



European Committee
of the Regions



CITIES & REGIONS
IN THE UNFCCC PROCESS

LGMA statement GST TD Roundtable 2: adaptation, including loss and damage

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We would like to express our appreciation to the co-facilitators for their efforts in ensuring the meaningful participation of non-Party stakeholders in the technical dialogues and efforts to incorporate our views into the summary reports.

Local and subnational governments play a key role in implementing adaptation measures and responding to loss and damage, as they are the first to be impacted by climate change and are closest to the citizens.

The synthesis report should explicitly acknowledge that subnational governments are key allies in driving ambition further by ensuring the implementation of adaptation actions on the ground. In this regard, we call for a stronger recognition of the principle of locally-led adaptation in the headline statements of this roundtable.

To bridge this gap, effective multilevel governance is essential. However, current collaboration between subnational and national governments in this regard is inadequate. This is highlighted by the latest RegionsAdapt progress report, which indicates that only 33% of the regions reporting collaborate with their national government on this issue.

Therefore, vertical integration is crucial, and we invite the co-facilitators to include a recommendation in this regard in the outputs component. This recommendation should invite the Parties to fully engage with subnational actors in the drafting and implementation of NDCs and NAPs; and for these to take into consideration local adaptation plans, actions and achievements.

We believe that the importance of adaptation efforts through nature-based solutions should be further emphasised, as these support ecosystem resilience while also helping to reduce the impacts of climate change.

To address the question on barriers and challenges, we reiterate that lack of access to climate finance and capacity building present a significant challenge for subnational governments. To overcome this challenge, a recommendation should be included for Parties to facilitate subnational actors' direct access to climate finance and build their capacity to use available funds.

Decentralised delivery of adaptation and loss and damage finance through local governments ensures that funding is available at the local level when shocks occur and that investments align with local conditions and citizens priorities.

Initiatives like the Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility and the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change are examples of programs that effectively bridge this gap.

Also, we would like to highlight that subnational governments have demonstrated their commitment to addressing loss and damage finance gaps, as seen through financial pledges made by Scotland and the Belgian region of Wallonia at COP27 and COP26.

In order for subnational governments to use the GST outputs to inform actions in the years to come, we emphasise the need for a clear, concise, and concrete output. One of the challenges that subnational governments face - especially in small municipalities and rural areas - is the capacity to analyse the vast amount of climate information available. Even for some of us here, the sheer volume of data can be overwhelming.

Therefore, we would like the outputs component to provide clear and actionable recommendations focusing on existing gaps. These recommendations should be accompanied by examples of adaptation initiatives that are already in place and have demonstrated positive impacts, so that this facilitates the transition from planning to implementation.

In addition, we would like to invite the co-facilitators and the Secretariat to reflect on how we would like to communicate the outputs component to the wider public, to our citizens and youth.

Effective communication is indeed needed to gather the support and engagement of our citizens. Therefore, it is important to consider innovative approaches to translate the GST outcomes in a way that resonates with the general public. This can include clear and accessible language, engaging visual representations, and targeted outreach campaigns.

Thank you.