovations and actions and for advocating collectively for a stronger, more recognised role by all local and subnational governments** in achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Summit offered over 400 registered participants, from 46 countries, including 55 cities and local governments and 15 regions, the opportunity to engage in thematic plenary and parallel sessions and roundtables, as well as networking opportunities with experts, Parties, local and subnational government representatives, partners, donors and observers attending COP14.

The **Summit's key highlights** include:

- the commitment to develop a Roadmap for Local and Subnational Action towards the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and
- the adoption of the *Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People* which was delivered to the COP14 Plenary by ICLEI First Vice President, Dr. Cathy Oke on the 26th of November, calling on CBD Parties to strengthen their commitment to multi-level integration and collaboration with local and subnational actors

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6th Global Biodiversity Summit
of Local and Subnational Governments

to stem biodiversity loss and restore ecosystem health for the sake of people and nature. You will find more information, the Summit Communiqué, a picture board & presentations on the Summit website at <https://cbc.iclei.org/event/6thbiodiversitysummit/>.

We hope that you found the Summit, panel discussions, presentations and networking engagements both useful and stimulating, and that you enjoyed your stay in Sharm El-Sheikh. Thank you for your vital contribution in the Summit and look forward to working with you as we now embark on the journey towards a post-2020 Framework.

Yours sincerely

Kobie Brand
Global Director: ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center

Natalia Vera
Secretary General: The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD)

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