

23 January 2012

Model letter

Subject: Request of Local Governments to the negotiators of the Rio+20 outcome document

Dear [Minister]

I am writing to you in my position as Mayor of [name of town or association] regarding the new global commitments on sustainable development issues to be reached at the Conference Rio+20 in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro and in particular the zero draft outcome document.

Local and regional authorities were a key actor in the negotiations of 1992, and recognised as such in chapter 28 of the Agenda 21.

Today, communities of all sizes and especially cities which host more than half of the world's population need further recognition of their crucial role and request political and financial support to further endorse the sustainable development agenda.

We celebrate the acknowledgement of the role of subnational and local governments and cities in the current text and request your support to ensure that the negotiating text shall:

1. In accordance with respecting national constitutions and legislation, recognise the role of cities and local and regional authorities in the implementation of sustainable development policies;
2. Provide adequate mechanisms to match the needs of local and regional authorities in order to comply with local, regional, national and international commitments.
3. Recognise culture as the fourth pillar of development

You will find attached to this document the paragraphs that we want to be kept and the proposed amendments to the zero draft outcome document in order to achieve the above objectives. We count on your support to bring this forward to the negotiations.

I thank you in advance for your collaboration on this issue,

Yours sincerely,

[Mayor]
[President of national Local Governments Association]

Attached: Proposed Amendments to the draft outcome document