

Watercolour 9

Singapore at the Crossroads of the Seas



Chapter 9

Coastal Cities for and with Local and World Citizens

Abstract Present and future citizens are the political stakeholders of cities in an increasingly multipolar and interconnected world. They have the right to consultation on investments of the future and the duty to exercise democratic scrutiny of policies. Climate change and the path to sustainable development have encouraged the emergence of multiple forms of active citizenship. New governance architectures seek to enhance the potential of all invisible hands of urban societies and economies and to build a social consensus on a future vision and the steps and means to make it become true on land and the sea. Citizen empowerment is a mobilising force and public-private partnerships are recognised drivers of transformational change.

This chapter examines the emergence of new models of citizen participation in responsible coastal cities and links with world citizens. Institutional alliances, enriched with a variety of participatory leadership schemes and innovative partnerships, can maximise the potential of synergies, enhance the content and the methods of cooperation and serve as catalysts of change. A global solidarity bond involving coalitions and networks of cities, both from the emerging and the developed world, can play a major role in jointly addressing global common challenges. Initiatives such as the Compact of Mayors, a ground-breaking agreement created during the 2014 Climate Week, can raise the bar of excellence and enhance resilience to climate change.

9.1 Urban Governance 2.0: Co-leading Open Coastal Cities

The governance of cities has experienced many ebbs and flows since the Athenian laboratory of urban democracy and the development of city-states, which often expanded as maritime powers and created colonies beyond seas. Cities have evolved much as other prominent political entities, but citizens remain the key political stakeholders and their participation is the common denominator of mobilising transformative projects. The array of stakeholders has been enlarged and private local actors and civil society organisations play an expanding role. The ways and methods

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of active involvement have been multiplied and the joint actions by interconnected local partnerships are limited only by human imagination.

Urban democracies depend on interactions among the many diverse stakeholders and actors of the cities and multi-level governance. In an increasingly multipolar and interconnected world, with a progressive diffusion of power, urban leaders often compete with national leaders in proposing innovative policies, as well as initiating and scaling progress towards sustainable development. The role of businesses and NGOs is paramount, especially in coastal cities with maritime industry and advocacy groups striving for a healthier marine environment. Public multi-stakeholder partnerships can play a decisive role for better urban politics.

Urban governance can provide the keys to the city (Storper 2013). It can be defined as the science and art of co-governing societies with the participation of all actors having a stake in the future of a city. Thinking ahead and together with citizens can spectacularly open the spectrum of optimal futures and help co-evaluate the drivers, the barriers and the conditions for change. A transition from government to governance implies the recognition that visions, strategies and policy options and decisions should actively involve all those concerned. In many coastal cities, new civic bonds have been sought with maritime business, environmental advocacy groups and civil society, expected to invigorate the debate between governments and the constituencies they represent, increase public transparency and accountability and enhance collective capacity for reflection, judgement and decision.

Virtuous and respectable governance is essential for cities to become global democratic leaders for sustainable development. Democracy is always reputed to be a less imperfect form of government for open societies. An urban governance framework to enhance the marine capital should embrace vertical governance between different levels of government, as well as horizontal governance across multiple sectors, including engagement with non-governmental actors, and governance across and between cities or coastal territories. A key issue for national policies is the empowerment of cities and citizens to become more effective in the design and implementation of policies, also including actions driven from the bottom-up and innovations that could subsequently be scaled up. A hybrid of the two frameworks provides opportunities for participative leadership towards a mutual trust paradigm.

Urban democracy, representative and direct, is vital for the permanence of cities and their capacity for continuous renewal. Representative democracy has to address the challenge of the duly constituted authorities, linked to the proportional representation of all legitimate local groups. Participative democracy can lead to truly publicly-owned policies and facilitate their respectful implementation. Many cities have deployed exemplary efforts to make the best out of the participation of all stakeholders. Citizens have been gradually invited to support broadening visions about the future of cities and act as strategic partners rather than reactive protesters. Empowerment has become ethically and politically correct and is now recognised as a driver of transformative change.

At the dawn of the civilisation of sustainability, and with the advent of participative and interactive 2.0 models, there has been a clear shift from direct representational systems of democracy to a more interactive and direct democracy. Normally

associated with web applications that favour interactivity, interoperability and stakeholder-centred design, the label 2.0 has been grafted into diverse forms of urban governance for a continuous reinforcement of the civic bond and the incessant confirmation of civic values.

Anticipatory democracy can increase considerably the political capital of a city and become enriched with instant direct democracy, enabled by web 2.0 processes. Much depends on the quality and commitment of human and social capital and political leadership. Governments should give unlimited opportunities to the concepts and ideas proposed by stakeholders, including the ones usually without a voice. Horizon scanning and anticipation may be decisive and mediation at an early stage is critical to building trust. Leadership at all levels is a *sine qua non* condition and the exchange of selected practices a most inspiring tool.

A preferred shared future implies a common vision and consensual actions to make a vision come true. Civic Agreements signal an engagement by cities conceiving and forging new partnerships with their multiple and diverse stakeholders, far beyond the exchange of information and views. Citizens should become more than voters or customers, they should be engaged as co-designers and co-deciders in the policy-making process. The transient population should also commit and contribute in a spirit of openness and shared awareness. Manifold partnerships with civil society organisations and citizen consultation on the gestation of visions and plans have expanded as a precondition for civic bonds and bold collective action (Putnam et al. 2002).

Leadership at all levels can bring great impetus. Participatory and shared leadership has become a subject of attention among political analysts, social experts and behavioural scientists. Shared leadership, occurring when the role of leader is actively and intentionally shifted, depending on the issues or the context, can raise ownership and dynamism in many projects. It empowers all citizens to experience the responsibilities of the leaders, and enables a gradual building of consensual mobilising visions.

Democracy has always to provide real and virtual forums to exert sound judgement and help citizens to be transformed from mere consumers and users of urban infrastructures and services into responsible city actors, sharing values, embodying visions and performing actions. Their representation and participation can be extended through action planning and schemes, citizen and stakeholder forums, dialogue and consensus workshops, bringing together often opposed actors on neutral grounds and on equal terms (Abbott 1996).

Formal and informal mechanisms of horizontal and vertical cooperation between government bodies and partnerships with non-governmental actors, mainly industry and civil society organisations, are necessary for weaving the democratic web of a city. Governments have, in some cases, begun to promote the formation of new spatial structures, such as inter-communal frameworks, regional platforms, territorial pacts, and sustainability contract areas. These processes, beyond traditional administrative boundaries, promise more coordinated policies and more coherent allocation of public resources, as well as greater transparency, visibility and accountability (Barber 2013).

Coastal regional and local authorities should be endowed with the resources to manage the multiple functions leading to marine and coastal sustainability, fulfil new mandates and ensure policy coordination, implementation and evaluation. Fiscal federalism, based on the search for a balance between distribution of powers and allocation of resources, may be instrumental for sustainability. Responsible monitoring and evaluation may also be facilitated by 2.0 schemes and crowd-sourcing schemes can promote marine stewardship.

National leadership is necessary to provide a coherent conceptual framework and coordinate the thematic policies of different national ministries, enable territorial authorities to set priorities and commit resources, promote public-private partnerships and share the risk and cost of innovations. Leadership at the local and regional levels is necessary to define territorial needs, propose visions, coordinate the implementation of programmes, mobilise public and private funds to invest in marine resources and develop a permanent dialogue with a broad array of marine stakeholders and other territorial levels of governance.

Leaders have to interpret the needs, values and preferences of citizens in relation to the sea, elaborate plans towards sustainable development, facilitate and stimulate interactions of different actors and partners and guarantee coherence among options, means and decisions. Stockholders, owners of the physical assets, stakeholders, having particular interests in local coastal life, and outside partners, such as shipping lines and offshore industries, could invest great energy in developing coastal and marine resources in an integrated and responsible way.

Local involvement to address national and global challenges is crucial. The engagement of local and regional authorities is critical for the achievement of national and international objectives. In the EU, the Committee of the Regions, representing local and regional authorities, warned that the execution of the strategy Europe 2020 was being undermined by a clear lack of involvement of local government. A political declaration, the Athens declaration on the mid-term review of Europe 2020, approved by the Committee during the sixth European Summit of Regions and Cities, argues that the European Union must reconsider its approach and actively involve all governance levels, if it is to achieve a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy by 2020 (CoR 2014).

Whilst some coastal EU regions are progressing, others are lagging behind, also impacted by national and regional dynamics. The Committee of the Regions' seven-point plan for Europe 2020 suggested giving the strategy a clear territorial dimension, managing the National Reform Programmes in partnership, making multi-level governance the standard approach, aligning the European Semester with genuine long-term investment, enhancing the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiatives for strengthened policy coordination, mobilising funding for long-term high-quality investment, and strengthening administrative capacity for more effective implementation. A specific Public Sector Innovation Platform could support and coordinate public sector innovation in cities in direct interference with marine resources.

The marine pillar of the Europe 2020 strategy, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), introduced in 2008 to promote sustainable use of Europe's seas and marine ecosystems, relies much on active stakeholder involvement. The main goal

of the directive is to achieve Good Environmental Status in Europe's seas by 2020. It is a cyclical process which requires EU countries to adopt the ecosystem approach in their marine strategies, set objectives and targets, identify policy options, and engage in continuous evaluation and adjustment. The directive defines Good Environmental Status as "marine waters that provide ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive". Eleven descriptors have been selected to guide evaluation of Good Environmental Status, including biodiversity, eutrophication, seafloor integrity, non-indigenous species, population of commercial fish/shellfish, elements of marine food webs, hydrological conditions, contaminants for seafood, marine litter, and underwater noise.

European legislation has been a major driver for active citizenship and participation of organised civil society. Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive gave rise to multiple forms of public participation in coastal environments. Non-governmental organisations, including the general public have become very active despite a frequent lack of knowledge about European legislation and the descriptors. Access to information is the first step of any consultation process and active participation the most advanced step involving empowerment and co-ownership. Cities can gain much by participating in the public debate and joining the consultation in marine issues which are largely deconcentrated processes.

A joint NGO paper brought together Seas At Risk, the Marine Conservation Society, the Coalition Clean Baltic, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Oceana, The World Wide Fund, BirdLife Europe, the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, The Fisheries Secretariat, Black Sea NGO Network, France Nature Environnement, the North Sea Foundation, the Surfrider Foundation Europe, the Coastwatch Europe, the Sustainable Water Network, and the Mediterranean SOS Network. This joint paper provided directions for discussion with many local partners and the civil society and brought forward the positions of organisations that were very sensitive to the quality of maritime environment. The participatory process concluded with priorities for policy action (Seas At Risk et al. 2014).

9.2 Reinventing Citizenship, Trust and Accountability to the Future

Citizens are the political stakeholders and society is the ultimate frontier for all policies. If governments wish their policies to be owned by citizens, they should allow as many voices as possible to be heard, and as many values as possible to be represented during consideration of possible futures, shaping of the vision of desired futures and the elaboration of consensual plans for concretisation of that vision. Residents, users of public infrastructures and services, port and coastal communities have to be properly informed on important emerging issues, and duly involved in the formulation of possible policies. Decision-makers should invest in a better understanding of public opinion and the preferred options. Making the community,

especially the under-represented social groups, better informed and more aware and willing to take part in a shared future is a noble challenge. Projects must not only be scientifically robust, but also socially acceptable and ecologically unbeatable.

Partnerships are linked to the shift in public policies from direct interference to indirect or conditional policies, such as incubation and mediation. They should enhance the capacity, contribution and commitment of the public, private and community sectors and improve the ability of an urban coastal society to act proactively and drive change. Public-private partnerships should work like an orchestra under a public conductor for the overall improvement of urban functions executed by private actors on the coast and the sea.

Sometimes the role of orchestra conductor can be played by other citizen groups. The Committee for Sydney is an independent leadership group bringing together all sectors that share a passion for Sydney. In 2014, the Committee created a Task Force to prepare the Sydney 2054 strategy in collaboration with government. The Committee favours a “One Sydney approach” and enhanced coordination across the city’s numerous councils. It also invited inputs from citizens and especially young leaders through the Sydney’s Future Leaders sounding board.

Strategic public-private multi-stakeholder partnerships have a great potential in balancing objectives of competitive strength, social justice and environmental well-being. They have the potential to take more risks, reduce the social costs of projects and lead to enhanced outcome from public and private investment. They offer ample grounds for coalitions to overcome sector and institutional dissonance and play a critical role in the implementation of sustainable development policies. A clear vision and structure, a consistent and dynamic, strategic and tactic approach, a critical mass, assertive leadership, flexible adjustments and continued monitoring and assessment are usually suggested as the success factors of the partnerships.

Citizens, co-builders of visions and initiators of actions, may contribute decisively in creating a collective momentum for better public policies. Structured collaborative events, which unbind creative individuals and articulate a sense of vision, can create a thrust for the future. Processes like the charette are being used to bring together the richness of diverse opinions and ideas and build consent on possibly controversial projects at the earlier possible stage. Citizen platforms can provide more permanent and effective interfaces among experts, policy-makers and citizens (EFILWC 1998).

The health of coastal ecosystems has been at the heart of some citizen consultation schemes. Amsterdam introduced referenda to elicit the residents’ opinion on the extension of the city on artificial land and supporting infrastructures on sensitive coastal ecosystems. Sustainable development public debates offer an excellent opportunity for raising awareness of threats to unique marine and land interactions and strengthening the urban social fabric.

The City Mayors Foundation, an international think tank for local government, proposed the World Mayor Project and every 2 years recognises a mayor with an outstanding sustainability vision for urban communities. Good and honest local government is the foundation of any nation that strives to provide its citizens with happiness, security and prosperity. Incompetence, corruption and misconduct

in local government threaten the fundamental decency in a society and undermine the essentials of democracy.

The Code of Ethics underlines the Mayors' pledge to execute their office respecting the laws for the common good of their communities while refraining from actions that discriminate against individuals or groups because of their politics, communities, race, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation. It states their full responsibility for any acts performed by themselves or their administrations and emphasises that mayors should manage public resources for the public benefit of their communities and not for privileges or advantages for themselves and their close circle.

According to the code of ethics, mayors have to prove independence of judgment and demand the same degree of impartiality from their administrations. Mayors are subject to public scrutiny and should report any improper actions they may witness. They should work to strengthen civil society by raising public awareness of, and trust in, their city government's activities. Last but not least, Mayors must be committed to using their influence to promote cooperation and good will between cities, nationally and internationally.

The World Mayor Prize, awarded since 2004, honours mayors with vision, passion and skills to make their cities outstanding places to live, work in and visit. The project aims to highlight the results of city leaders with knowledge, enthusiasm and integrity, social and economic awareness, ability to provide security and to protect the environment as well as capacity to foster good relations between communities from different cultural, racial and social backgrounds.

Citizens of the future should be given particular attention, as the well-being of children is a critical test for the present and future of society. It seems that in coastal cities, children tend to develop a particular relationship with the sea. They love blue horizons, the ever-changing weather patterns and watching boats rising and falling on the waves. The Irish Marine Institute has organised poetry competitions on marine life and the ocean. The marine environment can stimulate imagination and civic awareness on issues of sustainability and engage children as citizens of the future.

Marine subjects can greatly expand children's imagination and nurture plans for the future. In Ireland, the Marine Explorers' Education Programme has been running for many years in Galway, Mayo, Dublin and Cork. The Programme aims to raise awareness and interest in the marine environment and teaches subjects in primary school that relate to marine species, ocean technology, and the shared heritage of the oceans.

The citizens of the future should be given the place that they deserve in all forums for Sustainable Development. In preparing for the Rio+20, three NGOs, Oikos, Terre des hommes and the World Future Council, launched an online petition for signatures demanding world leaders to support the establishment of Ombudspersons for Future Generations. Such initiatives and the Future Policies Awards by the World Future Council can inspire further action for sharing and protecting the interests of future generations. In 2012, the Future Policy Award celebrated exemplary policies for Oceans and Coasts (WFC 2012).

Ombudspersons for Future Generations could act as a driving force behind the sustainable development agenda while ensuring accountability and accessibility. They can bring long-term interests to the heart of decision making at all levels. This offers an opportunity to break with immediate concerns and stand up for future generations.

9.3 Transparent Stakeholder and Community Engagement

City authorities are in a unique position to effectively engage resident and transient stakeholders and design and implement locally tailored urban coastal policies. Reinvigorating stakeholder participation and engagement in responsible cities is a sine qua non condition for sustainability and blue green growth. Transparent partnerships can maximise the potential of all synergies, enrich the content and the methods of cooperation and serve as catalysts of change.

Transparency of public administrations, citizen participation and cooperation processes form a triad bottom line of requirements supported also by social media and eGovernment. In Italy, the compass of transparency, an online platform offers citizens the possibility to monitor, in real time, the implementation of all data and information requirements imposed by the Italian legal transparency framework. Moreover, users can express their comments and opinions about the quality of the published information. These opinions are immediately made available online and can be accessed by everybody. The aim is to foster direct involvement of citizens in the continuous improvement of the quality of online and digital services. The initiative focuses on continuous improvement of transparency compliance in more than 20,000 Italian public administrations, with returns in terms of increased efficiency, reduction of corruption and lower costs across the whole public sector. The heart of the system is a validation mechanism, composed of software sensors and mathematical algorithms, with the ability to analyse public administration websites in both real-time and at significant intervals.

Voluntary approaches with the active participation of citizens and industry are most important for sustainable development. In Rio+20, the plethora of diverse voluntary pledges has been one of the most encouraging signs. Many cities develop particular approaches to attract voluntary commitment on various fronts of a sustainable development agenda, especially on climate change. Cities like Helsinki extend the city's reach through voluntary agreements with the private sector to further their climate protection goals (CDP 2012).

From voluntary schemes to volunteering for the city, the leap is not without meaning. Citizens regularly offering their time, energy and skills pro bono in their city constitute a precious urban human resource which has to be appreciated and enhanced. Exceptional events often served as catalysts of commitment. In preparing for example for the 1992 Olympic Games, Barcelona created and trained a body of 40,000 volunteers. After the Olympic Games, this body was considered a living asset and offered new opportunities for local action. The municipality helped to create the association "Volunteers 2000" and availed of its assistance in policies and projects.

In Athens, the Olympics of the Sea were a great part of the 2004 Olympic Games which attracted 55,000 volunteers, Greek and foreign, carefully selected and trained in order to offer their services during the 2004 Olympic Games. The municipality of Athens organised a dedicated body of volunteers to help visitors discover another face of the Greek capital city and the coastal landscapes beyond tourist stereotypes. Volunteers are also active participants.

Volunteers are an invaluable resource for beach clean-ups in coastal cities. The CSO Ocean Conservancy has been leading the way since 1986 with a vision of trash free seas. The International Coastal Clean-up is the world's largest volunteer effort to clean up beaches and waterways, with partners around the globe. During Ocean Conservancy's 2014 International Coastal Clean-up, 648,015 volunteers collected more than 12 million pounds of trash around the shores of the world. The organisation publicises data that help the public better understand the problem of ocean trash, cooperates on innovative solutions to the ocean trash issue with leaders from the private, public and academic world and tries to build a movement to prevent the creation of trash.

Committed citizens can act as ambassadors of their relationships with the seas. Many citizens have often acted as ambassadors of their cities and contributed to city twinning schemes. The earliest examples of twinning cities include the treaties between ancient city-states designed to protect each other's interests in times of hostilities. Most recent twinning schemes in Europe have their origins in the hope of peace and the unprecedented involvement of the citizenry in world conflicts.

Citizen diplomacy is vital for open coastal cities. The twinning activity became much more intense after World War II and brought together many former enemies. In 1947, Bristol, for instance, sent citizens as ambassadors to Hanover and Edinburgh and signed a twinning agreement with Nice. And on the other side of the Atlantic, the US Sister City programme in 1956 became a citizen diplomacy network strengthening partnerships for global cooperation at the municipal level, cultural understanding and socio-economic development. The programme created a movement for volunteer action and local community development, by motivating and empowering citizens, municipal officials and business leaders to engage in citizen diplomacy.

The choice of twin cities may be based on various geographical, industrial or cultural characteristics and factors, growing from long-standing traditions rooted in past or recent links prompted by political solidarity. Old port or maritime cities have close links, as for instance Marseille twinned with Piraeus. Sustainability ethics create new forms of global solidarity among local communities increasingly aware of their common destiny.

Over recent decades, city twinning became frequent and active in Europe, including not only cities from countries with long-standing cooperative experience but also from the post-socialist states. Twinning among coastal cities, especially ports or tourist resorts, is viewed by many municipalities as an instrument for both addressing local problems and ensuring sustainable development (Joenniemi and Sergunin 2011).

9.4 Local Shared Leadership and Democratic Global Governance

On the global scene, city twinning schemes have planted seeds towards the creation of a world coalition for cities. The social compact among emerging countries, responsible for their development, and developed countries, supporting them through aid, debt relief and trade access, has been beneficial but further commitments are needed. Progress is also required on an international agenda for trade, knowledge sharing and technology transfer, access to essential care, and promotion of youth employment. Cities could play a great role.

A strong global partnership of cities could yield sufficient collective power and prod further up the sustainable development global agenda. Cities often have more freedom than nation states to put into place progressive strategies that are changing citizen's lives. The C40 Cities, the global network of large and engaged world cities, is committed to implementing locally meaningful actions to help address climate change. The C40 alliance was formed in 2005, when representatives from 18 megacities came together to cooperate on reducing climate emissions through decisive and immediate action on procurement policies and the uptake of climate-friendly technologies and market dynamics. This was the start of the C40 Climate Leadership Group, comprised of cities in diverse stages of the development arc. The initiative invested in meaningful partnerships with the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) and Siemens, with which organised the City Climate Leadership Awards (C40 and Siemens 2013, 2014).

The Clinton Climate Initiative aims to address the core drivers of climate change at the invitation of city and national governments and with businesses around the world. The Initiative supports green growth programmes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as increasing accessibility and deployment of clean energy, reversing deforestation, and reducing carbon emissions in cities and communities. The initiative embraced a holistic approach to tackle the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions and influence the people, policies, and practices that impact them.

Municipal governments can have a major direct impact on the global market for blue green technologies. Cities purchase goods and services for thousands of activities, such as schools, hospitals, administrative offices and police stations, port functions and waterfront lighting. Cities also buy and operate municipal fleets of vehicles and run their water and waste systems. Through the C40–CCI partnership, cities are able to pioneer energy-efficient and clean-energy products and technologies. This collective effort can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change on a large and measurable scale.

Cities and citizens and networks of cities joined the People's climate march on 21 September 2014 and made cities echo with hope. From Buenos Aires to Naples and Jakarta, 2646 solidarity marches in 162 countries asked for a global breakthrough in view of the new agreement to save the world from run-away climate change.

The leadership role of cities on the world scene continues to become more solid. In 2014, the C40 welcomed member cities and partners in New York for the Climate

Week, which helped demonstrate the growing momentum towards a global agreement on climate action. The City Climate Leadership Awards 2014 by Siemens and the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group honoured ten world cities for excellence in urban sustainability and leadership in the fight against climate change. They are all coastal cities and include Amsterdam (Finance & Economic Development), Barcelona (Intelligent City Infrastructure), Buenos Aires (Solid Waste Management), London (Carbon Measurement and Planning and Air Quality), Melbourne (Adaptation and Resilience), New York City (Energy Efficient Built Environment), Portland (Sustainable Communities), Seoul (Green Energy) and Shenzhen (Urban Transportation). Last but not least, Taipei was awarded the Citizens Choice, for which all were free to cast one vote, and all 31 finalists were eligible to win.

Emerging world coastal cities could be the gates for the cleaner technologies to upgrade the world marine infrastructure. Significant penetration of cleaner technologies in emerging cities would need access to the best available technology, finance for the necessary investments and an adequate institutional framework. Cities, in cooperation with business coalitions, could facilitate smooth international exchanges, access to effective markets and services and transfer of state-of-the-art technology for coastal management and the emerging offshore economy.

The penetration of renewable technologies in the emerging coastal megacities of the world can yield multiple benefits for the environment, security of energy supply and the global economy. Offshore generation presents a special opportunity and can complement the grids which presently leave a large share of the population outside, and facilitate access of the population to cleaner and emission-free systems fuelled from the exploitation of offshore renewable resources.

City networks can have a great impact on mobilising the cities of the emerging world. Twinning and schemes of cooperation among coastal cities should help facilitate the transition to clean energy options also from offshore. Cities in the EU, the world's largest donor of development aid, have a critical role to play, particularly for the sharing of knowledge and the transfer of cleaner energy technologies. Advanced marine technology projects, carried out in cooperation with emerging cities, could greatly expand the development of urban services based for example on offshore renewable sources. Furthermore European cities could help developing cities to strengthen their democratic governance structures and balance and integrate their pro-poor, pro-jobs, pro-growth and pro-environment agendas.

The 2014 Climate Week has been instrumental for catalysing global leadership action. The Action statement by the Compact of Mayors is a ground-breaking agreement by city networks to undertake a transparent and encouraging approach to reduce city-level emissions, and to enhance resilience to climate change, in a consistent and complimentary manner with national efforts. Not only have local governments cooperated more closely, but their organisations and networks created multiplier partnerships in cooperation with business and scientific organisations. The Compact of Mayors builds on the ongoing efforts of world and European networks including C40, ICLEI, United Cities and Local Governments, World Resources Institute, Energy Cities, Eurocities, The Climate Group, the Chinese Global Mayors Forum and Citynet.

The Compact of Mayors represents an overarching commitment of cities which set ambitious, voluntary climate targets for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to address climate risk, report on progress against targets, strive for rigorous and consistent reporting standards and make that information publically available on a recognised city platform. The Compact enables recognition of new and city-level commitments and promotes publication of annual reporting data on local climate action. It helps to establish robust and transparent data collection standards, and commit to common, consistent and reliable processes for local climate action.

The Compact demonstrates the commitment of city governments to contribute to more ambitious, transparent and trustworthy climate targets and encourage national governments to actively support additional city action by recognising local commitments, establishing more enabling policy environments and directing resources to local climate action for both mitigation and adaptation.

The adoption of minimum standard and transparent reporting is considered a way of measuring progress towards achieving mitigation targets and adaptation commitments. The Global Protocol on Community-scale GHG Emissions (GPC) is recognised as a new global standard for community emissions. For mitigation purposes, compliance means reporting that is sufficiently robust and rigorous to allow for reliable sectoral-level reporting of GHG emissions. For adaptation, compliance, assessed on an annual basis, means reporting on climate change adaptation commitments such as plans to reduce vulnerability or enhance resilience to specific hazards, such as storm surge and the rise of sea-levels.

The carbon Climate Registry has been designated as the single platform to serve as a unique publically available repository. A common risk framework is to be jointly developed by the cooperating city networks, building on existing frameworks, and in line with relevant international processes including sustainable development and disaster risk reduction. The GPC 2.0 has been released at the COP 20 in Lima, as the new global accounting and reporting standard for city-level GHG emissions. This is a joint activity by the World Resources Institute, C40 and ICLEI, and is supported by a number of international organisations (WRI et al. 2014).

The 2014 Climate Week has been a tipping point, a critical threshold on the way to COP 20. The week brought together 400,000 people in New York and millions of citizens in 162 countries in the largest climate change demonstration in history to keep the pressure on, and tip governments into action. During Climate Week, citizens and the world's largest investors made their voices loud in that tackling climate change is an ethical and an economic imperative. Nearly 350 investors managing \$24 trillion urged governments to put a price on carbon, phase out fossil fuel subsidies, and forge a strong global agreement on climate change by 2015. Some leading investors announced new commitments to act on climate change and invest in clean energy. These actions included an initiative to decarbonise investment portfolios, a commitment by commercial banks to issue \$30 billion of green bonds by 2015, and an announcement by three major investors declaring their will to accelerate their investments in low-carbon assets to a combined \$31 billion by 2020.

The commitments announced during Climate Week are significant and can open a new avenue. Forty companies, including Kellogg's and Nestlé, announced significant

new commitments to reduce and eventually eliminate tropical deforestation from unsustainable palm oil production. In order to limit global warming to 2 °C, the world needs to invest \$44 trillion in clean energy by 2050, an average of more than \$1 trillion per year for the next 36 years, coined by CERES as the Clean Trillion (CERES 2014).

The year leading up to the COP 21 in Paris in December 2015 is crucial. The Lima Accord reached at the conclusion of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's 20th meeting, marked the first time that all nations joined their voices to fight climate change. Although non-binding, it is an encouraging development that sets the stage for further action. Major achievements include the pledges made by both developed and developing countries prior to and during the COP 20 that took the capitalisation of the new Green Climate Fund past an initial \$10 billion target. Transparency and confidence-building reached new heights as several industrialised countries questioned their emission targets under a new process, the Multilateral Assessment. Among the inspirational initiatives launched in Lima, the "Change initiative" proposes to evaluate the risks of stranded assets for economies and their sovereign debt. Last but not least, the Lima ministerial declaration on education and awareness raising called on governments to put climate change awareness into school curricula and into national development plans.

Cities, citizens, investors, and businesses should ask governments to commit to stronger climate policy objectives. Government policy is critical to unleashing clean investment at the speed and scale needed. The great forward movement towards this direction is the landmark USA–China climate deal, which created momentum heading into COP 20. It overcame a political taboo and created a promising foundation on which to build. This represents a strong recognition of the need to advance towards decarbonisation in the not too far away future by the two countries with the largest CO₂ emissions. The US and China commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy by 2025 and 2030 respectively send a promising signal to the world community on the path to the Paris COP 21. According to the White House, the new goals would keep the United States on the trajectory to achieve deep economy-wide carbon emission reductions of the order of 80 % by 2050. China has a target of 20 % energy consumption coming from zero-emission sources by 2030.

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- www.wiserearth.org
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