

## **International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives**

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### **IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM TO BE ADDRESSED**

1. The debate on decentralization is not progressing. The local agenda 21 movement of sustainable development planning and action seems to be waning. Yet, increasingly decentralization is recognized as the key to progress. Under a decentralized scenario, there is a significant amount of expectation that local governments will be the key to achieving the MDG's. However this has not translated into an adequate forum for local government to consult and implement appropriate sustainable development strategies.

### **PROPOSAL FOR APPROACHES OR SOLUTIONS**

2. UNACLA should be reformed to be more inclusive of local government professionals and service organizations. We see UNACLA as a positive mechanism for consultation but it needs to increase the dialogue form consultation with a strategic mostly political representation to a system similar to how the UN operates in other for a with national governments i.e. Technicians debate and develop positions and the political leadership are brought in towards the end of the discussion to ratify and take the final decisions on process.
3. We further recommend that a UNACLA, a kind of "greater UNACLA", type process should be encouraged throughout UN agencies especially those agencies dealing with water supply, sanitation and hygiene.
4. We note that local governments once had to register for UN events as NGO's, thankfully progress has been made in this regard and local governments now register as local authorities. The CSD has been a positive mechanism to allow local governments a voice in the national debate. However, local governments, as an important sphere of governments have a more important role to play than the one minute or so interventions that they have been allowed. In this regard, local governments have been encouraging national governments to include local government officials in their delegations.
5. Financing for local government delegations and consultations is difficult to find. The international community needs to recognize the value that local governments can bring to the discussion table. Particularly where implementation issues are being discussed. Directing the majority of international support to multi lateral and national institutions adds a second tier to achieving results on the ground. More consideration needs to be given to getting those who are in the end tasked with doing the work to come to the table.

### **INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT AND/OR FUTURE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE**

If a sufficient number of local government officials were part of national delegations this would ensure that local governments would not necessarily have to be present as a separate stakeholder group in the CSD. This could also reduce the amount of separate consultations necessary within the proposed "greater UNACLA" process suggested earlier in this submission.