

BACKGROUND STATEMENT ON THE RECOGNITION OF SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS BY THE UNFCCC IN SUPPORT OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE



CONTEXT: Up to 50%-80% of mitigation and adaptation actions needed to reach the ultimate goals of the UNFCCC will be implemented at the *subnational and local levels. Subnational governments are responsible for developing and implementing policy, programs, legislation and fiscal mechanisms in the areas of energy, environment, transport and land-use and also for developing policies appropriate to the specific characteristics of their region as well as communicating with the public. Worldwide, subnational governments have already set GHG emission reduction targets and successfully implemented measures including green building codes, vehicle efficiency and/or emissions standards, low-carbon fuel standards, renewable portfolio standards, feed-in tariffs, land-use policies that support smart growth, sustainable forest and agriculture practices and fiscal measures to support these initiatives.



THEREFORE, all Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, recognize that the magnitude and urgency of the challenges to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention will require an unprecedented level of collaboration and cooperation among all levels of government around the world. As such we request that the Parties to the UNFCCC:

THE CLIMATE GROUP



(a) Take into account the need to accelerate capacity building and to mobilize financial resources to scale up investment in areas that are particularly suited for subnational government implementation such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable mobility, sustainable land use, low carbon technology deployment, other mitigation policies and particularly in developing countries, reduced emissions from deforestation (REDD +), and climate adaptation.



(b) Recognize the important contribution of subnational Governments in pioneering policies and taking early action in the aforementioned areas and the need to continue this critical role in putting into practice the goals to be agreed by all Parties to the UNFCCC at COP15 and later.



(c) Support and encourage further development of subnational partnerships and networks of the regions to promote capacity building and information sharing, including best practices in land-use planning, forest and agricultural land management, sustainable mobility, green public procurement, renewable energy, energy efficiency, joint research and deployment of climate friendly technologies.



THEREFORE the Parties to the UNFCCC are further asked to formally recognize the role of subnational governments in implementing actions consistent with the Bali Action Plan and the importance of the role that subnational governments are willing to play in the implementation of the Long-Term Cooperative Action Agreement amongst nations. This includes taking into account the contribution of the Network of regional Governments for Sustainable Development to the Assembly document (FCCC/AWLCA/2008/16) during COP 14.



Québec 

*Subnational refers to the first order of government below the federal order of government.

Supported by: The Climate Group, AER (Assembly of European Regions), AIRF (Association internationale de Régions Francophones), CRPM (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions), nrg4SD (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development), IT4ALL (Network of regions for the Information Society for all), OLAGI (Organización Latino Americana de Gobiernos Intermedios), FOGAR (Global Forum of associations of regions), Northern Forum (Circume north polar Regions), ENCORE (Environmental conference of the regions) and individual subnational leaders from around the world including the State of California and Québec.

Contact information: subnational@theclimategroup.org