

## **Round Table RT3: Role of cities**

**Date and Time of Session: Friday, 1 October 2010, 9.00-10.00**

### **Short description of the session topic and the objective of the session**

Topic: Role of the Cities

Objective: The Round Table 'Role of cities' will put the spotlight on climate adaptation in deltas. This round table is meant to give the audience the opportunity to learn about the different approaches of adaptation taken by a selected number of major (delta) cities worldwide. And more important, what is the opinion of the city leaders when it comes to the importance and urgency of climate adaptation. Considering the laborious results of the international climate meetings on a high level, do cities have to walk in front of international agreements? Because the consequences of climate change are directly felt in the cities and most measures have to be taken on a local scale. Maybe a new message can be addressed to COP 16 in Mexico on behalf of the (delta) cities? And does this mean that cities worldwide have to organize themselves in international alliances, such as Connecting Delta Cities? What does this mean for urban politics? And what can be the role for the inhabitants of these cities? All these questions and more will be discussed by mayors and top delegates of cities as Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta, New Orleans, Rotterdam and Toronto.

### **Session Agenda and Main Speakers**

Session chair: Barbara Groom, world duty editor of the BBC, United Kingdom

Main speakers:

- Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of the City of Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
- Fauzi Bowo, Governor of Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Cedric Grant, Deputy Mayor New Orleans, USA .
- David Miller, Mayor of Toronto and chair C40, Canada.
- Van Phuoc Nguyen, Vice Director of Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
- Porntep Techapaibul, Deputy Governor of Bangkok, Thailand.

### **Most exciting insight, moment or outcome**

All participants agreed that it is important to ACT NOW and exchange knowledge. Also they agreed that action should be taken quickly. We ( countries) are vulnerable and therefore it is important to alliance with other cities. The community has to be involved. Therefore sharing information and knowledge from which cities could learn is necessary.

### **Main conclusions, themes, insights or messages**

- "Knowledge & cooperation" Countries have to alliance with other cities. By bringing policies together.
- "An integration plan" should be put in place. Guidelines from governments are in connection with the needs of the local people has to take place.

**Key phrases or quotes**

- Message and top priorities: Knowledge & Cooperation, “ Act now”
- Technology and scientific policy plus an action plan should be consider.
- Awareness and Education for the poor societies is necessary.

**Main recommendations, commitments, proposals, new initiatives or key follow-up actions agreed in the session**

Deputy Mayor New Orleans, USA and Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of the City of Rotterdam, the Netherlands will in the near future work together in a couple of Delta issues. Agreement was signed.