

REGIONS4 CONTRIBUTIONS AND OUTCOMES AT COP29

Where National Governments Fall Short,
Regional and Local Authorities Take the Lead



Regions4

Sustainable Development



REGIONSADAPT

Where National Governments Fall Short, Regional and Local Authorities Can Lead the Way

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CLIMATE COP29 HIGHLIGHTS



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

18 REGIONS ON-SITE

50+ delegates from 18 regions from Regions4 and RegionsAdapt
5 accreditations facilitated

+10 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM REGIONS4 AND ITS MEMBERS

- Scotland's £40k Just Resilience Fund for Global South through Regions4
- Rio de Janeiro becomes Founding Partner of REGIONS4SDGs, in partnership with UN-Habitat
- RegionsAdapt Progress Report 2024 launched
- Inputs from Regions4 in the UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2024
- LGMA COP29 Joint position endorsed by 70+ partners
- Cross River State (Nigeria) joins Regions4
- Andalusia (Spain) joins RegionsAdapt, bringing initiative up to 82 members
- Renewed partnership with European Committee of the Regions (COR)
- Regions4 becomes partner of the High-Level Champions' campaign "Climate-proofing SME's"
- 10 member stories in high-level climate publications

21 STRATEGIC MEETINGS

including bilaterals with members, partners, donors,
potential members and Board of Chairs

37 SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED TO 13 MEMBERS

- 5 events co-organised bringing contributions of subnationals on climate finance, integrated climate and bio action and assessing adaptation efforts for climate justice
- 21 members or partners events supported

72 POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA


20 #RegionsVoice stories published
15 #RegionsVoice videos published
+ 16,319 people reached online


REGIONS4 PERSPECTIVES ON COP29 NEGOTIATIONS


Key Outcomes and the Role of Regional and Local Governments


Amidst shifting political dynamics and rising global tensions, COP29 served as a critical juncture for climate negotiations. With a significant portion of the world's political power in flux, the conference, attended by 65 000 participants, faced the daunting challenge of redefining the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate finance. As negotiations unfolded, the outcomes were mixed, with some successes and notable setbacks.


Our messages:



Regions4 at COP29


 Urge all parties to submit 1.5-aligned Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) promptly, involving subnational and devolved governments in setting these ambitions.


 Increase adaptation finance for the most vulnerable regions and populations by 2025 through the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance.

 Establish a new, ambitious Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance, ensuring subnational and devolved governments have direct access to funds for a just and equitable transition.

 Include subnational and devolved governments in the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, involving them in setting, reviewing, and reporting on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Encourage Parties and climate finance institutions to support regional adaptation plans.

 Integrate support for subnational and devolved governments' climate actions into broader financial reforms, including reforms of Multilateral Development Banks.

 Support regionally-led nature-based solutions and align them with the Montreal-Kumming Biodiversity Implementation Framework to accelerate biodiversity adaptation and mitigation actions.


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Regions4 Advocacy Messages at COP29

Carbon Trading and Climate Finance

Among the key outcomes achieved at COP29, we celebrate the conclusion of nearly a decade of negotiations with the finalisation of rules for **carbon trading under Article 6** of the Paris Agreement. These agreements, covering both country-to-country trading (Article 6.2) and the international carbon market framework (Article 6.4), represent a significant milestone. Subnational governments, like Québec and California, have already demonstrated leadership through their joint carbon market, showcasing how such frameworks can be operationalised at subnational levels. We look forward to seeing how other subnational governments can contribute to and benefit from this progress.

On climate finance, while the agreement on a **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** of \$300 billion annually by 2035 – tripling the previous goal - represents a step forward, this figure remains small compared to the adaptation needs estimated to \$215–387bn annually by 2030 by the Adaptation Gap Report 2023. Germany's pledge of an additional €60 million to the Adaptation Fund is a promising sign, but it is crucial to ensure that this figure acts as a floor, not a ceiling. We also stress the importance of grant-based finance to avoid further exacerbating the debt burdens of developing countries and welcome the mention in the text that it recognises, increasing, as appropriate support to locally led approached and institutions, which was a key ask of Regions4 advocacy at COP.

We welcome the NCQG's emphasis on balancing adaptation and mitigation, though it falls short of addressing loss and damage comprehensively. It is disappointing that, unlike the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP28, which decided to provide direct access for developing countries, including through subnational entities, no such provisions at the subnational level were included here. The "Baku to Belém Roadmap," which aims to chart

pathways to \$1.3 trillion annually by COP30, is a critical step, and we believe subnational governments should play a central role, given their ability to drive transformative local action.



We are committed to continuing progress and contributing to the finance debate, to ensure it is in line with climate justice principles. That is why at COP29 we called on international actors to scale up climate finance, particularly for adaptation and to address loss and damage, in the form of grants, not loans, with those most responsible for emissions contributing the most. Through our leadership positions in Regions4 and Under2 Coalition, we will continue to work towards increasing devolved nations, states and regions' ambition and delivery of a just transition to net zero.

Gillian Martin

Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy for Scotland,
representing Scotland as Regions4 Presidency



Adaptation and Loss & Damage Agenda: A Need to Accelerate Implementation

On adaptation, we regret there were no major advancements on key topics such as the Global Stocktake (GST) and the assessment of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), which have been postponed to June 2025. Despite this, progress in NAP submissions—growing from 14 in 2018 to 60 today, with over 140 countries participating—is encouraging.

A positive step forward in adaptation was the progress made on the [Global Goal on Adaptation \(GGA\)](#) since the establishment last year at COP28 of the [UAE Framework on Global Climate Resilience](#). We welcome the consensus on limiting indicators to 100 globally applicable options, with voluntary reporting by countries. However, we are disappointed by the lack of recognition for subnational monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), which remains a crucial source of information for a comprehensive national picture. Our joint event with Catalonia illustrated how subnational governments have a critical role in both delivering adaptation on the ground and informing global adaptation processes. (see below XX) “Evaluated Sub-State Government Adaptation Strategies: Advancing Territorial Climate Justice”.

We are hopeful that the launch of the Baku Adaptation Road Map and the high-level Dialogues on Adaptation will drive forward the UAE Framework’s work and we will continue advocating for significantly increased priority given to adaptation at future COPs. The current increase in frequency and intensity of climate disasters are clearly outpacing our efforts to adapt and failure to deliver on emissions commitments will only increase the cost of adaptation going forward. On [Loss and Damage](#), the finalisation of hosting arrangements with the World Bank is a positive step, enabling disbursements to begin in 2025. Additional pledges have raised the fund’s total to \$759 million, yet there is still no clarity on implementation pathways for subnational access. Together with a number of networks, we [issued a call to action](#) emphasising inclusive, multi-level governance to address climate impacts. Regions continue to lead in this space, sometimes outpacing state parties in ambition and action. For instance, Scotland remains a standout Global North government, being the first to commit funds for Loss and Damage.

Renewing the Climate Champions Mandate for strengthened non-Party climate actions

We also welcome the [renewal of the Climate Champions mandate](#), which reaffirms the critical role of non-Party stakeholders in driving progress toward global climate goals. Regions4, through its flagship RegionsAdapt initiative, plays an active role in supporting the Climate Champions’ efforts, particularly as a key contributor to the [Race to Resilience Campaign](#) and the Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda. We are eager to continue collaborating with the Climate Champions to amplify the impact of subnational governments in advancing global climate action.

This year, the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP29, Nigar Arpadarai, launched the Impact Makers, a global campaign dedicated to shining a light on effective climate action, highlighting diverse innovators and their tangible solutions across regions, industries, and communities. The campaign will also continue to grow through to COP30, taking place in Brazil in 2025. Meet the selected impact makers [here](#).

They also launched the [“Climate-proofing SMEs”](#), campaign to empower and enable Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to take ambitious climate action to which Regions4 has joined as partner organisation.

Nature and Climate: Bridging Agendas for Comprehensive Action

Lastly, while the link between biodiversity loss and climate change remains underemphasized in formal discussions, side events and publications at COP29 highlighted its importance. Nature is conspicuously absent from discussions in key frameworks such as the mitigation work program, the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance. Bridging these gaps will be essential to align climate efforts with the preservation of ecosystems. Regions4 event with Lombardy explored the critical role of subnational governments in driving solutions for biodiversity and climate, leveraging their own resources and budgets for accelerated action. We launched the RegionsAdapt Report, showcasing concrete integrated policies and solutions of 40 regions from 16 countries. (More information can be found below).

Looking forward, we are encouraged by the framing of **COP30 as a “Nature COP,”** offering a pivotal opportunity to place nature at the heart of climate strategies, especially given its proximity to the Amazon rainforest. This provides an ideal moment to align climate and biodiversity agendas for more comprehensive and effective action.

The Role of Local and Regional Governments: A Growing Force

While national governments continue to grapple with the complexities of climate action, and in the wake of recent U.S. elections, local and regional governments (LRGs) have increasingly emerged as essential players in the global fight against climate change. At COP29, over 500 delegates from local and subnational governments rallied together to advocate for greater inclusion in global climate frameworks, highlighting the importance of multilevel governance in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement (LGMA).

Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA)

The Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency was more united than ever in its call for urgency. The LGMA made it clear that future climate action must be inclusive, multilevel, and gender responsive. It stressed the need for embedding local and regional governments within Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), ensuring their full participation in climate decision-making processes. This inclusive approach, we argue, is critical to shaping strategies based on real-world knowledge and actionable solutions from the grassroots up.

One of the most significant demands from the LGMA at COP29 was for a more equitable climate finance framework. The constituency called for an ambitious NCQG that ensures direct access to finance at all levels of government, with particular attention to the needs of vulnerable communities and connections to biodiversity preservation. This appeal was underpinned by the shared belief that climate justice must be central to the allocation of resources, with those most responsible for emissions contributing the most.

>> Consult [here](#) the LGMA joint COP29 position and key text inclusions [requests](#).

Race to Resilience Campaign

In addition to our work with the LGMA constituency, regional governments are also playing a significant role in the **Race to Resilience** campaign through RegionsAdapt. The initiative aims to spotlight the progress of non-party stakeholders, such as subnational governments, in their efforts to build resilience of vulnerable communities against the impacts of climate change. RegionsAdapt, the official partner of the race driving the participation of states and

regions in the campaign, has focused on tracking the development of regional adaptation plans and strategies, underscoring the importance of tailored, localised solutions in building resilience at scale. Regions such as **Andalusia, Pernambuco, Assam State, Louga** have proudly joined the Race to Resilience this year, contributing to the campaign's growing impact.

>> Consult *Race to Resilience in action 2024* report, [here](#).



CHAMP: Advancing Multilevel Climate Action

A key initiative that gained traction at COP29 is the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships for Climate Action (CHAMP). With the endorsement of over 74 governments since COP28, CHAMP is playing a crucial role in amplifying the voice of regional and local governments in global climate negotiations. The coalition is dedicated to showcasing the critical contributions of subnational governments and strengthening multilevel partnerships to enhance global climate action.

CHAMP provides a platform for dialogue between national and subnational entities, fostering integrated policymaking and cross-government collaboration. By elevating the role of regional governments, CHAMP is helping to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement's climate goals, demonstrating that regional actors are not merely stakeholders, but key partners in the global fight against climate change.

>> Read how subnational governments support CHAMP [here](#)

Brazil's Commitment to Climate Federalism: A Milestone Achievement

On Day 3 of COP29, 13 November, Brazil submitted its updated Nationally Determined Contribution with a strong focus on multilevel governance and collaboration. While Brazil's new commitment to reduce emissions by 59% to 67% by 2035, as compared to 2005, made headlines, the LGMA Constituency, and local and regional governments around the world, are paying attention to the *how* of the NDC – which strongly integrates Brazil's subnational governments into the national plan and actions, encouraging the creation of local adaptation plans and sectoral plans (16 for adaptation and 7 for mitigation) by mid-2025.

>> Read more [here](#).

The Way Forward: Climate Resilience for All

The call for greater inclusion of regional governments in national climate strategies is not just about representation—it's about ensuring that climate policies are informed by the lived experiences of communities and are actionable on the ground. Regional governments are uniquely positioned to effectively tackle social, economic and environmental challenges, of both rural and urban realities, while engaging local communities and targeting the most vulnerable, and generating culturally appropriate bottom-up sustainable solutions that contribute to global targets.

As COP29 draws to a close, the message is clear for COP30 in Belem, Brazil: where national governments may lag behind, local and regional governments are stepping up to lead the way. Their growing influence and commitment to climate justice must be recognised and supported as we move forward in the fight against climate change. Only through true multilevel collaboration can we hope to meet the ambitious targets set by the Paris Agreement and secure a sustainable, resilient future for all.

>> *For more details about the negotiations, please find here*

- [Regions4's Analysis of COP29 outcomes from a Subnational perspective.](#)
- [COP 29 Outcome Moves Needle on Finance | International Institute for Sustainable Development](#)
- [COP29: Key outcomes agreed at the UN climate talks in Baku - Carbon Brief](#)
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REGIONS4 AT COP29: A SHOWCASE OF REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Regions4 Delegation: Amplifying Subnational Voices at COP29

At COP29, Regions4, our global network of regions, was represented by over 50 delegates from 18 member regions of Regions4 and RegionsAdapt. Regions4 played a pivotal role in facilitating their participation by securing five accreditations for its members and arranging 37 speaking opportunities for 13 members across five co-led events and 21 supported events. This extensive engagement further underscored the critical role of subnational action in driving global climate progress.



Among the different announcements from our members:

- Cross River State (Nigeria) joins Regions4
- Andalusia (Spain) joins RegionsAdapt, bringing initiative up to 82 members
- The Scottish Government will provide £40,000 for the Just Resilience Fund for Global South through Regions4
- Rio de Janeiro becomes Founding Partner of REGIONS4SDGs, in partnership with UN-Habitat.

Throughout the conference, Regions4 worked in close collaboration with the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency and the UN's Race to Resilience initiative, highlighting the essential contributions of regional governments to advancing climate resilience and adaptation efforts worldwide.

Regions4 Strategic Meetings

Over the week, Regions4 engaged in strategic meetings with subnational leaders and networks and more than **21 bilateral and network discussions** with members, partners, and donors, strengthening collaboration for meaningful climate solutions.

Regions4 New Presidency of the Scottish Government, and Vice Presidencies, Lombardy Region, and Rabat Sale Kenitra, held their **first Board of Chairs meeting**, aligning priorities and strategising actions to advance shared goals.

The meeting with the **European Committee of the Regions and partners (ICLEI Europe, UNEP, Climate KIC)** focused on strengthening the role of regional governments in the COP process, including ensuring funds flow directly at the local level. Participants discussed responsibilities for regions ahead of COP30, emphasising the need for a framework for consultation and feedback with national parties by spring 2025. The group agreed to work on a shared position engaging partners via the LGMA looking at COP30. This meeting was also the opportunity for Regions4 to formally renew its partnership with the European Committee of the Regions, for 2025-2026 to amplify local leadership on climate and resilience for the next years.



RegionsAdapt Progress Report 2024: From Cali to Belem – Subnational Governments Leading Nature Actions to Adapt to Climate Change

A key moment for Regions4 at COP29 was the launch of the **RegionsAdapt Progress Report** on November 16. This report highlights the growing expertise of regional governments in implementing integrated solutions that address both climate change and biodiversity loss. The connection between nature and climate is becoming an increasingly prominent theme at COP, and the work done by regional governments is helping to pave the way for more comprehensive, nature-based solutions.

>> Consult *RegionsAdapt 2024 report* [here](#).

RegionsAdapt Progress Report 2024 Launch

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The RegionsAdapt Progress Report 2024 amplifies the voices of subnational leaders, showcasing real stories of progress and innovative strategies tackling the intertwined biodiversity and climate crisis. These powerful stories show how local action is driving both climate adaptation and biodiversity preservation, inspiring others to follow. We invite you to explore the insights from 40 members who have shared their remarkable journeys.

Ms. Natalia Uribe
Secretary General
Regions4





COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan



Regions4
Sustainable Development



REGIONSADAPT

regions4.org



Member stories shared in key publications at COP29

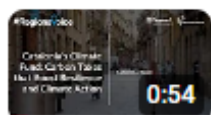
Regions4 contributed to the [UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2024](#), sharing how subnational governments are tracking their adaptation progress.

In total, 10 stories and best practices from our members were highlighted in prominent COP29 publications, including the [UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2024](#), the [UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2024](#), [UNFCCC Yearbook of Climate Actions](#), [High Level Climate Champions Nature Positive for Climate Action](#), [the Race to Resilience In Action – 2024 Updates](#).

Featured examples from Québec, California, Louga, Pernambuco, Assam, Andalusia, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Minas Gerais underscored the diverse and impactful work of our network in driving climate resilience and adaptation globally.

RegionsVoice at COP29

Launched in 2019, Regions4's [#RegionsVoice](#) campaign amplifies the role of regional governments in UN sustainable development processes. It aims to boost their visibility and recognition by sharing impactful messages during the UN Decade of Action. Discover 15 videos at COP29 on the dedicated page [here](#).



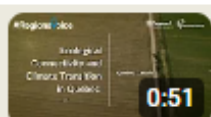
#RegionsVoice - Catalonia's Climate Fund Mobilizes Tax Revenue from...

Regions4



#RegionsVoice - How Québec is Monitoring Biodiversity

Regions4



#RegionsVoice - Quebec Ecological Connectivity

Regions4



#RegionsVoice - Le projet des chutes Metché dans la région de l'Ouest du...

Regions4



#RegionsVoice - Pioneering Climate Action in Gauteng

Regions4



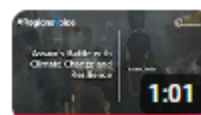
#RegionsVoice - Scotland's Peatland wins UNESCO's Heritage Status

Regions4



#RegionsVoice - The Metché Falls project in Cameroon's Western...

Regions4



#RegionsVoice - Empowering Assam's Youth

Regions4



#RegionsVoice - Gossas : Un modèle d'adaptation au changement...

Regions4



#RegionsVoice - Gossas: A Model of Climate Change Adaptation and...

Regions4



#RegionsVoice - Première réserve naturelle volontaire de Côte d'Ivoire

Regions4



#RegionsVoice - Côte d'Ivoire First Voluntary Nature Reserve

Regions4



#RegionsVoice - Rio de Janeiro and UN-Habitat Join Forces

Regions4



#RegionsVoice - Åland Islands: A Community's Journey Toward...

Regions4

INSIGHTS FROM COP29: REGIONS4 CO-LED EVENTS IN FOCUS

At COP29, Regions4 was proud to contribute to the collective effort of advancing subnational climate leadership. We co-led 5 events and supported 20 others, collaborating with partners to elevate the role of regions in tackling climate challenges. In this section, we share a summary of the main discussions and insights from some of these events.

From Cali to Belem: The Leadership of Subnational Governments for Climate Action and Biodiversity

On the morning of November 16th, 2024, the Italian Pavilion at COP29 hosted a pivotal event titled "From Cali to Belem: The Leadership of Subnational Governments for Climate Action and Biodiversity." Organised by the Government of Lombardy in collaboration with Regions4, this in-person session highlighted the critical role that subnational governments play in addressing the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

The event brought together influential stakeholders from across the globe, including regional leaders, policymakers, and representatives from international organisations, to explore how local and regional governments can drive meaningful action in the fight for a sustainable future. The session provided a platform for showcasing the key leadership initiatives and innovative projects led by subnational governments, with an emphasis on their role in shaping global climate and biodiversity agendas.

Setting the Stage: A Global Movement for Climate and Biodiversity Action

A central theme of the session was the recognition that subnational governments are not merely implementers of national or international policies. Rather, they are critical actors in the global movement towards sustainability, with the ability to enact tailored, impactful policies that reflect the unique needs and challenges of their local communities.

Regional governments have a deep understanding of their ecosystems, economies, and communities, allowing them to drive policy innovations that can be scaled up to national and global levels. Whether through land-use regulations, sustainable urban planning, or biodiversity conservation programs, subnational governments have the power to directly influence the preservation of ecosystems and reduce carbon footprints at the grassroots level.

In the session, experts underscored the importance of placing subnational governments at the heart of international climate and biodiversity negotiations. By acknowledging and empowering these local and regional leaders, COP29 seeks to build a more inclusive, collaborative approach to global climate governance.

What's at Stake?

Mr. Alessandro Guerri, General Manager for International, European Affairs and Sustainable Finance, [Ministry of Environment and Energy Security of Italy](#), emphasised the critical role of regional and local governments in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. He highlighted Italy's progress, particularly through Lombardy's leadership in localising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within national policy, which is now being implemented across all regions. Italy's collaboration with UN-Habitat and active participation in international climate and biodiversity conferences demonstrate its commitment to global cooperation. Guerri also pointed to Italy's partnerships with regions in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, addressing issues like disaster management, clean water access, renewable energy, and biodiversity conservation. He underscored the importance of a National Strategy for Biodiversity and the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which supports local governments with funding, training, and technical assistance. Looking forward, he stressed the need for innovative projects, public-private partnerships, and community engagement to advance sustainable practices.

Mrs. Natalia Uribe, Secretary General of **Regions4**, emphasised the vital role of subnational governments in addressing climate and biodiversity challenges. She explained that as we came back from the Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (COP16) and with an eye on COP30 in Belem, we're seeing increased recognition that the climate and biodiversity crises are two sides of the same coin.

She highlighted the organisation's RegionsAdapt initiative, launched in 2015 to support regions in adapting to climate change, now involving around 80 regions and impacting 434 million people. Regions4, through its flagship initiative, empowers regions through peer exchanges, progress reports, and tools like the Adaptation Tracker to monitor adaptation efforts globally.

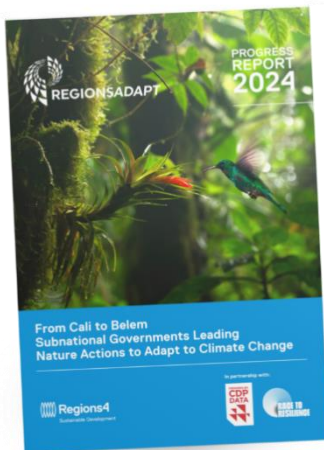
She launched the RegionsAdapt Progress Report 2024, which examines the critical link between nature and climate. **The report reveals the progress of 40 regions from over 16 countries.**



It assesses how regional governments are doing regarding their key commitments to the RegionsAdapt initiative and Race to Resilience which are to develop risk assessments, plan for adaptation, act and report, notably when looking at the connections between biodiversity and climate resilience.

She highlighted that regarding risk assessments: of the 196 different risks reported, the top five are drought, extreme heat, wildfires, water stress, and river flooding. Fifty-seven percent of these risks were reported to significantly affect nature conservation and forestry.

On the second commitment—ambitious planning: around 75% of RegionsAdapt members are developing adaptation plans, many of which are complemented by biodiversity strategies. Governments like Andalusia, Basque Country, and Yucatan are integrating green infrastructure, forest restoration, and biocultural conservation into their climate strategies, demonstrating how nature-centered policies can reinforce climate resilience and sustainable development.



On the third commitment—taking action: RegionsAdapt's report highlights over 100 actions in biodiversity conservation with a strong focus on nature-based solutions. For example, Quebec is supporting species migration through the creation of ecological corridors in close cooperation with local communities, farmers, and indigenous groups.

However, the report also identifies gaps in governance and financing, stressing the need for better coordination between national and subnational plans and increased investment in regional governments. Uribe concluded by reiterating the importance of regional governments in driving impactful, nature-positive, climate-resilient action, and emphasised the need for direct financial support to unlock their potential.

>> *Read the RegionsAdapt Progress report 2024 [here](#).*

Key Highlights: Regional Leadership and Best Practices

Mr. Giorgio Maione, Minister, Environment and Climate of Government of Lombardy shared two examples of regional action to improve energy efficiency in public buildings, which account for 40% of total energy consumption. Lombardy invested €25 million in renovating public buildings, prioritising the least efficient ones to maximise impact. These renovations included energy efficiency measures and resilience enhancements, such as green infrastructure and smart systems. The projects reduced energy demand by up to 71% and installed over 300 kW of photovoltaic capacity. Additionally, Lombardy invested €12 million in installing photovoltaic panels on 240 public residential buildings, generating €1.1 million annually, which is redirected to poverty alleviation projects.

Mr. Maione highlighted Lombardy's commitment to sustainability, with the adoption of the Regional Sustainable Development Program in March 2023, aligning with the 2020-2030 Agenda. **He also discussed two green budgeting initiatives to develop tools for tracking climate-related investments, aiming to maximise the impact of public spending on climate and biodiversity goals.**

Mr. Benoit Charette, Minister of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change of the government of Quebec highlighted the growing connection between climate change and biodiversity protection, emphasising that both issues are increasingly interlinked in the province's approach. Québec has developed a successful partnership with California, utilising a carbon market as a key tool for financing climate action. Celebrating the 10th anniversary of its cap-and-trade system, Québec generates significant revenue from the market, which funds a range of programs aimed at reducing emissions. In particular, nature-based solutions are increasingly central to these initiatives, helping cities become more resilient to climate impacts.

Mr. Charette also discussed the province's \$10 billion climate action plan and its complementary \$1 billion nature protection plan, along with a \$500 million water protection initiative. These programs are interconnected, reflecting the importance of safeguarding water and nature as part of Québec's resilience strategy.

Additionally, Charette emphasized the growing leadership role of subnational states in global climate efforts, advocating for collaboration with international coalitions like Regions4 and the Under2 Coalition. Québec has contributed over \$100 million to global emission reduction initiatives in other countries and **was the first subnational government to donate \$2 million to the Global Fund for Biodiversity, underscoring its commitment to international climate and biodiversity goals.**

Ms. Sara Aminzadeh, Deputy Secretary for Natural Resources in California, outlined the state's approach to biodiversity and climate protection, emphasising that these efforts reflect California's core values, including the conservation of 30% of lands and waters by 2030. She highlighted three key financing mechanisms for biodiversity initiatives:

1. **Public Financing:** California has invested \$1.3 billion in nature-based solutions, with recent funding from a \$10 billion climate bond to support conservation projects across the state.
2. **Private Sector Partnerships:** California engages major companies like Apple in funding projects, which recently funded a wetlands restoration project in the Dos Rios area. With California having the 5th largest economy in the world, engaging more private sector partners will be important in the coming years.
3. **Philanthropy:** The state has launched initiatives like the Wildlife Crossings Fund and invested in tribal land restoration, supporting wildlife corridors and returning land to tribes.

Mrs. Aminzadeh also discussed California's commitment to respecting indigenous knowledge in land stewardship and its efforts to attract additional investments to meet biodiversity goals. **With 25.2% of its 30% conservation target achieved, California aims to lead by example in balancing clean energy development and biodiversity protection**

Mrs. Marisa Maia de Barros, Undersecretary of Energy and Mining government of [Sao Paulo](#) outlined the state's climate strategy and financing mechanisms. São Paulo has joined the UN's Race to Zero and Race to Resilience campaigns and developed comprehensive climate action and adaptation plans. To support these plans, the state has established a financing mechanism – FINACLIMA, to attract private national and international funds for climate and biodiversity projects. A council of government and civil society representatives will select projects, including ecological restoration and nature-based solutions. São Paulo's Water Springs Program, focused on water resource production and biodiversity protection, is among the first eligible projects.

Mrs. Catalina García Carrasco, Minister for Sustainability and Environment, Government of [Andalusia](#) emphasised the region's commitment to integrating climate action and biodiversity protection. In response to climate change impacts such as rising temperatures and reduced rainfall, Andalusia has developed a comprehensive Climate and Biodiversity Action Plan. This plan includes mitigation and adaptation strategies at regional and local levels, supported by €1.7 million for local governments to create climate action plans and track emissions. Andalusia also promotes a circular economy, engages the private sector through emission compensation, and protects biodiversity through initiatives like the Andalusian Forest Law and species recovery programs for the Iberian lynx and Spanish imperial eagle.



Crucial collaborations to empower local action on climate and biodiversity

The event also looked at the necessary collaboration to strengthen the leadership of regional governments on climate and biodiversity.

Mr. Orville Grey, Head of the Secretariat of the NAP Global Network, IISD, highlighted the importance of vertical and horizontal integration in national adaptation plans (NAPs) processes. He emphasised the growing coordination between national and subnational governments, particularly in key areas for climate change adaptation, like disaster risk reduction, water management, and regional development planning. Mr. Grey noted the increasing role of climate-related governance mechanisms, such as those in Kenya, Colombia, and Nepal, which integrate climate change into national and subnational planning. He stressed the need for alignment between biodiversity, climate change, and adaptation strategies, advocating for a holistic approach to ensure effective climate resilience and the involvement of various stakeholders, including the private sector and local actors.

Mr. Leo Bejerano from the Catalan Government discussed innovative funding and collaboration mechanisms with the private sector to support biodiversity and climate action. Catalonia has implemented one of Europe's first regional climate change laws, creating a carbon tax that funds two major initiatives: **the Natural Heritage Fund and the Climate Fund, with over €400 million for biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation. Bejerano highlighted three key private sector collaborations.** First, the "Action Green" program offers 100% grants for R&D projects focused on reducing emissions and conserving biodiversity, generating a 5x return on investment. Second, Catalonia's carbon market includes forestry, agriculture, and blue carbon, incentivising private companies to buy climate credits. Lastly, a new credit line with favorable terms, subsidised by the Catalan Government, helps companies invest in climate and biodiversity projects. These efforts combine public resources with private sector engagement to drive significant environmental impact.

Finally, **Mrs. Elina Roine, Deputy Director General of Operations at the European Investment Bank** shared insights on financing climate action and resilience from the perspective of financial institutions, emphasising the "three A's" challenge: availability, accessibility, and affordability of finance. As the EU's largest financial institution, the EIB is transitioning to become the EU Climate Bank, with goals such as aligning all operations with the Paris Agreement and supporting €1 trillion in green investments by 2030. Last year, 60% of their lending went to green projects, including significant investments in cities and regions, which play a crucial role in global climate action.

She highlighted that some estimates suggest that 90% of the climate action needed to meet the global climate targets will have to happen at the city or regional level. In fact, 50% of the investments needed to reach net-zero emissions will need to come from cities and regions.

The EIB supports cities with advisory services, capacity-building, and financing tools to create investable climate plans. They offer a range of financing options, including public-private partnerships and venture debt, to improve project viability. To ensure affordability, the EIB blends public funds and leverages public finance to reduce costs for sustainable projects, exemplified by their work with Athens on adaptation planning.

Mrs. Roine highlighted the importance of partnerships across sectors to break down silos and unlock financing. Mainstreaming climate and biodiversity goals into institutional strategies is crucial for achieving long-term climate objectives.



Looking towards the future

In conclusion, the moderator, Mr. Gian Luca Gurrieri, from the Lombardy region, emphasised the role of subnational governments in connecting climate and biodiversity action, highlighting their increasing involvement in financial mechanisms such as green budgeting, carbon pricing, and climate funds. Examples like Quebec's commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund at COP16 showcase the leadership of these governments in financing climate and biodiversity action.

Nevertheless, Gian Luca highlighted that challenges remain, including evaluating the cost of inaction, attracting private investment, and integrating climate impacts into financial models. He stressed the importance of continued collaboration with Regions4 to strengthen innovative financing solutions, empowering subnational governments to meet global climate goals and foster a sustainable future.

He concluded by adding that these processes can only be successful if, alongside the multilevel governance model, they include the active involvement of citizenship, including young people. A good example of horizontal intergenerational integration on climate and biodiversity is the event "Hackathon for Climate Action" (by the Italian Committee for UNICEF and IAIA Italy) that the Lombardy Region hosted on 7th and 8th November 2024, with the aim to promote the active engagement of young people in climate decision-making and to facilitate their dialogue with decision-makers. At the end of the two-day session, the 80 secondary school students delivered seven concrete climate projects to the attention of decision-makers.



Evaluating Sub-State Government Adaptation Strategies: Advancing Territorial Climate Justice

At COP29, Regions4 and the Government of Catalonia, held at the Spanish Pavilion at COP29, on Saturday afternoon the 16 of November, a session on “Evaluating Sub-State Government Adaptation Strategies,” with the goal of advancing territorial climate justice. The event examined how subnational governments are not only implementing global climate goals but are also developing localised indicators and measuring systems that can feed into broader adaptation frameworks and influence the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).

We treasure what we measure

To introduce the session, the moderator, Natalia Uribe, Secretary General of [Regions4](#), started the event reminding the audience that we face the reality of falling significantly short on emission reduction targets, and experience more frequent extreme weather events worldwide, such as the devastating floods in Valencia, Spain, the urgency for adaptation becomes increasingly critical. The latest Adaptation Gap Report reminds us that adapting to climate change must go beyond reactive measures. Instead, it must evolve into a more anticipatory, strategic, and transformational approach.

She explained that during COP29, the international community is gathering to further the conversation on addressing the Global Goal on Adaptation which was captured by the [UAE Framework for Global Resilience](#) at COP28. Discussions focus on agreeing on common indicators to track the success of the **Global Goal on Adaptation**. As the saying goes, “We treasure what we measure,” and establishing a robust monitoring framework is essential to evaluate governments’ progress toward adaptation. With a growing focus on enhancing the effectiveness of adaptation efforts, discussions center on the complexities of measuring adaptation across various regions, sectors, and local contexts.

While global frameworks are crucial, subnational governments are increasingly recognised as pivotal players in not only delivering adaptation on the ground but also informing global climate strategies. Regions4 has been working actively with its members to influence the outcomes of the Global Goal on Adaptation by co-leading the Adaptation working group of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA) to ensure that regional progress is captured when evaluating progress on the global goal.

The Complexity of Measuring Adaptation: A Global Challenge

Measuring adaptation remains a complex task. It spans a diverse range of sectors, actors, and local realities, each presenting its own unique set of challenges. This diversity complicates the development of universal metrics. However, it also offers an opportunity to adopt more qualitative approaches that can be tailored to local needs.

During the first panel of the session the government of Catalonia, Minas Gerais and Andalusia, explained how they play a critical role in developing the right incentives, strategies and mechanisms to adapt to climate change and measure this progress.

Catalonia’s Experience: Addressing Climate Justice and Equity

Sonsoles Letang, General Directorate at the **Government of Catalonia**, presented how Catalonia’s **Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change 2021-2030** integrates climate justice by providing tailored adaptation guidelines for each vulnerable socio-economic sector, ensuring no one is left behind. The strategy takes a dual approach, linking mitigation and adaptation, particularly through sustainable agriculture and water efficiency programs.

One of the strongest aspects of Catalonia’s adaptation plan is the establishment of financial instruments to support its implementation, including a dedicated climate fund. This fund supports both private sector initiatives and public

programs aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate impacts. Through loans, carbon credit markets, and subsidies for citizens, Catalonia is mobilising resources to ensure that vulnerable sectors have the financial means to transition to more sustainable practices. Monitoring these efforts is a priority for the regional government, with a set of detailed **adaptation indicators** that track progress across multiple sectors (see below for more information about the indicators).



Andalusia's Adaptation Plan: Measuring Success in the Face of Climate Change

Catalina García Carrasco, Minister for Sustainability and Environment in the **Government of Andalusia**, shared insights into Andalusia's adaptation policies. The Andalusia region has focused on key sectors such as water management and air quality, with a comprehensive quality plan designed to track progress and outcomes.

Andalusia's emission compensation mechanism, aimed at reducing carbon emissions, has been paired with environmental restoration initiatives, including deforestation mitigation and soil rehabilitation. The **Andalusia Observatory** plays a critical role in monitoring adaptation efforts, providing key data to inform decision-making and measure progress in real time.

Minas Gerais, Brazil: Integrating Climate Justice into Adaptation

Marília Carvalho de Melo, Secretary of State for Environment and Sustainable Development in **Minas Gerais, Brazil**, spoke about her government's commitment to climate justice, which is enshrined as a key pillar in the state's **Climate Action Plan, alongside Mitigation, Adaptation and Innovation. The plan was published last year.** Minas Gerais is Brazil's second-largest economy, and its plan prioritizes addressing historical inequalities and providing climate resilience solutions for vulnerable populations, including women and marginalised groups.

The state's **climate vulnerability index** helped identify the most at-risk communities, allowing for targeted interventions within the Climate Action Plan. In partnership with local municipalities, Minas Gerais has worked to implement over 150 environmental health projects, including water access and sustainable groundwater management in rural areas. These efforts are complemented by educational programs focused on environmental health and climate change awareness.

Instruments for Measuring Adaptation

The second panel of the session focused on the practical instruments being developed to measure adaptation.

Catalonia's Evolving Climate Adaptation Indicators: Advancing Justice and Human Rights

Gisela Torrents, from the **Catalan Office for Climate Change**, provided an in-depth look at how Catalonia has developed their **Global Indicator for Climate Change Adaptation** since 2014. This evolving tool has been updated three times, and in 2024, it will expand to include 32 new indicators, bringing the total to 74. The indicators are designed not only to monitor climate impacts but also to promote **climate justice** by measuring the adaptation capacity of vulnerable communities, including migrants, women, and low-income groups. In this new review, the indicators are based on human rights considerations, covering areas like water, energy, and food security, with a couple of specific indicators selected for each area. Adaptation, as emphasised, is not just an analytical tool—it is a right for everyone, not just a privilege for the few.



Highlighting Locally Led Adaptation Principles for Climate Justice

Rebecca Carter, Director of Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience at the **World resources Institute (WRI)**, discussed how WRI supports subnational actors in implementing eight **Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles**. WRI explained how implementing and measuring these principles would inherently connect to raising climate justice and suggested that these principles could even lead to effective indicators. These would measure devolved decision-making power to the lowest level, ensuring that vulnerable communities are engaged in the process; access to finance; addressing inequalities, and the support of local governance. She also emphasised the effectiveness of cross-sector collaboration, which helps avoid redundancy and improves efficiency.

Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda and Race to Resilience: Tracking Global Resilience Progress

Marco Billi, from the High-Level Climate Champions team, shared insights on how the [Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda](#) offers a **global framework with 45 key adaptation outcomes for non-state actors**, and how the **Race to Resilience**, in alignment with other frameworks and platforms, tracks this progress in building resilience for over 4 billion people by 2030. These initiatives seek to capture the contributions of local and regional governments in building resilience. As Billi emphasised “*Without a clear assessment of impact, it is difficult to understand where we stand, what is working, and attract more finance*”.

Advancing MEL in Climate Adaptation: Insights from the Adaptation Gap Report 2024

Timo Leiter, Distinguished Policy Fellow from the London School of Economics (LSE), discussed the state of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) at different levels of climate adaptation planning. **While an increasing number of countries are developing MEL mechanisms to track their adaptation efforts, 60% of countries with National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), many still do not track their implementation.** Most countries focus more on completion rates than on assessing the effectiveness of these actions.

The Adaptation Gap Report 2024 found that only five countries assessed the adequacy of their NAPs, all of which reported that their efforts were inadequate in addressing climate risks. Leiter emphasised the importance of regional and city-specific MEL systems as necessary complements to national systems. He also highlighted Regions4's collaboration in this year's UNEP Adaptation Gap report and underscored the need for practical, useful connections between national and subnational MEL systems.

At the global level, a refined set of global adaptation indicators is being developed, with hopes that they will be used in the 2028 Global Stocktake (GST). In addition, voluntary indicators are being considered for countries to adapt to their local contexts.

Conclusion: Strengthening Local and Global Adaptation Efforts

As the session concluded, it became clear that subnational governments are playing a critical role in driving adaptation efforts. Their contributions, informed by local realities and the needs of vulnerable communities, must be recognised and integrated into global adaptation frameworks. Through initiatives like **RegionsAdapt**, which tracks adaptation progress across more than 80 regions globally, **Regions4** continues to champion the inclusion of subnational data in global climate negotiations.

The discussions at COP29 reinforced the importance of monitoring not only the quantity of adaptation actions but also their quality. By embracing both quantitative and qualitative indicators, we can ensure that adaptation efforts are meaningful, inclusive, and transformational—particularly for the communities most vulnerable to climate change.

Regions4 remains committed to advocating for the inclusion of local and regional adaptation targets within the global framework. As we continue to engage with international processes, we must ensure that adaptation efforts are truly aligned with the needs of the people and the planet.



Building the Business Case for Climate Finance at the Subnational Level

On November 16, 2024, the [MAIA](#) project hosted a high-level side event at COP29 titled "Building the Business Case for Climate Finance at the Subnational Level." Bringing together experts and more than 40 stakeholders from subnational governments, international organisations, financial institutions, and civil society, the event highlighted the critical role of subnational actors in accelerating global climate action.

Subnational governments, responsible for 70% of mitigation and 90% of adaptation actions, face significant financial barriers. Despite international commitments to climate finance, less than 10% of funding reaches the local level according to the [UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2023](#). Addressing this challenge, the event explored innovative strategies to boost subnational access to finance, align climate investments with local priorities, and foster collaboration across sectors.

Quotes from the Event

- **Natalia Uribe (Regions4 Secretary General):** "Investing at the subnational level is crucial for addressing climate challenges where 90% of solutions occur. Regions are uniquely positioned to tackle these challenges with tailored, locally relevant solutions, but the barriers of limited finance access and technical capacity must be addressed".
- **María José Sanz (Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) Scientific Director and Lead Partner in the MAIA Project):** "Science provides not only solutions but also frameworks and governance insights that are critical for effective climate finance. To succeed, we need interoperable data, trust among stakeholders, and financial tools that empower local actors.
- **Kirsten Dunlop (CEO at EIT Climate-KIC):** "To mobilise subnational climate finance effectively, we need tailored, co-designed mechanisms. Bridging gaps, changing perceptions of bankability, and integrating adaptation and mitigation must be at the forefront of financing models."



Key Discussions and Insights

The event provided a platform for policymakers, financial experts, and researchers to discuss the barriers and opportunities in subnational climate finance. The discussions were structured around two key themes: the state of finance at the subnational level and innovative solutions to unlock funding.

State of Play for Subnational Climate Finance

The first panel examined the financial landscape for subnational climate action and the barriers to accessing funds. Speakers provided valuable insights:

- **María José Sanz**, Scientific Director of the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3), highlighted the essential role of science in shaping finance strategies. She emphasised that governance, multi-level collaboration, and integrating local knowledge into financial planning are crucial for scaling effective climate investments. She also pointed out that fragmented data and limited financial access hinder the ability of subnational governments to develop scalable, bankable projects.
- **Phoebe Koundouri**, Professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business, discussed the need for public-private partnerships and reformed global financial systems to facilitate investments in the Global South. She stressed that leveraging public funds to attract private investments is crucial and that financing climate action should prioritise social equity, ensuring vulnerable populations benefit from climate investments.
- **Manveer Gill**, Senior Manager for Sustainable Finance at CDP, pointed out that demand for climate finance among subnational actors has risen dramatically, yet adaptation remains underfunded. In 2023, cities disclosed 63% more projects in need of finance compared to 2021. He also highlighted the need for better communication between local governments and private investors to ensure that projects are aligned with investment criteria.
- **Giorgio Maione**, Minister of Environment and Climate of Lombardy Region, shared how integrating climate goals into public finance structures has helped Lombardy create more accountable and impactful green budgeting practices. His region's participation in [Under2's Next Generation Budgets Project](#) is fostering transparency and accountability in public finance by embedding climate considerations into fiscal planning.
- **Sergio Arjona Jiménez**, Deputy Minister of Sustainability and Environment of Andalusia, presented innovative financing mechanisms, including blue carbon projects and regional reforestation initiatives backed by public-private partnerships. He noted that Andalusia has launched multiple adaptation projects, including allocating €4 million to municipalities to develop resilience-building initiatives.

Building the case for investing in subnational innovative solutions

The second panel delved into practical financial solutions that have successfully mobilised investments at the subnational level. Key takeaways included:

- **Kirsten Dunlop**, CEO of EIT Climate-KIC, called for financial mechanisms tailored specifically to regional actors. She emphasised the need for holistic investment approaches that align with long-term resilience goals. She also stressed the importance of shifting from short-term, reactive funding to proactive, transformational investments that integrate mitigation and adaptation.
- **Sonsoles Letang**, Director General of Climate Change and Environmental Quality of the Catalan Region, showcased [Catalonia's Climate Fund](#), which has successfully mobilised over €380 million in climate adaptation and mitigation projects. She also highlighted Catalonia's verified carbon market for forest credits, enabling businesses to offset emissions while supporting forest conservation.
- **Stephen O'Driscoll**, Head of the Environmental, Climate and Social Division at the European Investment Bank (EIB), highlighted how tools like the [ADAPT platform](#) and the [Climate City Gap Fund](#), which are unlocking billions in investments by providing advisory support for early-stage project development. He noted that the EIB allocated €22 billion in 2023 alone to subnational projects, emphasising the need for well-designed, bankable proposals.
- **Niina Ratilainen**, Member of the Turku City Council and of the European Committee of the Regions, stressed the need for increased capacity-building to help subnational actors navigate complex climate finance structures. As stated in the recently launched [report](#) focused on adaptation financing mechanisms

for local and regional governments, smaller municipalities often lack the expertise and resources to access available financing, and the EU should enhance technical assistance programs.

- **Roger Cruz**, Marketing and Uptake Lead at the FAST-Infra Label Secretariat, emphasised the importance of standardising [sustainability metrics](#) to attract more private investment into climate resilience projects. He discussed the challenges in financing adaptation, as only 15% of funds currently go toward resilience measures, despite its critical importance.

Key Recommendations

Assess Subnational Climate Finance Needs: Conduct region-specific assessments to identify subnational priorities and financing gaps. Tailor financial mechanisms to the unique environmental, social, and economic contexts of each region.

2. **Advocate for Increased Finance Allocation to Subnational Actors:** Work with national governments, financial institutions, and private sector partners to allocate a greater share of climate finance to subnational actors, emphasising their role in implementing impactful projects.
3. **Strengthen Capacity-Building Initiatives:** Provide guidance and training to subnational governments to improve project design and enhance access to climate finance resources. High-quality, well-structured projects have a significantly higher likelihood of securing funding.
4. **Promote Knowledge Sharing and Best Practices:** Facilitate the exchange of successful climate finance models and lessons learned among subnational governments. Showcase innovative solutions to inspire further investment and collaboration globally.
5. **Develop and Disseminate Tailored Financial Mechanisms:** Expand access to innovative financial instruments such as verified carbon markets, blue carbon credits, and resilience bonds, ensuring they are accessible and practical for subnational actors.
6. **Adopt a Strategic, Long-Term Approach to Adaptation Finance:** Transition from short-term, reactive funding to strategic, anticipatory investments that build long-term resilience. Increase the volume of adaptation finance while integrating mitigation and adaptation into cohesive frameworks.
7. **Foster Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration:** Encourage partnerships between public and private entities to co-design locally driven solutions. Leverage private capital to supplement public funds and scale climate action.
8. **Enhance Data Interoperability:** Invest in platforms and tools that enable seamless data sharing among stakeholders. Improved data accessibility and transparency will strengthen the design and implementation of projects and attract additional investment.

By implementing these recommendations, the international community can unlock the transformative potential of subnational actors, ensuring equitable, sustainable, and effective climate action globally.



A Pathway to Scalable Subnational Climate Finance

As the event wrapped up, **Kirsten Dunlop** and **Natalia Uribe**, Secretary General of Regions4, emphasised the need to connect science, policy, and finance in a way that empowers subnational actors. Effective governance structures, stronger multi-level collaboration, and innovative financial mechanisms are critical to closing the finance gap.

The discussions reinforced that public funds alone cannot meet the scale of the climate crisis. Instead, leveraging private capital, enhancing local financial capacity, and ensuring inclusive, data-driven decision-making are key to building a resilient and sustainable future.

By addressing systemic barriers and embracing innovative solutions, the international community can unlock the transformative potential of subnational actors.

COP29 provided a vital platform for advancing these conversations, but the momentum must continue beyond the conference halls, translating commitments into tangible climate investments for the regions that need them most.

The outcomes of this policy-science dialogue will inform MAIA's ongoing work, including the development of policy briefs to bridge the policy-science knowledge gap.

About the MAIA Project

The MAIA project, a key initiative under the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, aims to enhance the accessibility of fragmented climate knowledge and research across the EU.

By organising events like this policy-science dialogue, MAIA fosters discussions, strengthens partnerships, accelerates climate action and promotes climate strategies.

- Watch the event recording [here](#).
- Access to the photo gallery [here](#).
- Access the outcomes report here (coming soon).
- For more information on MAIA's initiatives, visit the [MAIA Project website](#).



First Annual INBOA Showcase

On November 15, the International Network of Boundary Organizations on Adaptation (INBOA), established during Adaptation Futures 2023, hosted its first annual showcase. The event celebrated members' successful efforts at the research-policy interface, emphasising the critical role of boundary work in bridging knowledge and decision-making for effective climate adaptation.

The event started with an introduction to INBOA's origins, mission, members, and activities, presented by Kawthar Monkachi from 4CMaroc, a member of the INBOA Advisory Committee.

Marco Billi, a Researcher from the Centre for Climate and Resilience Research, along with Maritza Jadrijevic Girardi, Head of Adaptation in the Climate Change Division of the Government of Chili, demonstrated their collaboration on data governance platforms. These platforms are pivotal for assessing climate risks and identifying adaptation solutions, directly supporting the implementation of climate policies in Chile.

From Québec, Benoit Charette, Minister of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Wildlife and Parks, and Caroline Larrivée, Interim Executive Director of Ouranos outlined the province's adaptation challenges. They showcased tools co-developed to assist municipalities in designing and executing effective adaptation measures, providing a practical model of boundary work in action.

Mariana Corvaro from Regions4 offered a global perspective on the role of international networks in advancing local climate efforts. Through their flagship *RegionsAdapt* initiative, Regions4 provides members with global connectivity, inclusive policy-science dialogues, diverse professional expertise, and tailored solutions, demonstrating how global partnerships can empower localised adaptation action.

The event underscored the value of boundary organisations in connecting research, policy, and practice to build climate resilience worldwide.



Developing States and Regions' Leadership on Climate Finance

On November 13, 2024, the event "**Developing States and Regions' Leadership on Climate Finance**" was held at the Multilevel Action & Urbanization Pavilion in the Blue Zone during COP29. Organised in partnership with Regions4 and Under2, and hosted by the Scottish Government, the session emphasised the pivotal role of states, regions, and devolved governments in advancing global climate finance solutions.

The event featured opening remarks by **Gillian Martin**, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy of the Scottish Government, and **Champa Patel**, Executive Director for Governments and Policy at The Climate Group. These remarks set the stage for a dynamic panel discussion moderated by **Natalia Uribe**, Secretary General of Regions4.

The panel discussion spotlighted and called for greater recognition of states, regions and devolved governments as part of the global climate finance solution, taking innovative climate finance actions to accelerate mitigation, including generating income that can then be allocated to adaptation.

Panelists included:

- **Mr. Oden Ewa**, Commissioner for Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, Cross River State, Nigeria
- **Gillian Martin**, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy, Scottish Government
- **Mrs. Marilia Melo**, Secretary of State for the Environment and Sustainable Development, Minas Gerais, Brazil
- **Leo Bejarano**, Director of the Catalan Office for Climate Change
- **Juraj Droba**, President of Bratislava Region, Slovakia & European Committee of the Regions Rapporteur

Key themes included income generation for climate adaptation, strategies for scaling up regional finance initiatives and fostering state and international support. Discussions also identified transferable models and tailored advice for governments pursuing innovative financing. The session concluded with closing remarks by Natalia Uribe, emphasizing the need for broader recognition of subnational governments as indispensable partners in achieving global climate goals. She highlighted their leadership in delivering inclusive, scalable, and community-driven solutions that align with global targets while ensuring no one and no place is left behind. The remark also reinforced the call to demonstrate to financial institutions and policymakers that empowering regional governments is critical to generating impact at scale, advancing solidarity, and building a resilient, equitable future for people and nature.

A follow-up report is to document the discussion's outcomes and recommendations for further integration of state and regional leadership in global climate finance strategies.



REGIONS4 MEDIA OUTCOMES

RegionsVoice at COP29

Explore the 20 stories from regional governments that were shared by [#RegionsVoice at COP29 on its dedicated page here.](#)

Press Releases/Articles

- **LMGA :** [COP29: Over 500 Delegates Representing Local and Other Subnational Governments Mobilise to Advance Multilevel Climate Goals](#)
- **Regions4:** [COP 29 | Where National Governments Fall Short, Regional and Local Authorities Take the Lead – Regions4](#)
- **Regions4:** [At COP 29 | From Cali to Belem: The Leadership of Subnational Governments for Climate Action and Biodiversity – Regions4](#)
- **Regions4:** [At COP29 | Evaluating Sub-State Government Adaptation Strategies: Advancing Territorial Climate Justice – Regions4](#)

Photo Gallery

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