

Call for Subnational Action by the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments and Biodiversity to the CBD (AC SNG)



Subnational Coalition for Biodiversity Action

Biodiversity is essential to the future of humankind. We, as subnational governments¹, public administration authorities that operate between the national and local governmental levels, celebrate the increasing recognition of our contribution to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since Parties endorsed the Plan of Action at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10), held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, in 2010². We are aware that the competencies we are responsible for and our expertise on the ground are key to complement and address the global biodiversity challenges.

We confirm our commitment to play our role on the implementation of the CBD in our territories, especially its Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as to contribute to establishing a new plan beyond 2020.

Decision X/22 endorsed the “Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity 2011-2020” and provided national governments with a set of guidelines to follow at their discretion in support of local and sub-regional implementation of the Convention. We renew our commitment to continuing the implementation of this Plan of Action and to collaborate beyond 2020 with the CBD Parties within the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments and Biodiversity.

Due to our strategic position and spheres of competencies, subnational governments ensure vertical integration of biodiversity policies, urban-rural linkages³ for territorial cohesion and balance, awareness and inclusiveness of civil society and other stakeholders in biodiversity protection actions. Hence, subnational governments are pivotal to the implementation of policies and strategies on the ground to mainstreaming biodiversity and secure ecosystem approaches⁴. For all the aforementioned, we confirm we are not only ready but also fully

¹ Subnational governments: the first immediate level of government below the national and above the local. It involves regional governments such as states, provinces, prefectures, domains, territories, lander, cantons, autonomous communities, oblasts, etc., depending on the country. Subnational governments are distinct from "local governments", which include all levels of government below the subnational.

² Decision X/22.

³ Urban-Rural Linkages to Advance Integrated Territorial Development: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action (launched at the HLPF, 2018).

⁴ The ecosystem approach is the primary framework for action under the Convention, its Principle 2: Management should be decentralized to the lowest appropriate level and Principle 7: The ecosystem approach should be undertaken at the appropriate spatial and temporal scales, are particularly relevant for subnational action, since they refer to a regional scale of action.

committed to play our role in the global efforts to halt biodiversity loss, alongside our natural partners, the Parties to the Convention.

Together in the diversity of our circumstances, mandates and competencies, **we commit to join forces with the Parties to the Convention** in their efforts to implement strategies to materialize actions towards the realization of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020, including the following:

- a. Lead the development of Subnational Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (SNBSAPs) in alignment with, and as a complement to National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);
- b. Maximize our efforts to implement tools, guidelines and nature based solutions, as well as to exchange best practices and promote decentralized cooperation to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the NBSAPs and the SNBSAPs;
- c. Mainstream biodiversity conservation in all other sectoral policies that affect it, under the frame of the 2030 Agenda and its SDG 15 (Life on land);
- d. Mobilize and involve our civil society through communication, education and public awareness strategies at a subnational level, including the private sector, indigenous peoples and their traditional knowledge, as well as local communities, non-governmental organizations and academia;
- e. Actively engage with monitoring and evaluation systems at a National and subnational level, as appropriate, to report on the progress of our actions in line with the reporting obligations of the Parties under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the achievement of the Aichi Targets for Biodiversity;

Uniting subnational efforts with those of the Parties to the Convention to secure additional financial support to biodiversity conservation actions, we can achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020 and, beyond that, establish new and more ambitious goals to preserve global biodiversity for future generations.

Subnational governments' active participation and engagement at COP 14 and at the 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments is a landmark opportunity to generate a major impact. We recognize the contributions other subnational leaders bring, namely the nrg4SD members' Declaration "Regional Governments: The Key to Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across Sectors" and the GoLS statement "Roles of Subnational Governments with Respect to Biodiversity toward 2020 and Beyond". They share our message and are aligned with the AC SNG goal to include the subnational governments in the post 2020 global biodiversity framework.