

ICLEI AO regards the presence and role of African local government at the World Summit as of crucial importance given the fact Africa is experiencing an unprecedented urbanisation process. African Local governments are in a unique key position as a driving force to implement local sustainable development policies that could contribute considerably to national poverty reduction .

All levels of government in Africa are urged to support local governments to take full autonomy and responsibility to develop and implement local action with tangible, measurable impact towards local sustainability.

Taking advantage of the occasion of the World Summit African local governments would like a clear mandate (a binding declaration) to obtain resources directly from external and internal partners for financing their local Agenda 21 action plans or similar sustainable development plans. African Local Governments should be held accountable to that declaration for reviewing their policies for sustainable development at the local level.

ICLEI see the following issues as critical work for the their contribution to local authorities work on sustainable development

- 1) Governance – ICELEI have worked over the past ten years on promotion of multi-stakeholder local agenda 21 processes – there are now over 3000 worldwide.
- 2) ICLEI's initial campaign following Rio was their Cities for Climate Change Campaign – here local authorities have been setting their own targets and promoting energy efficiency campaigns for a 20% reduction of CO2 by 2005 on 1990 levels.
- 3) ICLEI's newest campaign is the water campaign we recognize that water is one of the critical issues of the next decade with estimates of 2/3<sup>rd</sup> s of the world's population suffering water shortages by 2025 and is a source for conflict in the future. In this campaign we are supporting the integrated water resources management approach for local authorities.

These are three areas that ICLEI will be campaigning on up to and beyond the Summit.