

The Saint Malo Declaration

Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, nrg4SD

Nrg4SD Summit

Saint Malo, Brittany, October 2008

We, representatives of Regional Governments and Associations of Regional Governments from all parts of the world who assembled as the General Assembly Summit of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) in Saint-Malo on October 2008;

Reaffirming the principles, objectives and commitment under the **Gauteng Declaration**, the founding document of the nrg4SD Network;

Recalling that **the nrg4SD Network is fully committed** to responding appropriately to climate change and to preparing for the Post-Kyoto phase within the framework of the United Nations;

Recognizing with concern that the **scientific evidence** of global warming, as set out in the Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007 (AR4) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has put the reality of **human-induced global warming** as unequivocal;

Noting that the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has highlighted that **urgent global action on climate change is needed** to achieve the ultimate objectives of the Convention;

Reaffirming that **the scope of regional action is critical and necessary** for the development and implementation of sustainable development policies and strategies and, particularly, in relationship to mitigation and adaptation measures and policies to tackle climate change;

Noting that **Regional Governments**, the spheres of government that we represent, have **wide policy and implementation competences** related to activities and sectors such as energy, transport, industry, agriculture, land use and resource management, which are mainly responsible for the anthropogenic green house gas emissions;

Noting also that Regional Governments have also the **ability and capacity** to work with other local, state and international actors, social movements, NGOs and the private sector, and are particularly well suited to understand, incorporate and take into account the specificities, vulnerabilities and identities of their own regions and their citizens;

Reaffirming that **integrating climate change policies into broader sustainable development strategies and policies within the regions** makes implementation easier and more efficient;

Recalling that there are **sharp differences across regions**, that some systems, sectors and regions are likely to be especially affected by climate change, and that adaptive capacity, unevenly distributed across and within sectors and regions, is intimately connected to social and economic development;

Deeply concerned with the fact that The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP's) Human Development Report 2007-2008 (HDR 2007-2008) warns that **inequalities in ability to cope with climate change are emerging as an increasingly powerful driver of wider inequalities between and within countries and regions**;

Resolve that, in order to respond to the challenges faced now and in the future, climate change and its adverse effects should be addressed while meeting the requirements of sustainable development and with the active participation of Regional Governments.

Therefore, we call for the following:

- (1) The nrg4SD Network and its members commit to follow the guidelines and commitments of the *nrg4SD Policy Paper on Climate Change (October 2008)*, in accordance with the provisions and principles of the UN Climate Change Convention and based on the conclusions of the IPCC AR4 Report.
- (2) The nrg4SD Network and member regional governments **commit to participate actively and take action in the future international climate change regime highlighted on the Bali Roadmap for the Post-Kyoto phase**, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and taking into account specific social and economic conditions and needs of developing countries and regions.
- (3) The nrg4SD Network calls for an approach that combines stringent inter-regional cooperation and action on adaptation with strengthened mitigation actions, while enhancing measures on technology cooperation and provision of financial resources to support those adaptation and mitigation actions.
- (4) The nrg4SD Network and its member regions should especially focus on regional climate change viable **adaptation actions** and their integration into wider and overall regional sustainable development policies and sectoral approaches and actions.
- (5) Recalling the provisions related to **adaptation** at the nrg4SD Policy Paper on Climate Change the nrg4SD Network and its members commit to: **1.** Launch regional co-ordinated and comprehensive Climate Change Plans and Adaptation Response Strategies and Plans based on common grounds and in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities; **2.** Cooperate and promote the implementation of adaptation actions, integrating climate policies into broader development policies and including the provision of financial and technological support to developing countries and regions; **3.** Systematically gather and share information on regional climate change policies, best practices and responses to climate change, as well as in relationship to the key uncertainties included at the AR4 Report; **4.** Support Translation of regional strategies and plans on climate change policies into English; **5.** Put climate change adaptation at the centre of the nrg4SD partnerships and projects and the bilateral and multilateral partnership agreements signed among nrg4SD members in the framework of nrg4SD; **6.** Take into account and differentiate the priority adaptation actions and concrete commitments of regional governments of developed and developing countries and regions and the urgent and immediate development needs of developing countries and regions; and **7.** Quantify and progressively increase their assistance to efforts in adaptation to climate change, both at internal and international levels.
- (6) Recalling the provisions related to **mitigation** at the nrg4SD Policy Paper on Climate Change member regions should: **1.** Report their energy matrixes, including shares of renewable primary sources and accordingly with the guidelines of the International Energy Agency; **2.** Set indicative individual targets to increase substantially the local share of renewables, while making efforts to turn them into mandatory by internal law these; **3.** Promote the establishment of GHG local inventories within the nrg4SD, utilizing the methodology proposed by the 2006 IPCC Guidelines; and **4.** Launch a process in order to reach an agreed outcome on regional emission reductions towards ensuring that emissions within the overall nrg4SD common GHG inventory systematically reduce in relation to the emission actions and limitation and reduction targets set up for the respective signatory country at the future post-2012 international regime on climate change to be approved in December 2009, except for those regions with binding regional targets through a burden-sharing agreement in the national context. .
- (7) In accordance with the commitments of the nrg4SD Policy Paper on Climate Change, the nrg4SD Network and its members should launch a process to address cross-cutting issues following the Bali Roadmap, including a **shared vision** for long-term cooperative action and **for long-term global goal for emission reductions** to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention, as well as enhancing mitigation and adaptation action, action on technology development and transfer, and action on the provision of the corresponding financial resources and investment.

- (8) The nrg4SD Network encourages its members, as well as other regions, to participate at the programme put in place by the UNDP with the aim of developing a new financial mechanism to help regions, particularly developing regions, in the fight against climate change and its consequences.
- (9) The nrg4SD Network **encourages signatory parties of the Bali Roadmap to enter into fruitful negotiations**, in order that a strong multilateral regime on climate change is approved at COP 15 and COP/MOP 5 in December 2009 for the future post-2012 period.
- (10) The nrg4SD Network calls upon the Heads of signatory parties, other world leaders and the United Nations itself to **recognize and support the necessary, essential and complementary role of Regional Governments** in the promotion of sustainable development and the efficient response to climate change. In this sense, nrg4SD Network calls for the explicit recognition of regional governments in the text of the Copenhagen agreement recognising the key role they are playing in mitigation and adaptation policies in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities.

We all welcome the good cooperation achieved at the World Summit of Regions “Climate Change: Regions in Action” in Saint-Malo and express our gratitude to the host Region of Brittany for its gracious hospitality.

Saint Malo 28 October 2008

Regional Governments participating in the Summit

1. Aragon
2. Basque Country
3. Brittany
4. Canarias
5. Cantabria
6. Catalonia
7. Flanders
8. Galicia
9. Intendencia de Canelones
10. Kaunas
11. Mbale
12. North Sumatera
13. Prodipin
14. Reunion
15. Santa Fe
16. Sao Paulo
17. Sofala
18. Tuscany
19. Wales
20. Wallonia
21. Western Cape

Associations of Regional Governments participating in the Summit

1. Associação Brasileira de Entidades Estaduais de Meio Ambiente, ABEMA
2. Asociación Nacional de Autoridades Ambientales Estatales, ANAAE
3. Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe, CPMR
4. Conferencia de Intendentes de Uruguay
5. Northern Forum
6. Organización Latinoamericana de Gobiernos Intermedios, OLAGI