

**Submission by the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD)
on the Adaptation Committee and Least Developed Countries Expert Group Mandates stemming
from decision 1/CP.21**

1. Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 41: Requests the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to jointly develop modalities to recognize the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties, as referred to in Article 7, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, and make recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session (CMA 1).

What is the range and scope of adaptation efforts? How do you define and document adaptation efforts? Do you encounter any difficulties in terms of data sourcing or completeness?

The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development - **nrg4SD** - is a non-profit international association representing subnational governments and associations of subnational governments at global level. Subnational governments are particularly well placed for identifying the needs and the strengths of their societies in their climate action, and they are often responsible for the elaboration and implementation of policy, legislation, fiscal mechanisms and public investments plans in several areas affecting directly GHG emissions, as well as the capacity of response and the resilience of territories to the consequences of Climate Change.

nrg4SD acts as the voice and representative of these governments at global level in the fields of sustainable development, climate change and biodiversity. Particularly in terms of adaptation, there was a major perception that almost no international initiatives would support efforts at the subnational level. Nevertheless, the consequences of climate change will be mostly felt by the local population, especially by the poor and most vulnerable. Considering that, **nrg4SD** holds the **RegionsAdapt**, an original initiative of the Governments of Catalonia and Rio de Janeiro, and open not only to nrg4SD members, but to any subnational governments willing to join this collaborative platform on climate adaptation.

Currently, the **RegionsAdapt** initiative counts with over 50 participant subnational governments throughout the world, and by joining the initiative regions commit to take action, collaborate and report efforts on climate change adaptation. At the same time, through webinars and meetings of different thematic working groups, regions are able to share and learn from the best-practices in the world.

The range and scope of the adaptation efforts of our members is wide, and particularly the **RegionsAdapt** focus on seven specific thematic areas. They address the institutional, social and territorial demands in various conditions of vulnerability resulting from the different geo-climatic, productive and social characteristics of each region. Adaptation efforts include the institutional dimension through the development of adaptation policies, e.g. plans addressing water resources or disaster risk prevention. Vulnerability studies often stand at the beginning of adaptation efforts of our members and reducing the risks identified, as well as increasing the resilience of the social sector, productive systems and strategic infrastructure are among the key priorities.

Furthermore, restoration, preservation and conservation of ecosystems are seen as important steps to maintain environmental services. In this regard, reforestation, the protection of forest and springs, are only a few of the actions normally undertaken by our member regional governments. The creation of green jobs, in the context of a solid green economy, is understood as essential, as also are sustainable agricultural and forestry practices. Alternative energy sources, like the

promotion of solar power and domestic biogas, is also another action usually pursued by regions in their efforts to adapt to climate change. Last but not least, raising-awareness campaigns and environmental trainings in schools close the list of adaptation efforts, with a special view for educational aspects and changing the civic mind-set.

RegionsAdapt member regions report their efforts on adaptation through CDP's states and regions platform (<http://statesandregions.cdp.net>). A special section to be answered by **RegionsAdapt** members addresses issues on risks and adaptation. In this process, members provide detailed information about the risks faced on in terms of physical and social structures, especially when it comes to water supply. Additionally, regions report if and how they are assessing the level of vulnerability to climate change, and on top of that, how they are adapting to changes identified. The information given through CDP's platform is also submitted to the NAZCA platform, as a nrg4SD contribution.

Could you provide examples or possible modalities of how adaptation efforts of developing countries could be recognized under the Convention?

The Convention should consolidate the recognition of subnational governments and provide the necessary space for their engagement and contributions. Especially, it must be noted that 50 to 80% of mitigation and adaptation measures are or will be implemented at the subnational or local levels. Precisely so, most of the regions participating in the **RegionsAdapt** come from the developing world, as they will suffer more the consequences of climate change, and hence need the bigger chunk of financial resources and expertise to address them. The leadership of subnational governments is, thus, essential to implement and ensure efficient adaptation strategies in developing countries. Possible modalities for adaptation could be focused on (i) the social sector and specific consequences for each group, community and area; (ii) ecosystem-based and nature approached; and (iii) strategic infrastructure and production systems, such as transport, mobility, livestock and crop production. From these general themes global quantitative indicators, that also consider threats intensified by climate change, should be constructed. Such monitoring could be achieved through **RegionsAdapt** and the states and regions platform of CDP (statesandregions.cdp.net), which can also be explored to facilitate cooperation, capacity building, technology transfer and funding for adaptation, as well as other provisions identified by Art. 10 of the Paris Agreement.

Do you foresee any challenges or barriers in recognizing adaptation efforts of developing countries?

As stated above, subnational governments are key players when it comes to the identification of needs and strength of their societies. Their proximity to citizens and territories enables them to understand the specific demands, identify needs, and apply tailored-cut and participatory policies on the ground. The Paris Agreement recognizes the key role of subnational governments in building resilience to climate change and reducing GHG emissions. However, it does not envisage the means to support subnational governments in those efforts. Especially in developing countries financial support is needed to climate adaptation: promotion of renewable energies, change of water stocking modalities tendencies, reforestation, raise of awareness campaigns, and the empowerment of women, indigenous and rural communities.

Further, adaptation has to be understood as an equal fundamental element of climate action, in addition to mitigation, which makes it difficult to establish synergies among both. Up to this

moment, adaptation has usually received an approach from a qualitative point of view, but to recognize the efforts they have to be translated also into quantitative terms, providing disaggregated data by territories within countries.

For that, the challenge is to generate global quantitative indicators that are robust enough to identify efforts on adaptation and their effectiveness in reducing vulnerability and / or enhance the resilience of society, watersheds, and natural, urban and agricultural ecosystems. Developing countries usually have high-levels of inequality and diversity among its people and territories, increasing even more the need for information and action at the subnational level.

2. Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 45(a): Also requests the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and other relevant institutions, to develop methodologies, and make recommendations for consideration and adoption by CMA 1 on taking the necessary steps to facilitate the mobilization of support for adaptation in developing countries in the context of the limit to global average temperature increase referred to in Article 2 of the Agreement.

What experiences, including lessons learned and good practices, do you consider valuable in facilitating the mobilization of support for adaptation in developing countries?

It is essential that political will exists to adopt and implement commitments on adaption; started with the recognition that the territory is vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and regardless of the progress of mitigation efforts, a changing environment will necessarily affect all, which should allow decision makers to include the issue as a priority on their agenda and budgets.

The promotion of multi-level governance, especially in terms of cooperation, coordination and coherence of national, subnational and local governments is an essential step in order to mobilize support for adaptation. Subnational governments make the local context visible which is a prerequisite to successful adaptation strategies and to attain the necessary support. Besides, particularly regions can be the missing nexus between the local and the national levels. Good and innovative practices can be witnessed where subnational governments highlight the issue of mainstreaming climate change, both in the sectoral policies and the budget planned for the implementation of adaptation measures.

Raising public awareness on climate change and adaptation strategies, as well as developing citizens' ownership and engagement, further help to mobilize greater support and effective delivery of adaptation actions.

Which steps would be necessary to facilitate the mobilization of support for adaptation in developing countries in the context of the limit to global average temperature increase referred to in Article 2 of the Agreement?

First, it would be necessary to identify priority areas and sectors for adaptation, in close coordination with subnational governments, and based on broad stakeholder participation. For example, it should be assessed which territories and areas bear a high level of present and future vulnerability, and which have greater resilience, so that the appropriate level of efforts and resources are directed to specific areas and sectors. After that is determined, it is necessary to prioritize adaptation measures, especially those that have a link with mitigation and comply with what is referred to in Article 2 of the Agreement Paris. Once again, in this aspect subnational

governments are an important entity, as they count with expert environmental institutions that already have experience identifying those areas.

It is also necessary to develop a system of monitoring and evaluation of adaptation measures, in order to ensure greater transparency, and allow comparability and continued review of progress. In order to mobilise support for adaptation efforts in developing countries, it is essential to coordinate and provide the necessary means for subnational governments to be capable of collecting and analysing data, in alignment with guidelines and methodologies of the respective Parties.

Additionally, training and raise of awareness to local and subnational leaders on climate change effects, and how to tackle them is a must in developing countries, especially when talking about rural areas with fewer resources in terms of knowledge, capacities, staff and budget.

Last, it is necessary to provide funding to be able to develop all the above.

What methodologies can be used to take the above necessary steps?

It would be necessary to develop public policies aligned at different levels of government, with the full and effective participation of key sectors in implementing adaptation measures. Cross-cutting approaches should be developed to mainstream climate change as priority in all agendas, and ensure that actions pursued in different sectors are also envisaging higher levels of preparedness to climate change.

A system of monitoring and evaluation of adaptation measures should be developed, based on an integrated territorial approach that takes into consideration a holistic view of the interconnected present and accumulated effects.

3. Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 45(b): Also requests the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF and other relevant institutions, to develop methodologies, and make recommendations for consideration and adoption by CMA 1 on reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support referred to in Article 7, paragraph 14(c), of the Agreement.

What information/data or metrics are needed for the review of adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support for adaptation?

It is essential to have information of priority areas and sectors for the implementation of adaptation measures. Further needed is information about responsibility for the measures, involved agencies, impacts and benefits, short-, medium- and long-term goals, direct and indirect benefits, the units of measurement, frequency of reporting, source of verification and responsibilities regarding monitoring and budgeting are necessary.

It is also recommended to develop not only national but also subnational systems of risk and vulnerability indicators in order to better assess the social, economic and environmental risks resulting from climate change. Without disaggregated data by geographic areas, sectors of the productive system and segments of the population, it will be impossible to appropriately monitor and support adaptation.

Additionally, the use of high-technology and geospatial tools are necessary to enhance resilience. Nevertheless, the access to satellite images, guides, trained personnel, and innovative approaches is extremely difficult and would imply high costs, the need for intensive capacity-building and adequate support to administrations at the subnational level, especially in developing countries.

Which lessons learned, good practices, challenges and barriers have been encountered in such reviews?

Learned lessons:

- It is necessary that the areas where adaptation measures will be implemented are sensitized and literate on climate change
- It is necessary to prioritize sectors and subnational areas to adapt to climate change
- Political will is required to position the issue of climate change as a priority of the agenda
- It is necessary to generate disaggregated data and information on the effectiveness of different adaptation measures
- Subnational governments are central to assess needs and strengths of society, and accordingly to implement actions on the ground.

Good practices:

- Mainstreaming the issue of climate change in both sectoral policies and the budget is scheduled for implementation of the measures
- Generate baselines to quantify the effectiveness of the measures

Challenges:

- Diversify sources of funding to meet current and future demand on adaptation
- Strengthen networks with academic institutions and civil society
- Make governance effective, especially in terms of improving subnational capacities

Barriers:

- Climate change involves long-term goals, which exceed government periods
- Uncertainty in the disposition of the appeal
- Technological development is inappropriate to meet the demand of adaptation of all sectors

What methods can be used to review the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support for adaptation?

- Monitoring plans that including reliable, coherent and recognized indicators
- Regular contact of stakeholders with the UNFCCC Secretariat through more or less formalized channels
- Annual reviews where achievements and gaps could be share, tending to exchange successful stories and avoid replication of unsuccessful attempts
- Specific indicators targeted to the diversity of territories at the subnational level