

# **One Planet Summit**

**December 12th 2017**

**La Seine Musicale, Île Seguin, Boulogne-Billancourt, Paris**

**Panel 3 - Accelerating local and regional climate action**

**Remarks by Naoko Ishii**

**CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility**

**(as delivered)**

Good morning everyone,

I'm so excited to be here. Thanks so much for the invitation from Madame Hidalgo, and I'm very happy to speak after my good friend Suma.

Almost exactly two years ago, I felt very lucky to be in the Paris City hall where Mayor Hidalgo hosted the Climate Summit for Local Leaders and hundreds of Mayors flocked there. I was so inspired by their passion, commitment and determination to take concrete action to fight against climate change. That's the moment I felt the GEF, whose goal is to save the global

environment, should really support that commitment by mayors and do more business with cities directly.

And that is why the GEF, for the first time in its 25-year history, created the sustainable cities program dedicated to support cities and mayors in their fight against climate change. In coming up with the program we consulted with city organizations like C40, ICLEI and WRI.

Our current program already committed more than US\$100 million in grants, and already mobilized US\$ \$2.4 billion in financing to support cities all over the world in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Those programs do three main things.

First, this is to support city mayor's sustainable planning. We tend to do too much sectoral investment, all scattered. This time, we want to support sustainable city planning towards compact, connected and coordinated cities.

Second, this is to facilitate exchanges of ideas, experiences and lessons learned among mayors, so that we can spread those impacts very quickly!

Third, this is to address barriers cities are facing to fight against the climate change. How to enhance access to finance is a prime example.

I have been very excited over the last few years to observe what cities have been doing.

Cities are incubators where new ideas and business models are born and tested among business people and finance institutions, planners and regulators.

We have also supported many pilot projects in energy efficiency building and lighting, as well as district energy systems.

Going forward, we want to do even more, and I am extremely pleased to tell you that the GEF Secretariat is proposing to double the GEF financial contribution to our cities program for the next four years.

In collaboration with our network of city based associations and also with the World Bank and other MDBs, we are aiming to bring 500 more cities into the Global Platform of Sustainable Cities by 2020.

Our friends from C40 has reminded me always that we are on a very tight deadline.

The fight against climate change will be won or lost in cities.

That's why I truly look forward to working with all of you to make sure we win this battle!

Thank you very much.