

# COP26 OUTCOME ACTIVITY REPORT

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

GLASGOW,  
SCOTLAND  
1 - 12 NOVEMBER



## Regions4 contributions and outcomes at COP26: key takeaways for a regions led resilient future

### Context

UNFCCC COP26 held on 1-12 November 2021, gathered 200 countries and over 40,000 delegates in the most important climate event since 2015.

The international community had big expectations regarding the decisions that would mark our planet's near future. However, it ended with a pending task: **matching the level of ambition with the level of urgency that the climate crisis presents.**

Greater action and solidarity; collaboration across levels, sectors, and continents; and acceleration of short-term priorities in the 2020s towards a net-zero resilient world, are essential, and can only be achieved through robust pathways.

### Key outcomes of negotiations

Among the key outcomes of COP26, we highlight the following:

1. Through the **Glasgow Climate Pact** 200 countries agreed to present by the end of 2022 strengthened emission reduction targets to 2030, combined with a yearly review on global progress beginning in 2023.
2. For the first time, the COP has agreed action on **phasing down fossil fuels**, aiming at closing 40% of the world's existing 8,500 coal-fired power plants by 2030.
3. The Glasgow Climate Pact explicitly highlights the "*urgent need for multilevel and cooperative action*" and the [Glasgow Work Programme on Action for Climate Empowerment](#) encourages States to develop funding instruments to support such activities, in particular at subnational and local levels.
4. Important steps forward in relation to adaptation, as the [2-year programme Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh](#) was approved to define and operationalise the Global Goal on Adaptation, recognising the need to help countries measure and track adaptation. **COP26 saw record-breaking pledges to the Adaptation Fund with an increase of 40%.**
5. Nature and biodiversity took centre stage with leaders from 130 countries, representing nearly 90% of the world's forests, **committing to halting deforestation by 2030.**
6. **Loss and damage remain a pending issue**, yet an area in which regions are leading by example: Scotland, whose Climate Justice Fund was a world first in 2012, announced they would triple the fund. The Wallonian regional government of Belgium joined with a €1 million pledge.
7. **The Paris Rulebook** was finalised including outcomes regulating carbon markets, timeframes for NDCs and transparency regimes among others, to make the Paris Agreement a reality.

>> The COP26 decisions document is available on the [UNFCCC webpage](#)

## Role of regional governments within COP26

Regions4 has played an influential role in the COP26 negotiations and processes with two key strategic partners, the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities constituency (LGMA) and the Marrakech Partnership.

### LGMA constituency

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 its negotiations..

As part of the LGMA, Regions4 has called for a "Multi-level Action COP26" and developed with several 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 promoted towards CoP26.

The LGMA constituency worked towards and called for the following outcomes at the COP:

1. Multi-level NDCs/Action/ambitions as the new normal in the second 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.



Héloïse Chicou, Regions4 Climate Action Advocacy Lead, at the LGMA's briefing at COP26 on 8 November.

### Key outcomes for the LGMA constituency:

- The LGMA constituency ensured that the Glasgow Climate Pact included concrete mention and recognition of sub-nationals, and worked to influence the text, notably the sections on non-market approaches under Article 6, and the preamble of decision 1-CMA.3.
- Over 60 countries used multilevel collaboration in their NDC review, to contribute to increasing climate ambition towards COP26 with a clear tendency to raise this number

- S<sup>i</sup> in the near future. For more information consult: [Nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement. Revised note by the secretariat | UNFCCC](#)
- Thanks to RegionsAdapt, to date 77 regional governments have joined the Race to Resilience, impacting over 300 million people, with the commitment to help build resilience within the next decade.
  - The Race to Resilience metrics framework was launched during Adaptation, Loss and Damage Day at COP to help non-state actors quantify and verify the benefit of their climate-resilient actions for people and hectares of natural systems.
  - 68 state, regional and city governments have signed up to a range of ambitious sectoral actions to accelerate climate progress by 2030, including actions on clean transportation, the built environment, energy, nature-based solutions, waste, agriculture, environmental justice, and inter-governmental cooperation and planning.
  - Scotland and Wallonie led by example pledging over 1 million euros each to boost the loss and damage agenda globally.

For more information consult: [COP26 – Home to the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency \(LGMA\) in the UNFCCC \(cities-and-regions.org\)](#)

## Marrakech partnership

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 and its Resilience Group, defining resilience and adaptation pathways for the future, and working actively to influence the COPs and climate discussions.

At the COP the Marrakech Partnership organized action days, including a Regions, cities, and built environment day that Regions4 had advocated for, and an adaptation day.



They also launched the **Race to Zero and Race to Resilience campaigns** which were a first and have been hugely successful in pushing all stakeholders to commit further to net-zero and resilience, giving visibility to the role of non-state actors.

Through the RegionsAdapt initiative and its [renewed strategy](#), regional governments committed to the Race to Resilience campaign to accelerate their work on adaptation and resilience, calling to catalyse action by non-state actors to build the resilience of **4 billion people from groups and communities who are vulnerable to climate risks by 2030.**

More than 77 members of RegionsAdapt, representing over 300 million people, are already committing to the Race to Resilience by:

- Taking stock of the current impacts of climate change in their territory by developing a vulnerability risk assessment that includes all vulnerable communities.
- Planning, prioritizing, and 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.
- Implementing concrete actions on adaptation in key identified priority adaptation areas.
- Reporting annually on their progress through RegionsAdapt / CDP reporting platform to inform and improve policies and actions and inform the Race to Resilience and the Resilience Pathway of the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action

### Regions4 events and activities at COP26: showcasing the Regional leadership & inspiring action

The COP26 was a key moment to increase global ambition on climate action. The overall objective of Regions4 participation at the COP was to promote multilevel governance for an increase in ambition and effective action on climate adaptation through the key role of regional governments.

### Preparatory process to COP26

Regions4 was able to have a strong presence at COP26, thanks to a-year-long solid collaboration with members and partners to develop a participatory strategy and roadmap to support our collective advocacy efforts; reinforce the RegionsAdapt community and its contribution to the [Race To Resilience](#) campaign, and continue to raise regions' voice within the UNFCCC with key events such as the [PreCOP26 Dialogue for Climate Action](#) held in Milan in partnership with Lombardy, or key initiatives like the joint campaign [#WhatsAtState with Under2 Coalition](#), which showcased what regions stand to lose if we don't meet the Paris Agreement targets.



## #WhatsAtState:



“ Ahead of COP26, **#WhatsAtState** aims to give greater visibility to **states and regions** making a difference through their climate policies and actions

**#WHATSATSTATE CAMPAIGN:** The campaign was convened by Under2 Coalition and Regions4, and endorsed by the High-Level Climate Champions, the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience. It ran during a 100 days prior to COP26 to elevate the voice of regional governments. #WhatsAtState featured the bold actions our members are taking and showcased what we stand to lose if the world does not meet the targets

of the Paris Agreement. This campaign presented over 20 regional governments' actions with a geographical balance and their messages including quote cards, videos, and articles among others.

Consult the dedicated website here: [#WhatsAtState Campaign - Regions4 and Under2 Coalition](#)

## COP26 activities

At COP26, regional governments showed once more that they are, and will continue to be, at the forefront of climate action. Regions4 endeavours to support their efforts, catalyse their leadership and upscale their actions internationally to foster a truly multi-level climate governance that puts us on a path to recovery for a healthy planet.

Regions4 and a delegation of 17 members were present in Glasgow to show **what raising ambition looks like** thanks to regional leadership (regions present included: Basque Country, Lombardy, Catalonia, Scotland, Quebec, Wales, British Columbia, Sao Paulo, Jalisco, Brittany, Flanders, California, Rio de Janeiro, Campeche, Maharashtra, Navarra). Through a comprehensive [agenda of events](#), a [brief report to COP26](#) and a [call to action of regional governments](#), we brought **best practices, commitments, and actions to lead the way forward**.

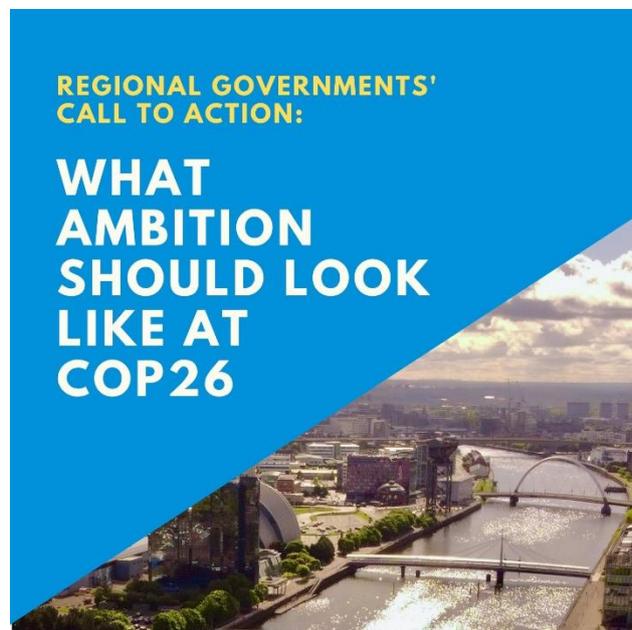
We continued to advocate for a more resilient future in which **multilevel collaboration is the new normal**. The joint non-state action has clearly made a difference at COP26, as shown by the **first-ever Multi-level Action Pavillion** as a collective milestone.

>> The highlights of the Multi-level Action Pavillion and the subnational constituency can be found [here](#).

### Regions4 key messages at COP26:



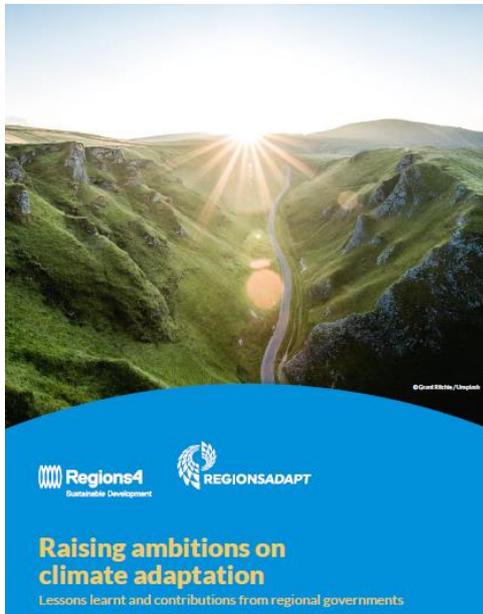
### Statement of regional governments at COP26



The regional governments of Lombardy and Scotland, with the support of Regions4 led the coordination of a joint statement and call to action for COP26 that was shared in Regions4 key events at COP26, and with global leaders and delegations. More than 20 regional governments and networks of regions signed a joint statement calling for more collaboration, decentralized investments, and connections between the different agendas (including SDGs and biodiversity) to be considered in the reviewed NDCs and implementation of the Glasgow commitments.

Consult the statement [here](#).

## Regions4 report for COP26: Raising ambitions on climate adaptation: lessons learnt and contributions of regional governments

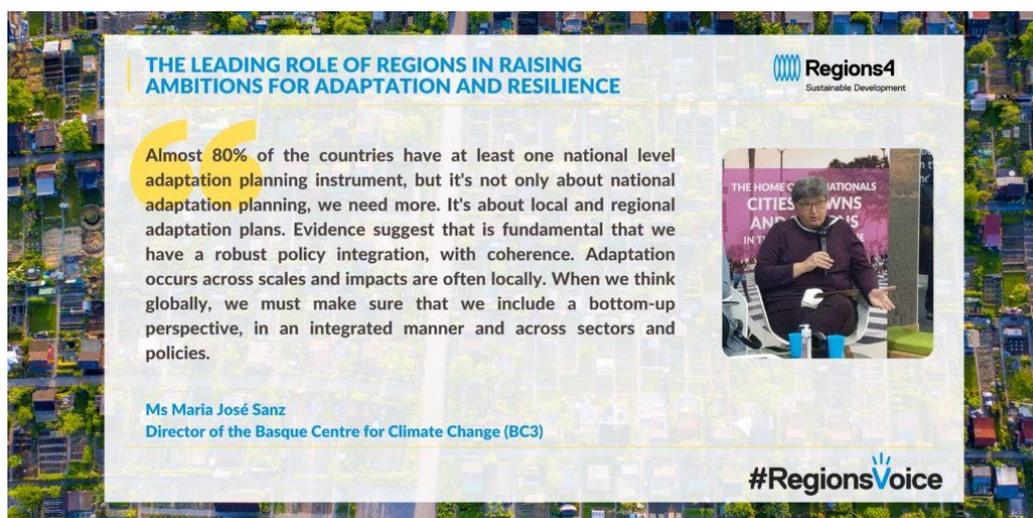


The partnership with the Basque Government and the Basque Centre for Climate Change – BC3, has allowed us to continue to reinforce the RegionsAdapt initiative and the opportunities it will offer for members going forward.

As a result, Regions4 launched the brief report, which focuses on 11 leading good practices which provide innovative solutions in areas such as food security and sustainable agriculture; water availability and regulation; restoration of coastal areas and ecosystems' protection; integration of urban and rural realities; renewable energies; and multi-level climate governance among others. The report also follows the current science on climate adaptation and provides insights and key recommendations to inform policymakers in further decision-making.

The case studies presented the Basque Country (Spain), Quebec (Canada), Gossas (Senegal), Cross River State (Nigeria), Mancomunidad Regional de los Andes (Peru), São Paulo (Brazil), Consorcio de Gobiernos Autónomos Provinciales de Ecuador (CONGOPE), Jalisco (Mexico), Catalonia (Spain), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Wales, and South Australia. The report was financially supported by the region of Flanders.

To consult the report, click [here](#).



The statement and report were both launched on the Adaptation and Resilience day of the COP26 on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

## Adaptation and Resilience Day, 8<sup>th</sup> of November



First picture left to right: Mr Gonzalo Muñoz, UN High-Level Climate Champion for COP26; Ms Arantxa Tapia, Regions4 President & Basque Minister; Ms Màiri McAllan, Scottish Minister; Ms Natalia Uribe, Regions4 Secretary General and Ms María José Sanz, BC3 Director.

On Adaptation Day, 8 November, Regions4 organised the high-level event “**The Leading role of regions in raising ambitions for adaptation and resilience**” at the Multilevel action pavillion. As part of the official programme of the LGMA Multi-level Action Pavillion, the event gathered the regional governments of **Scotland, Jalisco, Mancomunidad de los Andes, Basque Country, Catalonia, South Australia, Flanders, CONGOPE, Lombardy, Sao Paulo and California**, as well as over 20 partners including the **UN High-Level Climate Champions** and **BC3**, to call for multi-level governance and radical collaboration to deliver for climate. The event was financially supported by Catalonia and Flanders.



**THE LEADING ROLE OF REGIONS IN RAISING AMBITIONS FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE**

Regions4  
Sustainable Development

“It is up to the regional governments to push for more ambition and to send the message that there is a sense of urgency and need for accountability that the citizens of the world deserve. I'm sure regions have the capacity to fulfill not only the Paris Agreement, but the needed adaptation actions. We need to call on other actors to deliver on these actions as well.”

Mr Gonzalo Muñoz  
UN High-Level Climate Action Champion

#RegionsVoice



**THE LEADING ROLE OF REGIONS IN RAISING AMBITIONS FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE**

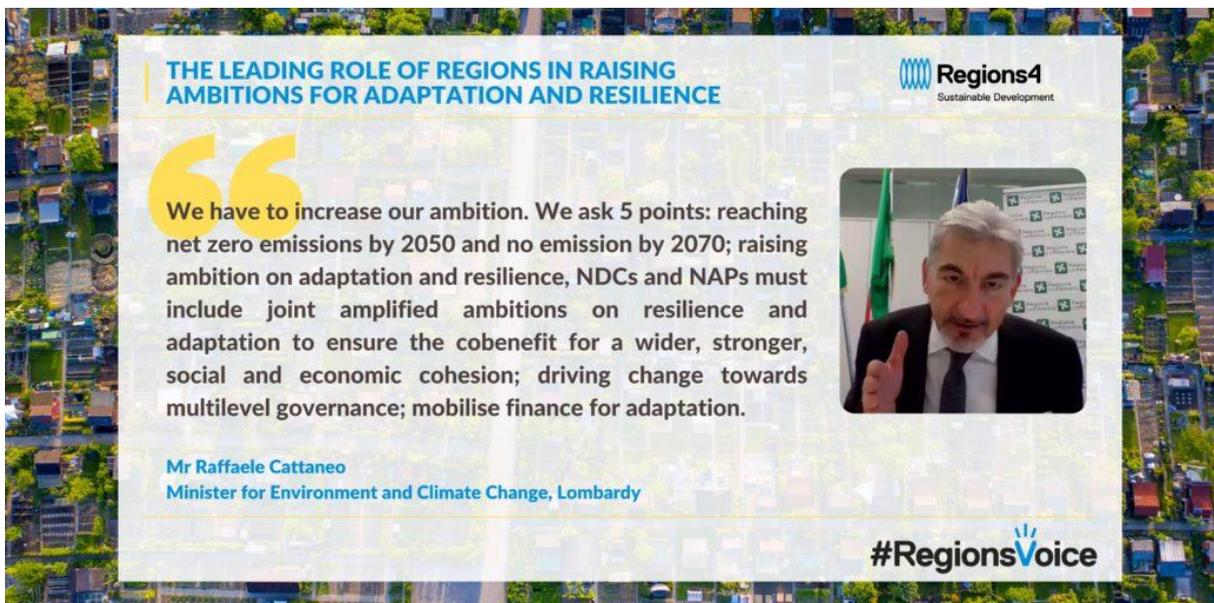
When we launched RegionsAdapt at COP21 in Paris, with the government of Catalonia and Rio de Janeiro, we did it so with the conviction that adaptation needs to be higher in the global climate agenda. RegionsAdapt became the first global initiative to mobilize political engagement to inspire and support regional governments in developing strategies and plans to accelerate concrete adaptations actions and to report on the progress made. In the past 5 years we have witnessed the implementation of over 50 adaptation plans with over 230 adaptation actions being reported on an annual basis.

**Ms Natalia Uribe**  
Regions4 Secretary General



**Regions4**  
Sustainable Development

**#RegionsVoice**



**THE LEADING ROLE OF REGIONS IN RAISING AMBITIONS FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE**

**“** We have to increase our ambition. We ask 5 points: reaching net zero emissions by 2050 and no emission by 2070; raising ambition on adaptation and resilience, NDCs and NAPs must include joint amplified ambitions on resilience and adaptation to ensure the cobenefit for a wider, stronger, social and economic cohesion; driving change towards multilevel governance; mobilise finance for adaptation.

**Mr Raffaele Cattaneo**  
Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Lombardy



**Regions4**  
Sustainable Development

**#RegionsVoice**

- >> To revisit the event and its outcomes please go to [Regions4's youtube channel](#).
- >> The event's social media coverage and key messages can be found [here](#).

Regions4 also facilitated the participation of its members, throughout the day, in multiple events and activities such as the [co-organization of an official side event at the end of the day with ICLEI on Time for multi-level action](#), and the [co-organization of a workshop, in the afternoon, on adaptation: the Adaptation lab with Climate-Kic, Scotland and California](#).

- >> Listen to the recording of the UNFCCC official side event [here](#).

We were also able to celebrate key announcements such as the nomination of Regions4 Vice Presidency for the Americas, [Jalisco, receiving a UN Climate Action Award](#), or [Scotland's](#)

leadership to boost the loss and damage agenda by announcing to triple Scotland's Climate Justice Fund.

At the end of the day, we were able to gather our community to reconnect for climate and exchange with members, partners and other regional governments on several opportunities, including the **Regions4 reception** hosted by Scotland, Regions4 Vice President for Europe – Flanders, and California on 8 November.



**Regions4** @Regions4SD · Nov 8

A great way to end #AdaptationDay with the Regions4 delegation reception co-hosted by @ScotGovNetZero Regions4 VP for Europe @Flanders\_DFA & @CAGovernor meeting members and partners, reconnecting for climate after more than a year of digital encounters. #RegionsVoice



>> The image gallery of Regions4 presence at COP26 can be found [here](#).

## Cities, regions and built environment day, 11<sup>th</sup> of November

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, the work of RegionsAdapt was openly recognised by the **UN High-Level Climate Champions** throughout several events, including Regions4 among the leading organisations within the official Race to Zero and Race to Resilience campaigns.

This recognition included an invitation to participate in a private roundtable with former **US President Barack Obama** with a select group of 20 representatives worldwide, to share non-state actors' aspirations, commitments and key contributions and key influential meetings and through the LGMA constituency, with leads of the climate negotiations such as Secretary General of the UN - Antonio Guterres.



United Cities @uclg\_org · Nov 11

Today at #COP26 a @GlobalTaskforce delegation meets w/ @UN SG @antonioguterres "We need to reinforce the institutional relationship between LRGs & the UN System. An effective transformation is vital. What you do as Mayors is critically important." #Time4MultilevelAction #LGMA



C40 Cities and 9 others

### Connecting with other agendas : biodiversity and the SDGs

As a key partner of the Edinburgh Declaration and strong advocate for the integration of agendas, Regions4 supported the event “[Hearing the voice of subnational governments: learning from the Edinburgh Declaration for biodiversity](#)” which presented lessons learnt from COP15 regarding the multi-level collaborative efforts towards an inclusive post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. In the margins of this event, **Regions4 President and Secretary General met with the Scottish Government and the UN’s Convention on Biological Diversity** to reinforce the collaboration within this agenda.



Left to right: Mr Gorka Urtaran, Mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz; Ms Màiri McAllan, Scottish Minister; Ms Arantxa Tapia, Regions4 President & Basque Minister; Ms Jyoti Mathur-Fillip, CBD’s Director; and Ms Natalia Uribe, Regions4 Secretary General.

>> The event's social media coverage and key messages can be found [here](#)

## Looking towards the future

Looking towards the future, and as a follow up of COP26, Regions4 will:

- Follow-up on COP26 commitments related to regions → connecting regions with opportunities
- Develop an advocacy strategy for COP27, regular consultations, and participatory process with members for joint action and positioning
- Insure a strong presence at COP27: side-event and RegionsAdapt report
- Consolidation of new partnerships: Climate-Kic, Under2 Coalition, Resilience Hub and Lab, WRI and other strategic partners
- Development of partnership and project proposal with key partners such as Basque Cooperation Agency: Supporting African regions to develop adaptation plans and engage in COP27
- Reinforce RegionsAdapt community of Practice learning sessions: 3 sessions based on members' thematic priorities + strategic partners → **i.e.: accessing adaptation finance, adaptation goal & metrics, disaster risk management & adaptation**
- RegionsAdapt annual reporting: alignment of RegionsAdapt reporting with Race to Resilience metrics
- Continue regions recruitment for RegionsAdapt and Race to Resilience: an amplified voice to include more southern regions (Africa, Latin America, Asia)

## Further information and COP26 debriefing documents

Consult as attached the debriefing from the International Climate Politics Hub of the COP26 with a list of key commitments and financial allocations to adaptation and UN outcomes page [here](#).