COP26 MEMBERS' BRIEFING

SHARING THE VOICE AND EXPERTISE OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR RAISING AMBITION ON ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND
1 - 12 NOVEMBER
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This briefing is designed to support member regions of Regions4 and RegionsAdapt to develop their strategy for COP26, to facilitate coordination of efforts and engagement with Regions4 plans for COP26, with a view to increase the impact of our joint advocacy.

This year, Regions4 is planning a number of key touchpoints in the run up to and at COP26. It will do so by leading, co-leading, and supporting events at the COP and before the COP, including partners and members events. It will also do so by actively engaging in key international processes led by the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency and Marrakesh Partnership and giving voice to regions through three major campaigns: Race to Resilience, #WhatsAtState campaign, and #RegionsVoice for climate.

This briefing lays out an overview of the main negotiations, messages, and key opportunities. We will keep this briefing updated and will be sharing the most recent version with members early October, including updated logistics information, and other relevant events for members, as we get closer to COP26.

**THE CLIMATE CONVENTION: COP26**

The United Kingdom is hosting the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) in Glasgow from Monday, 31st of October – Friday, 12 November 2021, in partnership with Italy.

The UK presidency priorities are:
- **Mitigation**: to drive down emissions and set targets towards net-zero emissions
- **Adaptation**: for every country to arrive in Glasgow having set out their adaptation priorities
- **Finance**: mobilising finance to tackle climate change towards the $100 billion a year
- **Collaboration**: allow for better collaboration between actors, sectors and levels or governments.

**Venue**: The Scottish Event Campus (SEC).

**Agenda**: Consult [here](#) the UK presidency official agenda for COP26
NEGOTIATIONS 2021

The 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) has been described as the “last best chance” by US climate envoy John Kerry which underlines how important this milestone is since the adoption of Paris Agreement in 2015.

The aim of this year’s summit in Glasgow is twofold:

1. **Deliver a clear political commitment to increase the level of climate action ambition**

2. **Agree the set of guidelines (or ‘Rulebook’) to ensure the full implementation of the Paris Agreement.**

- **Required political commitment:** According to the 2015 Paris Agreement, national governments (Parties) are expected to update, enhance, and submit their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) every five years. Five years after the Paris Agreement was signed, COP26 provides the first opportunity for countries to submit their new and enhanced NDCs.

Just 6 months ahead of the Glasgow Summit, 81 countries – representing 40.3% of global greenhouse gas emissions - have submitted their NDCs, including the United States, European Union, and United Kingdom. As a result, this year is expected to see a flurry of new NDCs from the world’s biggest emitters, including China, India, and South Korea. **The current NDCs still fall short from the 1.5°C goal.**

Regarding adaptation discussions will be focused on planning, practical actions and finance. For more information consult: [Climate Adaptation and Resilience: The Road to COP26 | Briefing | EESI](#)

- **The Rulebook of the Paris Agreement:** Some key decisions need to be made on the last remaining details of the Paris deal carried over from COP25 in Madrid in 2019. Outstanding issues relate to financing, transparency and support for the least developed nations to build technical expertise to tackle and adapt to climate change.

For climate vulnerable countries it is key to discuss the funding for loss and damage: while Loss and damage is a core part of the Paris Agreement there is no mechanism yet within the UNFCCC to fund responses when vulnerable countries experience loss and damage. Last, but not least there will be a key discussion over the delivery of the $100 billion finance target which developed countries committed to provide to support developing nations in their fight against climate change and to adapt.
Another increasingly important aspect of the climate debate is around 'nature-based solutions' (NBS). That is how nature (forests, agriculture and ecosystems) can become a climate solution for absorbing carbon and for protecting against climate impacts. COP26 will start to discuss how to integrate NBS into the Paris implementation strategy.

The other element of the 'Paris rulebook' which requires agreement is on common timeframes for countries' NDCs - whether those timeframes should be five years or ten years. The shorter timeframe means revision of NDCs more frequently, potentially driving greater ambition than if they were only revised every decade.

DRUMBEAT TO COP26

Climate Week NYC: 20 September – 26 September 2021 https://www.climateweeknyc.org/


Pre-COP Milan: 30 September – 2 October 2021 https://ukcop26.org/pre-cop/pre-cop-milan/

If your government is hosting an event in the run up to COP26, please inform Heloise Chicou, Climate Advocacy Officer at: climate@regions4.org for us to support communications and outreach.

TOWARDS A MULTI-LEVEL COP - REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS ROLE IN LEADING ON ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

CALL FROM REGIONS4 AS PART OF THE LGMA CONSTITUENCY FOR A MULTI-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT COP

The Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency has represented networks of local and regional governments at the processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since the first Conference of Parties (COP) in 1995 and is key for influencing negotiations at the COP.

As part of the LGMA, Regions4 has called for a "Multi-level Action COP26" and developed with a number of partners a multi-level roadmap for COP26 where Regions4 has advocated for a balanced approach to mitigation and adaptation as one of the six priorities the group will promote towards CoP26.
The LGMA constituency will work towards and call for the following outcomes at the COP:

1. Multi-level NDCS/Action/ambitions as the new normal in the 2nd phase of the Paris Agreement
2. Sustainable, integrated urban and territorial development as a core climate action area
3. Just, inclusive, holistic, nature-friendly climate action/by/with all in 2030 and 2050
4. Robust LGMA engagement across all UNFCCC bodies and processes

It aims to organize:

- Official side event on the 11th of November: Time4MultilevelAction; 2030 Agenda of cities and regions to enhance ambition & accelerate action (TBC)
- Other side events within the UK blue zone (TBC)
- LGMA COP26 blue zone multi-level pavilion (opportunities for side events of the LGMA community, daily LGMA briefings, dialogue sessions with UNFCCC parties, media briefings).

Regions4, as explained below, will be involved in shaping the narrative of the LGMA constituency for the COP as well as co-organizing and inputting in key priority events for regional governments. These plans need to be confirmed by the UNFCCC and UK presidency and will be updated shortly.

For more information click [here](#).

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**ENGAGING WITH THE MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP AND CLIMATE CHAMPIONS:**

**SHOWCASING REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS EXPERTISE TO RAISE AMBITIONS ON RESILIENCE**

The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action supports the implementation of the Paris Agreement by enabling collaboration between governments and cities, regions, businesses, civil society, and investors to act on climate change.

**Regions4 has been an active member of the Marrakech Partnership, defining resilience and adaptation pathways for the future, and working actively to influence the COPs and climate discussions.**

To connect the work of governments with the many voluntary and collaborative actions taken by cities, regions, businesses and investors, nations decided to appoint two high-level champions: Nigel Topping, and Gonzalo Muñoz.
The Marrakech Partnership will organize thematic days during the COP and oversee the Resilience Hub.

- Thematic action days are three-hour events led by the climate champion team and key partner leads per day (TBC).
- The Resilience hub corresponds to the place on resilience and adaptation at COP26 and focal point for Race to Resilience (R2R). It will share best practices and amplify messages from Adaptation Day. It should be a physical place (blue zone) – for events, cultural performances, displays (R2R), and a networking space for people.

**AGENDA OF THE MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR THE COP:**

![Figure 1: Marrakech Partnership Events at COP26](image)

*subject to change*

More information about the organization and agendas of these days will be provided.

For more information click [here](#) and [here](#).
The Race to Resilience is a global campaign led by the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and the High-Level Climate Champions, launched in 2021 to catalyse a step change in global ambition for climate resilience, putting people and nature first in pursuit of a resilient world where we don't just survive climate shocks and stresses, but thrive in spite of them.

The campaign aims to catalyse action by non-state actors that builds the resilience of 4 billion people from vulnerable groups and communities to climate risks, by 2030.

Through a partnership of initiatives, the campaign focuses on helping frontline communities to build resilience and adapt to impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, drought, flooding and sea-level rise.

Regions4’s flagship initiative RegionsAdapt, is an official partner of the global campaign, as it regroups the expertise of regional governments to catalyse climate adaptation action and resilience.

As official partner, RegionsAdapt will pledge to the campaign for COP26 by the 30th of August.

By being a member of the RegionsAdapt initiative your regional government automatically qualifies to be part of the Race to Resilience and commits to RegionsAdapt overall commitments to:

1. Take stock of the current impacts of climate change in your territory by developing a vulnerability risk assessment that includes all vulnerable communities.
2. Plan and prioritise adopting an ambitious adaptation plan and/or programme (mainstreaming adaptation into other sectoral policies) and including the most vulnerable, with interim targets and long-term goals.
3. Implement concrete actions on adaptation in key identified priority areas¹.
4. Report annually on your progress through our partner CDP’s Online Reporting Platform to monitor, inform and help improve policies and actions.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**: ALL MEMBERS OF REGIONSADAPT ARE AUTOMATICALLY OFFICIAL PARTNERS OF THE RACE TO RESILIENCE, THROUGH REGIONSADAPT, AS THE INITIATIVE IS AN OFFICIAL RECOGNIZED PARTNER OF THE RACE TO RESILIENCE.

For more information click [here](#).

¹ Key priority areas: Water resources and management, Resilience and disaster risk reduction, Agriculture and zootechnics, Forestry, protected areas and biodiversity, Infrastructure (including transport and energy) and territorial planning, Economic impacts and opportunities, Social adaptation and impacts.
The COP26 will be a key moment to increase global ambition on climate action. Regions4 and its flagship initiative RegionsAdapt, reinforced with its new strategy, aims to increase the visibility and promote joint messages of its members towards and at the COP to ensure their representation and involvement within key climate processes.

The overall objective of Regions4 participation at the COP is to promote multilevel governance for an increase in ambition and effective action on climate adaptation through the key role of regional governments.

For non-party stakeholders such as states, regions, businesses, and cities, it is important to lead by example, but also use their voice to make a collective ask for national governments to step up to the required level of ambition. With that important role in mind, key messages to national governments, from regional governments within Regions4 and RegionsAdapt include:

**URGENCY**

- This is the Climate Decade: we must halve emissions in the next 10 years.
- The amount of planet-warming carbon dioxide in the atmosphere reached the highest level in human history in May 2021, according to two separate analyses. The data showed that the pandemic dip in emissions last year wasn’t enough to halt the build-up of greenhouse gases and that countries are still far from getting global emissions under control.
- Climate finance has been on an upward trajectory, but still falling short of the $100 billion per year by 2020 target.
- All regions feel first-hand the impact of climate change, with growing concerns and climate disasters, increasing their urgency to adapt.

**RAISING AMBITIONS ON ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE**

- As nations continue to grapple with COVID-19, 2021 offers an unprecedented opportunity to establish resilient, sustainable, and green post-recovery economies.
- 2021 is a critical year and a step in the decade of action - we need to see increased ambition from all national governments on mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.
- The reviewed NDCs and current national adaptation plans must allow for more collaboration between levels of governments, actors and sectors.
- They must include joint, amplified, and measured ambitions for resilience and adaptation and reaching the most marginalized.
- The COP needs to rally non-state actors – including companies, cities, regions, financial and educational institutions – to take rigorous and immediate action to halve global emissions by 2030 and deliver an increased resilient and adaptation actions.
DRIVING SYSTEMS CHANGE TOWARDS MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

- National governments will only be able to reach their climate targets and ambitions if they establish clear mechanisms of collaboration with regional and local actors to bring in their full potential.
- The COP is an occasion to push for increasing solutions-oriented collaboration, among countries and regional governments to accelerate climate action this decade.
- Regional governments call for multilevel collaboration to become the new normal to raise climate ambitions and transition towards resilient economies and adaptation in each country.
- Regional governments must be involved in the design, coordination, and implementation of NDCs, and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- These plans need to be translated at the local and regional level through territorial integrated resilience plans, recognised and supported by national governments.
- National governments need to align as much as possible NDCs and National Adaptation Plans with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and connect with the biodiversity agenda, to allow for coherence and alignment of global agendas and priorities, that can help in breaking silos and enhance the efficiency of policies.
- The localisation of SDGs can serve as guidance an inspiration for localisation of NDCs, thus amplifying the impact of both agendas and actions.

MOBILISE FINANCE FOR ADAPTATION

- Shifting the trillions needed to achieve the Paris Agreement is essential, by providing credible targets and plans for deploying capital to developing countries and at the regional and local level.
- This finance needs to support adaptation measures and resilient actions and allow for fiscal decentralization, and investment in the public sector, to equip regional institutions to respond to the climate emergencies.
- NDCs and NAPs, need to recognize the fundamental role of regional governments, as well as agreeing on budgets for financing subnational and local governments especially in developing countries.
- International climate finance mechanisms (such as the Green Climate Fund), need to include regional level support and consider and push national governments to support regional governments to include within these mechanisms funding at the local, and regional level.

ROLE OF REGIONS IN LEADING AMBITIONS

- Since 2015, around 30 regional governments from 15 countries – accounting for more than 233 million inhabitants – have successfully disclosed information on their main climate risks and adaptation actions year by year.
- Most of the regional governments that reported in 2020 have already adopted an adaptation plan (68%) or are in progress of developing one (21%), having already reported over 230 adaptation actions.
Local and regional governments are natural leaders in some of the necessary transformations and have led ambitious actions on mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

The ambition set by leading state and regional governments should give national governments the confidence to raise their climate targets and catalyse broader action.

Regional governments have developed at scale and replicable innovative solutions that look at transitioning towards resilient economies and territories that can be scaled up or replicated.

National governments must strengthen capacities for climate action at all levels of government, through developing robust coordination mechanisms, strengthening institutional capacity, technological innovation, as well as transfer and mobilisation of finance to the subnational level, and notably in developing regions.

**ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

**PRE COP26 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**REGIONS4 POLICY BRIEF FOR COP26**: “Raising ambitions on climate adaptation: lessons learnt and contributions of regional governments for COP26”. Based on a review of 10 key best practices within the past 5 years, from Regions4 and RegionsAdapt members, the aim of the policy brief will be to show how regional governments have developed, implemented, and raised the ambitions of their adaptation plans, and resilience or climate actions and to provide lessons learnt that can inform policy makers.

**30TH OF SEPTEMBER: “URBAN KLIMA 2050: MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION TO FINANCE AND BRIDGE THE ADAPTATION GAP IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY”**. The Basque Government will organise a side-event within the official pre-COP26 programme, with the support of Regions4. The event will showcase a leading adaptation initiative in the Basque Country, present and exchange on best practices, and bring together the global initiatives, frameworks and organisations working to promote a more ambitious adaptation agenda through multistakeholder collaboration and multi-level governance.

**30TH OF SEPTEMBER: LOMBARDY AND SCOTLAND ARE ORGANIZING A DEDICATED EVENT FOR REGIONS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE PRE-COP26**, with the support of Regions4. The event will be an international meeting of sub-national governments from all over the world to share their on-going policies, to boost the actions against climate change, to enhance the resilience of the territories and to inspire the goals for the negotiation at the next COP26 in Glasgow. The event will deliver a final declaration on commitments and requests to the COP26 national delegates.
REGIONS4 LED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT COP26

REGIONS4 - REGIONSADAPT SIDE EVENT: THE CATALYTIC ROLE OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR RAISING AMBITIONS ON ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

When: Monday 8th of November

Where: Virtual event, connected to the Marrakech Partnership Adaptation and Resilience action day and Resilience Hub events.

Time: 2PM – 3PM30 BST time (TBC)

Confirmed co-organizers: Regional governments of Basque Country, Gossas, Cross River State, CONGOPE Ecuador, Sao Paulo, Mancomunidad Peru.

Confirmed supporting organizations: BC3, ORU-Fogar, Race to Resilience, European Committee of Regions (CoR), Assembly of European Regions.

Objective: The side event will look at how regional governments contribute to raise ambitions on adaptation and are key to deliver climate resilient actions on the ground, looking at the lessons learnt and good practices from 5 years of experiences of the RegionsAdapt initiative, that can fuel the negotiations, and bring incentives for higher ambitions across levels of government.

It will further reveal common challenges and provide recommendations for policymakers to guide the development and implementation of national, regional, and local adaptation plans and strategies. Furthermore, it will show how mainstreaming adaptation through key relevant sectors can help accelerate ambition and how regional governments are working hand in hand with their national and local counterparts, fostering a multi-level governance approach for climate action.

MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP ACTION EVENT ON ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

When: 8th of November

Where: TBC

Time: TBC

Organizer: Marrakech Partnership

Objective: Three-hour event, multi-stakeholder high political level, discussing the experience and implications for adaptation of the COP26. Regions4 will input and review the agenda, narrative of the day and we will propose speakers.
**UNFCCC OFFICIAL SIDE EVENT: TIME4MULTILEVELACTION; 2030 AGENDA OF CITIES AND REGIONS TO ENHANCE AMBITION & ACCELERATE ACTION (TBC)**

**When:** Thursday 11th of November  
**Where:** Blue Zone – physical event (TBC)  
**Time:** TBC

**Organizers:** led by ICLEI, and co-organized by Regions4 Sustainable Development, UGCL, Basque Centre for Climate change (BC3) and Conseil des Communes et Régions d’Europe (CCRE/ CEMR).

**Objective:** This side event will look at the importance of the participation of all levels of government as recognized by the Paris Agreement. Through numerous 2nd NDC experiences, the LGMA constituency will show how to ensure that multi-level collaboration becomes the new normal for transformative, holistic, and inclusive action in the age of climate emergency.

**MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP ACTION EVENT ON CITIES, REGIONS AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS**

**When:** 11th of November  
**Where:** TBC  
**Time:** TBC  
**Organizer:** Marrakech Partnership.

**Objective:** Three-hour event, multi-stakeholder high political level, discussing the experience and expertise of regions and cities in driving ambitions. Regions4 will input and review the agenda, narrative of the day and we will propose speakers.

**INFORMAL GATHERING/NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY OF THE REGIONS4 DELEGATION (TBC)**

**When:** TBC  
**Where:** TBC

**Objective:** reunion of all delegates of Regions4 for an informal gathering to meet, share information, review joint messages, calendar and statements, and exchange.

If your government is hosting an event in at the COP26, please inform Heloise Chicou, climate@regions4.org for member engagement and enhance coordination.
COMMUNICATION

#WHATSSATSTATE CAMPAIGN

#WHATSSATSTATE CAMPAIGN: The campaign is convened by Under2 Coalition and Regions4, and endorsed by the High-Level Climate Champions, the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience. It will run during the 100 days until COP26 to elevate the voice of regional governments. #WhatsAtState will feature the bold actions our members are taking and showcase what we stand to lose if the world does not meet the targets of the Paris Agreement. This initiative will present over 20 regional governments with a geographical balance and their messages will include quote cards, videos, or articles among others.

Consult the dedicated website here: #WhatsAtState Campaign - Regions4 and Under2 Coalition

REGIONS4 COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT AT COP26

We will be using COP26 as an opportunity to raise the profile of Regions4 and regional governments’ climate action.

If you have a story that you will be telling at COP26 or announcements, please let us know, as we’d be delighted to support you in telling it. For any questions or to let us know about any communications activity you are planning, please contact Lorena Vega: coordination@regions4.org and Heloise Chicou: climate@regions4.org

#REGIONSVoiceFORCLIMATE

#RegionsVoice for Climate is Regions4 own campaign to bring the voice of regional governments to the global processes and major events in sustainable development within the UN.

Angle of campaign:
➢ What are the ambitions regional governments want to see at COP26?
➢ How do they raise their own ambitions for COP26?
The campaign will be used to share twitter cards, articles, joint messages from Regions4, and communication material around best practices from our members, as gathered through the Regions4 policy brief for COP26.

To stay up to date with the latest Regions4 work please follow: www.regions4.org

For more information around the COP contact: Heloise Chicou, Climate Advocacy officer: climate@regions4.org

DELEGATION AND LOGISTIC PREPARATION

The COP will be held at The Scottish Event Campus (SEC).

It will consist of two zones:

- Blue Zone for official negotiations (requiring official UNFCCC accreditations)
- Green Zone (Green zone accreditation are under the Presidency and should be open to the public.
- COP26 site will be used to share this information: Delegates - UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) at the SEC – Glasgow 2021 (ukcop26.org)

REGIONS4 DELEGATION

Regions4 is an accredited observer to the UNFCCC. The accreditation status that Regions4 is as observer organization.

Regions4 will be applying and organizing an official Regions4 delegation at the COP and will be applying to request for delegations. The deadline for members to provide names for this delegation was on the 26th of July.

- UNFCCC nomination portal will be open from the 2nd of August to the 31st of August.
- UNFCCC will calculate quota and assign to observer organizations, thus Regions4 by early September.
- Quota calculation is based on the number of nominations you submit (in the first registration step), on the total number of nominations received and on the available capacity. Please keep in mind that we do not know yet, with the COVID pandemic how much capacity we will be provided.
- Confirmation period for delegates to the UNFCCC platform will be from the 6 September - 22 October.
- Once the delegates are confirmed on the UNFCCC platform they will receive a confirmation email to their individual emails with a link to the acknowledgement/visa will be sent to the delegate’s email address.

Given the pandemic restrictions, please bare in mind:

1. Regions4 cannot ensure that all nominated delegates will be selected and given the number of quotas provided in September will have to make priorities based on regional balance, high-level, gender balance and representation as speakers within events organized or co-organized by Regions4.
2. We encourage all members to request to be part of their national delegations to make sure to maximise their chances to be selected.
4. Regions4 will organize virtual events, or events with a virtual component to allow for inclusion of all its members

**REGULATIONS FOR ENTERING SCOTLAND**

The UK government announced, end of July, that people who have been fully vaccinated in the US and most European countries, will not need to quarantine when arriving in England from amber list countries.

However, all people under red list countries will have to quarantine and follow specific restrictions.

VISAS

Foreign nationals require a visa before travelling for visits to the UK. Please follow this short guide to immigration and visa requirements for those attending COP26, [here](#).

You can apply up to three months in advance of your date of travel to the UK. We encourage you to apply for your visa as early as possible so that you will receive your visa in time.

As explained, once the delegates that have applied for accreditations are confirmed on the UNFCCC platform they will receive a confirmation email to their individual emails with a link to the acknowledgement/visa will be sent to the delegate's email address.

VACCINATIONS


OTHER INFORMATION

Consult the COP26 website for further logistical information: [Delegates - UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) at the SEC – Glasgow 2021 (ukcop26.org)](#)