

*This document is open for contributions until August 30, 2022*

*Please provide your inputs by sending an annotated Word or PDF copy to: [climate@regions4.org](mailto:climate@regions4.org) and [mcran@regions4.org](mailto:mcran@regions4.org)*

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## **DECLARATION of Rabat-Salé-Kénitra of Regional Governments towards COP27**

*Draft for inputs*

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

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

This declaration will be presented as a draft for consultation within Regions4 General Assembly of the 15- 16<sup>th</sup> of June, in Rabat, and will be open for comments up until the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2022. It will then be open for signature and logos for all regional governments and their networks to endorse by the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 and will be presented at the UN Climate Change Conference 2022 (COP27), in Egypt, Sharm-El-Sheik, the 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

### **WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT**

A transformative change is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including a fundamental and system-wide re-organization that must place the value of nature at the core of UN agendas, not only to avoid future global pandemics, but to ensure a green recovery. The determination to urgently and ambitiously scale up the international community's efforts to overcome common environmental challenges in a balanced and integrated manner demands the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including all levels of governments.

In the context of climate Global Stocktake, Sustainable Development Goals, RIO+30, and Stockholm+50 commitments, connecting the climate and biodiversity spheres is especially crucial at this moment where world leaders are gearing up towards action.

Climate justice, peace and ensuring sustainable resilience pathways to transition out of carbon economies is essential, particularly given the current conflict in Ukraine, and other geopolitical pressures. Climate change remains a priority and emergency, and urgent action to mitigate and adapt to climate change is required to avoid further crises.

The IPCC 2022 report on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability, stresses the need for effective multi-level governance, alignment of policies and incentives, strengthened local and regional government and community adaptation capacity, that are supported by appropriate financing and institutional development. It also underlines that the rise in weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt, this underlining the importance to recognize the loss and damage agenda, notably for vulnerable regions.

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

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

Seeking solutions to the climate and biodiversity crisis and adapting to its effects, requires developing a comprehensive and integrated vision of resilience that bridges the gaps and creates connections between the different agendas. We, subnational governments, recognise our key role at the forefront of responding to the climate and biodiversity loss crisis, and the need for urgent action on mitigating and adapting to climate change, towards a more sustainable, equitable and healthy world for all.

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

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

## **WE CALL FOR**

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

➤ **Reaching net-zero emissions**

- By asking parties to remain politically committed to the 1,5 degrees carbon transitions, and transition towards clean or/and renewable energies and not fall back to carbon prone fossil fuels energy sources.
- By asking parties to publish enhanced NDCs that commit to the emissions reductions needed to deliver on the Paris Agreement global temperature goals, with supportive policies and pathways for delivery.

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

- By calling on parties and the UNFCCC secretariat to strengthen the inclusion of subnational governments in the decision making, implementation, and monitoring processes as key governmental stakeholders with specific, reliable, and ambitious goals and long-standing results in the field of sustainable development and climate resilience.
- By calling on parties to ensure multilevel coordination mechanisms at international and national level, to influence the design, coordination, and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and implementation of the COP26 financial adaptation commitments
- By translating these plans and commitments at the local and regional level through territorial integrated resilience plans, recognised and supported by national governments.
- By allowing for stronger cooperation and integration across local/regional, national, global levels in the field of data access. National support to regional governments is required to systematically access data to help shape data-driven and science-based policy-making at local and regional level

➤ **Contributing to the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Global Climate Stocktake**

- By allowing regional governments to be involved and included in shaping the orientations of the Global Goal on Adaptation, calling for it to allow for a common framework of analysis to determine whether adaptation policies are effective, as well as research, methods, best practices that can be applied at both national and decentralized levels of governments.
- By ensuring that regional governments are involved in the Glasgow–Sharm-El-Sheikh work program, through a more formal recognition of their important role we play as key partners in the fight against climate change.
- By asking parties to formally include regional and local adaptation contributions to complement the NAPs and NDCs and for reporting on the NAPs and NDCs to include a section on the climate adaptation commitments, actions and achievements undertaken by subnational governments and other stakeholders.

➤ **Mobilizing finance for adaptation and resilience**

- By calling on parties and climate finance institutions to provide credible targets and plans for deploying capital to developing countries and directly access the regional and local level, through subnational climate funds or allocations.
- By asking parties and climate finance institutions to reinforce and allow for more transparent and connected and/or dedicated mechanisms that allow for regional governments to directly access international climate finance opportunities at the decentralized level, notably for African regions.

➤ **Connecting agendas towards resilience**

- By calling for greater coherence, coordination and cooperation on environmental governance and law, climate justice and enhanced localisation of the global development agendas, ensuring connections between the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sendai Framework.
- By asking parties to make a significant contribution to enhance the importance of adaptation efforts through nature-based solutions (for example, water resources and management; forestry, protected areas, and biodiversity; agriculture and zootechnics) as they support ecosystem resilience, particularly by preventing soil erosion and greenhouse gas emissions, while also helping to reduce the impacts of climate change, resulting in combined benefits at an environmental, societal, and economic level.

## **WE COMMIT TO**

We, subnational governments, commit to voicing and sharing our perspectives and expertise within the UNFCCC and its member states to ensure that regional governments are recognised as key drivers for sustainable development and climate action, and that they are empowered for the effective policy making, implementation, and achievement of the global sustainable goals.

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

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

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



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