



Climate adaptation in cities - Some theses

A number of models postulate considerably higher global temperature increases than up to 6.4 degrees C, which the IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has taken as a basis for increases by 2100. **Keeping to the target of 2 degrees can now hardly be expected. The vulnerability of major cities as a result of increasing temperatures is thus particularly great.**

Where mitigation is concerned, cities have a particularly significant role to play – after all, nowadays globally as much as 50 per cent of the population are living in cities. From the middle of the present century onwards, the effects of global temperature increases will be clearly perceived in most of the regions of the world. The proportion of people living in cities will by then have risen to almost 70 per cent. Against this background it can no longer merely be a question of mitigation. **Adaptation is on the agenda. In this instance, he who comes too late is punished by future inhabitants.**

In the case of adaptation we are dealing with pursuing long-term objectives which require action to be taken in the here and now. This is difficult to achieve in political terms, because the present urban population will not benefit directly from these measures. **In many cities, climate policy therefore – if it exists at all – means at best a policy of mitigation.**

No regrets measures are the appropriate means by which this discrepancy between the necessity of needing to pursue long-term objectives and short-term political purposes can be overcome. No regrets measures are steps which include improving quality of life in the here and now and ensure adaptation to climate change. Ideally, these measures also have mitigating effects on GNG greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change adaptation is a cross-cutting/ horizontal task which requires cooperation between differing specialisms / disciplines (and planning fields). Spatial development strategies, for example, should, as a matter of principle, be constructed in such a way that they take into account possible future effects of climate change and at least leave the way open for adaptation measures.

The five fields of action to be addressed during the conference are crucial for climate change adaptation, but are by no means exhaustive. Measures in these (and in other) fields of action are to be designed not only as no regrets measures, in addition they should enable synergetic effects with one another. **The best action strategies include measures which cover a variety of policy fields.**

Climate change adaptation is not only a cross-cutting task for municipalities. **It requires an inclusive approach, that of Integrated Urban Governance.** Business and civil society need to be included. This idea does not relieve politics and public administration bodies of responsibility. What is at issue is not shuffling over responsibility, but on the contrary involving others in responsibility.