



January 2, 2014

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Toronto  
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Warsaw  
Washington, DC  
Yokohama

\*Steering Committee city

Ambassadors Csaba Kőrösi and Macharia Kamau  
Co-chairs, United Nations  
Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals  
New York

Dear Ambassadors Kőrösi and Kamau,

As the new chair of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group – and the first C40 chair from a city in the global south – I am writing to express my support for the concept of a specific urban goal among the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

I commend your admirable leadership of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) in consulting widely on what the SDGs should include. I note also that the OWG has already recognized the importance of cities, metropolitan regions and their linked rural areas in implementing sustainable development. But, as a global mayor, and one whose city will forever be linked to the global sustainable development agenda, I cannot stress enough the fact that without an urban goal the SDGs will be incomplete.

Cities are, of course, integral parts of their nations; and cities therefore share many of the same needs as non-urban areas, for education, health, and similar human needs. But the concentration of people in a small area gives the challenges of sustainable urbanism special, and critical, needs that must be acknowledged in the SDGs. A city cannot promote equality, opportunity, or economic growth effectively without sound urban planning; cities are inherently more infrastructure-intensive than rural and suburban areas; and issues of solid waste, water supply, transport and public health must be managed differently when population densities grow to the levels found in Rio, Nairobi, New York, or Tokyo. Further, the simple concentration of activity requires greater integration among solutions to these challenges than is acceptable where space is less constrained. This is why national programs can and must include urban areas, but there is no question that many urban issues require special attention.

An urban SDG would help concentrate the world's attention on these unique issues. It would help concentrate and coordinate the efforts of organizations such as the multilateral development banks to work with cities. And, because poverty in the world's richest countries often

concentrates in their inner cities, it would help reinforce the concept of the SDGs as a global agenda rather than just a “developing world” agenda.

As you may know, I will be meeting with the other mayors of the C40 cities in Johannesburg on February 4-6, 2014, and our organization may take a formal position on this question at that meeting. Until then, however, please know that I would very much appreciate your efforts to lead the OWG towards the adoption of a specific urban goal in the new SDGs.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eduardo Paes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eduardo Paes  
Mayor of Rio de Janeiro,  
Chair, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

## Signatories to the Paes Letter

### Supporting a stand alone city focused Sustainable Development Goal

Mayor Diriba Kuma  
City of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Governor Joko Widodo  
Special Capital Region of Jakarta, Indonesia

Mayor Eberhard van der Laan  
City of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Executive Mayor Mpho Parks Tau  
City of Johannesburg, South Africa

Mayor Yiorgos Kaminis  
City of Athens, Greece

Mayor Susana Villarán  
City of Lima, Peru

Mayor Xavier Trias  
City of Barcelona, Spain

Mayor Boris Johnson  
City of London, England

President of the Executive Council Guy  
Morin  
City of Basel, Switzerland

Mayor Eric Garcetti  
City of Los Angeles

Governing Mayor Klaus Wowereit  
City of Berlin, Germany

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle  
City of Melbourne

Mayor Gustavo Petro  
City of Bogota, Columbia

Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera  
Mexico City, Mexico

Chief of Government Mauricio Macri  
City of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Mayor Giuliano Pisapia  
City of Milan, Italy

Mayor Patricia de Lille  
City of Cape Town, South Africa

Mayor Sergei Sobyanin  
City of Moscow, Russia

Mayor Antonio Ledezma  
City of Caracas, Venezuela

Mayor Mitchell Landrieu  
City of New Orleans, USA

Mayor Rahm Emanuel  
City of Chicago, USA

Governing Mayor Stian Berger Røslund  
City of Oslo, Norway

Lord Mayor Frank Jensen  
City of Copenhagen, Denmark

Mayor Bertrand Delanoë  
City of Paris, France

Mayor Gustavo Fruet  
City of Curitiba

Mayor Michael Nutter  
City of Philadelphia, USA

Mayor Didas Massaburi  
City of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Mayor Charlie Hales  
City of Portland, USA

Administrator Anwarul Islam Sikder  
City of Dhaka North, Bangladesh

Mayor Ignazio Marino  
City of Rome, Italy

Mayor Annise Parker  
City of Houston, USA

Mayor Ahmed Aboutaleb  
City of Rotterdam, The Netherlands

**Signatories to the Paes Letter**  
**Supporting a stand alone city focused Sustainable Development Goal**

Mayor Edwin Lee  
City of San Francisco, USA

Mayor Fernando Haddad  
City of Sao Paulo, Brazil

Mayor Ed Murray  
City of Seattle, USA

Mayor Park Won-soon  
City of Seoul, Republic of Korea

Lord Mayor Clover Moore  
City of Sydney, Australia

Acting Governor Tatsumi Andou  
City of Tokyo, Japan

Mayor Gregor Robertson  
City of Vancouver, Canada

Mayor Giorgio Orsoni  
City of Venice, Italy

Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz  
City of Warsaw, Poland

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