

From: Anne-Sophie Doernbrack [adoernbrack@theclimategroup.org]
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2015 9:30 AM
Subject: Reminder: Join RegionsAdapt - commitment and launch
Attachments: RegionsAdapt Launch_leaflet_final.pdf;
RegionsAdapt_Commitment_versionCOP21.pdf

Dear States & Regions colleagues

If you want to **join the RegionsAdapt Initiative as a founding government** and have not confirmed yet, please get back to me by [Tuesday, December 1](#).

As mentioned below, the official launch will take place on December 3 in Paris (please see attached flyer for more details). **If your political leadership would like to sign the commitment during our General Assembly on December 7**, please let me know, so that we can do the arrangements.

Best regards
Anne-Sophie

From: Anne-Sophie Doernbrack
Sent: 19 November 2015 18:19
To: Anne-Sophie Doernbrack <ADoernbrack@theclimategroup.org>
Subject: Join RegionsAdapt - commitment and launch

Dear colleagues

On behalf of the Government Rio de Janeiro State and Catalonia, it is with great pleasure that I invite you to **join *RegionsAdapt*, an initiative that aims to provide a cooperative framework for states, regions and provinces to share best practices on climate adaptation and collaborate in their response to this global challenge.** Please find a letter to your political leadership from André Corrêa, Secretary for the Environment, Rio de Janeiro State and Santiago Vila i Vicente, Minister for Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia attached. Nrg4SD and The Climate Group support *RegionsAdapt* as network partners.

Many thanks to those who have already expressed their government's interest in the initiative. I am now attaching the **final public commitment text of *RegionsAdapt* as well as an internal outline document** providing more background. Please let me know **by November 30 if your government is joining the *RegionsAdapt* initiative** as a founding signatory.

Joining *RegionsAdapt* at COP21 implies:

- Signing of the commitment by your political leadership;
- Endorsing the importance of the commitments; and
- Supporting nrg4SD and The Climate Group in developing the detailed work program and reporting requirements in 2016 to ensure it is valuable and feasible for you. Support could either mean active participation as a lead partner or basic feedback to recommendations.

The **launch of *RegionsAdapt* will take place on December 3 from 6:30-8pm at the Maison de l'Europe** (please see invitation with registration email attached). If your government is not available on December 3, we are also offering a signing opportunity during our General Assembly on December 7. Please let us know if you want to participate.

Please let me know if you would also like to receive the commitment text and launch invitation in French, Spanish or Portuguese and I will forward it to you separately.

I also wanted to clarify that we will continue our Adaptation Peer Forum while making sure that we are not duplicating efforts. We want our existing work on adaptation and *RegionsAdapt* to support and strengthen each other, and we will work closely with the participants of the Adaptation Peer Forum to ensure that aims and activities are aligned.

Best regards

Anne-Sophie

Anne-Sophie Dörnbrack
States & Regions Manager

T: +44 (0)207 960 2977

adoernbrack@theclimategroup.org | skypeID: a-s.doernbrack



Leading the #CleanRevolution

The Climate Group

Second Floor, Riverside Building, County Hall, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 7PB, United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7960 2970 F: +44 (0)20 7960 2971

www.theclimategroup.org

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JOIN US FOR THE LAUNCH OF *REGIONSADAPT* INITIATIVE

*A new global commitment to support and report efforts on
adaptation at the subnational level*



By signing the initiative, state and regional government commit to:

- 1** Adopt a strategic approach to adaptation and prioritize adaptation actions.
- 2** Take concrete action on adaptation in at least one of the key priority areas identified by the regions.
- 3** Report data on the progress of the adaptation actions on an annual basis through the Compact of States and Regions reporting platform.

On the initiation of Rio de Janeiro and Catalonia, the **RegionsAdapt** initiative establishes **the first cooperative framework for regions to exchange experiences and best practices** on their actions and challenges when adapting to climate change.

**Thursday
December, 3
18:30**

**La Maison de
l'Europe
de Paris**

Promoters of the **RegionsAdapt** Initiative



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Launch Ceremony

Thursday 3 December

Maison de l'Europe de Paris (35-37, Rue des Francs Bourgeois 75004)

18:30	Welcome address by Ms. Catherine Lalumiere (president of La Maison de l'Europe de Paris)
18:40	RegionsAdapt Initiative presentation by Santi Vila (Minister of Territory and Sustainability, Catalonia) and André Corrêa (Secretary for Environment, Rio de Janeiro)
18:55	Christiana Figueres (UNFCCC Executive Secretary) - tbc
19:00	Keynote speeches Ian Hunter (Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Water and Climate Change, South Australia) Aka Aouele (President of the Regional Council, Sud Comôé) Mary Polak (Minister of Environment, British Columbia) - tbc Bernard Soulage (Vice-president of the Regional Council, Rhône-Alpes) Matthew Rodriguez (Secretary for Environmental Protection, California)
19:30	Signing Ceremony and family photo

States and regions interested in joining the initiative, please contact:

Joana Setzer (jsetzer@nrg4sd.org)

Anne-Sophie Dörnbrack (adoernbrack@theclimategroup.org)

Promoters of the **RegionsAdapt** Initiative



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RegionsAdapt Initiative

A Subnational Partnership on Adaptation to Climate Change

Background

Even if anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions were immediately stopped, humanity will have to endure climate change and its associated impacts for centuries. Climate change amplifies and creates new risks for natural and human systems, which are associated with a wide range of impacts already observable, such as floods and droughts, increased frequency and magnitude of heat waves and heavy rains, coastal erosion and melting glaciers, damaged ecosystems and biodiversity loss, as well as reduced crops and frequent epidemics. As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recognizes, these risks are unevenly distributed across territories, and generally greater for disadvantaged people and communities. A temperature increase of around 2°C will result in significant global annual economic losses equivalent to 0.2% to 2% GDP¹.

To manage and reduce the risks of climate change, while contributing to climate-resilient pathways for sustainable development, adaptation and mitigation are crucial and complementary strategies. Adaptation can reduce the mean net value of climate change impact by 30%, from \$1240 trillion (impact without adaptation) to \$890 trillion (impact with adaptation)². At the same time, the global costs of adapting to climate change could reach \$150 billion by 2025/2030 and \$250-500 billion per year by 2050, even if the temperature rise is kept below 2°C³. Therefore, long-term planning including financial planning, as well as the development of new and improved funding mechanisms are essential. More importantly, the effectiveness of these strategies depends on policies and measures across all levels of government, business and society.

A strong adaptation response is particularly important at the subnational level. Subnational governments play a fundamental role to enhance coordination and cooperation across all levels of governments, to boost policy coherence, and to ensure concrete results of adaptation actions. In this sense, adaptation measures must also be implemented in order to avoid economic losses at the regional level.

¹ IPCC Climate Change 2014 Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers, p. 13.

² The figures have been calculated by summing up the impacts and costs of the adaptation from 2000 to 2200 and discounting them back to 2000, in a business as usual scenario. "Assessing the costs of adaptation to climate change", Grantham Institute for Climate Change, 2009.

³ UNEP Adaptation Gap Report, 2014.

However, international support and collaboration for regional action on adaptation remains underexplored. While many subnational governments have already developed long-term adaptation strategies and innovative solutions to increase climate resilience, a number of on-going constraints and challenges limit their ability to respond effectively. These include scarce financial and human resources, lack of integration and coordination between levels of government, insufficient management practices, research and tools to monitor adaptation effectiveness, and, critically, the absence of medium to long-term adaptation planning.

Commitments

Based on the aforementioned considerations, and recognizing that legal responsibilities as well as technical and financial capacities vary widely among different jurisdictions, the signatories of the **RegionsAdapt** initiative (hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”) commit to join efforts to improve the effectiveness of subnational governments in adapting to climate change. With this aspiration, the Participants express their intention to:

1. Adopt a strategic approach to adaptation and prioritize adaptation actions, e.g., through adopting or reviewing a regional plan or strategy on climate change adaptation within two years of joining the initiative;
2. Take concrete action on adaptation in at least one of the key priority areas identified by the regions. These could include: water resources and management; resilience and disaster risk reduction; agriculture and zootechnics; forestry, protected areas and biodiversity; infrastructure (including transport and the energy sectors) and territorial planning; economic impacts and opportunities; social adaptation and impacts;
3. Report data on the progress of the adaptation actions on an annual basis through the Compact of States and Regions reporting platform.

As an international cooperation initiative, **RegionsAdapt** aims to provide a framework to facilitate and support collaboration between state and regional governments and other relevant international partners, undertaking joint efforts based on solidarity principles. Nevertheless, with a view to the particular circumstances and capacities of each Participant, it is fundamental they have own specific plans tailored for their territorial priorities and reality.

This is neither a contract nor a treaty.