

CHARTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

(revised at the ICLEI Council Meeting, June 30, 2000)

On September 5-8, 1990 a World Congress of Local governments for a Sustainable Future was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, U.S.A. under the organizational auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Union of Local Authorities, and the Center for Innovative Diplomacy; and

Representatives of more than 200 local governments from 43 nations, 25 national municipal associations, and numerous other governmental and non-governmental organizations and corporations, comprising over 400 Congress participants, participated in four days of discussions on the critical role to be played by the world's local governments in addressing our global environmental crisis.

On September 8, 1990, the Congress delegates came into session and resolved, by affirmative vote of the majority, to adopt the following Charter for the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives.

ARTICLE 1. NAME AND PURPOSES.

1.1 An International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives shall be established.

1.2 The Council, as represented by its Executive Committee, shall immediately initiate discussions with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Executive Committee of the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) for purposes of establishing a formal institutional relationship.

1.3 The Council's mission shall be to build and serve a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global environmental and sustainable development conditions through cumulative local actions.

1.4 The Council shall build an active and committed municipal membership of local and regional governments, authorities, and local government associations. It shall serve as an international representative for its members and campaign participants by providing advocacy before national and international governments, agencies and organizations to increase their understanding and support for local environmental protection measures and sustainable development activities. Through such advocacy, the Council will work to achieve an effective division of responsibilities and resources for environmental protection and sustainable development between the various spheres of government.

1.5 To support its members, the Council shall (a) initiate international campaigns and regional programs in order to mobilize and provide support to local-level initiatives that address specific priority problems of local and global significance, (b) strengthen local environmental expertise and capacity and work with groups of local governments and partner organizations in order to research, develop and implement local initiatives for environmental sustainability, (c) function as a clearinghouse for information on local environmental and sustainable development policies and programs, (d) evaluate and report on the impacts of local actions, (e) provide and coordinate technical support services on an international basis to aid the implementation of local sustainable development policies and programs, (f) facilitate collaborations between environmental protection and sustainable development programs of communities in industrialized and developing nations, (g) work with private corporations and

research institutes to develop and exchange environmental knowledge and appropriate environmental technologies, (h) promote the role of local government as a necessary innovator and implementer of sound environmental policy, (i) campaign for increased environmental policy making authority for local governments, and (j) raise and dispense of funds to fulfill the purposes of the Council.

ARTICLE 2. THE COUNCIL AND ITS MEMBERS

2.1 The Council shall (a) have sole power to amend or revise this Charter, (b) establish policy directions of the Council and adopt the ICLEI Strategic Plan, (c) elect members to the ICLEI Executive Committee, and (d) deal with all matters placed on its agenda.

2.2 Full members of the Council shall be local governments and local authorities, as defined in the particular country, and national and regional associations of local governments. Local governments, authorities, and local government associations and institutes may become Members by payment of an annual dues fee to be determined by the Executive Committee.

2.3 The Members of the Council shall have the right to elect the Executive Committee either by fax, electronic or mail-in ballot or at a meeting to be determined by the Executive Committee.

2.4 Individual locally elected and appointed officials, as well as state, national, and international governments, government agencies, and governmental officials, private corporations and non- governmental organizations may become Affiliate Members by payment of an annual dues fee to be determined by the Executive Committee.

2.5 An appropriate dues structure, which recognizes the differing financial resources of Full Members and Affiliate Members in developed and developing countries, shall be established by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 3. CHARTER ORGANIZATIONS, CHARTER MEMBERS, CHARTER PATRONS AND SPONSORS.

3.1 The Charter Organizations were the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Union of Local Authorities, and the Center for Innovative Diplomacy. The Charter Organizations nominated a panel of candidates for a twenty-one member interim Executive Committee. The International Union of Local Authorities nominated six candidates, the United Nations Environment Programme nominated three candidates, and the Center for Innovative Diplomacy nominated three candidates. In addition, the Executive Committee jointly nominated nine other candidates representing local governments eligible to become members of the Council pursuant to Article 2.2.

3.2 Charter Members were those local governments and authorities, and national municipal association that became Members of the Council within the period of two years following the date of election of the first Executive Committee.

3.3 Charter Patrons were those governments, corporations, organizations, and individuals who contributed \$U.S. 50,000 or more to the working fund or to the endowment fund of the Council within a period of two years following the date of election of the first Executive Committee. Charter Sponsors were those governments, corporations, organizations, and individuals who contributed \$U.S. 10,000 or more to the working fund or to the endowment fund of the Council within a period of two years following the date of election of the first Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 4. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

4.1 The Members of the Council shall elect the Executive Committee. All members of the Executive Committee shall have political experience or professional responsibility in the establishment of local environmental policy or the management of local environmental programs. A majority of the Executive Committee members shall be local governments officials.

4.2 The Executive Committee shall have twenty-one members. The twenty-one members shall be elected from among the full dues-paying Council Members. To ensure geographic representation, the Executive Committee membership shall have at least two members from each of the following six geographic regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America.

4.3 Members of the Executive Committee shall hold office until the next biennial election and until his or her successor is elected and qualified, or until resignation or removal. In the case that the seat of a member is left vacant by resignation or removal, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee until the next elections.

4.4 The Executive Committee shall have the power to decide policy for the Council and to represent the Council politically, both generally and before international institutions. It shall have the power to appoint and remove the Secretary-General, and shall have sole power to adopt and amend the By-laws of the Council. The Executive Committee shall have the power to approve the annual budget and annual work program in accordance with the Strategic Plan.

ARTICLE 5. THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

5.1 An Advisory Council may established to assist in the establishment of collaborative programs and relationships between the Council and other governments and institutions, including private corporations, national and international agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The purpose of an Advisory Council shall be purely advisory, and Advisory Council members shall share no powers granted in this Charter to the Members and the Executive Committee.

5.2 The size, character, and terms of membership of an Advisory Council shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

5.3 All Members of the Advisory Council shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for designated terms, and shall be subject to removal by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 6. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL.

6.1 A Secretary-General shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Secretary-General shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Council and may exercise all of the powers of the Council, except those powers reserved to the Executive Committee and to the Members of the Council by this Charter, the By-laws, or by law. These powers shall include (a) the direction of the Council's Secretariat, offices and agents to ensure the implementation of the Strategic Plan and annual work programs, (b) the establishment of management procedures and policies, (c) and the appointment and dismissal of staff.

ARTICLE 7. THE BY-LAWS.

7.1 The Executive Committee shall prepare and adopt By-laws for the Council that are consistent with the Articles of the Charter. Such By-laws shall define procedures for meetings, elections, officers, suspensions and removals, vacancies, contracts, membership fees, the committees and the management of the funds of the Council.