

Draft Remarks, May 2, 2005

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Remarks before
**The Eighth World Congress of Metropolis:
"Tradition and Transformation: The Future of the City"**

Berlin, Germany, May 12, 2005

Remarks as delivered

Greeting and Acknowledgements

Good morning. I am pleased to be here in Berlin with you at the Opening Session of the Eighth World Congress of Metropolis.

Let me congratulate you, Mayor Clog, for this great meeting and for the ongoing vibrancy and strength of Metropolis.

As the mayor of Akron, Ohio, and the President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge other fellow mayors - Mayor Wowereit, we are delighted to be in your city and appreciate your graciousness as the host mayor.

Mayor Tremblay, I am pleased to be on the dais with you.

Mayor Mkhastshwa, we were honoured by your presence in Denver at our 2003 Annual Meeting and are glad to see you again.

Dr. Tibajuka, The U.S. Conference of Mayors participated in your UN- HABITAT Meeting in Barcelona last September, and it is good to see you again.

And to President Kohler for your welcome of all of us to your nation, thank you very much.

And Dr. Topfer, I appreciated your keynote address and am very glad to have the opportunity to meet you here today.

I am pleased to bring warm greetings from the mayors of the United States to all participants in this World Congress.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official, bipartisan organization of mayors in the United States. Our members range from mayors of cities of 30,000 population to the largest U.S. cities, including New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

The significant achievements of Metropolis since its creation twenty years ago are of great significance to mayors throughout the world.

We look forward to the reports of your commissions, which have been bald at work on critical urban issues. Our organization was pleased to have contributed to the work of the Commission on Urban Mobility Management in Istanbul in 2003.

Conference of Mayors: International Network of Mayors

As President of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, I have had the opportunity to continue to build our international network of mayors, an effort that we believe complements what Metropolis is doing.

Our international efforts have been developed under the great leadership of our Executive Director, Tom Cochran, who has worked tirelessly to realize a strong international network of mayors throughout the world.

We developed a series of Trans-Atlantic Summits in the early part of this decade - the first in Lyon in 2000, and the second here in Berlin in 2001. These meetings brought French, German, and U.S. mayors together in a productive series of exchanges of ideas and best practices.

In our first International Conference of Mayors in April of 2002 we invited mayors from all over the world to Washington, D. C. and New York.

At our 71st Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, in June 2003, 25 mayors from 16 countries and five continents joined together with over 200 U.S. Mayors. Mayor Clos and Mayor Mkhastshwa contributed greatly to that meeting.

Metro Economies Analysis by U:S. Conference of Mayors: Findings and Implications

Our hope is to realize even closer ties between the Conference of Mayors and Metropolis and to concentrate with you throughout this meeting to explore transformation in our cities.

The Conference of Mayors is building systematic body of research about how urban areas contribute to the growth and stability of nations.

We refer to this work as "Metropolitan Economies" or "Metro Economies."

We believe that quantifying the contribution of metro economies to the overall U. S. economy has important political implications.

Key findings from our study of Metro economies are that:

1. The economic health and security of the U.S. depends upon economic growth and jobs that our metropolitan areas create. our analysis indicates that metro areas generate over 85 percent of our nation's employment, income, and

production of goods and , services. Since 1994, our metropolitan areas have generated 87 percent of the growth of the economy of the United States.

2. Our second major finding is that central cities and suburbs, which make up our metropolitan areas, must find new ways of cooperating in order to keep metro areas viable.

What do we hope to accomplish with this effort?

1. First, we want to better. understand the value of urban economies to the state and national governments in our country;
2. Secondly we want to galvanize local political leaders to seek more innovative ways of managing conflict between cities and suburbs; and
3. Third, we want to use this information to pressure our national government to support more economic investment in our metropolitan areas.

I am sure that many of you here today have analysed the importance of metropolitan areas to your own national and provincial or state economies. We are interested in learning more about your research and in sharing more about our findings with you on an ongoing basis.

Closing

In closing, I would like to pledge that we will .work closely with Metropolis to meet the major urban and global challenges we all face and to .seek the best approaches to transformation of the city.

On Saturday afternoon, The U.S. Conference of Mayors will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Metropolis signifying our pledge of cooperation and friendship.

Thank you, and I look forward to this great Congress and to discussing these significant issues with you.