



COP25 Chile-Madrid Wrap-up Edition

2 – 15 DECEMBER 2019

Madrid, Spain

Introduction

The Chile/Madrid Climate Conference ([COP 25](#)) took place under the Presidency of Chile from 2 to 15 December 2019 in Madrid after a last-minute change of location from Chile to Spain. Running nearly 44 hours over time it was the longest UNFCCC Climate Change Conference in history. The conference brought together more than 26,700 people, including almost 10,000 observers.

The negotiations were planned to have decisions on a couple of key issues that remained unresolved at COP 24, most importantly, the guidance for [Article 6](#) of the Paris Agreement (market and non-market mechanisms). Other important issues included the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts ([WIM](#)) and finance. Unfortunately, the Parties did not deliver on their task and were unable to reach agreement on a number of issues, including on Article 6. These will be taken up on at the [Subsidiary Bodies meeting](#) in June 2020 in Bonn and the next COP 26 in Glasgow.



Declared by the Chilean Presidency as a COP of Action ([#TimeforAction](#)) with raising ambition as a central goal, the conference was able to showcase a lot of ambitious climate action by non-Party stakeholders, but its outcome lacked a clear signal of raising ambition among (most) Parties. As one of the three “Chile Madrid Time for Action” decisions that were adopted by the Parties, the agreed text in the one related to the Paris Agreement ([CMA Decision](#)

[1/CMA.2](#)) does not contain a specific call for greater climate ambition. It only recalls the request to Parties contained in decision 1/CP.21 paras 23 and 24 and suggests Parties to consider increasing climate ambition, which could mean that the moment when countries need to step up their NDCs might not be 2020 but 2025.

Nonetheless, the Climate Ambition Alliance, an initiative announced at the UN Climate Summit in September 2019 and led by the Chilean Presidency was renewed at COP 25. In this context, 73 countries have indicated to submit enhanced NDCs and 11 countries have already started internal processes in their national plans and policies to boost ambition by 2020. In addition, 73 Parties to the UNFCCC, 14 regions (including Regions4 members Basque Country, Catalonia and Navarra), 398 cities, 786 businesses and 16 investors are working towards achieving net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050 (see [here](#) for full list of Alliance members).

The importance of more ambitious climate action was underscored by two special events dealing with the IPCC Special Reports on [Climate Change and Land](#) and on the [Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate](#).

An innovative approach at the 2019 Climate Change Conference was the organisation of different Presidency events involving Ministers of [Science](#), [Transport](#), [Finance](#), and [Energy](#), underlining that climate change is a transversal issue that needs to be addressed not only by environmental ministries.

Highlights for Regional Governments

The outcome of COP 25 was not much successful in terms of highlighting multi-level governance and the importance of all levels of governance in addressing climate change. However, one of the successes is the formal expression of support by Parties for the [High-Level Champions](#), the [Marrakech Partnership](#) and the role of non-Party stakeholders contained in COP [Decision 1/CP.25](#). This is seen as a result of the high-impact action that has been mobilised by the different coalitions, initiatives and stakeholders within the Marrakech Partnership. Specifically, the COP decision included:

- Acknowledging the contribution of non-Party stakeholders in progressing towards the objective of the UN Climate Change Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement;
- Extending the mandate of the High-Level Champions and the annual High-Level Event on Global Climate Action until the end of 2025;
- Welcoming the continuation of Marrakech Partnership and requesting the High-Level Champions to explore ways to improve it for enhancing ambition;
- Requesting the secretariat to continue their engagement with non-Party stakeholders and to enhance the Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA), including through the tracking of action.

One of the most important events for local and subnational governments was the event *"From Chile to UK - The Road to Glasgow: Consolidating city and other subnational contributions to raising NDC ambition and implementation"* organised by the Chilean Presidency, the LGMA Constituency and others. The event highlighted the importance of multi-level climate action and presented the [LGMA Roadmap](#) towards a "Multilevel Action COP" at COP26, which was endorsed by different leaders of the constituency, including Regions4 Secretary-General.



The Roadmap includes 6 priority areas on the way to the next COP in Glasgow, which include:

1. Raise Ambition
2. NDC Vertical Integration and Transparency
3. Localise Climate Finance
4. Balanced Approach in Mitigation and Adaptation
5. Link Climate to Circular Economy and Nature
6. Amplify Global Climate Action

The video of the event can be accessed [here](#).

Summary of Regions4 Activities

The COP 25 saw a wide participation by Regions4 and its members with around 20 delegations and the whole Secretariat present in Madrid. They had the chance to share their experiences, positions and achievements through a number of events throughout the two weeks of the conference.



On Wednesday, 4 December, Regions4 was part of the [Marrakech Partnership event](#) “Global Climate Action: What We Are Doing? & What We Need to Do? - The 2019 Yearbook & the Climate Action Pathways.” Hosted by the High-Level Champions the event highlighted global climate actions, brought key messages from the [2019 Yearbook](#) and presented the Climate Action Pathways. Regions4 as the focal point of the Human Settlements thematic group presented the group’s [Climate Action Pathway](#), a document outlining the group’s vision for a 1.5°C climate-resilient world.

Regions4 presented the unique context of the human settlements thematic group and the 13 impacts included in the Pathway, among them finance, capacity development and participatory governance, a transformed building sector and reduced energy demand, circular economy, sustainable land and water use and nature-based solutions. It was also presented the vision of the world in 2050. The event can be viewed [here](#) (Regions4 intervention at 00:22:11).



On Sunday morning, 8 December, Regions4 held its extraordinary General Assembly to assess and discuss the future of the network. Proceedings and outcomes were already disseminated to emails via email by the Secretariat.

In the afternoon of the same day, Regions4 and the Basque Country held the event [*“Regional Leadership in the Climate Emergency: Nature-based solutions for adaptation & the water challenge.”*](#) Divided into two sessions, the event discussed how subnational governments worldwide address the climate emergency challenge.



Regions4 members Reunion Island (France), Jalisco (Mexico), Lombardy (Italy), Åland Island (Finland), Santa Elena (Ecuador), Azuay (Ecuador), the Council of Governors (Kenya), Catalonia (Spain) and the Basque Country (Spain), as well as non-members, such as the State of Amapá (Brazil), the European Committee of the Regions, and British Columbia (Canada), introduced opportunities, challenges, and success factors for subnational nature-based adaptation efforts and water-smart climate mitigation and adaptation policies.

In the morning of Monday, 9 December, the Spanish Ministry of Ecological Transition, the Basque Country and Regions4 as a partner, held the event *“Financing climate action - The responsibility of the regions and the private sector.”* Bringing together representatives from the Spanish national government and regional governments, as well as the private sector, the event examined economic impact, employment and, climate financing with a view of the responsibility of the regions and the role the private sector and financial sectors must play. It also discusses and anticipated the scenario that must be faced by the Ecological Transition in Spain with an international perspective, given that this transition is taking place in other countries and regions and with the participation of public and private agents in the debate.

In the afternoon of the same day, Regions4 presented the report [*“Climate Change Adaptation in a Multi-level Governance Context: A Perspective from Subnational Governments”*](#) at the event [*“Multi-level governance in climate change adaptation”*](#) jointly organised by Regions4, the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) and the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII). The event discussed the topics of climate change adaptation and disaster risk financing as a multi-level governance challenge. Regions4 members Québec, São Paulo, Catalonia and Gossas, as well as representatives from the BC3, MCII and the iisd NAP Global Network highlighted good practices and experiences from different levels of government, revealed common challenges and provided

recommendations for policymakers that could guide the development and implementation of national, regional and local adaptation plans and strategies.



In his keynote speech, the representative from Québec highlighted the importance of adaptation in the global fight against climate change and stressed the significance of multi-level collaboration in this regard. He further elaborated on the subnational perspective of multi-level governance, mentioning some key findings of the Regions4 report in terms of adaptation planning,

implementation, as well as monitoring, evaluation and reporting of adaptation. In the following panel discussion, São Paulo presented its Green and Blue Municipalities Programme, that supports municipalities in structuring and carrying out their own environmental actions, as well as how this decentralisation also promotes participation of other actors of society in the policy-making process. Catalonia spoke about their involvement in the RegionsAdapt initiative and their ongoing efforts in climate change adaptation, such as the Global Indicator of Climate Change Adaptation in Catalonia and their climate change law. Gossas presented an innovative initiative on decentralised climate funds, as a climate change governance approach.

The event demonstrated the key role of subnational governments in climate change adaptation as the crucial link between the national and local levels and how subnational climate action contributes to a more resilient world.

The presented report on multi-level governance in climate adaptation was developed thanks to the support of the Government of Quebec and can be downloaded [here](#). The Regions4 press release on the presented report was published on the official website of the UNFCCC, [here](#).

In addition to the events organised and partnered by Regions4, member regions had the opportunity to present their actions in a number of other events organised by themselves and other organisations.

Visit our [Flickr](#) to see more COP25 photos.

Upcoming Events 2020

A series of international events and conferences are already scheduled for the first half of 2020:

- 8 – 13 February: 10th World Urban Forum; Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 24 – 28 February: Second Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; Kunming, China
- 9 – 13 March: Africa Climate Week, Kampala, Uganda
- 1 – 3 April: UN CBD Workshop for Sub-National Governments on their role in the delivery of the CBD Post-2020 Framework; Edinburgh, UK
- 18 – 23 May: 24th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the CBD; Montreal Canada
- 25 – 29 May: Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the CBD; Montreal, Canada
- 31 May – 10 June: UNFCCC Climate Change Conference; Bonn, Germany
- 2 – 6 June: UN Ocean Conference; Lisbon, Portugal
- 11 – 19 June: IUCN World Conservation Congress; Marseilles, France
- 22 – 26 June: European Regions for the SDGs Conference; Lombardy, Italy
- 24 – 25 June: Agenda 2030 – Transforming Regions, Changing the World; Region Grand-Est, France

All relevant events scheduled for 2020, can be found at the [events section](#) of our website.