



### ***Media Release***

## **ICLEI Launches Daring Cities**

### **New forum showcases urban leaders taking bold and swift action to tackle the climate emergency**

Bonn, Germany (12 February 2020) - ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability launched Daring Cities, an action-oriented forum aimed at tackling the current climate emergency by showcasing ambitious local action. Daring Cities 2020 will take place in Bonn, Germany, on 3-5 June 2020 concurrently with the annual UN Bonn Climate Change Conference.

Designed by ICLEI and the city of Bonn, Daring Cities empowers urban leaders - such as mayors, city councilors, administrators, and urban thought leaders, as well as researchers, technical staff, business leaders, civil society decision-makers, community organizers and national government representatives - to tackle the climate crisis. The forum will showcase and catalyze exemplary local climate action, including ambitious resilience-building and climate mitigation efforts.

"As Mayors, we witness the impacts of climate change in our own cities. We are driven by scientific evidence and our citizens mobilizing in the streets, while many of our national governments still struggle to raise ambition. We local governments are determined to answer the call of emergency, to be the ones daring to take the lead on climate action. We ask cities, towns and regions to join us in Bonn this June for Daring Cities 2020 and get empowered to scale up your action and leadership," said Ashok Sridharan, Bonn Mayor and ICLEI President.

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Daring Cities is free of charge thanks to the support of the Federal City of Bonn, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), and the Foundation for International Dialogue of the Savings Bank in Bonn.

Daring Cities builds on the experience that ICLEI gained in producing the Resilient Cities Congress for ten years. The goal of the Resilient Cities Congress was to elevate urban resilience to the global stage and raise its priority into international agendas such as the Agenda 2030, the Paris Climate Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Daring Cities expands on these themes to create a new platform to advance local governments' work to respond to the climate emergency in both mitigation and adaptation.

"Through our Resilient Cities Congress, we created a vigorous community of resilient development practice at a time when no one was talking about resilience. As we look towards our next ten years of work, we want to urgently focus on the current climate emergency and the need to act boldly. While national and global leaders are struggling to address this urgent crisis, the daring actions of local leaders are spreading around the world. Daring Cities will recognize and empower these courageous leaders," said Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI.

With Daring Cities 2020 happening concurrently with the Bonn Climate Conference, the forum will facilitate multilevel engagement between local leaders and their national counterparts attending the UN Conference.

Daring Cities will also coincide with World Environment Day and the festivities of Beethoven Pastoral Day being held in Bonn on Friday 5 June, celebrating 250 years of Beethoven and bridging the cultural sector with climate action.

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#### **About ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability**

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 100+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development. Our Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability. For more information, visit:

<https://iclei.org/>

**For media inquiries, contact:**

Ariel Dekovic, Head of Global Communications

ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

World Secretariat (Bonn, Germany)

Phone: +49 (0)151 / 232 021-73 | Email: [ariel.dekovic@iclei.org](mailto:ariel.dekovic@iclei.org) | Skype: ariel.dekovic.iclei