



7-18 November 2016

Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development at COP22 Wrap-Up Edition



During those days, over 22,500 participants, including nearly 15,800 government officials, 5,400 representatives of UN bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, and 1,200 members of the media, came together to operationalise the Paris Agreement with the hope to combat global climate change. The Marrakech Climate Conference was expected to be a “conference of action” and we witnessed an incredible mobilisation of nrg4SD members ready to fulfil this expectation by sharing best practices, promoting multi-level governance and stand up for more ambitious action in the post-Paris period.

The negotiations in Marrakech focused on matters relating to the entry into force and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. During the first week, work was concentrated under the COP, CMP and the three Subsidiary Bodies, whereas during the second week the negotiations in the Subsidiary Bodies closed and the CMA discussions opened. In addition, work continued under the COP and CMP. The joint high-level segment under the COP, CMP and CMA brought together over 70 heads of state and government, in addition to ministers and heads of delegation to generate political will. The Presidency also convened several other high-level events, including on accelerating action and on climate finance.

COP 22 created a sense of urgency and accountability for the development of a rulebook until 2018, that will make the Paris

Agreement implementable from day one. On Thursday, 17 November, the Presidency read out the [Marrakech Action Proclamation for Our Climate and Sustainable Development](#) to the COP plenary. The Proclamation celebrates the unstoppable global momentum on climate change and sustainable development action by governments, businesses, investors, subnational government and cities. It calls for the highest political commitment to build on that momentum so that climate action can fully support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for the benefit of people and the planet. The commitments include calls for higher ambition, climate finance, pre-2020 action, and heightened participation from non-state actors like local governments and the private sector, among other things.

Additionally, several ambitious commitments have been made by governments, business, investors, cities and local governments:

- Canada, Germany, Mexico and the United States announced the [first long-term climate strategies under the Paris](#)

[Agreement](#) out to 2050, reflecting the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement to achieve climate neutrality and a low-emission world in the second half of the century.

- The Under2 Coalition declared their membership has grown to 165 subnational governments, who have committed to reduce their emissions by at least 80% by 2050.
- The Climate Vulnerable Forum a group of more than 40 vulnerable nations, released a their [Marrakech Vision](#) that strengthens the call to limit global temperature rise to as close to 1.5 degrees Celsius as possible. They commit to various ambitious aims, including achieving 100% renewable energy between 2030 and 2050.

At the closing Fiji was announced as the incoming President of the 2017 UN Climate Conference (COP23) which will be hosted by the UNFCCC in Bonn.

The press release of the UNFCCC Secretariat with highlights of all outcomes, key decisions and announcements of the UN Climate Change Conference in Marrakesh can be found [here](#).





Highlights for Subnational Governments at COP22

Global Climate Action

The Conference also strengthened the Global Climate Action Agenda by launching the [Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action](#), which aims at concretizing the Agenda and providing a roadmap for action from 2017 to 2020. This Partnership seeks to step up climate action by bringing together Parties and non-Party stakeholders committed to climate action within the same platform in order to share successes, lessons, best practices and barriers, as well as providing a platform for new initiatives. It aims to support implementation of more climate action now, consistent with the achievement of the NDCs, and to foster greater ambition over time on mitigation, adaptation, and the delivery of finance, technology and capacity building to developing countries. The Partnership supports voluntary collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other subnational authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples, as well as coalitions and voluntary initiatives, as set out in the Paris decision.

The Partnership was launched by the two High-Level Climate Champions Dr. Hakima El Haite, Morocco and Ambassador Laurence Tubiana, France to provide a way forward for future Champions to catalyse and support climate action by Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

The launch of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action represented the culmination of a series of thematic events

to help boost cooperative global action between the different levels of governments, business, investors and citizens. These events were hosted by the Climate Champions and were focused on eight key areas: Forests, Water, Industry & Business, Human Settlements, Energy, Oceans, Transport and Agriculture.



The events on Human Settlements were divided into two parts: Buildings and Resilience in Cities. [nrg4SD](#) actively participated in the Resilience Workstream, which was convened on 10 November around three critical themes: multi-level, multi-scale partnerships and initiatives; synergy among key global policy frameworks; and finance. The meeting was led by COP21 Champion Ambassador Laurence Tubiana and was the first multi-level, multi-stakeholder dialogue after the adoption of Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the New Urban Agenda. A total of 32 national, regional and global initiatives and processes on resilient cities and regions were highlighted, including *RegionsAdapt* as a prominent example, among others. Proposals made at the event include:

- Supporting NDCs: Mobilizing the potential and power of integrated sustainable urban and territorial development and disaster risk reduction for climate adaptation;
- Ensuring synergy through long-term, structured and regular dialogue and engagement of urban resilience and adaptation community in key processes; and
- Increased flow of global climate finance and other investments to urban resilience initiatives and a Global Action Framework for Localizing Climate Finance

The outcome of the event was included into the [announcement](#) of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities' (LGMA) representative Ulrich Sumptoh, City Mayor of Port Vila, Vanuatu at the High-Level Event on Accelerating Climate Action.

More information on the event, as well as the outcome document can be found [here](#).

Climate Summit for Local and Regional Leaders

On 14 November 2016, local and regional governments and their networks met in Marrakech for the Climate Summit for Local and Regional Leaders. The Summit was attended by 1,100 participants from 114 countries, representing more than 780 local and regional governments. There was wide representation of the African continent from 50 countries, as well as 11 representatives from Small Islands States. The Climate Summit was held under the theme,





"Financing the sustainable mutation of Territories", and was the second Summit held since the inaugural event during the COP 21 in Paris in December 2015. **nrg4SD** members attended the Summit with active participation of **Catalonia, Quebec** and **Rabat-Salé-Kenitra** in the plenary session "For a Climate Finance Directed to Local and Regional Governments", **Azuay** contributing to the forum "For a sustainable change between Entrepreneurship and Territories" and **Sud Comoé** partaking in the forum "For an Alliance of Public and Private Climate Finance Tools for the benefit of territories". At the Summit closing session, the [Marrakech Roadmap for Action](#) had been read by Mr Ahmed Touizi, the Region of Marrakech-Safi Vice-President, and adopted by acclamation. **nrg4SD** made contributions to the Roadmap and endorsed it as partner.

The Marrakech Roadmap for Action reaffirms the role of local and regional governments as primary partners of national governments in climate action. It highlights the ongoing mobilisation through initiatives, like *RegionsAdapt*, the Compact of States and Regions, the Global Covenant of Mayors and the Under2MOU. The Roadmap also demands to renovate the financial ecosystem of

global investments and for public and private funds to be mobilised at all levels to support adaptation measures. The Marrakech Roadmap for Action aims to:

- Strengthen the capacity of local and regional governments to take action and support the process of project preparation and their funding;
- Integrate the local and regional dimensions in the undergoing mutation of the global financial ecosystem; and
- Support capitalization, transfer of knowledge and practices and access to available funding sources and to their engineering.

The Roadmap will launch two important actions: (i) the Global Campaign for localizing Climate Finance in 2017 and (ii) the implementation of a Global Action Framework for localizing Climate Finance in 2020.

The conclusions of the Climate Summit for Local and Regional Leaders were presented to the High-Level Dialogue on Finance on 16 November by the Mayor of Odienne and Vice-President of the Federation of cities and town of Ivory Coast, Diane Toure Nasseneba. You can find her statement [here](#).

Other messages of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities constituency delivered during the High-Level sessions:

1. [Statement](#) of Brahim Hafidi, President of the Region of Souss Massa and Vice President of the Association of Moroccan Regions at the COP22 High Level Segment, 17 November
2. [Statement](#) of Ronan Dantec, Councillor of Nantes, France and UCLG Climate Spokesperson, at the COP22 Closing Plenary, 18 November

2050 Pathways Platform

The High-Level Climate Champions together with many countries, states, regions, cities and companies launched another new initiative at COP 22, the 2050 Pathways Platform. The multi-stakeholder platform is designed as a space for collective problem-solving and will support countries seeking to develop long-term deep decarbonization strategies, including through the sharing of resources, knowledge and experiences. It will also build a broader constellation of cities, states, and companies engaged in long-term low-emissions planning of their own, and in support of the national strategies. The 2050 pathways are expected to play a role in the 2018 facilitative dialogue and the subsequent global stocktakes.

Already, 22 countries have started or are about to start the process of preparing a 2050 pathway, and 15 cities through C40 and ICLEI, 17 states, regions and cities through the Under2 coalition, and 196 businesses through the We Mean Business Coalition and the Science Based Target initiative have joined the 2050 pathways platform.

Read the announcement with the full list of supporters [here](#).

Low-Emissions Solutions Conference

The Low-Emissions Solutions Conference convened from 14 to 16 November 2016 in Marrakech, alongside the UN Climate Change Conference. Over 700 participants from business and industry, academia, IGOs and NGOs and governments took the chance to attend this large-scale technical-solutions conference, which was organised for the first time in COP history and discuss solutions and new technologies for implementing the Paris



Agreement. In 18 panels over three days, participants discussed a series of themes, including: Mission Innovations, information and communication technologies, sustainable cities and built environments, low carbon transport, carbon capture and storage, sustainable power systems, sectoral mitigation opportunities and low carbon policies.

During the conference the importance of multi-stakeholder dialogues with business, academia and all levels of government was highlighted, alongside with the need for the translation of COP decisions into local action and collaboration among subnational governments.

Twining agreement between La Réunion and Fidji Islands

La Réunion and Fidji Islands signed a twining agreement to tackle energy challenges under the auspices of the European Union, in the European Union Day at COP 22. European Union Commissioner for Energy and Climate together with other high level representatives from the UN, the EU and the business world promoted the signature. The agreement considers the similarities of both islands in terms of geographical conditions, population and climate risks, and includes commitment to mutual support to develop an increase of renewable energies and a decrease in energy consumption in the framework of the involvement of all stakeholders and especially civil society, as well as the will to invest and further explore smart stocking and management systems for energy grids. **nrg4SD** supports this agreement and President Didier signed both as **La Réunion** and in its capacity of Vice-President of **nrg4SD** for Africa and the Indian Ocean.

Summary of nrg4SD activities at COP 22

On Thursday, November 10, the Resilience Workstream of the Global Climate Action on Cities and Human Settlements was convened. Joan França, *RegionsAdapt* Project Manager, presented the initiative, which was highlighted as a prominent example out of 32 national, regional and global initiatives and processes on resilient cities and regions. The meeting was led by Climate Champion Laurence Tubiana and was organised around three main themes: multi-level, multi-scale partnerships and initiatives; synergy among key global policy frameworks; and finance.

Saturday, November 12, saw two side events organised by nrg4SD. In the morning, the **Mini Side Event: “RegionsAdapt after one year: Progress of sub-nationals leading climate adaptation”** in the Climate Change Studio featured presentations from **Azuay**, the **Basque Country**, **Santa Elena** and **Sud Comoé**. **Azuay** impressed with the presentation of the “MAR” – Strategy. MAR stands for Mitigation, Adaptation and Reversion to Climate Change and is based on the water cycle, which is considered as the vital element to adapt the productive systems, mitigate the effects and reverse the causes that have increased climate change. The **Basque Country** presented its projects being carried out regarding adaptation in the context of its Climate Change Strategy 2050. These “best practices” include the development of regional climate scenarios to assess the vulnerability of different sectors in the region to climate change impacts, the adaptation of coastal areas through marsh and dunes restoration, and the prevention of heat wave effects on health, among others. **Santa Elena** gave insights into the adaptation actions that the region is undertaking. The region realised the need to grow but in a sustainable way with integration of the whole society. **Sud Comoé** showed that the region is well aware of climate change by integrating the topic in its policies. Key fields of action are: Maintaining the local economy, preservation of forest, food security, circular economy, recycling and renewable energy. **Santa Elena** showcased their initiative around the Palo Santo -a bush that provides highly valued oil for medical purposes-, which enables at a time sustainable development in the framework of climate adaptation, forest and environmental preservation, prevention





of local people emigration, empowerment and raise of quality of life of local communities. A video of the event can be found [here](#). In the afternoon of the same day, the side event: **"Sub-nationals leading climate adaptation: The RegionsAdapt initiative"** included presentations from **Azuay**, the **Basque Country**, **Catalonia**, **Rio Grande do Sul**, **Santa Elena** and **South Australia**. **Azuay** stressed out the importance of its "MAR" -Strategy, based on the water cycle passing through different geographic areas (lake, river, sea), which raises the need to apply an integrated and holistic view on protection of ecosystems and involvement of stakeholders in that task. The **Basque Country** described its participation in the *RegionsAdapt* initiative within the second target of its Climate Change Strategy 2050, namely the promotion of resilience of its territory to climate change. The region focused especially on the topics of water resources management and flood risk. These topics are addressed through climate projections, river basin management plans, water demand management and the reinforcement of water distribution systems, among others. **Catalonia** presented its projects and strategies for climate changes adaptation in the region. They consist of around 150 measures, among them: vulnerability maps, a saltwater intrusion barrier, diversification of the tourist sectors and the conservation of natural areas through land stewardship. The government of **Rio Grande do Sul** mentioned how *RegionsAdapt* helped the region to develop its adaptation strategies and actions. The government developed a set of actions in order to include climate change as a topic into public management. The definition of public policies for risk management of natural resources, incentives to store water in the soil and in private reservoirs and the expansion of the climate monitoring network are among

those strategies. **Santa Elena** presented a project for the resilience of communities through the forest management of Palo Santo, a bush of the region's dry forest. It is valuable species, protected worldwide, that can be used for the extraction of an essence known for its medicinal properties. The region developed a management plan to ensure the productive and environmental sustainability of the activity and the involvement of the local community. **South Australia** underlined the importance of a regional approach within the state's adaptation framework, to empower the leaders and communities in the 12 regions of the state to determine the most appropriate action. After an integrated vulnerability assessment, the adaptation framework foresees to engage the community in the planning process for adaptation action plans, which are mainstreamed into major government strategies and plans. The event was closed with a signing ceremony and a short presentation of four new *RegionsAdapt* member regions, namely **Alberta**, **Buenos Aires**, **Minas Gerais** and **North Sumatra**.



On Tuesday, November 15, **nrg4SD** welcomed its audience to the side event: **"Subnational Governments and Indigenous Peoples: Successful Stories of Climate Adaptation"** to the



Indigenous Peoples & Communities Pavilion. Indigenous leader Chief Weasel Head from **Alberta** talked about the special vulnerability of indigenous people to climate change impacts but also about their unique knowledge and strengths in climate adaptation. **Azuay** and Jalisco presented different initiatives and projects developed by their governments in which for the design and implementation of environmental policies and specifically climate measures, they have involved actively indigenous communities ensuring their participation and inclusion, promoting integration and collective ownership of the government's policies and measures. **Gossas** shared different actions developed by the Regional Council focused in empowering local communities in rural areas, namely raise of awareness campaigns to preserve forests and avoid deforestation and salinization of soils, promotion of the use of renewable energies instead of polluting air activities, among other. **North Sumatra** shared an interesting view of how the different cultures, languages, religions and languages of local people can live in harmony together thanks to ancestral traditions of cohabitation laid in the basis of these local people; in addition, it was highlighted how the government of **North Sumatra** develops an inclusion policy involving all different local communities in policy making and implementation thanks to a multi-cultural parliament. The event stated that subnational governments can help to empower indigenous peoples and



communities, laying the foundation for greater inclusion and benefit-sharing through their proximity to these communities, as well as to national governments. The event showcased successful stories of climate change adaptation of indigenous peoples and communities in which subnational governments have been key.

On the same day, **nrg4SD** also organised a **cocktail reception for members**. This informal gathering took place in the heart of the Medina of Marrakech with participation of 14 regions: **Flanders, Azuay, Brittany, Buenos Aires, Catalonia, Goias, Gossas, Jalisco, Mbale, Minas Gerais, Rabat-Salé-Kenitra, Rio de Janeiro, Santa Elena, and Wales**. The friendly meeting led by the **nrg4SD** Chair of the North promoted a dialogue between regions to share information on members' actions and reflections on the Conference's negotiations. During the meeting members were invited to strengthen links, reflect on the network's operation and to suggest improvements.

On the next day, Wednesday, November 16, members came together for the **Promotional Meeting of Regions Adapt**. The event gave the regions of **Catalonia, Gossas, Lombardy, Rabat-Salé-Kenitra, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Elena** and **Wales** the possibility to reflect about their membership in the initiative and present their strategies for climate change adaptation.

Among the different interesting

contributions to the event were **Catalonia**, who described how adaptation policies evolved from 2005 to today, the different levels that had been overcome and what barriers there are for the development of an effective adaptation policy. **Rabat-Salé-Kenitra** explained the current development of its Regional Development Programme and its Regional Spatial Scheme. The emphasis of these documents is placed on integrated and sustainable regional development and the establishment of a balanced territorial policy and the integration of the climatic and environmental dimension in all axes of development. Among the actions that are being prepared are the preservation of water resources, the protection of local ecosystems and encouraging the use of renewable energies for public lighting. **Wales**, as a region suffering risks from flooding and sea level rises as a result of climate change, illustrated how the government is using legislation to ensure risks are considered at local level and innovation in the way it uses finance to stimulate action. He also introduced schemes of funding that deliver multiple benefits to people, businesses and wildlife. Other key factors for effective adaptation mentioned by speakers were the inclusion of society, territorial planning and the cooperation among regions. **Lombardy** presented the different actions developed by the government to tackle climate change in an holistic and cross-cutting way having in mind the different climates and landscapes affected in the region, as well the affections to the very diverse sectors, such as tourism, business, farming etc. **Rio de Janeiro**, as leading manager of *RegionsAdapt* within the **nrg4SD** Secretariat made an overview of the achievements of the initiative to date, as well as a future perspective of the actions to be developed in 2017, highlighting the success of the initiative that at present counts with 65 signatories and four active working groups with substantive results in terms of best practices pooled and shared.

The promotional meeting was rounded off by another signing ceremony for two new *RegionsAdapt* members from **Brittany** and **Misiones** (executed by **Rio Grande do Sul** on the basis of a representation mandate).





On Thursday, November 17, **nrg4SD** organized our last side event at the Climate Change Conference in Marrakech, “**Adaptation to Climate Change: National & Sub-National Coherence, Coordination and Cooperation at Regional Level**”, together with SACEP, the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme. The side event showcased featured presentations and fruitful discussions on the role of coordination and cooperation among the different levels of government towards efficient climate change adaptation.

The panel featured representatives from the national level, namely Zahid Hamid, Federal Minister for Climate Change of Pakistan, Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Environment and Energy of Maldives, as well as Prince Mustafa Zahir, Director-General of the National Environmental Protection Agency of Afghanistan and Dasho Chencho Norbu, Secretary of the National Environment Commission of Bhutan. The regional level was represented by Joke Schauvliege, Minister for the Environment, Nature and Agriculture of the Government of **Flanders** and Chair for the North of **nrg4SD**. Aditya V. Bahadur, Regional Programme Development Manager “Action on Climate Today” at the Oxford Policy Management, India acted as representative from the local level and academia. The panellists stressed out that climate change is a reality in many countries and regions worldwide and coordinated action

between different levels of government, as well as between countries is needed. Highlighted as additionally important were the inclusion of small countries and rural communities, the understanding of vulnerabilities, vertical linkages of adaptation policies, as well as exchanging knowledge and sharing experiences.

The event also featured the launch of a report on Adaptation Challenges in South Asia developed by SACEP.

The recording of the event can be found [here](#).

After a very busy COP 22 in Marrakech, we would like to recognise and congratulate all **nrg4SD** members for their hard work, engagement, leadership and contributions. We have an exciting path to follow together to reach a more inclusive global decision making, implement the Paris Agreement on all levels, and increase resilience in our territories. Working together, makes us stronger and determination will be guiding our work. To cite Prince Mustafa Zahir at one of our side events: “We can, we shall and we will!”

For any questions or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact us.

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