

Speech by Lord Mayor of Copenhagen Frank Jensen at the IPCC opening ceremony.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends,

As Lord Mayor, I am happy to welcome you to Copenhagen!

As you know, more than half of the World's population live in cities. City leaders have to act here and now on the challenges our citizens are facing. And I can assure you, that Copenhagen already feels the impact of climate change! In 2011 Copenhagen experienced a cloud burst with more than 150 millimeters of rain in less than two hours. We had insurance damages of almost 1 billion Euro. So cities – even more than national governments – need to adapt rapidly to climate change.

And mayors are acting all over the World!

Many cities – including Copenhagen - have their own, very ambitious climate goals. We want to lead the way for national governments. This is why Copenhagen has become member of C40 – the international network of the World's largest cities focusing on climate change. In September I took part in the meeting of the C40 steering committee during the New York Climate Week. We agreed to support the so-called “Compact of Mayors”. It is the world's largest effort for cities to fight climate change.

But climate commitments and targets for CO₂-emissions are not enough to save our planet. We need to develop and implement sustainable solutions - together with private companies and research institutions. Let me give you an example: Copenhagen has already reduced CO₂-emissions by 40 percent from 1995 until 2012. And we work hard to become the World's first CO₂-neutral capital in 2025. Our district heating system is vital in this process. 98 per cent of all households in Copenhagen are connected to the system. It has been developed and improved over time by public and private stakeholders.

We are already testing the next generation of sustainable solutions. One example is our new district cooling system. It uses water from our harbour to cool down buildings during summer time. District cooling saves 70 percent of the energy used for conventional air-conditioning. We need more solutions like this – on a global level. I am happy to share Danish solutions with other cities and nations. From Hamburg in Germany, to Beijing and New York. Sharing is the key, if we want to succeed. We must learn from the “best” and “worst” examples of other cities, and adapt them to local conditions. I am sure, that if we join forces, climate change can

be a huge opportunity for cities and nations. If we tackle climate change the right way, we will be able to reduce CO2-emissions, create jobs and make our cities more liveable. This is my vision, and Copenhagen and many other cities are well underway, now national leaders must take action, and make an agreement in Paris in 2015 at the COP 21.

I will end my speech by thanking you for your incredible work with the IPCC reports. It is because of you and the scientists from all over the World that we as politicians have the knowledge to make the right decisions that will help to save our planet. I wish you all a pleasant stay in Copenhagen.

Thank you.