



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) 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?

UNFCCC 21st Conference of the Parties

2. The DATE attended:

3-8 December 2016

3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

France, Le Bouget in Paris

4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Political Mayor James Nxumalo (JN)
 Cllr Dumisani Lucky Ngema (DLN)
 Cllr Ntombi Ndlela (NN)
 Cllr Phumzile Hlengwa (PH)
 Cllr Jaco Pienaar (JP)
 Cllr Barbara Fortein (BF)
 Official Dr Debra Roberts (DR)
 Dr Sean O'Donoghue (SOD)
 Mr Siyabonga Nala (SN)
 Mr Magash Naidoo (MN)
 Mr John Parkin (JP)

5. What area of expertise did the event cover?

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

Other: climate change

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

Twenty-first Conference of the Parties

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently released its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) on the state of climate change globally, and it provided a damning indictment on the failure, thus far, of the international negotiations to limit climate change globally. If a legally-binding inclusive agreement is not reached, the cities of the world will have to deal with the challenges associated with the projected >2°C average increase in global mean annual temperatures. This will have major implications for how cities are run, and it will need a globally coordinated effort to adapt successfully to impacts from this climate change. The annual Conference of the Parties (COP) will meet for the 21st time in Paris in 2015. During this COP21, an agreement has to be reached that legally binds all nations to addressing climate change. This COP represents the last opportunity to finalise the details of the agreement reached in Durban in 2011 viz the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

The Durban Adaptation Charter

The Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC), which was led by eThekweni Municipality and became the key outcome of the Durban Local Government Convention, held in parallel with Durban's hosting of COP17/ CMP7, commits all signatories to adhering to its ten principles for climate change adaptation at a local government level. With over 1000 signatory cities around the globe, of which 76 % are African and 94 % cities are from developing countries, the DAC has an international influence and has elevated Durban's reputation as one of the global leaders in the field of climate change adaptation, and a champion of the Global South. Mayor James Nxumalo is the Chair of the Durban Adaptation Charter. The Charter has been invited to participate in a number of side-events during COP21 that will highlight the importance of the role of cities in addressing climate change, and of cities forming partnerships, like the Central KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Partnership, to collectively address climate change's impacts at a sub-national level. The implementation of the DAC is based upon forming networks of networks, and this message will be carried by Mayor Nxumalo.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability

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 the latter is fully operational and sustainable, and ICLEI have, in the interim, agreed to incorporate the DAC as a key pillar of their annual Resilient Cities Congress. This close relationship with ICLEI is reinforced given Mayor Nxumalo's role as the ICLEI Global Executive Committee's first Vice-President. ICLEI will be convening a number of side events that advocate for the inclusion of cities in any post-2015 implementation framework and agreement. This inclusion will be critical to the realisation of local governments as key drivers of climate change adaptation work, therefore Mayor Nxumalo's support at ICLEI's side-events is critical. The following is a list of important events that Mayor Nxumalo will be invited to:

- The trip to the Transformative Actions site of Nord Pas-de-Calais is planned for 3 December, 2015
- The Mayors Summit of Paris City Hall is scheduled for 4 December, 2015
- The UCLG Council meeting is scheduled for 4-5 December, 2015
- The UNFCCC Action Day is scheduled for 5 December, 2015
- The ICLEI GexCom meeting is scheduled for 5-6 December, 2015
- The C40 Award Ceremony is scheduled for 6 December, 2015
- The UNFCCC Cities and Regions day is scheduled for 7 or 8 December, 2015

ICLEI will also use the occasion of the COP to convene a Global Executive Committee which Mayor Nxumalo, as first Vice-President will attend.

Municipal representation at COP21

Since approving the Durban Climate Change Strategy, the political leadership have sought approval from the Municipal Council to convene a political climate change committee to guide the implementation of the Strategy. This Committee met for the first time on 25th September 2015. A key outcome from this meeting was the established need for Councillors on the committee to receive exposure to international events around climate change, particularly COP21, to develop their understanding of the global context within which Durban implements its strategy, and to improve political leadership in the implementation thereof.

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?

A Durban Delegation consisting of Mayor James Nxumalo, five councillors and three support staff attended the COP21 climate negotiations in Paris from 2nd to the 8th December. Mayor Nxumalo represented the City of Durban, the Durban Adaptation Charter and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in His capacity as this organisation's first Vice President. As members of the recently convened Climate Change Committee, the five councillors focussed their efforts on capacity building and understanding climate change issues in order to improve their ability to guide the implementation of Durban's Climate Change Strategy. The City officials provided content and logistical support.

Despite the security threats, COP21 was well organised and it was easy to negotiate through the security and administrative processes. Providing free transportation for delegates was a smart move by the COP organisers. Given the events that preceded the COP, it was not possible to host a number of site-based side events, like the train trip to climate change projects in the north of the city. This was a pity, as the city lends itself well to outside events.

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?

During COP 21, the Durban Delegation attended and presented at nine side events. These included a Mayoral panel discussion on Durban's Community and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (CEBA) work on the 3rd December and, later in the day within the Global Adaptation Network side event, the first reference of the Durban Adaptation Charter by a US White House representative. On the 4th December, Mayor Nxumalo made the announcement of the establishment of Durban as a Knowledge Hub in the Urban Climate Change Research Network's Knowledge Network programme as well as presenting Durban's ICLEI Transformative Action Programme (TAP) proposal in the City Hall during the Climate Summit for Local Leaders. The Summit was also attended by a number of dignitaries including Leonardo di Caprio, Elon Musk and French President Hollande. Later in the day, a presentation was delivered on Durban's experience of reporting within the carbonn Climate Registry at ICLEI's Cities and Regions TAP Pavilion. On the 5th December, the US State Department hosted a special DAC side event outlining the development of the Hub and Compact Approach within the US Centre.

On the 7th December, Mayor Nxumalo was invited to present Durban's climate change work at an ICLEI-hosted side event focussing on cities' experiences in complying with the Compact of Mayors. Mayor Nxumalo's presentation was very well received with a number of organisations requesting notes from the presentation. In a parallel event, Durban's experience in engaging with UCCRN's Second Assessment Report on Climate Change in Cities was presented at ICLEI's TAP pavilion. On the final day of the Durban delegation's visit, Mayor Nxumalo attended a panel discussion during the UNFCCC's Momentum for Change Award side event, and later in the afternoon, a discussion panel during the European Commission's Cities and Regions side event.

A number of meetings were also attended by the COP delegation during the week. On the morning of the 3rd December, Mayor Nxumalo attend the United Cities and Local Government's (UCLG) Financial Management Steering Committee, whilst on 5th December, Councillor Dumisani Ngema attended UCLG's Executive Bureau. On the 3rd December, both these Durban representatives attended the C40 Awards Ceremony, where the cities of Cape Town and Johannesburg both won awards in their respective categories. On the 4th December, Mayor Nxumalo attended the ICLEI Global Executive Committee meeting in his capacity as first ICLEI Vice President. The Durban delegation also attended the South African National Government's negotiating team debriefing on 5th December, a SALGA local government debriefing on 3rd December and a South Africa delegation supper event on the 7th December. Finally, Mayor Nxumalo, in his capacity as ICLEI Vice President, participating in an event marking the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between ICLEI and the United Nations Environment Programme's Executive Director, Mr Achim Steiner.

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

On the 7th December, Mayor Nxumalo met two youth representatives from Durban. They have promised to contact SOD for more climate change information relevant to Durban. Action: SOD

- Following COP21, SOD agreed to follow up with a researcher, Fee Stehle, who requires documentation around Durban's climate change projects.
- SOD should follow up with the representative from the City of Nairobi, Kenya, about developing a combined proposal within the Covenant of Mayors. Evans Ondieki ; +25 47 224 91289; +25 49 42345; eondieki@nairobi.go.ke; ondiekievans@yahoo.co.uk.
- A post-COP debriefing is required. This should be done on the occasion of the first meeting of the EM CC Committee in 2016.
- Province/ GHG roll out – Magash will provide a summary for the report

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 so that it can be uploaded onto our website.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO BUILD A LEARNING ORGANISATION