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BALTIMORE
79th Annual Conference of Mayors
(Sunday, 19 June 2011)

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Annotated Programme

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Composition of Delegation

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Possible Bilaterals

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Address at the Plenary Session of the
79th Annual Conference of Mayors

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Lunch hosted by the President of the
US Conference of Mayors

**Background information for the Secretary-General's address to
the U.S. Conference of Mayors
Baltimore, 19 June 2011**

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,210 such cities in the United States today.

The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to:

- Promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy;
- Strengthen federal-city relationships;
- Ensure that federal policy meets urban needs;
- Provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and
- Create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information.

The Conference holds its Winter Meeting each January in Washington, D.C., and an Annual Meeting each June in a different U.S. city. Additional meetings and events are held as directed by the Conference leadership.

Conference policies and programs are developed and guided by an Executive Committee and Advisory Board, as well as the standing committees and task forces which are formed to meet changing needs. During the Conference's Annual Meeting in June, standing committees recommend policy positions. At this time, every member attending the annual meeting is given the opportunity to discuss and then vote on each policy resolution. Each city, represented by its mayor, casts one vote.

The policy positions adopted at the annual meeting are distributed to the President of the United States and Congress.

In 2004, when the U.S. did not sign onto the Kyoto Treaty, some mayors introduced and signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which pledged that they would live up to the Kyoto Treaty, even in the absence of a national government's participation. Today, about 1,050 mayors have signed the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The Conference established a Climate Protection Center and had a delegation of mayors that went to Copenhagen in December 2009 as an observer. Mayor Kautz, Mayor Villaraigosa, then Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, and CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran were all in Copenhagen. The Conference also has a very close relationship with the Executive Director of U.N. Habitat, Joan Clos, who was mayor of Barcelona for a number of years.