



## Draft of the Sarajevo Declaration

To be adopted by the participants of the Sarajevo meeting in mid-April 2013

We, representatives of national, sub-national and local governments, non-governmental organisations and other contributing stakeholders from across the Mediterranean basin, welcome and commend the City of Sarajevo for hosting the first meeting of MEDIVERCITIES, in partnership with ICLEI and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity from X to Y 2013. We are mindful that local and regional authorities play a critical role in sustainable use of the biodiversity resources and services while having limited representation and influence in the decision-making and implementation processes.

*We recognize,*

The importance of biodiversity on human well-being through biodiversity functions and services,

That this balance is constantly threatened by mounting anthropogenic and climatic pressures in the region,

That local actions and cooperation with other sub-national or national authority or stakeholder shall be promoted,

*In line with the “Plan of Action on Sub-National Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity 2011-2020”, as endorsed by all 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity ; and in accordance with the Montpellier Declaration on Mediterranean Biodiversity adopted on January 20, 2012 by various local authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders, we therefore undertake to :*

*Declare* the launch of the MEDIVERCITIES network for local and sub-national governments in order to improve the local implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity through co-operation functioning as described in the MEDIVERCITIES Charter ;

*Agree* that the Members will have to develop Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and undertake at least one project related to the protection of biodiversity in their city ;



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

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*Support* the network so it can now work on the funds dedicated to it by its Members and look for additional funding for the network ;

*Collaborate* with sub-national and national authorities, international institutions and other relevant stakeholders in order to improve the local protection of biodiversity ;

*Explore and pursue* further collaborations in the region to extend the network and improve the efficiency of local action ;

*Represent and advocate* the interests of the Mediterranean local authorities on the international stage.