



CLIMATE MEETING
of **LOCAL & REGIONAL ELECTED OFFICIALS**
of the **MEDITERRANEAN**
11 DECEMBER 2014 / MARSEILLE

Climate Declaration by Local and Regional Authorities in the Mediterranean

The Mediterranean area has been recognised by experts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as one of the most vulnerable areas in terms of climate change. If nothing is done, by the year 2100 they predict a 3 to 5°C rise in global average temperatures, a decrease in precipitation by up to 25%, an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and a rise in sea level that could reach as much as 35cm.

Water stress, desertification, loss of biodiversity and floods, heat waves and droughts, among other extreme events already faced by the Region are emergency indicators, at a time when the last IPCC report reiterates the need for comprehensive and prompt action in order to limit the increase in average temperatures to under 2°C. As the Mediterranean's contribution to achieving this goal is crucial, it is particularly important that all stakeholders continue and improve their commitment.

Since the Rio Earth Summit (1992), local and regional authorities have progressively taken on these issues. Nowadays, they are major actors in policies, strategies, legislation and cooperation mechanisms across their own territories. They are structured at a global level to contribute actively to achieving these international and national objectives, as well as to establish their expectations and their own climate commitments through declarations at important world meetings and especially at the most recent Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Meeting in Marseille, to make our Mediterranean contribution in light of the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) and in continuation of previous declarations, and in particular the 2013 Nantes declaration, we, the local and regional elected representatives of the Mediterranean:

- Asserting our leading role in fighting global warming. We are responsible for the development of our territories, and are at the forefront in taking action with regard to the main causes of greenhouse gas emissions: residential (housing and services), transport and food; in drawing up local and regional strategies for adapting to the effects of climate change; in preventing the risk of disasters, preparing our citizens and providing them with emergency aid.
- Noting that our initiatives can represent the biggest source of greenhouse gas reduction and huge potential for adapting to climate change, however these initiatives need:
 - o Increased decentralisation and subsidiarity: more independence, greater financial and human resources for our regional and local authorities;
 - o A real local and regional dimension from all international and national initiatives concerning climate action.

- Bearing in mind the role of higher education and partnership research to inform policy makers of the impact that climate change has on our societies.
- Underlining our privileged position in order to help our citizens understand the issues and impacts of negotiations on their health, safety, and way of life. This understanding is key for the support and mobilisation of the greatest number possible, and a prerequisite for the success in a fight that concerns us all.

Call on national governments to:

- *Pay* particular attention to the Mediterranean: climate change will not have the same effect on all territories. This area needs specific and urgent action, particularly in coastal areas.
- *Lead* the signing of an ambitious and binding agreement in line with the increasingly urgent warnings from the scientific community; the urgency of the situation requires a strong and collective response, which involves developing local solutions and know-how.
- *Connect* the Climate Agenda to the post-2015 Agenda for sustainable human development. A strong link has to be established between the various rounds of negotiations. The fight against global warming and poverty, fostering sustainable development and preparation for resilience and disaster management fall within the same logic needing converging strategic actions.
- *Provide* financial contributions to the various existing funds and especially the Green Climate Fund. The active participation of developing countries and disadvantaged communities in reducing greenhouse gas emissions will only succeed with appropriate financial support.
- *Approve and encourage* direct access mechanisms to these global funds for local, insular and regional authorities. And, more generally, ensure that global, European and national funds are dedicated to “climate” actions across our regions. We hope that consideration for the climate becomes an integral part of all projects financed by development stakeholders across our regions.
- *Recognise* that local and regional action will be more efficient if we have tools available for measuring, reporting and checking greenhouse gas emissions in a transparent way that involves our citizens.
- *Promote* innovation in order to accelerate the creation of effective policies and solutions adapted to local markets to mitigate the potentially dangerous effects of climate change and to develop adaptation measures.

We undertake to:

- *Mobilise* the greatest possible number of local and regional authorities from around the Mediterranean basin to commit to a more inclusive approach towards creating a future international agreement that is ambitious and binding in line with increasingly urgent warnings from the scientific community.
- *Take a more active role* in our territories, by serving as initiators, gatherers and coordinators of political projects and initiatives regarding mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- *Intensify*, according to our resources, our participation in global processes on climate change, such as Carbon Climate Registry, Making Cities Resilient, the Covenant of Mayors and the Pact of Islands.
- *Mobilise*, where possible, local and regional funds to set up action plans and strategies in favour of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, developing new, more sustainable, energy solutions, and adapting to climate change in continuation of the Mexico Pact (2010). These plans and strategies are opportunities for wealth and job creation.

Among a large variety of possible actions, we undertake and ask for resources to be made available to focus our activities on areas in which we are likely to obtain a significant leverage effect that will benefit our territories:

- *Developing* sustainable urban and integrated territorial development strategies focusing on the fight against urban sprawl as well as sustainable management of transport;
- *Developing* energy efficiency policies and coordinated regional strategies for the energy-efficient renovation of buildings in the Mediterranean Basin;
- *Developing* renewable energies, with particular focus on solar, biomass, and the emerging sector of marine energies, smart grid systems and low-carbon energy careers;
- *Developing* ecodistricts, green and blue corridors, public spaces;
- *Structuring* waste management and recycling sectors;
- *Developing* Integrated Coastal Zone Management strategies;
- *Developing* strategies to reduce risks linked to disasters and resilience;
- *Improving* the sustainable management of water resources (quality, depuration, use, provision, price, technologies and innovative or traditional techniques);
- *Reinforcing* local policies concerning citizen awareness, information and involvement in these issues.
- *Providing* resources for enhanced networking and knowledge sharing between sustainable development operators, scientists and community actors.
- *Strengthening* climate innovation capacities, by means of cooperation, to provide locally targeted solutions addressing the challenges of climate change.

Finally, we propose to:

- List, among the UCLG Mediterranean Commission and the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission, best practices in place in the Mediterranean. This review of the situation could help intensify the exchange of experience and use of results through, in particular, cooperation, capacity building, and the adaptation of existing measures to local and regional specific characteristics.
- Develop and support new actions linked to Euro-Mediterranean policies, especially with regard to energy, climate, industry, the maritime sector and neighbourhood, among others.
- Consider the possibility of setting up a solidarity fund, like the Green Climate Fund, on climate in the Mediterranean.
- Monitor our commitments and measure our results during the next Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean in 2016.