



**United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)
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**Statement by
Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
on the occasion of the Climate Group's Clean Revolution Summit,
High level session on subnational governments leading the clean revolution**

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

It is an honour to address so many federated states and regions from around the world. Your presence here tells me two things:

- The task is beyond the means of national governments, and therefore your action at the subnational level is critical, and;
- You are committed to exploring the possibilities at your level of government to push the sustainable development agenda forward.

I won't repeat the many reasons why regions and subnational governments matter, but allow me to highlight only three of the reasons that are most relevant today:

1. You can experiment and incubate, testing new ideas that could be replicable in other regions and at national level, showing where and how progress is possible.
2. You can increase ambition, which is particularly important now that national governments have committed to increasing ambition. Your ambition, showing it is doable, creates political space for national governments.
3. You can show that sustainability is politically rewarding. With your results you can create better lives and happier voters, you can show that elections can be won on a sustainability platform.

In these challenges you may feel "sandwiched" between national governments and local governments. However, I see you more as a bridge between the two, with the key role of demonstrating how vertical integration of policies and measures can be most effectively woven together.

As you evaluate how far you have come, and where you would like to move in the future, there are three areas where I would welcome your initiatives:

1. Commitments: make your targets and your commitments transparent and comparable to each other, in order to create a virtuous cycle, a race to the top.
2. MRV: find appropriate metrics that will allow the accountability that will guarantee the credibility of your efforts. Your metrics will have to be implementable at different levels of government, and will have to be inclusive of private sector efforts without double counting
3. Learning: be purposeful about gathering lessons learned. You can become the repository of knowledge on which vertically integrated policy packages of incentives and regulations can push the clean revolution forward in a cost effective manner.

Given what I have seen from you in just over the past few years, I have no doubt that you can live up to these three challenges.

I thank you for sending the message to the global community that subnational governments do care, that you can contribute to the solution, and that you are acting now.

Thank you.
