STATEMENT GIVEN BY ICLEI LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY, AT MAYORS’ PANEL IN APFSD 2017

Thank you Hon’ble Chairperson,

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the focal point of the Local Authority constituency of the CSO Forum, would like to make this statement. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, in collaboration with other local government networks and likeminded institutions has been striving for several years at the global, regional, national and local levels for local and subnational governments to be recognised and supported for the significant and tangible contributions that they make in advancing towards a sustainable future. We therefore unequivocally support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals that call for ensuring inclusive, resilient and sustainable development.

It was through joint, concerted and persevering efforts at every level that the inclusion and adoption of these goals has been achieved. And that it is in a similar manner that it would need to be implemented for us to realise the targets that we set for ourselves. *Leave no one behind* is the essence of the SDGs, which inherently demands an inclusive and coordinated approach.

At ICLEI we believe in nurturing mutually beneficial and reinforcing partnerships so that the impacts are exponential. We therefore support the forging of partnerships between local governments, local communities, financial institutions, research institutes, civil society organisations, and the private sector to develop and implement solutions that are inclusive, equitable, and which create lasting impacts for sustainable and resilient development in support of the SDG Goals. We are committed to building local government capacities and multi-stakeholder partnerships for the implementation of inclusive, resilient and sustainable solutions in alignment with the Goals.

ICLEI would also like to take this opportunity to emphasise the point that the SDGs, should be considered as a foundation, and not the ceiling, for our ambitions and endeavours of today so that these may be mainstreamed into the norms of tomorrow.

Thank you