



ISTANBUL WASTE CONSENSUS

For Local and Regional Authorities

As Mayors and local/regional elected representatives from different parts of the world, meeting in Istanbul in May 2013, we participate in this ISTANBUL WASTE CONSENSUS to develop waste management strategies in the face of global changes.

We declare, through Istanbul Waste Consensus, that we are ready to struggle against increasing external factors and strengthen the resilience of our cities and regions by leading a holistic approach to the differences in waste management and contributing to the sustainable development in general.

SECTION I- Local and Regional Governments Declaration and Call for Action

- The collection, transfer and disposal of wastes, irrespective of whether they are partially or completely assigned to the private sector, should be under close monitoring of the public.
- Integrated waste management is important for environmental and human health, and local, regional and national governments should attach the necessary importance to this subject in their agenda.
- The local governments play an increasingly significant role in planning sustainable integrated waste management.
- A novel and long-lasting approach is required for solving the problems to emerge as a result of the local and regional generation of waste, and to take the tailor-made precautions against the global changes. The waste management necessitates fair, optimum and sustainable management of services, a holistic approach, and sharing of the responsibilities by different levels of the governments via co-operational activities.
- Education of the public should be supported through public awareness campaigns, environment-friendly waste disposal systems and development of proper waste management from the generation to the final disposal of the wastes.
- Waste management matter should be handled more sensitively in the local and regional planning and designing works.
- There is a cost associated with the provision of waste management services. This cost should be calculated fairly with reasonable prices, and particularly the return on cost should be acquired by considering the social groups with lowest income.

As mayors and elected local/regional representatives, we call on the national governments and international institutions in order to have their support in the activities that we have undertaken:

- The waste management should be handled in integration with subjects such as energy, environmental protection, protection of resources, efficiency increase, and employment in addition to basic elements such as waste collection, treatment and removal. Waste management approach should not only remove the wastes from human environment but should contribute to economic development as well via protecting and enhancing the environmental and human health;
- A dialog platform should be established in order to equip the local and regional governments with adequate personal and technical skills, organizational capacity, financial resources and legal authority through the efficient transfer of tools and powers that will enable the local and regional management of waste services. In accordance with the decentralized administration principle, local governments should be able to choose among the various management models by consulting all related parties;
- Innovative financing mechanisms and legal regulations should be promoted in order to facilitate the direct access of the local and regional governments to the financial resources;
- Understanding and predicting the elements such as population, industrialization and other developments that affect waste management systems should be given great importance both on national and regional basis and the acquired information should be shared with the local governments thus helping the assessment of the connections of these developments on local scale;

SECTION II - Commitments of Local and Regional Governments

Having acknowledged the necessity of developing effective strategies immediately, cities and regions need appropriate legal, organizational and financial frameworks as well as technical capacity and human capacity. However, population increase, urbanization, industrialization, fast economic development and other elements rapidly affect solid waste management strategies as well as current political and social systems.

Therefore, as Mayors and elected local and regional representatives, by signing this **ISTANBUL WASTE CONSENSUS**, we declare our open political will aimed at doing everything in our power and capacity in order to prepare for difficulties, and undertake to do our best to develop our waste management and to lead our local policies and approaches towards enhancing the existing infrastructure as well as increasing sustainability.

This commitment is made with the expectation that the national governments and international institutions will truly acknowledge the indispensable role of local and regional governments in terms of enabling access to waste management systems and successful adaptation measures, and initiate the necessary political reforms that will render the efforts of local and regional governments effective from technical and legal aspects, and supportable with economic and financial resources.

In order to fulfill our commitment, we shall use our political duties to implement a holistic and participative approach to integrated waste management services and to initiate the following activities in our cities or regions on basis of the following guiding principles:

- Standing with political resolve on priorities and purposes in sustainable waste management, and making evaluations to render the legal regulations efficient and efficacious;
- Identifying the main difficulties associated with sustainable and integrated waste management, and evaluating the internal and external pressure sources on its implementation;
- Preparing an inventory of the medium and long term local and regional government policies, strategies and plans on waste management systems;
- Establishing dialog among the main actors in the field of waste management;
- Defining duty specific purposes and measurable targets that reflect our commitments in **Istanbul Waste Consensus**, creating a monitoring and reporting framework;
- Preparing plans aimed at obtaining a tangible improvement in waste management and enhancing our local and regional resilience against the global changes.

The secretarial works and monitoring of this protocol, whose scope is given above, is under the responsibility of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. We further undertake to share the difficulties that we come across and developments that we achieve while carrying out the abovementioned activities in the meetings to be organized by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, which has undertaken the responsibility of this protocol.

Annex:

Guiding Principles for a Local and Regional Waste Action Plan

Findings

The local and regional governments should make the following evaluations about difficulties that can affect their waste management services;

- In cooperation with related parties, determining the changes related to population increase, industrialization and urbanization and the trends and amount of waste generated due to these as well as waste characteristics and assessing the disposal of the waste within the present waste management system and with suitable technologies;
- Ensuring the waste management to have a competent organizational infrastructure both on local and national scale;
- Detecting the population that has no access to the waste management services;
- Determining the population that is most prone to the health problems caused by the waste;
- Carrying out studies related to the suitable funding resources required for waste management services;
- Separating the waste at its source and regaining the recyclable wastes to the economy;
- Defining all obstacles in front of the holistic management, including the sectorial pressures;
- Determining the future need for waste management, identifying the problems and carrying out analyses;
- Not limiting the monitoring and auditing mechanisms in waste management services;

Targets

Local and regional governments should identify tangible and measurable targets that are adapted to the local conditions voluntarily and in accordance with their legal authorities,

Precautions

The following precautions can be considered in realizing the identified targets;

- Enhancing the organizational capacities of the local and regional governments, which are the main applier units in the waste management, creating model waste management units and setting the standards for configuration and operation of these units;
- Taking measures that will provide constant and effective information flow among the various parties;
- Dissemination of the monitoring and auditing activities on local and regional basis and increasing the efficiency of these;
- Promoting recycling and spreading the pilot projects implemented/to be implemented for the separate collection of the wastes at their source;
- Taking immediate precautions for preventing the direct disposal of the special wastes such as hazardous wastes and medical wastes that pose a great risk for the environmental and human health, into the receiving environment;
- Making necessary infrastructure investments for sustainable waste management;
- Using innovative, environmentally friendly technologies that are suitable to the local conditions, and developed for waste management,

- Preventing the negative effects of the wastes on the urban and rural population by disposing them using the appropriate technologies;
- Optimizing the recycling or reuse of the wastes by cooperating with the industry and business world, and limiting, managing and controlling the environment pollution;
- Ensuring the production of the as less waste as possible in order to protect the nature and natural resources;
- Enabling the socio-cultural participation of the public in waste management and carrying out public briefing activities about the possible risks in waste management;
- Preparing and implementing necessary strategic plans for a sustainable integrated waste management;
- Providing incentives for education, training and technology transfer for sustainable waste management and economic development.