ICLEI messages towards Habitat III

ICLEI came to Quito with a set of strong messages:

1. The New Urban Agenda is a good starting point, but it falls short of providing a set of instructions for achieving the specific goals and targets set forth by existing international frameworks (SDGs, Paris Agreement).

2. Local governments must be engaged in ongoing international and national processes related to implementing the New Urban Agenda.

3. Cities are the implementers and can do a lot, but national frameworks are crucial and often make a significant difference, particularly for cities with high ambition, large challenges and few resources.

Before and during Habitat III, these messages were reflected in a series of interview, op-eds and articles in specialized and global media.

Top media coverage on ICLEI at Habitat III

1. Thomson Reuters interviewed ICLEI President Mayor Park Won-soon, focusing on the SDGs and their implementation in connection with the New Urban Agenda.

2. Thomson Reuters also published an op-ed signed by ICLEI Secretary General Gino Van Begin, focusing on the importance of enabling frameworks and introducing the 10 ingredients of a good national framework.

3. The Guardian, as part of a series hosted by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), included an op-ed by ICLEI President Mayor Park Won-soon on cities’ role in achieving sustainable development.

4. Deutsche Welle interviewed ICLEI Deputy Secretary General Monika Zimmerman. The interview was broadcast as part of their radio program World in Progress. The transcript of the interview is also available on DW’s website.

5. Our Planet, UNEP’s flagship magazine has published a special issue on Habitat III, which included a 2-page piece by our GexCom member Mayor Rodas Espinel of Quito.

6. Citiscope, as part of its ongoing coverage of Habitat III, has featured Yunus Arikan, ICLEI Head of Global Policy and Advocacy, in several articles, including a 5-part series of “questions of the day” on Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda.