



Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 – Towards Policy Coherence

Public Workshop @Cities & Regions Pavilion

The Paris Agreement and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development present many complementary topics that pave the way towards transformative policy. They rightfully recognise the regional and local levels as being of critical importance in moving towards sustainable development.

PANELISTS



Mirian Cisneros – *Community of Sarayaku, Ecuador*

Veerle Dossche – *City of Ghent, Belgium*



Dorothee Rolfsmeyer – *City of Offenbach, Germany*

Indigenous peoples and local authorities are key actors when it comes to the implementation of international agreements: both assume important role model functions in their territories. The event started with a presentation by Dorothee Rolfsmeyer on the local activities of the City of Offenbach. Veerle Dossche then gave a short insight into efforts in Ghent to localise the Sustainable Development Goals followed by Mirian Cisneros and Yaku Viteri, who introduced the concept of the living forest. They underlined their hope that this concept, which can be part of the solution, be heard and discussed during COP23.

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- “We need a climate policy that is socially just.” – Veerle Dossche, City of Ghent
- A diversity of activities on the local level is needed to implement the Paris Agreement and the Agenda 2030.



- Examples of local action examined include bicycle courses, upcycling projects, “Climate mentors” in Offenbach and campaigns on vegetarian food and food waste in Ghent.
- Municipalities, as the level of government closest to the people, feel responsible to involve residents in the implementation of international frameworks.
- Creating networks, both within the cities and with other cities, is a key issue in facing current challenges.
- Indigenous territories are structured in the same way as cities and municipalities. European cities and municipalities face the challenge of organising their territories as do indigenous communities, for whom the protection of their territories is key to climate protection. Their approach may be different, but it too is embedded in the local context.
- *“Sarayaku is fighting for autonomy, for something owned by the community that doesn’t pollute. With our approach, we link development with our holistic vision.”* – Mirian Cisneros, President of the Community of Sarayaku, Ecuador