

**Regions4 Special High-Level Event on occasion of the Climate Convention 2021  
(COP26)**

*The leading role of regions in raising ambitions for adaptation and resilience*

Monday 8th of November 2021

2PM - 3H30 PM GMT time

**Concept note**

**Introduction**

The COP26, to be held in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November 2021, is a critical moment to raise ambitions and accelerate climate action at all levels. This current decade is the most vital period to reach the climate neutrality and 1.5°C targets of the Paris Agreement. The second NDCs to be presented in Glasgow must reflect the urgency and ambitious action needed to respond to the climate emergency.

Updated plans and commitments need to include both ambitious mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as the important collaboration across levels of government, and sectors.

The Paris Agreement and its accompanying decisions, acknowledge the importance of involving all levels of government, as well as other non-State actors for its implementation. It further confirms that adaptation is a global challenge with local, regional, national and international dimensions. COP26 aims to be the most inclusive climate convention to date: the COP for multi-level action.

Adaptation is a key priority for regional governments, who have been at the forefront of developing innovative solutions and taking ambitious actions. Regions4, through its flagship initiative and [RegionsAdapt](#), has played a key role in promoting and gathering this experience, and upscaling it from the regional to the international level.

With its reinforced RegionsAdapt strategy, Regions4 will support regions from all over the world in stepping up their commitments to develop, implement, report, and improve the impact of their resilient actions and adaptation plans.

RegionsAdapt is an official partner of [the Race to Resilience](#) and will present at COP26 a reinforced initiative - bringing the engagement, perspectives and expertise of regional governments for adaptation, towards resilient futures.

## Objective of the side-event

This virtual 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.

## Organizers

This virtual side - event will be organized by Regions4 with a number of regional governments from across the world, in collaboration with the Race to Resilience Campaign, and is part of the official agenda of the Multi-Level Action Pavilion at COP26.

**Lead organizer:** Regions4 Sustainable Development

**Co-organizers (members of Regions4 and RegionsAdapt):** Regional governments of the Basque Country, Gossas, Cross River State, CONGOPE Ecuador, Sao Paulo, Mancomunidad Regional de los Andes, Scotland, Lombardy, Catalonia.

**Partners:** Race to Resilience, Basque Center for Climate Change (BC3), ORU-Fogar, European Committee of Regions (CoR), Assembly of European Regions, Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA), CDP, Climate-KIC, World Resource Institute (WRI).

**Acknowledgment of contribution:** with the support of the government of Catalonia.

## AGENDA (90 minutes)

### 14:00 Opening

- Video of #RegionsVoice for climate campaign - (2 min)
- Welcome words by moderator: Dr. Susan Chomba, Global Ambassador of the UNFCCC's Race to Zero and Race to Resilience campaigns - (3 min)

### 14:05 Regional governments' leadership on adaptation and resilience - (15 min)

#### Opening remarks

- Mr. Gonzalo Muñoz, the UN High Level Climate Action Champion from Chile (TBC)
- Rt Hon. María Aranzazu Tapia, Minister for Economic Development, Sustainability and Environment, Basque Country Government & Regions4 President

- Rt Hon. Màiri McAllan MSP, Minister for Environment and Land Reform, Scotland

**14:20 Regional governments' perspective and recommendations to accelerate climate adaptation and build resilience - (50 min)**

- Lessons learnt and recommendations from the RegionsAdapt initiative (5 min)
  - Overview of Regions4 policy brief for COP26 and recommendations – Mrs Natalia Uribe, Regions4 Secretary General, and Mrs Maria José Sanz, Director of the Basque Center for Climate Change (BC3)
- High-Level panel discussion on regional governments' expertise on climate adaptation (45 min)
  - Hon. Zuhair Demir, Minister of Justice and Enforcement, Environment, Energy and Tourism in the Government of Flanders
  - Hon. Senator Ben Ayadé, Governor of Cross River State, Nigeria
  - Hon. Adama Diallo, President of Regional Council of Gossas, Senegal
  - Mr. Pablo Jurado Moreno, President of CONGOPE, Provincial Prefect of Imbabura, Ecuador
  - Hon. Javier Gallegos Barrientos, Regional governor of Ica, Executive President of Mancomunidad Regional de los Andes, Peru
  - Hon. David Speirs MP, Minister for Environment and Water, South Australia
  - Hon. Teresa Jordà i Roura, Minister of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda, Government of Catalonia
  - Mrs. Nuin-Tara Key, Director of Resilience in California, USA

Overall questions for speakers (5 min each):

- *How have you been able to raise ambitions of your adaptation plans, or climate resilient actions? What are the driving forces for raising ambitions?*
- *How did you collaborate across sectors and levels of governments?*
- *What are the challenges and how are you handling them?*
- *Looking ahead what is your suggestion for scaling up adaptation and resilient actions at the speed required?*

**15:10 Ensuring COP26 delivers on ambitions: contributions and aspirations of regional governments - (15 min)**

- Regional governments statement for COP26 – Rt Hon. Raffaele Cattaneo, Regional Minister, Environment and Climate Change, Lombardy – 5 min

- Presentation of overall RegionsAdapt pledge to Race to Resilience campaign and regions commitments - Rt Hon. Eduardo Trani, Sub-Secretary of Environment of São Paulo, Brazil – 5 min
- Wrap up by Moderator: Dr. Susan Chomba – 5 min

## Co-organised by



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