

PRESS RELEASE

Cities and regions call on countries to step up their climate ambition

Commitments at the World Summit Climate & Territories worth 1.5 billion tons in carbon emission reductions by 2020

LYON, 2 JULY 2015 - Cities and regions of the world, gathered in Lyon today, announced a series of commitments to battle climate change which, collectively, represent 1.5 billion tons of carbon emission reductions by 2020.

“Without a real territorial approach, it won’t be possible to battle climate disruption efficiently”, estimated participants at the World Summit Climate & Territories, in a declaration signed by 50 organisations representing subnational and local governments and civil society representing more than two-thirds of the world population. This is the most widely supported declaration ever presented, by the most representative non-state actor networks.

Speaking at the start of a session presenting various territorial actors’ commitments, **Christiana FIGUERES**, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), praised the actions and ambition of the leaders of cities, states, regions and territories attending the Lyon conference: “As individuals you can count yourselves as truly visionary leaders. Collectively, you are transforming the world. Every single step that you take, every single policy, every single measure, every single project contributes to transforming not just your jurisdiction, but to transforming the world and getting it ready to embrace the opportunities of a sustainable, healthy and prosperous twenty-first century.”

Laurent FABIUS, French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development, President of COP21, highlighted the complementarity of subnational governments and countries in battling climate change: “The efforts of countries are essential, but they are not enough. They must be supported by mobilised non-state actors. In Paris, we want to gather commitments and concrete initiatives from all these non-state actors in support of climate: this is what we call a ‘solution agenda’.

“In that respect, the mobilisation for climate of cities, regions and territories - your mobilisation - is absolutely essential. This is not an option. It is an obligation. By your commitments, you have the capacity to encourage governments to set themselves more ambitious targets, and increase our chances of staying below the two-degree limit.”

Laurent Fabius committed to report the demands made in Lyon to COP21 delegates, in advance of the Paris summit.

Jean-Jack QUEYRANNE, president of the Rhône-Alpes region, added: “This Summit was a summit for mobilisation, for the unanimous recognition that climate action contains a strong subnational dimension. Non-state actors have put forward strong commitments which will serve the negotiations well. In the face of urgency, we can neither fail nor wait any longer. Today is the time for action. To succeed, we need states and regions to mobilise international finance.”

Commenting on the 2020 commitments announced by carbon neutral cities, the Compact of States and Regions, the Covenant of Mayors and the Carbonn Climate Registry, **Ronan DANTEC**, French Senator and summit co-organiser, said: “We can estimate that existing initiatives will allow us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1.5 gigatons by 2020, on the basis of decision taken by municipalities and regions from five continents, who will commit to submitting their emissions to regular reporting and verification.”

“In Lyon, we built an unprecedented coalition of non-state actors and will continue to carry forth the commitments made here to Paris and beyond.”

Among the commitments announced features the one of the [Compact of States and Regions](#), gathering 20 states and regions, representing over 220 million people and \$8.3 trillion GDP.

Premier **Jay WEATHERILL** of South Australia, and the Asia Pacific Co-Chair of [The Climate Group States & Regions Alliance](#), said: “We submitted our targets to the Compact of States and Regions as it allows sub-national governments to accurately and publicly report climate data against their own commitments. Sub-national governments play a vital role in the run up to COP21, and we want to help ensure that this climate leadership is represented. More sub-national leaders now need to follow suit, lead by example and report ambitious targets to the Compact.”

The Summit also presented a series of commitments for 2050, such as the one of the Compact of Mayors – a joint effort between C40, ICLEI and UCLG which accounts for two-thirds of the global population. On their behalf, **Tikender PANWAR**, Deputy Mayor of Shimla, said: “Mayors have long taken action to make our cities healthier, safer, greener and more prosperous and humane places to live and work. As we look ahead to the COP21 climate negotiations in Paris at the end of the year, we know that cities have a vital role to play when it comes to climate action. Perform or perish!!”

Delegates at the World Summit Climate & Territories affirmed, in a [declaration](#) signed by more than 50 organisations, the “necessary [synergies] between the discussions around the Financing for development Conference, the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Habitat III and COP21. Measures aiming at limiting climate change must also help face the other great challenges of our century and vice-versa.” “Pledges formulated in Lyon by international networks’ leaders, are a major contribution to the elaboration of the Solutions’ agenda and a credible scenario to stabilise the climate,” the declaration continues.

Several hundreds of representatives from civil society also took part in discussions via ten thematic workshops on transport, a low-carbon economy or partnerships between territories. **Pierre CANNET**, Program Manager for climate, energy and sustainable infrastructure at WWF France, said: “The Summit showed that cities and territories can deliver on the ground in the building of a sustainable future for our society, on decarbonization, resilience as well as poverty alleviation. They facilitate citizen engagement in designing local solutions for the just transition to 100 per cent renewables.”

The commitments and proposals announced today at the World Summit Climate & Territories were passed on to the French presidency of the COP21 and countries party to the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The commitments will feed into further phases of global mobilisation from territorial actors, in Toronto (Climate Summit of the Americas, 7-9 July 2015) and Bogotá (Bogotá Climate Summit, 20-23 September 2015) up to the subnational and local government day at COP21, announced yesterday in Lyon by French President François Hollande, and the Climate Summit for Local Leaders which Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, presented at the World Summit Climate & Territories today.

MEDIA RESOURCES

- Download the World Summit Climate & Territories general declaration: [click here](#)
- Download the Summit's Day 1 press release [PDF file]: [click here](#)
- Download the Summit's videos and photos: [click here](#)
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ABOUT THE WORLD SUMMIT CLIMATE & TERRITORIES

The World Summit Climate & Territories is presented under the High Patronage of the President of the French Republic. It is an official COP21 event, organised in collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Hosted in Lyon by the Rhone-Alpes Region, the World Summit Climate & Territories is co-organised by the following organisations and networks:

Subnational and Local Government Networks



Civil Society Representatives

Indigenous Peoples



Business



Workers



Farmers



Youth



NGOs



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