



Network of Regional Governments
for Sustainable Development

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Steering Committee Meeting – Minutes

29 August 2011, City of Québec, Québec

Participants

Co-chairs

Catalonia	Lluís Recoder i Miralles - Minister for Territory and Sustainability Marta Subirá i Roca - Director General for Environmental Policies Susanna Rivero Baughman - Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Advisor
São Paulo	Bruno Covas - Secretary of State for the Environment Nelson Bugayo – Vice President of CETESB Ana Paula Fava – International Advisor, Environment State Secretariat

Vice-Presidents

Brittany <i>VP Europe</i>	Jean-Yves Le Drian, President of the Regional Council Dominique Ramard, President of the Environment-Energy Commission of the Regional Council Renaud Layadi, Advisor for International Networks, Regional Council of Brittany
ANAAE (Mexico) <i>VP Latin America and Caribbean</i>	Silvia Whizar Lugo, Coordinator General of ANAAE and Secretary of State for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of Tabasco José Luis Funes Izaguirre, International Liaison Officer for ANAAE
<i>Treasury- CPMR</i>	Damien Périssé, Director for Innovation and Competitiveness
<i>Secretariat</i>	Maruxa Cardama, Secretary General Lucy Mathieson, Policy and Advocacy Officer (Trainee)
<i>External Expert</i>	Hugo Séguin, Lecturer at Sherbrooke University, Research Associate at the Centre of International Studies of Montreal (CEIM) and Principal Advisor in Équiterre

Other members of the Steering Committee

Basque Country	Marta Marín, Delegate of the Government to the EU Enrique Urrutia Director of Institutional Relations and Innovation, Basque Water Agency
Mbale	Andrew Mawejje , Chief Administrative Officer, District Local Council
North Burkina	Aboubacar Réliwendé Savadogo, President of the Regional Council
OLAGI	Maria Pilar Vela Murgueityo, Executive Secretary
Québec	Charles La Rochelle, Deputy Vice Minister for Climate Change, MDDEP Vincent Royer, Climate Change Coordinator, MRI Michele Fournier, Climate Change Bureau Senior Advisor, MDDEP Claude Audet-Robitaille, International Affairs Advisor, MRI Claude Côté, Climate Change Bureau Advisor, MDDEP Marc Deblois, Advisor, MDDEP
Wales	John Griffiths, Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development Jon Townley, Head of International Sustainable Development and the Wales for Africa Team Elin Rowlands, Private Secretary to Minister Griffiths
Wallonie	Jean-Marie Wauthier, Director of the Environment Portfolio, Wallonie-Bruxelles-International



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Apologies received

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Aragón Vote delegated to Catalonia

Flanders Last minute apology due to cancellation of flight (Storm 'Irene') – Position and input relayed to the Steering Committee via the nrg4SD Secretariat

North Sumatra
VP Asia

The Northern Forum

Absent

Congreso de Intendentes
Toscany
La Réunion

Agenda	Comments - Action points
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome and apologies- The agenda is approved with no changes.- Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting of 15.02.2011 are adopted.- Matters arising of particular relevance since the last meeting – focusing on the work developed around 2012 budgetary options and on the contacts maintained with UNDP since February- Governance aspects – with a view to adopt decisions for ratification by the GA <p>Information point on the state of collaboration between Aragon and Catalonia for the co-chair for the North - Catalunya explains that from now until the end of the ongoing 3-year mandate (2010-2013) they will be in charge of the Co-Chairmanship from the North alone. The shared co-chairmanship by Aragon and Catalonia had been envisaged as a temporary mechanism to allow for mutual support, given the election calendar in late 2010 for Catalonia and in early 2011 for Aragon.</p> <p>Reelection of Sao Paulo as Co-chair for the South - São Paulo reiterates its commitment with nrg4SD following from the elections in late 2010, as well as its keen interest in being considered for reelection as Co-Chair for South. This scenario is considered as particularly beneficial for the Network given that 2012 will have a distinctive Brazilian and 'Southern' character in the area of sustainable development, due to the Rio +20 Conference taking place in June 2012.</p> <p>Candidatures for the role of Treasury –The Secretariat informs that the current mandate of the Treasury of nrg4SD, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions CPMR, comes to an end on 31.12.2011. This comes as a result of the communication from the CPMR announcing the interest to step down of this role in 2010 - role that they have been providing for the Network since its creation in 2002 – and the 1-year renewal which took place at the General Assembly of the CPMR in October 2010.</p> <p>Discussions follow on the method for nominating a Treasury in case of lack of volunteers. 2 options are examined in detailed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the possibility of asking members interested in becoming co-chairs to first become Treasury – it is found that this option will not be strictly in line with the provision of	<p>Catalonia to exercise full co-chairmanship for the North until the end of the 3-year ongoing mandate 2010-2013</p> <p>It is recommended to reelect São Paulo as Co-Chair for the South</p> <p>CPMR to step down as Treasury on 31.12.2011</p>



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the new statutes which establishes the incompatibility between the exercise of the roles of Treasurer and Co-chair, and
- the possibility of establishing a rotating system starting by alphabetical order – it is found that the alphabetical order would result in unfair situations, with those members placed at the beginning of the alphabet recurrently called upon.

The Basque Region proposed that in the long-term the Treasury should sit in the Permanent Secretariat and that therefore efforts should be made in order to provide the Secretariat with sufficient resources and staff in order to develop this role. OLAGI expressed its support to the options that would guarantee the stability of the Treasury (as opposed to a rotation scheme), in particular the allocation of the Treasury to the Secretariat team, as soon as the team-size and composition allows for it. OLAGI also suggested that Treasury and Secretary General mandates be aligned in time – to start and finish at the same time. It was found that the latter would not be feasible in all occasions. Wallonia suggested that the role of Treasurer could be suggested to Flanders given that the seat of the network is at the Ministry for the Environment and Culture of Flanders. It was found not appropriate to discuss such possibility in the absence of a Flanders.

It is agreed that the general rule for the nomination of Treasury should remain volunteer candidacies and recommended that a call for candidacies remains open for 2 months amongst Steering Committee members – i. e. until 1 November 2011. This timing is scheduled in order to allow for a smooth hand-over from the CPMR before the end of the year.

Decision on the reform of nrg4SD Statutes - As agreed in June 2010 and following the announcement in May 2011, the Secretariat prepared a proposal for new Statutes for nrg4SD with the aim of modernising and simplifying the rules that govern the Network since its creation in 2002; reconsidering its governing bodies; clarifying the different types of members, and eliminating exemptions for annual membership fees, which constitute burden on the budget of the Network.

The Secretariat took SC members through each article of the proposed Statutes, explaining in detail the new elements put forward and taking questions on the go. The debates that followed concentrated in particular on:

- *The quorum for the General Assembly* - Upon proposal by Mbale, it is agreed that the General Assembly is said to reach valid quorum when constituted with 50% of members and associate members present and represented.

- *The delegation of votes – vote by proxy* – The provision on the quorum for the GA is complemented by the agreement on a proposal by Catalonia following which one single member can accumulate 3 votes in the General Assembly – 2 delegated votes plus the individual vote. As for the Steering Committee, only 2 votes can be accumulated in the same member: 1 delegated vote plus the individual vote. Wallonia raised doubts about the possibility of communicating a delegation of vote by email under Belgian law. The possibility was verified online on the spot. It was agreed that: (i) no deadline should be established for the delegation of vote, (ii) the delegation of vote should be authorised officially, and (iii) it shall be communicated to the Secretariat via email, provided it is officially authorised.

- It is agreed that the *general rule for adoption of decisions* shall be consensus. Should a vote be needed, then decisions shall be taken by simple majority (50% plus one) of members and associate members present and represented. Except for the decisions concerning (i) the exclusion of a member, (ii) the modification of statutes beyond minor technical reviews or adjustments of general nature and (iii) the dissolution of nrg4SD, when a two-thirds majority of members present and

It is agreed that volunteer candidacies shall remain the general rule for the nomination of Treasury

Recommendation for a call for candidatures for Treasury to remain open amongst Steering Committee members for the next 2 months – until 1 November 2011

As agreed in June 2010 and following the announcement in May 2011, the Secretariat prepared a proposal for new Statutes for nrg4SD

Agreement on quorum for the General Assembly when it is constituted by 50% of members present and represented

Agreement on allowing 2 delegations of vote on the same member for the General Assembly and 1 for the Steering Committee – Delegation of vote needs to be officially communicated but with no deadline

Agreement on consensus as the general rule for decision – If vote is needed then, simple majority of members and associate members present and represented - Except for the exclusion of a member, the in-depth modification of statutes or the



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represented is required.

- The *voting system* - Discussions turned around the need to guarantee transparency, while respecting the privacy of certain decisions concerning nominations of individuals. It was agreed that the voting is carried out by a show of hands from a representative from each member or associate member. Should one member or associate member request a secret vote, then it should be taken as such. For all votes regarding elected positions, the vote should be taken in secret. São Paulo showed its disagreement with any secret vote, while it accepted the final agreement as a decision from the majority.

-The *Political Bureau* is envisaged as a tool/an aid for decision-making on strategic and prospective matters, which will put forward recommendations to the Steering Committee. Wallonia questioned how such a Political Bureau would be able to operate with limited financial resources and why should its members be political representatives. Brittany and the Basque Country pointed out that a Political Bureau would help maintaining political dialogue on governance matters that fall outside the outstanding items the Steering Committee is called on to deal with. They also added that meetings would not have to take place on a regular basis and that could take place parallel to Steering Committee meetings. The Secretariat added that new technologies would allow members to participate with very reduced costs and pointed out that its members should enjoy a political mandate enabling them to speak on behalf of their governments in order to ensure the relevance and legitimacy of discussions and recommendations. The latter was supported by Brittany, the Basque Country and Catalonia. North Burkina expressed its support to such a Bureau provided that final decisions/recommendations were kept with the Steering Committee. Catalonia analysed the new structure as an useful platform for members to think in a strategic way outside the outstanding matters that the Steering Committee is called to look into. The regions who want to play a more active role can reflect more deeply in a Political Bureau, Catalonia added.

- *Secretariat and Secretary General* – Given the recent introduction of a permanent Secretariat and a Secretary General, the proposals for Statutes contained a detailed list of tasks of the Secretary General and introduced a mandate of 3 years renewal.

- *Treasury* – See above – It is decided that voluntary candidacies for the rule of Treasury should be the general rule. However, the Secretariat reminds the SC that provisions should be agreed for the cases in which voluntary candidacies should not be found or in which an ongoing Treasury should be forced to stop providing services. The Secretariat shall put forward proposals in the context of the elaboration of the Standing Rules.

- *Financial assistance to members* – Proposal that amount should be fixed before the event for which the assistance is provided on the basis of the technical recommendations from the Treasury and the Secretariat.

The proposal for Statutes prepared by the Secretariat is adopted for ratification by the General Assembly with the amendments introduced by the Steering Committee.

It is agreed that Standing Rules in development of the new Statutes shall be elaborated within the end of the year by a Task Force with the assistance and coordination of the Secretariat.

Decision on applications for membership and information point on expression of interest in membership - It is recommended to accept the applications for membership of Buenos Aires (Argentina), Hauts Bassins (Burkina Faso), Rhône-Alpes (France) and Paraná (Brazil).

dissolution of the network, when a two-thirds of members present and represented majority is required

Agreement on voting by a show of hands - Should one member or associate member request a secret vote, then it should be taken as such. For all votes regarding elected positions, the vote should be taken in secret

Agreement on a political bureau as an aid for political-decision making and recommendation

Agreement on a 3-year renewal mandate for the Secretary General

The Secretariat shall put forward proposals for the election of a Treasury in the cases where voluntary candidacies will not be possible

Agreement that the amount of financial assistance shall be fixed in advance on the basis of the technical recommendations from the Treasury and the Secretariat

The proposal for Statutes is adopted for ratification by the General Assembly with the amendments introduced by the Steering Committee – Standing rules to be elaborated within the end of 2011

It is recommended to accept the applications for membership from Buenos Aires, Hauts Bassins, Rhône-Alpes and Paraná



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The Secretariat took members through the latest available information on expressions of interest on the basis of the document circulated prior to the meeting.

- **Strategic and budgetary aspects** – with a view to adopt recommendations for deliberation and decision by the General Assembly

Functioning of the Permanent Secretariat –

Renewal of the contract of the Secretary General - The process for selecting a Secretary General was launched in April 2010, following the decision of the Steering Committee and the adoption by the General Assembly. The current Secretary General Ms. Maruxa Cardama came into office on 01.09.2010, under a 1 year Belgian employment contract subject to Belgian tax, that comes to an end on 31.08.2011 – i.e. the last day of the General Assembly meeting. It is recommended to renew the contract of Ms. Maruxa Cardama as Secretary General. Catalonia reiterates its commitment to employ Maruxa Cardama with a Spanish law contract - on behalf of nrg4SD, under the network's budget and for the length of the co-chair mandate of Catalonia. It is found that this should allow the network to make substantial savings. Wallonia enquired on the amount of savings to be made. Catalonia and the Secretariat pointed out that the exact figure was not available yet, as Catalonian legal services were still working on the dossier. As a matter of example, it was pointed out that the net salary of the Secretary General was less than 50% of the total costs for the network.

Establishment of a small team – It is agreed that this is an essential condition to consolidate the achievements of the network so far, provide quality services to an enlarged membership and face the important international dates of the 2012 work programme. The Secretariat provided members with specific examples of cost-effective formulas for setting up a small team (Volontariat International en Entreprise V.I.E., the Erasmus Scheme of the European Union (EU) or the classic system of secondment of experts) and highlighted that special attention should be given to the situation of Ms. Lucy Mathieson, who is currently providing full-time high-quality services to nrg4SD without a contract. The Basque Country announced that in the coming weeks, they will be hiring an Erasmus Entrepreneur and putting him/her at the service of the network. The Basque Government will top up the allowance offered by the EU to this Erasmus Entrepreneur, so the final allowance given can match the cost of living in Brussels.

Mid term review of nrg4SD Strategy 2008–2014 and benchmarking exercise - presentation of the analysis for the nrg4SD Secretariat by international expert Hugo Séguin, on the basis of the documents circulated prior to the meeting. The Mid term review provides an evaluation of the goals, strategies and tools suggested in the 2008-2014 Strategy; it highlights a number of relevant international trends and it appraises recent achievements of the network. It finally makes a series of recommendations designed to serve as the founding blocks of an updated, 2012-2018 Strategy. The analysis finds that some of the main objectives set out in the Strategy are quickly being reached. The network is achieving results, developing content and adding value both for its members and to the global agenda. As foreseen, the Content Strategy has also led to increased international recognition for both nrg4SD and subnational governments, as a constituency growing in relevance and influence. It also finds that, given current level of resources, the network is risking overextension and over commitment. The current pace of development clearly appears unsustainable. The network – and most particularly its Secretariat - is now fully engaged on at least three major processes within the global sustainable agenda (Biodiversity, Climate Change and Rio+20). It is also facing growing expectations from key partners, including many UN bodies.

Recommendation to renew the contract of Ms Maruxa Cardama as nrg4SD Secretary General

Commitment from Catalonia to employ the Secretary General with a Spanish law contract on behalf of nrg4SD and under the network's budget, in order to make savings for the budget of the network

It is recommended to establish a small team as an essential condition to consolidate the strategic positioning achieved so far and to improve services to members – Special attention should be given to the situation of Ms. Lucy Mathieson, who is currently providing full-time high-quality services to nrg4SD without a contract – The Basque Country will hire an Erasmus Entrepreneur on behalf of nrg4SD and top up the allowance provided by the EU

MTR of the nrg4SD Strategy 2008-2014: some of the main objectives set out in the Strategy are quickly being reached. The network is achieving results, developing content and adding value both for its members and to the global agenda. This has led to increased international recognition for both nrg4SD and subnational governments. Given its current level of resources, the network is risking overextension and over commitment. The current pace of development clearly appears unsustainable



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The Benchmarking exercise seeks to compare, on the basis of quantitative indicators, a range of international organisations whose objective is similar to that of nrg4SD. It summarises their respective objectives, examines the resources available to them and provides a comparison ranking between them. It presents some general findings and finally proposes a set of recommendations. According to this Benchmarking Exercise, in general, given its objective and its ambitions, it is very clear that nrg4SD has the lowest level of resources among the other international organisations analysed in this document. Moreover, the recent successes of the network, particularly in terms of achieving international recognition, lead to a level of expectation which is incompatible with the current level of resources available to the network.

Fact 1 - A network with high ambitions has fewer resources than others - From all the organisations listed, nrg4SD has the lowest score in terms of resources available. Its annual budget of 180,000 euros compares unfavourably with that of organisations with a similar mandate, such as the Northern Forum (904.000 euros) and CPMR (more than 3 million euros), or with other organisations working with UN bodies to promote and defend the interests of their members, such as CAN-I (853.000 euros), or ICLEI (with more than 11 million euros). This disproportion is also reflected in the level of permanent staff available. With 1 permanent employee (Secretary General) and occasional trainees, nrg4SD cannot compete with other major international networks such as CAN-I (6 permanent, plus 3 part-time), OLAGI (5 permanent) the Northern Forum (4-6), much less than CPMR (20), WBCSD (40+) and ICLEI (200). This finding is even more problematic as the governance structure and mission of nrg4SD are in large part, similar to those of the other organisations surveyed.

Fact 2 - Limited membership base - Although it is difficult to compare the solidity of the foundation of organisations solely on the basis of their membership, the membership of nrg4SD (46 member governments) appears more limited than that of other organisations, with the exception of the Northern Forum (12 member regions), which however, provides resources 4 to 6 times higher than that of nrg4SD. European-based organisations, such as ENCORE (111 members) or CPMR (160 members), and older, more institutionalised ones, already enjoy a much larger membership. Despite the existence of different political and institutional realities in many parts of the world, we can also see that nrg4SD is far from reaching the full potential of its membership. This membership base is inevitably reflected in the level of resources available from the annual membership fees. A broad membership base is likely to generate additional resources.

Fact 3 – Funding sources not yet explored - The analysis also shows that many of the organisations surveyed are diversifying their sources of funding beyond single membership fees, by appealing to private or institutional donors. nrg4SD only relies on contributions (cash and in kind) of its most involved members and does not seem to have developed an objective to look for complementary funding.

The recommendation of this analysis are adopted:

- the 2008-2014 Strategy be updated to focus on the (1) consolidation of existing commitments, (2) the increase of available resources and (3) the deepening of the involvement within key UN processes, namely Climate Change, Biodiversity and Rio+20
- the level of resources available to the network be greatly expanded
- a regular evaluation process by members be established
- the largest possible support from current members be achieved
- new key members should be invited to join, especially federated states and regions from North America and the Global South
- the use of institutional or private contributions should be explored
- a communication plan for the network be developed

Benchmarking exercise of the network with similar international organisations: given its objective and its ambitions, it is very clear that nrg4SD has the lowest level of resources among the other international organisations analysed in this document

It is recommended that:

- the 2008-2014 Strategy be updated to focus on the (1) consolidation of existing commitments, (2) the increase of available resources and (3) the deepening of the involvement within key UN processes, namely Climate Change, Biodiversity and Rio+20;
- the level of resources available to the network be greatly expanded;
- a regular evaluation process by members be established;
- the largest possible support from current members be achieved;
- new key members should be invited to join, especially federated states and regions from North America and the Global South;
- the use of institutional or private contributions should be explored, and
- a communication plan for the network be developed

2011 Financial Report and 2012 Budget proposal – Presentation by the



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Treasurer on the basis of the documents circulated prior to the meeting. The Treasurer presented in detail the execution of the 2010 budget and the project budget for 2011. The Treasurer explained the new structure of budgetary lines for the 2011 budget as a consequence of the establishment of a permanent Secretariat and outlined key proposed budgetary lines for 2011.

The Treasurer stressed the dangerous risk of high deficit that nrg4SD is facing and proposed an increase in all annual membership fees of 50% compared to 2010 fees. It was highlighted that the current reserve fund is facing exhaustion by 2012 if no budgetary balance is found. The Treasurer explained that a 50% increase in membership fees would allow for budgetary balance, while a substantial enlargement of membership constitutes a serious medium and long-term option.

Discussions on these proposals followed. The Basque Country, Brittany, Quebec and Wales highlighted that the proposed 2011 budget constituted already a reduced budget unable to sustain the objectives of the network and the services to members. In this context, they supported the proposal for an increase in all membership fees of 50%; encouraged extraordinary contributions from members in a financial position to provide them, and stressed the need to take the widening of membership seriously.

Wallonia opposed to the increase of fees, reminding that fees had been increased for Northern regions recently and arguing that more efforts should be deployed by the Treasury to make sure that all current members paid their fees. Wallonia suggested that an increase of fees was 'taking the easiest option' without exploring others and expressed scepticism about its applicability. The Treasury argued that this proposal did not constitute an 'easy option' and explained that, given the long-term investment needed from all members in order to enlarge membership or to secure external funding, an increase of fees represented the only short-term viable option to ensure the subsistence of the network beyond 2012. The Treasury and the Secretariat referred members to the table included in the Financial Report, detailing the increase of fees per member. It was noted that the average increase would be of 4.000 or 5.000 euros/year extra per member.

It was agreed to recommend an increase of fees in 50%, with the support of Flanders and The Northern Forum relayed to the Secretariat prior to the meeting. All members agreed on the crucial need to work intensively on enlarging the membership base and on exploring additional funding opportunities.

It is recommended to include in the Standing Rules that the network shall keep a minimum of 60,000 € for the reserve fund, below which it would not be authorised to fall.

Recommendations of the European meeting in preparation for the General Assembly – by Brittany in its capacity of nrg4SD Vice Chair for Europe on the basis of the minutes of the European meeting circulated prior to the meeting. It is recommended:

- to believe in ourselves and in our capacity to act both in partnership with each other and with European and international bodies;
- that nrg4SD can only promote the regional and federated State levels if the network's resources match the political project and not the other way round;
- that nrg4SD also become a platform where political dialogue is organised so that members' point of view can be represented with more strength and consistency;
- that this General Assembly enable nrg4SD to decide on its future, in particular enable us to build the nrg4SD's finances sustainably and set us on the path for the network's 10th anniversary which will be celebrated in parallel to the Rio+20 Conference;

The Treasury stressed that nrg4SD is facing a high-risk of deficit and proposed an increase in all annual membership fees of 50% compared to 2010 fees. It was highlighted that the current reserve fund is facing exhaustion by 2012 if no budgetary balance is found. The Treasurer explained that a 50% increase in membership fees would allow for budgetary balance, while a substantial enlargement of membership constitutes a serious medium and long-term option

It is recommended to increase all membership fees in 50% - All members agreed on the crucial need to work intensively on enlarging the membership base and on exploring additional funding opportunities

It is recommended to include in the Standing Rules that the network shall keep a minimum of 60,000 € for the reserve fund.

It is recommended (i) to believe in ourselves and in our capacity to act both in partnership with each other and with European and international bodies; (ii) that nrg4SD can only promote the regional and federated State levels if the network's resources match the political project; (iii) that nrg4SD also become a platform where political dialogue is organised with more strength and consistency; (iv) that this General Assembly enable nrg4SD to decide on its future, in particular enable us to build the nrg4SD's finances sustainably; (v) to set an objective to increase income by means of fees around €60,000 to €80,000 from the recruitment of new



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- to set an objective to increase income by means of fees around €60,000 to €80,000 from the recruitment of new regions in the horizon of June 2014;
- to better use the “service” which the nrg4SD Secretariat can provide, by being more active in the working groups and creating better links between the technical development of our objectives and their political representation;
- to follow the Benchmarking of comparable networks that has been elaborated for the Secretariat

Synergies with other organisations, particularly ORU/FOGAR and ICLEI - It is recommended to refine the intervention and partnership logics: (i) Analyse requests as closely as possible to ensure that they are in line with the network’s political ambitions and (ii) carefully assess the partnerships to be developed with other networks or organisations to ensure their operational interest and their convergence with a strategic approach.

It is recommended to deepen the collaboration and economies of scale with ORU-FOGAR and to pursue the joint work towards the World Water Forum in 2012.

It is recommended to explore win-win scenarios for collaboration with ICLEI for UNFCCC COP17 Durban and the Rio +20 Conference

- Review of the Convention with CDC Climat, the Declaration of Québec and thematic resolutions – for adoption by the General Assembly

Members welcome the Convention with CDC Climat as an essential support to the nrg4SD Financing Climate Action Working Group.

The Secretariat took members through the draft Declaration and the Resolutions. The Declaration is recommended for adoption. For the draft resolutions on climate change and Rio +20, Quebec highlighted the need for a fully operational Secretariat and commitment of members in order to advocate for a better recognition of the constituency of Subnational Governments and maintain it. It is agreed that the draft resolutions should be adapted to reflect the outcomes of the working groups over the next days.

regions in the horizon of June 2014; (vi) to better use the “service” which the nrg4SD Secretariat can provide being more active in the working groups and creating better links between the technical and the political objectives; (vi) to follow the Benchmarking of comparable networks that has been elaborated for the Secretariat

It is recommended to: (i) refine the assessment of partnership request project in order to ensure an alignment with the network’s objectives; (ii) deepen the collaboration with ORU-FOGAR and pursue the joint work towards the World Water Forum 2012; (iii) explore win-win scenarios for collaboration with ICLEI for UNFCCC and Rio +20

Members welcome the Convention with CDC Climat

The draft Declaration is recommended for adoption – An amendment is introduced in the resolutions to highlight the high-level of commitment and resources required by any advocacy work in favour of a better recognition of the subnational governments constituency – It is agreed that the draft resolutions should reflect the outcomes of the working groups