

Check against delivery

Saint-Malo Summit

Transcription of the address by Ms Cécile MOLINIER

Wednesday 29 October, AM

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here with you today. As much has already been said, I will focus on the importance that the United Nations attaches to the role of Regions and regional and local authorities in the fight against climate change.

Let me remind you that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's main agency with an annual budget of over \$5 billion. Its actions fall into four focus areas:

- poverty reduction in the form of lasting development initiatives in aid of the poor known as "inclusive globalisation".
- democratic governance in all its forms including support for decentralisation and local governance.
- crisis prevention
- energy, the environment and climate change.

The UNDP is one of the three agencies that implements GEF (Global Environment Fund) programmes. "**Energy, the environment and climate change**" is a priority area for the GEF. We manage this fund with hundreds of experts spanning the various head offices and our 166 country offices. UNDP is therefore an essentially operations-based agency.

The 2008-2011 Strategic Plan voted by our Executive Board has a central chapter devoted to energy, the environment and climate change. It is worth stressing that for the first time, the Plan explicitly states the role of Regions and local authorities in the fight against climate change. Mr Martini spoke of the large delegation of Regions visiting the UN headquarters in New York on 1 November 2007. A year has gone by and much has been done in the partnership with Regions. This is mainly thanks to the work of our Geneva office.



This innovative take on a UN/Regions partnership started out to help developing countries and in particular Least Developed Countries (LDCs), following scientific proof of the reduced impact of the financial mechanisms in use. Eighty per cent of the Clean Development Mechanisms (CDMs) is aimed at the main emerging countries.

Today, six countries receive 80% of funding, which means that the countries that are the most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change hardly benefit from these financial mechanisms. This observation urged us to challenge our traditional working methods on an intergovernmental level. Of course, the role of national governments remains pivotal and central to the “post-Kyoto” negotiations launched and their position must be stepped up by making the voices of Regions heard in intergovernmental discussions.

We hope that the outcome of this Saint-Malo Summit will be very concrete proposals that can be brought to the negotiating table in Poznań in December this year and in Copenhagen in 2009.

The starting point of the Regions / United Nations initiative is a partnership between several UN agencies: firstly UNDP and UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme). Both agencies have complementary roles: UNEP provides its scientific experience and standards to the partnership while UNDP has an operational presence in developing countries. Other agencies will also join the partnership: UNITAR, the UN institute for training and research, the World Meteorological Organisation, which conducts remarkable work in cartography and in the analysis of climate change vulnerability, the UN Habitat agency, that works with local authorities and lastly the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), that plays a leading role.

We also work with eight regional associations, attending today, that represent more than one thousand regions over five continents and with whom we will sign declarations of intent tomorrow.

I would like to stress the importance of inter-agency partnership in this initiative and in addition the role of the European Union. I particularly appreciated the video address made by Ms Danuta Hübner, the Commissioner for Regional Policy. It is reassuring to see the extent to which regions are acknowledged within the EU and we hope that the same can be said on a global level.

Meetings have already been held as part of this partnership, in Paris last July and in Barcelona in September. **This partnership will be rolled out in three phases:**

- The first will be an awareness-raising phase aimed at over 500 regions,
- The second will be a phase supporting the development of integrated local climate plans by drawing up a climate profile geared towards both adaptation and mitigation,
- The third phase will involve implementation by supporting regions' access to financial mechanisms as we strive to enable all world regions - in developing and developed countries - to access the funding available to roll out adaptation and mitigation projects and programmes.

A Steering Committee and a Scientific Committee will be created to give the partnership direction.

To date, two methodological tools have been identified. They will be presented tomorrow morning in workshop 4. One of them is the carbon footprint assessment developed by ADEME (the French Environment and Energy Management Agency), which has agreed to

make this resource available to the partnership and with which we will sign an agreement tomorrow.

UNDP and UNEP, and the regional associations involved, would like to make this resource available to all world regions. We rely strongly on the experiments already launched in developing countries, particularly in São Paulo and in the Western Cape province of South Africa, but also in many other regions.

The second methodological tool is the mapping of current and future vulnerability highlighted by the recently opened CLIMSAT platform in Brest. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Regional Council of Brittany, the Finistère *département*, the city of Brest and the French government for their support, which has made this centre possible.

We now hope to convince those who do not yet see the importance of the regions' contribution to drawing up and implementing climate change policies. We want to prove that a partnership with regions can produce real results. We aim to present the results of ten pilot experiments on regions in developing countries by February 2010. Several regions have already volunteered: in Colombia, Peru and Uruguay for Latin America, in Morocco, Mozambique, Senegal and Uganda for Africa, in Albania and Macedonia for the Balkans and in Indonesia for Asia.

In February 2010 a "Conference of World Regions and Cities" will be held in Rotterdam. This conference will focus on poverty reduction and climate change and so it is important to present real results. Important milestones are approaching: the Conference of the Parties in Poznań next December and the COP in Copenhagen in 2009. Campaigns have been conducted with national governments in developed countries and feedback has been very positive. We now have to convince them to support an initiative that does not fall within the traditional scope of work.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the regions in developed countries who are taking an active part in this partnership: Brittany, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Limousin, Rhône-Alpes and Poitou-Charentes for France, Catalonia, the Basque Country, Galicia and Aragon for Spain, Wallonia and Flanders for Belgium, Wales for the United Kingdom, Hessen for Germany, the Zuid Holland region for the Netherlands and the Quebec province for Canada. I am certain that this partnership is only the beginning. We cannot continue to consider development as we have up to now. It is essential to incorporate the climate change factor. The food and financial crises that are hitting the world are also an opportunity as it is precisely in these times that we must innovate, be efficient and provide real solutions, and this ability to innovate must be expressed on a regional scale.

Thank you.