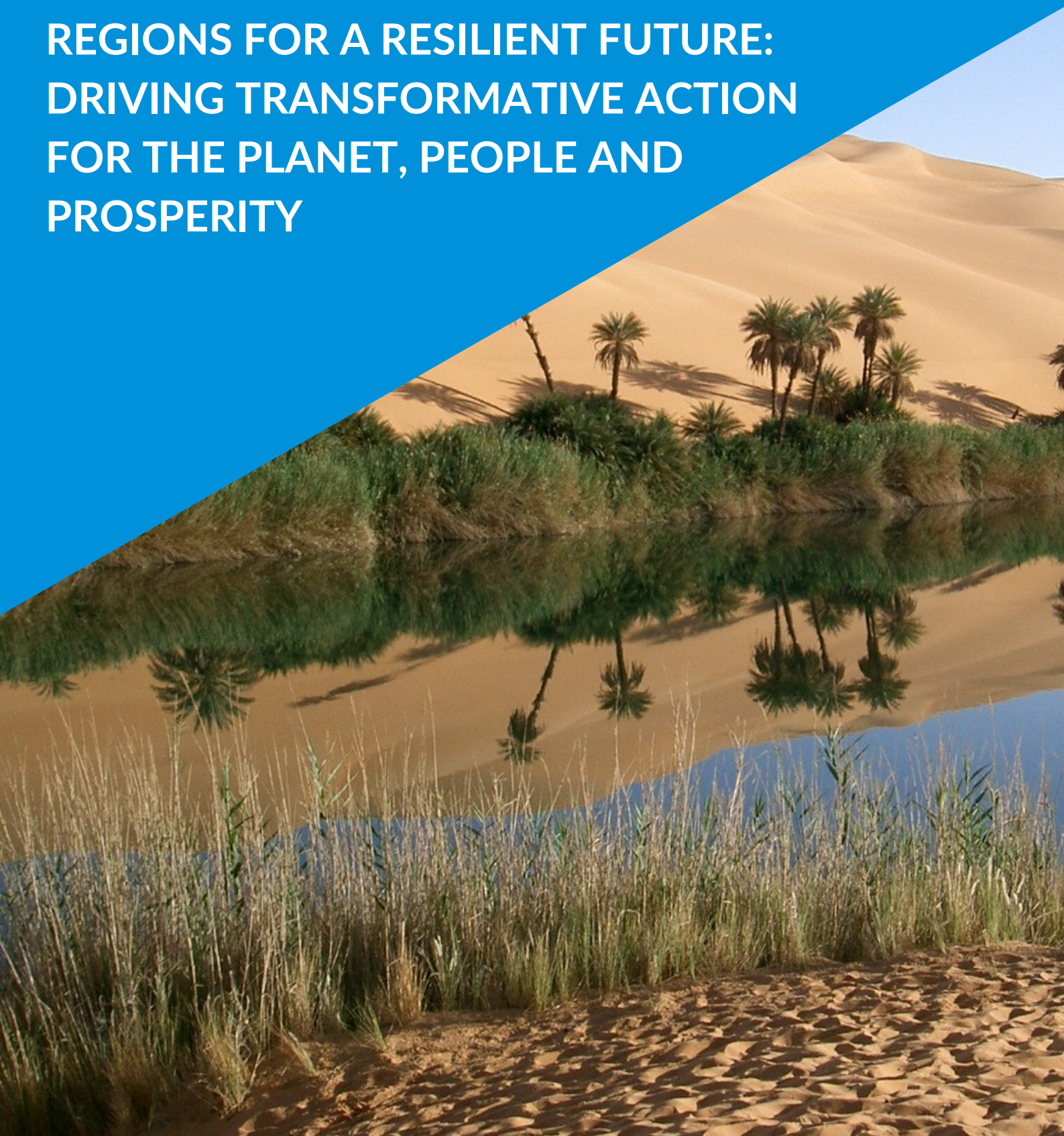


# **DECLARATION OF RABAT-SALÉ-KÉNITRA**

of Subnational Governments towards COP27

**REGIONS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE:  
DRIVING TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION  
FOR THE PLANET, PEOPLE AND  
PROSPERITY**



## ***Regions for a Resilient Future: driving transformative action for the planet, people and prosperity***

We, subnational and devolved governments, have gathered in this joint declaration, around Regions4 community of members and partners, to share our main recommendations and commitments towards our resilient future.

### **WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT**

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, a profound transformation of the current socioeconomic system is required, which must place the value of nature at the core of UN agendas, not only to avoid future pandemics, but as a way to ensure a green recovery. “Leave no one behind” as is a key promise of the 2030 Agenda, and needs to be a priority in environmental and climate policies for the years to come.

The determination to urgently and ambitiously scale up the international community’s efforts to overcome common environmental and climate challenges in a balanced and integrated manner demands the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including all levels of governments.

In this sense, and despite the geopolitical conflicts that are currently taking place, it is essential to increase the efforts of the international community to achieve a just transition, where sustainable development pathways towards carbon neutral and resilient economies are implemented, as well as the implementation of climate and environmental justice at the territorial level. Climate change remains a priority and an emergency, and urgent action on mitigation and adaptation is needed to meet the Paris Agreement goals.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2022 report on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability, stresses the need for effective multi-level governance, alignment of policies and incentives, strengthened local and regional government and community adaptation capacity, that are supported by appropriate financing and institutional development. It also underlines that the rise in weather and climate extremes has led, and will continue, to lead to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt, hence underlining the importance to recognize the loss and damage agenda, most notably for vulnerable regions, who have done the least to cause climate change.

We, subnational and devolved governments, recognize our key role in responding to climate crises and biodiversity loss, and the need for urgent action to mitigate and adapt to climate change and to conserve and restore nature and ecosystem services, towards a more sustainable, equitable and healthy world for all. The proximity with our citizens,

places us in a unique place in understanding the social and economic demands that are part of the current transition towards improved development models.

The Glasgow Climate Pact clearly highlights in its preamble the “urgent need for cooperative and multi-level action”. Subnational and devolved governments play a key role in developing adequate and territorial approaches to implement the Paris Agreement and other environmental agreements to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, showing that multi-level action delivers. Indeed, states, regions and devolved governments are often first impacted by the climate crisis, and have become natural leaders in some of the necessary transformations, particularly due to their capacity to mobilize and engage with all local actors.

We, subnational and devolved governments are leading actions on adaptation, notably concerning community engagement and education; flood mapping; incorporating climate change issues into long-term planning documents and strategies; crisis management including early warning and evacuation systems; and real time risk monitoring. We have also led ecosystem-based approaches that enhance adaptive capacity, reduce carbon emissions, while acting as natural buffers against disasters. These examples could be replicated on a larger scale around the world.

We, subnational and devolved governments, recognise our key role at the forefront of responding to the climate and biodiversity loss crisis, and the need for urgent action on mitigating and adapting to climate change, towards a more sustainable, equitable and healthy world for all.

Answering the climate and biodiversity crisis, and adapting to its impacts, requires the development of a global and integrated vision of resilience that bridges the gap and creates connections between the different agendas (Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, Sendai Framework, RIO+30, Stockholm+50) to develop cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder solutions.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP27, will be a critical moment for sharing an integrated vision of resilience and shaping the orientations of the Global Goal on Adaptation as stated by the Paris Agreement, which will be defined under the Glasgow Sharm El Sheikh work programme launched at COP26. Hosted by Egypt, this COP will also be an important moment to underline the needs and the support required for developing regions, such as African regional governments.



## WE CALL FOR

Working closely with the Marrakesh Partnership through the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience campaigns and the Local Government and Municipal Authorities constituency (LGMA), we, states, regions and devolved governments, call for and expect the COP27 and parties of the convention, to deliver on an ambitious mitigation and adaptation agenda, allowing for a just transition:

- **Reaching net-zero emissions**

- By asking parties to remain politically committed and deliver on the 1,5 degrees, and transition towards clean or/and renewable energies and not fall back to carbon prone fossil fuels energy sources.
- By asking parties to publish enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that commit to the emissions reductions needed to deliver on the Paris Agreement global temperature goals.
- By calling on parties to push for the inclusion of regional governments in decision-making, implementation and monitoring processes as key government actors with specific, reliable and ambitious objectives and long-term results in the field of sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

- **Leading the way towards adaptation and resilience**

- By calling on parties and the UNFCCC Secretariat to strengthen the inclusion of states, regions and devolved governments, in the decision making, implementation, and monitoring processes as key governmental stakeholders in the field of sustainable development, adaptation, and climate resilience.
- By calling on parties to ensure multilevel coordination mechanisms at international and national level, to influence the design, coordination, and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and implementation of the COP26 financial adaptation commitments.
- By translating these plans and commitments at the local and regional level through territorial integrated resilience plans, recognised and supported by national governments.

- By allowing for stronger cooperation and integration across local/regional, national, global levels in the field of data access. National support to subnational and devolved governments is required to systematically access data, while integrating regional data knowledge and information into global and national platforms to shape multi-level data-driven and science-based policymaking.
- **Contributing to the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Global Stocktake**
  - By allowing all levels of governments to be involved and included in shaping the orientations of the Global Goal on Adaptation, calling for it to allow for a common framework of analysis to determine whether adaptation policies are effective, as well as research, methods, best practices that can be developed at both national and decentralized levels of governments.
  - By ensuring that subnational and devolved governments are involved in the Glasgow-Sharm-El-Sheikh work program, through a more formal recognition of our essential role as key partners in the fight against climate change.
  - By asking parties to formally include regional and local adaptation contributions to complement the NAPs and NDCs, and for reporting on the NAPs and NDCs to include a section on the climate adaptation commitments, actions and achievements undertaken by all levels of governments and other stakeholders.
- **Mobilizing finance for adaptation and resilience**
  - By requiring climate finance organizations and institutions to provide credible objectives and plans to deploy capital to developing countries and to allow for dedicated financing for the regional and local level, through subnational climate funds or allocations.
  - By calling on Parties and financial institutions to make available more transparent and accessible climate finance mechanisms for decentralized governments, especially for African regions.
- **Connecting agendas towards resilience**
  - By calling for greater coherence, coordination and cooperation on environmental governance and law, climate justice and enhanced localisation of the global development agendas, ensuring connections between the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sendai Framework.

- By demanding a renewed effort from the parties to enhance scientific knowledge, data, and statistics availability; and disseminate, inform, raise awareness and educate about the interlinkages between the climate, biodiversity, and ecosystem services crisis. Particularly, emphasizing the importance of a joint approach, considering their effects on human health, ecosystems, and people's well-being.
- By asking parties to make a significant contribution to enhance the importance of adaptation efforts through nature-based solutions (for example, water resources management; forestry, protected areas, and biodiversity; agriculture and zootechnics) as they support ecosystem resilience, particularly by preventing soil erosion and greenhouse gas emissions, while also helping to reduce the impacts of climate change, resulting in combined benefits at an environmental, societal, and economic level.

## WE COMMIT TO

We, subnational and devolved governments, commit to expressing and sharing our perspectives and experience with the UNFCCC and its at all levels are recognized as key drivers for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the goals of the Paris Agreement, and ensure the conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

We commit to accelerate our actions and the localisation of the global goals by enhancing innovative solutions, including actions that are integrated into ecosystem approaches at all government levels to simultaneously improve the preservation of biodiversity and promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

We commit to allowing for technical cooperation between governments, private sector, research and learning institutions and civil society, seeking to expand territorial capacities around specific topics that will support the sustainable recovery for a resilient future, such as circular economy, sustainable water management, the valorisation of ecosystems, urban-rural linkages, and food security, among others.

We offer our experience, know-how, and capacities to implement an integrated approach that tackles interconnected issues in a systemic way and lead us to a more sustainable and resilient future.

We commit to the UNFCCC Race to Zero and Race to Resilience campaigns as effective mechanisms to show and report our progress, to support parties in the implementation of their climate commitments, and resilient futures.

## SUPPORTED BY PARTNERS



## SUPPORTED BY REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS



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