

2021 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
INTERVENTION OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES MAJOR GROUP
At session “SDGs in focus: How do we revamp and transform consumption and production and address and mitigate climate change”

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I am delivering this statement on behalf of Regions4 and the Local Authorities Major Group. The Paris Agreement underlines the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C and for all stakeholders to play a role to help achieve this common ambition and transition toward resilient economies to climate change.

The COP26 in November in Glasgow will be an occasion for governments to raise their ambitions within their NDCs and National Adaptation plans. Raising ambitions and achieving SDG13 and SDG12 requires extensive changes and modifications in the way we produce and consume, and underlines the importance to support and implement ambitious resilient actions at all levels.

Local and regional governments are natural leaders in some of the necessary transformations, particularly due to the direct connection with our people which allows for targeted shifts in consumption patterns and mobility. We have developed at scale and replicable innovative solutions that look at transitioning towards greener economies. Networks of cities and regions have great potential as mechanisms for sharing good practices and building capacity. Transferring this knowledge to the Global South and allowing for their participation in this transition is also key.

Through Regions4 and other international networks, regional governments commit to the Race to Resilience campaign to accelerate their work on adaptation and resilience, calling by 2030, to catalyse action by non-state actors that builds the resilience of 4 billion people from groups and communities who are vulnerable to climate risks.

To this effect, local and regional governments call for multilevel collaboration to become the new normal to raise climate ambitions and transition towards greener economies in each and every country. We encourage governments to continue recognizing the role of local and regional governments, and align as much as possible NDCs and National Adaptation plans with the sustainable development goals so as to develop integrated multi-level resilience plans.

For this we call on national governments to 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.

Local and regional governments stand ready to partner with their national counterparts to ensure this integration of policies leading to a zero-emission and climate-resilient future.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.