



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Building and Nuclear Safety



## **Table Talks- German and International impulses for local climate action**

8-11 and 13-15 November, 09:30am-10:30am

Cities and Regions Pavilion, Bonn Zone

Organized by the ICLEI European Secretariat in cooperation with BMUB

### **A: Summary**

"Table Talks - German and International impulses for local climate action" is a series of seven breakfast events, taking place during COP23 in the Cities and Regions Pavilion in the Bonn Zone. In each session a German and a city or region representative from another country around the globe will discuss and compare approaches and solutions to major climate protection challenges, and assess the potential of translating solutions to different geographic, political and cultural contexts.

The Table Talks aim at informing about and examining solutions for climate challenges in a German and international context, creating an international dialogue between cities facing similar obstacles, and taking a practical approach to local climate action.

The talks are organized by ICLEI European Secretariat in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

### **B: Background**

Germany is playing a leading role in the fight against global climate change and has ambitious goals in the framework of the Paris Climate Agreement. Due to the high level of urbanisation in Germany, and the well developed local self-governance, cities and local authorities play a strong role in the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and the achievement of ambitious goals. The rapid decentralisation of the energy market following the "Energiewende" has further strengthened the role of local actors in this field.

Therefore many cities have developed ambitious climate strategies and implemented new and innovative measures to reduce GHG emissions, or to adapt to the consequences of climate change. In many cases these developments have been supported by the National Climate Protection Initiative of the BMUB. Further to that the BMUB has also supported international cooperation for climate change mitigation and adaptation through the International Climate Initiative.



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The Table Talks combine the national achievements and the international ambition by presenting good practices and solutions from German cities for a particular challenge and contrasting this with solutions found by other cities from another country.

### **C: Format**

Each of the moderated talks will last for 45 minutes, giving the two speakers the opportunity to present and illustrate their experiences in depth. Each speaker will be interviewed by the moderator for approximately 10 minutes before a 20 minute joint exchange involving the audience. The talks will be held in an informal and entertaining format; inviting speakers to inform about their experience, to give examples and tell anecdotes. The talks also aim at a lively engagement of, and exchange with the audience. During the talks a small breakfast will be offered, making the series the ideal start for the day.

### **D: The Sessions** (in seven Songs)

Wednesday, 8 November

#### **Down by the river...**

##### **- Creating quality blue infrastructure by adapting to climate change -**

Adaptation to climate change is often seen as a challenge, but there are many solutions that can yield multiple benefits for the environment and people, like increased biodiversity, quality of spaces and better recreational value. Arnsberg has shown how adaptation can be used to enhance the quality of life in town, particularly by watercourse restoration.

Moderation: **Jens Hasse**, Deutsches Institut für Urbanistik (DIFU)

Speakers:

- **Sebastian Marcel Witte**, Sustainable Urban Development and Climate Change, City of Arnsberg, Germany
- **Pam O'Connor**, Council Member, City of Santa Monica, USA

Thursday, 9 November

#### **Going up the country...**



- **Creating attractive rural communities supported by renewable energy** -

Everybody talks about urbanization and demographic change in the countryside because young people are moving to the cities. However, there are ways to turn this trend. The district of Rhein-Hunsrück has used its renewable energy potential to create economic value and lively attractive communities that keep people where they are. The Province of Flemish Brabant has the ambitious goal to become climate neutral in 2040 with '1001 ideas for a climate neutral Flemish Brabant to attract participation and support development opportunities.

Moderation: **Holger Robrecht**, Deputy Regional Director, ICLEI European Secretariat

Speakers:

- **Dr. Marlon Bröhr**, Head of district authority, District of Rhein-Hunsrück, Germany
- **Bertram Fleck**, former Head of district authority, District of Rhein-Hunsrück, Germany
- **Mr. Wouter Florizoone**, Senior Cabinet Advisor, Province of Flemish Brabant, Belgium

Friday, 10 November

**Here comes the sun...**

- **Make the most out of your solar potentials** -

Still we are far away from using the potentials that are offered by solar energy both for heating and cooling as well as electricity. Often this is due to a lack of information and knowledge both on the technical and economic side. Osnabrück has created successful tools to promote and support the use of solar energy in the city by public sector, companies and private sector, helping them to explore and evaluate their solar potential. Also Toyama city promotes renewable energy such as solar and micro hydropower. Both cities focus on making the most of international cooperation in this area.

Moderation: **Wolfgang Teubner**, Managing Director, ICLEI European Secretariat

Speakers:

- **Detlef Gerdts**, Head of Climate Change Division, City of Osnabrück, Germany
- **Toshiyuki Yamazoe**, Senior Adviser for international Business Relations, Office of Strategic Planning and Resilience, Toyama city, Japan

Saturday, 11 November

**Power to the people...**



- **Motivating and involving citizens in actions to fight climate change –**

Not everything works with the people but nothing works without them. No community, no city and no country will reach its climate protection goals without the collaboration of its citizens. As much as a local government can offer, it will always need the people to make it work, be it by changing their behavior or by making their own investments. Mannheim and Barcelona will talk about the role civic initiatives can play in achieving climate goals and how they managed to mobilize their citizens to fight climate change.

Moderation: **Holger Robrecht**, Deputy Regional Director, ICLEI European Secretariat

Speakers:

- **Agnes Schönfelder**, Head of Climate Protection Centre, City of Mannheim, Germany
- **Frederic Ximeno**, Commissioner for Ecology, City of Barcelona, Spain

Monday, 13 November

**If I were smart...**

- **Spotlight on European smart solutions -**

Today everybody and every city want to be smart. However, it is not clearly defined what smart solutions exactly are. This talk will explore what smart solutions could/ should be and what role information and communication technology plays in this. It will also touch on the interplay between technologies and the human factor and the societal impact of solutions.

Moderation: **Dr. Minu Hemmati**, independent consultant

Speakers:

- **Andreas Wolter**, Deputy Mayor, City of Cologne, Germany
- **Janet Sanz**, Deputy Mayor, City of Barcelona, Spain

Tuesday, 14 November

**Get ready...**

- **Being prepared for a changing urban climate -**

As yet the impacts of climate change are only felt occasionally, particularly through heat waves and extreme storm-water events. However, predictions clearly indicate an increasing frequency of these events. Grey, green and blue infrastructures cannot be instantly changed and therefore a mid to long-term strategy is needed to be ready for a changing urban climate. The talk will



explore how cities are factoring in a changing climate in their current development.

Moderation: **Dr. Minu Hemmati**, independent consultant

Speakers:

- **Dr. Ulrich Reuter**, Head of the Urban Climate Department, City of Stuttgart, Germany
- **Mathieu Schouten**, Senior Landscape Architect, City of Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Wednesday, 15 November

**Come together...**

- **Making climate change work across levels of governance –**

Cities are strong and they can achieve a lot but at the same time they need the regulatory and financial support of upper levels of governance. The talk looks into how this support can be successfully organized and how a good cooperation across governance levels can be established to reach common goals.

Moderation: **Carsten Rothballer**, Coordinator, Climate and Energy, ICLEI European Secretariat

Speakers:

- **Dr. Christian Jacobs**, Ministry of the Environment Niedersachsen, Germany
- **George Heyman**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy of British Columbia, Canada