

ES GILT DAS GESPROCHENE WORT!

Excellencies, esteemed delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

2020 is the beginning of a decade that could turn around fate. We owe to our children. They brought climate change into the focus of mass attention and pushed us harder than we could have imagined. However, their hard pushing still needs to be responded by more than commitments or declarations: by real action, equally driven by leaders and citizens.

Therefore, action for climate empowerment has become more important than ever. In the light of this urgency, ICLEI has been amongst the first signatories of the Burgenland-Declaration, which I would like to commend explicitly.

While public awareness has significantly grown, it is now our duty to lead and mobilize more and faster action, to link and to bundle climate action. Cities are born partners to this cause. We need to present climate action in a way, that our citizens will understand it, make it their own cause, make climate smart choices and become part of the decision making process. Climate Action has to be connected to the life of our citizens in a good way, as a positive path with attractive options to choose from.

Cities are change makers – they foster clean energy, ecomobility structures, responsible consumption offers. They open doors through initiatives, campaigns, education and participation. With platforms to engage, they collaborate for better climate action, locally and globally.

COP 24 embarked us on the next stage of the ACE Agenda being developed with cities.

Both Bonn and ICLEI commit to continue their work in the sense of ACE:

- Since 2010, we reach out to school kids and train them to become climate ambassadors. Those kids who successfully absolved the training book get handed over a climate driving licence and may call themselves „Climate Ambassadors“. In 2019 almost 2.000 thrid-graders took part in this great initiative – more than ever before. It is my strong commitment to further enroll this programme in the next decade.
- Next year we celebrate Ludwig van Beethovens 250th anniversiary. Beethoven is not only one of the most famous composers of our times

- he also loved nature. This love for nature is particularly expressed in his 6th Symphony – the Pastorale. We therefore initiated, together with ICLEI; UNFCCC and Earth Hours, the Bonn Beethoven Pastoral Project. Through this initiative we invite artists from all around the world to make a clear and visible cultural statement for environmental protection and have the pastorale performed at the World Environment Day on 5th June 2020.
- Last but not least we are planning to invite you all to the next Bonn Global Urban Resilience Forum in June 2020. Back to back to the UNFCCC Mid-Term conference, this new format it will enhance education, training and awareness raising for local leaders in the next decade.