



## POST LEARNING EVENT REPORTING TEMPLATE

As part of eThekweni Municipality's commitment to strengthen our organisation's culture of learning and sharing, this form presents information on a recent out of town trip, visit, learning exchange undertaken by an official from the municipality. This information will be posted on the MILE website ([www.mile.org.za](http://www.mile.org.za)) in the interest of advancing our **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT** agenda. Thank you for taking the time to complete the form.

### 1. What was the NAME OF THE EVENT?

ICLEI's Resilient Cities Congress 2015

### 2. The DATE attended:

8 -10<sup>th</sup> June 2015

### 3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

Gustav Stresemann Institut, Bonn

#### 4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Dr Sean O'Donoghue, Manager: Climate Protection Branch

#### 5. What area of expertise did the event cover?

- |                                    |                                     |                                       |                                     |                            |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Culture, heritage and sport        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Engineering and the built environment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | IT and Finance             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Economic development and Tourism   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Health and Safety                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | City strategy and planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy and the natural environment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Good governance                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                            |                                     |

Other: Climate change adaptation and resilience

#### 6. What was the PURPOSE OF THE EVENT, THE BROAD OBJECTIVES, AND THEMES? Why was it of importance?

Since the signing of the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC), on the 4th December 2011, eThekweni Municipality has been working with a number of local and international partners to operationalize the DAC globally. One of the key partners is ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. ICLEI has agreed to become the long term secretariat of the DAC once it is fully operational, and have, in the interim, agreed to incorporate the DAC as a key pillar of their annual Resilient Cities Congress. Mayor James Nxumalo, as Chair of the DAC, is not planning to attend the Resilient Cities Congress this year, and he will need to be represented at: the Mayors Adaptation Forum, chair a special plenary session for the DAC, as well as a signing ceremony to attract further signatories by Dr O'Donoghue.

The ICLEI Resilient Cities Congress 2015 will take place in Bonn, Germany from the 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015. This is a key annual global climate change adaptation meeting for local governments and it is usually attended by our mayor, in His Worship's capacity as an ICLEI World Secretariat Vice President. This congress provides an excellent opportunity for advocacy of climate change adaptation and networking with global local government leaders and as such, it will provide an ideal platform for the advancement of the Durban Adaptation Charter. It will also provide the DAC secretariat with an opportunity to meet in person for strategic planning for the implementation of the DAC.

Mayor Nxumalo is a Vice President of the ICLEI World Secretariat, Chair of the Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Portfolio in the ICLEI Africa Committee, a member of the Mayors Adaptation Forum (MAF), the World Mayor's Council on Climate Change (WMCCC) and Chair of the SALGA Climate Change Champions Committee. As such, Mayor Nxumalo has become an important global leader for climate change adaptation. As such, Mayor Nxumalo will need to be represented at the ICLEI Resilient Cities Congress and this will be in line with his global responsibilities.

There is a strategic advantage to ICLEI hosting the DAC special plenary, as it shows their commitment to the DAC long term hosting of the secretariat role. They bring a strong global network to the partnership. There is further strategic advantage in Mayor Nxumalo's representative hosting the plenary, as this further increases the DAC profile (and eThekweni Municipality) as a global leader in climate change adaptation, and further strengthens the position of the Global South in this debate.

The ICLEI Resilient Cities Congress, provides the following additional opportunities for networking and the advancement of the DAC: Manager: CPB, Dr S O'Donoghue is to meet with other globally based members of the steering committee for the DAC to discuss the next stage in the roll out of plans to implement the DAC. Manager CPB, Dr S O'Donoghue will also participate in a number of side-events, including a special panel session by a key DAC implementing partner, the International Cities/ Counties Management Association (ICMA). Dr O'Donoghue will participate on this panel, not only because ICMA are a key DAC partner, but because the latter have agreed to fully fund Dr O'Donoghue's participation at the event. There will, therefore, be no cost to eThekweni Municipality for Dr O'Donoghue's participation at this event.

**7. What in your opinion are some of the KEY LEARNINGS that you came away with? In other words, what stood out for you? Were there any "aha!" learning moments that you can share with colleagues? What were some of the KEY OBSERVATIONS that were important or different?**

An interesting observation was the acknowledgement that China has entered into the renewable energy industry in a big way. This is likely to have a strong driving effect upon global renewable energy progress as they are able to reduce the cost of manufacturing (and therefore purchasing) of renewable energy products. This should have beneficial impacts for global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but may negatively impact upon South African exports of resources to China.

This congress was as much about promoting the Durban Adaptation Charter as about learning. Sean O'Donoghue facilitated a panel discussion on participatory governance where key themes emerged, including the need to ensure that communities participate in adaptation planning processes through the whole process, climate change education is conducted in schools in Melaka, Malaysia and in Bogota, Columbia, a combined top-down and bottom-up approach is employed. Sean O'Donoghue participated in the next panel focused on establishing knowledge networks. Durban is establishing a knowledge network around the Durban Adaptation Charter. The network will extend up the east coast of Africa, and will build upon existing cooperative agreements on climate change adaptation. The final session that Sean O'Donoghue participated in was a city-partnership focused session, where Sean presented on the DAC network of networks approach.

During the Congress significant plans were laid to extend the operationalization of the Compact model with of the DAC ([www.durbanadaptationcharter.org](http://www.durbanadaptationcharter.org)) with a proposal for US City-led training to be conducted in Durban. Significant progress was also made in the agreement of USA vice-president, Mr Al Gore's Climate Reality Project to train southern African climate change officials when Durban hosts its first Southern African Regional Hub exchange. A signing ceremony of the Durban Commitment was concluded with the city of Kaohsiung, China. Finally, two DAC-focussed sessions were packed with participants in the session (both exceeding 60 participants), which shows how much interest the DAC has generated.

**8. As a result of this event, what is the ONE CHANGE that you may consider making backing back at work, if any? What follow ups are envisaged?**

The opportunities outline above will be followed up for action in October this year.

**9. Please indicate details of useful CONTACTS AND NETWORKS that were established during the event?**

[www.iclei.org](http://www.iclei.org)

**10. One of the key functions of our MILE website is to serve as a repository of LEARNING DOCUMENTATION, VIDEOS, PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER RESOURCE MATERIAL. Please can send such material to [mile@durban.gov.za](mailto:mile@durban.gov.za) so that it can be uploaded onto our website.**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO BUILD A LEARNING ORGANISATION**