

C40 Cities and Green Growth

Participants discussed how cities can and must lead the green growth transformation. Mayors control significant assets, they have an ability to tailor the exact needs of their city and they hold high credibility towards their citizens in terms of ensuring basic life quality. However interaction with the national regulatory framework is important. A case in point are the national procurement rules, which can limit the possibility of cities to initiate innovative approaches.

Participants agreed that cities need to use their strong political visions and ambitions in the climate area as a starting point for engaging with private stakeholders to develop both best practices and next practices. Further, it was agreed that involvement and ownership from the citizens is a key prerequisite to achieve longer term support for green growth initiatives.

The GGGI study on existing green growth solutions in cities, presented in the session, revealed that 95 % of the 90 surveyed cities interviewed believe that green investments will generate economic growth. However, more than 50 % feel that their national framework poses barriers to allow them to fully pursue this potential. Among the cities 32 % perceive themselves as green, while 45 % are in early phases.

Participants agreed that the economic potential of green growth can be of value to advance the political case for green investments. However, it can be difficult to quantify all advantages and Participants warned against a development where issues which cannot be quantified are not recognized as being of any value. It was pointed out how green growth is value based and requires political leadership and visionary goals. The business sector recognized growing urbanisation as a Megatrend with future business potential, and confirmed that they are starting to adapt their companies to deliver to this Megatrend. The private sector should consider how it can support cities in finding solutions.

Case studies were presented from the cities of Copenhagen

and Yokohama on their experiences of pursuing a green growth strategy. Both mayors testified to the need for a strong dialogue and cooperation with the private sector. In Copenhagen this was achieved through the Copenhagen Cleantech Cluster that could work as a mediator between the public needs and the private solutions.

Participants agreed on the following recommendations/actions:

- **Political leadership is key both at the local and national level:** National framework need to enable cities to show leadership. Cities experience first mover advantages.
- **Finance is key:** Public spending is needed to gear and secure private funding. The private sector is looking for long term engagement and political commitment.
- **Regulation is key:** National regulatory framework must facilitate green development. Compact city planning – strong regulation. City must set high standards.
- **Partnership building is key:** City governments can act as matchmakers – help building the partnerships, and these partnerships are key for action to happen.

Moderator:

Mark Watts, Director, ARUP

Panellists:

Frank Jensen, Lord Mayor, Copenhagen

Fumiko Hayashi, Mayor, Yokohama

Graham Floater, Director, Climate Centre

Rohit Aggarwala, Special Advisor to C40 Chair Mayor Michael Bloomberg

Jukka Pertola, CEO, Siemens, Denmark

Matthew Lynch, Project Director, World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

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