



Arti Mehra
MAYOR OF DELHI

Speech by Delhi Mayor Arti Mehra at the High-Level Event on Climate Change held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 September 2007

Respected Chairperson

Distinguished guests, sisters and brothers:

We are in the midst of a massive, transformation, a comprehensive re-framing, in how the global community engages with the future of the world.

Indeed, much has changed globally since we held the 8th meeting of the Conference of Parties in Delhi in 2002. Evidence of significant impacts surround us – including in my own city of Delhi, where unusual weather patterns are creating challenges for future planning.

We have taken several steps to promote energy efficiency, sustainable transport, and renewable energy in Delhi, with associated benefits for reduction of air pollution, electricity demand, water availability, and employment. For example, we have the world's largest bus fleet run on clean fuel and fast expanding the metro network, use of renewable energy for large buildings and townships, and in particular, for the new facilities to be created for the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

And – as I have the honour of speaking for local authorities world-wide - this is an issue that we can honestly say we have addressed at many global meetings around the world - from the Conference of Parties, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Sundance Summit and so on, and addressed with the knowledge that our sector has taken consistent and large-scale action to both reduce existing and future emissions, while addressing present and immediate concerns of urban management.

So, my first message to you today is that Local Authorities are an important beacon of hope to the global community that action can be positive and empowering.

please turn over

from overleaf

My second message is that we can provide some important learning from our experiences that we can share with you:

Globally many local authorities have developed and implemented a raft of programs for example ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection campaign to address energy efficiency, sustainable transport, waste management, and environmental protection generally, in over a decade of action "on the ground". These too, have led to visible improvement in citizens' lives, while having positive impacts on emissions.

So, please do not just applaud the stories that Local Authorities have to offer on the global stage: listen to how we have gone about this and benefit from this experience.

My third message is simple: While the important and necessary conversations, negotiations and debates continue within and between the nations, we urge you to directly invest in Local Authorities right now so that we can all benefit from reductions of present and future emissions and better management of the local environment.

Local Authorities engagement with climate change provides hope for the future learning, for our current global debate, and practical means to take action now.

I would like to conclude with a citation from the **HOLY VEDAS**

"SARVA ASHA MUM MITHRAM BHAVANTU"

Meaning:

Live as if you are one with the trees, the rivers, the mountains and the whole Universe will embrace you like a friend.

INDEED THE FUTURE IN OUR HANDS

Thank you

ARTI MEHRA