



Network of Regional Governments
for Sustainable Development

Cancun Steering Committee Meeting - Minutes

8 December 2010 – Great Parnassus Hotel-Cancún, Quintana Roo, México

Participants

Co-chairs

Catalonia

São Paulo

Focal Points – Vice Presidents

Brittany

Treasury

Secretary General

ANAAE

Mbale

Quebec

Wales

Mr. Salvador Samitier - SS

Mr Fernando Cardozo Fernandes Rei - FR

Delegate Mr. Dominique Ramard - DR

Mr Renaud Layadi - RL

Mrs. Eleni Marianou (video recording) - EM

Mrs. Maruxa Cardama - MXC

Secretary of State Ocean. Mrs. Silvia Whizar - SW

Secretary of State Mr. Francisco Javier Díaz Carvajal - JDC

Lic. Mr. José Luis Funes – JLF

Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Andrew Maweje – AM

Minister Mr. Pierre Arcand - PA

Vice-Minister Mr. Charles Larochelle - CR

Mr Vincent Royer – VR

Minister Mrs. Jane Davidson – JD

Mr. Jon Townley – JT

Absent

Aragón: last-minute impossibility to attend due to Spanish air controllers strike

Basque Country: last-minute impossibility to attend due to Spanish air controllers strike

North Burkina Faso: apologies received

The Northern Forum: apologies received

OLAGI: apologies received

Wallonia: last-minute impossibility to attend due to commitments with EU delegation

Congreso de Intendentes

Flanders

North Sumatra

La Reunión

Toscany

Western Cape

Meeting Agenda	Comments and action points
Open Session – Discussion on opportunities for collaboration	
<p>Guest observers: The Climate Group – Mr. Luc Bas; ClimSAT – Mr. Alain Retière; North Rhine Westphalia – Mr. Ernst-Christophe Stolper; Tokyo Metropolitan Government - Mr. Suzuki</p> <p>Kindly chaired by JD who thanked all participants for their presence and passed on the apologies on behalf of absent members. MXC explained the purpose of this open session: to put in common the most recent collaborations between nrg4SD and other key international players and explore the potential for deepening them.</p>	



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Colleagues from Quebec secured an online connection (Skype) with Mr. Jose Puppim de Oliveira, Assistant Director & Senior Research Fellow at the Institut for Advanced Studies of the **University of the United Nations UNU in Tokyo**.

Since summer 2008, the International Relations Ministry of Quebec has been carrying out a public diplomacy pilot projet in Japan aiming at profiling Quebec's leadership on climate change action and promoting the role of regional governments towards Japanese prefectures. In April 2010, discussions took place with UNU around the opportunity of holding a conference on the matter. Soon after the conference projet was approved by UNU. The Direction of the Institute for Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) showed great interest in the topic and its relevance to UN's Conferene on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 (Rio +20).

The conference, with a draft title "Subnational governments and the global environmental challenges: progress, opportunities and obstacles in the implementation of Rio Conventions", will take place in Autumn 2011 and address the following themes: experiences of subnational governments in tackling global challenges; coordination among subnational governments; coordination between national and subnational governments; exchange of experiences among countries; coordination efforts to implement the Rio Conventions; opportunities and obstacles to improve the effectiveness of implementation at the local level.

Quebec and UNU would be keen on seeing nrg4SD play a key role in this Conference, and also in its organisation. Tokyo Metropolitan Government representative Mr. Suzuki confirmed that the conference counts with the full support of the Metropolitan Government. Mr. Luc Bas from The Climate Group expressed an interest in the conference, given the work deployed over the last years by TCG under its Alliance for the Regions.

Steering Committee members expressed their gratitude to Quebec for bringing this opportunity into nrg4SD. It was considered that this event should be one of the key initiatives of nrg4SD on Rio +20 issues in 2011, in line with the proposals by nrg4SD Secretary General for the creation of a working group on Rio +20 matters. MXC was tasked with pursuing discussions with Quebec and keeping the Steering Committee informed.

Mrs. Nicola Beer, Secretary of State for European Affairs of **Hessen, Germany and Head of the EU Committee of the Regions (EU CoR) Delegation to COP 16** thanked nrg4SD for the invitation and passed on the interest of CoR President Mrs. Mercedes Bresso for increasing CoR's work with international networks such as nrg4SD. Mrs. Beer highlighted 2 key collaborations in 2010 between nrg4SD and the EU CoR: a) the discussion session "Cancun -30" lead by Brittany under the European stream of nrg4SD activities and hosted by the EU CoR on 25 October 2010; and b) the joint lobby work in favour of the Plan of Action for Subnational Governments and Local Authorities for the implementation of the UN Convention for Biological Diversity, which was finally adopted in COP 10 Nagoya in October.

Further collaborations opportunities arise in the context of: c) the CoR's Portal for Decentralised Cooperation (where nrg4SD could contribute profiling the decentralised cooperation activities of its member regions), d) the CoR's monitoring platform on the EU 2020 Strategy for sustainable, inclusive and smart growth and e) CoR initiatives around Rio +20.

Steering Committee members welcomed these further opportunities and asked

Quebec shared possibility for engaging in UNU conference "Subnational governments and the global environmental challenges: progress, opportunities and obstacles in the implementation of Rio Conventions" in Autumn 2011

Support from Tokyo Metropolitan Government

Steering Committee grateful to Quebec

MXC tasked with pursuing discussions with Quebec

Fruitful collaboration with EU CoR so far around "Cancun - 30" and UN CBD COP 10 in Nagoya

Further ideas for collaboration around decentralised cooperation, EU 2020 Strategy and Rio +20

MXC to keep discussing practical aspects directly with CoR



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MXC to keep discussing practical aspects directly with CoR.

Mrs. Anne-Marie Wilson, Programme Officer from the Secretariat of the **United Nations Convention for Biological Diversity Secretariat CBD** thanked nrg4SD for the invitation and for the fruitful collaboration during UN CBD COP 10 Nagoya towards the recognition of the role of subnational governments. In preparation of and during the negotiations in COP 10, nrg4SD worked directly with the Secretariat and with some Parties such as Canada and Brazil – thanks to the help offered by Quebec and São Paulo. Besides, São Paulo represented nrg4SD at COP 10 in its capacity of Co-Chair for the South. As a result, Decision IX/28 encourages Parties to recognise the role of cities in national strategies and plans, invites Parties to support and assist in implementing the Convention at local level. Decision X/22 endorses the Plan of Action and requests the Executive Secretary to report in 2012. Also, CBD Strategic Plan sets the target of having by 2020, biodiversity values have been integrated into local development „strategies“. nrg4SD is identified in the Plan of Action as a key network for engaging the subnational level.

UN CBD is inviting nrg4SD and also ICLEI to engage in the regional workshops for the review of NBSAPs. CBD has also included nrg4SD in its Global Partnership, whose objective is improving the contribution of subnational authorities and governments on the strengthening of national policies, regional strategies, and global agendas and raise awareness on biodiversity (including CBD strategic plan). The CBD is keen on working with nrg4SD in the set up of the new Advisory Committee for Subnational Governments adopted in Nagoya.

Following from the previous intervention of UNU colleagues, UN CBD announces that an invitation will be extended for nrg4SD to become partner of the Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion, which is a collaborative outreach activity involving the Rio Convention secretariats, with the Global Environment Facility and other important partners. The CBD's LifeWeb is also playing a key role.

JD thanked UN CBD for the initiatives deployed towards the recognition of the role of subnational governments in biodiversity protection and for the warm welcome given to nrg4SD. JD reiterated nrg4SD commitment to engage in the activities suggested by UN CBD. MXC to make the presentation prepared by UN CBD available to Steering Committee members and to pursue works directly with the Secretariat.

Mr. Christophe Nutall, Hub for Innovative Partnerships Director from the **United Nations Development Programme UNDP** thanked members for the invitation and announced that UNDP is starting its work on Rio +20 matters, on which nrg4SD will be kept informed. Mr. Nutall suggested that UNESCO's work could also be relevant to nrg4SD areas of activity and offered to help nrg4SD in establishing contact with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

JD highlighted that the key collaboration between nrg4SD and UNDP's Hub for Innovative Partnerships over the past years has been around TACC projects. Mr. Nutall said that TACC projects are now making good progress and that in 2011 UNDP will concentrate on further boosting the ongoing TACC projects.

AM stressed the difficulties experienced by the TACC project involving Mbale and Wales, despite the investment of both parties to accelerate the process. He highlighted that the TACC needs to be reviewed in order to speed up the process. JD stressed the importance of guaranteeing that proper partnerships are in place in

Fruitful UN CBD-nrg4SD collaboration to achieve a Plan of Action for Subnational Governments and Local Authorities – nrg4SD mentioned in Plan as key network for involvement of subnational governments

UN CBD keen on working with nrg4SD for subnational dimension into regional workshops, Global Partnership and Advisory Committee

Invitation to Rio Conventions Ecosystem Pavilion to be extended to nrg4SD

nrg4SD grateful and committed to engage in the suggested activities

MXC to make presentation available to SC members and to pursue works with Secretariat

UNDP work on Rio +20 starting. Suggestion of relevance of UNESCO to nrg4SD work. Offer for assistance with UNCCD

UNDP sees progress in TACC projects

Need to speed up TACC process and guarantee proper partnerships



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<p>order for TACC to improve its results.</p>	
Closed session	
<p>Chaired by FR</p> <p>1. Apologies received from Aragon, Basque Country, North Burkina Faso, the Northern Forum, OLAGI and Wallonia. Aragon and the Basque Country were forced to present last-minute apologies due to the strike of air controllers in Spain.</p> <p>MXC read the farewell letter from Catalonia's Regional Minister Mr. Baltasar i Albesa, who will be leaving the Northern Co-Chair of nrg4SD following from the recent elections in Catalonia. FR thanked him as well as Director General Mr. Frederic Ximeno for his tireless work over the past years. SS explained the recent government change in Catalonia and said that they were expecting continuity in the support to nrg4SD.</p> <p>This meeting of the Steering Committee did not have the required quorum so 2011 budget matters were deliberated and not voted upon.</p> <p>MXC to suggest dates for holding an extraordinary meeting urgently. It is suggested that it could be combined with a meeting with UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn</p> <p>3. The agenda is adopted – point 11 was brought forward to welcome PA</p> <p>4. Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting, Bonn, June 2010 are adopted</p> <p>5. Matters Arising from last Steering Committee and Notes of Action</p> <p>Proposal for developing contributions in kind – MXC read the responses passed on by the CPMR in its capacity of Treasury and The Northern Forum, both expressing reservations on the basis of: the need for (i) guaranteeing a commitment to the Network by member regions, (ii) securing a minimum budget for the Network and (iii) of the difficulty to measure this type of contributions.</p> <p>FR explained the background of the proposal: some regions and associations from the South in Latin America in particular are fully committed to the Network but experience administrative problems with international money transfers. Besides, sometimes their contributions in the shape of events organisation and hosting go beyond the annual fee.</p> <p>DR stated that it is essential to guarantee a minimum operational budget for the Network. Contributions in kind could compromise such an operational budget.</p> <p>AM said he is very worried about regions not taking seriously the need to honour annual fees, which is essential to the existence of the Network. He suggested that mechanisms could be explored to encourage payments first – if possible advanced payments – and as a last resource contributions in kind. Late payments could be subject to some type of penalty.</p> <p>SW said that guaranteeing discipline in the payment of annual fees was instrumental to the basic need of the Network of maintaining a Secretariat.</p> <p>SS said that payments in kind should be strictly restricted to limited cases in order not to put at risk neither the organisation nor its secretariat. Flexible mechanisms</p>	<p>Farawell from Catalonia's Minister Baltasar i Albesa. Thanks to Director General Frederic Ximeno. Continuity in support expected</p> <p>No quorum for voting – just deliberations</p> <p>MXC to suggest date for extraordinary meeting as a matter of urgency</p> <p>Agenda and minutes of the last meeting adopted</p> <p>Essential to guarantee a minimum operation budget. Contributions in kind could compromise the budget</p> <p>Exploring mechanisms to encourage early payments and discourage late ones</p> <p>Budget linked to the basic need of maintaining Secretariat</p> <p>Flexible mechanisms could be explored</p>



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could be explored so as to find a compromise between the positions of different regions.

JD reminded that Wales had continued paying its annual fee while covering the costs related to hosting the Secretariat temporarily, notably the salary of the coordinator plus the costs of the website. Wales would support the establishment of a clear system encouraging early fees and applying different levels of fee in case of late payment. JD stressed the need to provide the Network with a budget to move into a new phase. She added that annual fees should be the basic contribution, with contributions in kind coming in as an extra/complement to the annual fee. She also stressed that identifying contributions in kind in replacement of annual fees could be extremely difficult.

FR summarised discussions and recommendations to be taken to the next Steering Committee meeting: present members agree that annual fees imply and represent the commitment taken by a region when joining the Network. Annual fees should remain as the ordinary fee. It could be interesting to explore with the Treasury options for encouraging on time and early payments and discouraging late payments.

Role of the Treasury - CPMR has agreed to stay in the role until end 2011.

Update on R20 – correspondence exchanged with UNDP, plus bilateral meeting with them in Cancun and invitation to open session of this meeting

Meeting with UNFCCC AWG-LCA – joint TCG-nrg4SD follow letter sent

Contacts with UNFCCC Secretariat – Letter introducing nrg4SD sent to Secretariat in November. Prompt response from Secretariat apologising for impossibility to arrange meeting in Cancun due to heavy agenda. MXC tasked with exploring meeting opportunities with Executive Secretary Mrs. Christiana Figueres.

6. Update on the implementation of nrg4SD Work Programme in 2010

MXC gave her presentation on the milestones under the 3 key thematic areas of nrg4SD's work programme, namely climate change, biodiversity and water resources and sanitation. To the main initiatives presented during the previous open session it can be added: (i) the European Position Paper in preparation of COP 16 Cancun prepared with Brittany, (ii) the technical amendments to the AWG-LCA jointly submitted with TCG and kindly taken to pre-cop Tianjin by Quebec (iii) the IV Latin American meeting of nrg4SD on water issues organised with Buenos Aires and (iv) the exploratory work with the World Water Forum.

7. Proposals for the implementation of nrg4SD Work Programme in 2011

8. Update on relationships with other networks

9. Update of membership applications and expressions of interest

MXC continued giving her presentation of key initiatives for 2011 under the 3 thematic areas:

- Enhance work with UNFCCC directly with the Secretariat and the parties towards enhanced recognition at COP 17 Durban
- Collaborate closely with UN CBD on the implementation of the Plan of Action for Subnational Governments and Local Authorities
- Replicate the successful work on water throughout the whole Network, in collaboration at European level with the network ENCORE

Need to provide the Network with a budget to move into a new phase. Contributions in kind as an complement to the annual fee

Members present at the meeting agree to annual fees as commitment from regions and recommend to the next SC meeting to keep them as ordinary contribution. Interest in exploring options for encouraging early payments and discouraging late ones

CPMR to stay in Treasury role until end 2011

MXC to explore meeting opportunities with UNFCCC

Update on nrg4SD Work Programme as per Sec Gen's presentation



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- Work with UNU on the Rio +20 Conference
- Work with EU on resource efficiency policy, review of EU's development policy, internationalisation of Covenant of Mayors and Portal for Decentralised Cooperation

Alongside the work around these key thematic areas, other key initiatives are:

- Working groups as per memo prepared by secretariat
- Policy papers and good practices compendia
- nrg4SD pool of experts
- Enhanced work with Convention secretariats and parties
- Regular presence in negotiation sessions at political level, coupled with communication strategy
- Further work with local authorities
- Improved website, regular newsletter and annual report of activities
- Standing group of Focal Points and Sec Gen
- Progressive establishment of a Board of Advisors

MXC highlighted that 2011 should also be dedicated to the works towards the post 2011 work programme of the Network and the celebration of the 10 years of nrg4SD in 2012.

Parallel to this, the secretariat and all members of the nrg4SD at political and technical level should concentrate on widening the membership. MXC referred members to the document outlining expressions of interest and said that Nord-Rhein-Westphalia (DE) and South Australia (AU) had confirmed their interest in re-joining the Network during meetings at COP. MXC stressed that this increased interest of regions in the nrg4SD accentuates the need to provide content and clear opportunities to its members; if we do not want this increased membership to turn against nrg4SD's and its individual member regions' credibility.

MXC highlighted that the exciting and varied 2011 work programme and opportunities speak of a mature Network who has now plenty of potential to build upon the good work of the past years. However she also said that a good part of these opportunities could be lost if no support is given to the Secretariat. She encouraged future budget decisions to address the need for assistants/trainees and members to look the possibilities for secondments.

JD, DR and VR congratulated MXC for the work carried out since the start in post last 01.09.2010 and the interesting proposals for 2011. JD said that the Network is at a crucial moment to consolidate its existence and impact or disappear and members need to equip it with adequate resources. In this line, Wales supports the increase in annual fees suggested by the Treasury in its proposal for the 2011 Budget.

JD expressed a reservation with regards to the proposals for increasing nrg4SD's presence in UNFCCC negotiations. She considers that nrg4SD's role is seeking the recognition of subnational governments and working in complementarity with the Parties. nrg4SD should avoid contributing to further complicating the already complex negotiation process.

DR enhanced the need improve the internal and external communication strategies of the Network. He expressed Brittany's support to the Secretariat's proposals in this line, which should allow for members to get to know each other better. DR shares the reflexions on the need to secure a sufficient level of resources for implementation of the 2011 Work Programme. Brittany supports proposals for

Proposals for 2011 work programme as per Sec Gen's presentation – exciting and varied opportunities speaking of a mature Network – increased interest in nrg4SD – all this implies need to provide content and clear opportunities to members in order to avoid any potential negative impact on credibility – opportunities could be lost if no support is provided to the Secretariat (trainees, secondments)

Crucial moment for the Network to consolidate or disappear – need to equip it with adequate resources – Wales supports increase in fees suggested by Treasury

To work in complementarity to Parties – avoid further complicating negotiation processes

Improve internal and external comms – Brittany supports proposals for increase in fees



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increase in fees.

As regards the proposals for creating Working Groups, upon SS proposal, it was agreed to add a group on international climate change negotiations in acknowledgment of the importance of this dossier to nrg4SD's interests, as well as of the ongoing work of carried out by Catalonia and Québec on behalf of nrg4SD

JD expressed Wales interest in participating in the Rio +20 working group and suggested that Tokyo Metropolitan Government or The Climate Group should be associated to the works of the group. VR expressed interest in considering participation in the Rio +20 working group.

11. Proposal for next Steering Committee and General Assembly meetings in Québec

PA joined the meeting to extend the invitation of Quebec to hold the next AGM and SC of the Network. Quebec is keen on showing that though it is a recent member to the Network it is also an active and committed one because it considers its partnership with nrg4SD as an important to its interests. Quebec believes that holding the next meetings in North America is a strategic move in order to profile the Network in North America and they will be providing all their support to mobilise their key North-American partners in Canada and USA.

JDC expressed his full support to the proposals and offered help from ANAAE, in its capacity of Focal Point/Vice President for America. Members were delighted to accept Quebec's invitation. MXC to work with Quebec colleagues on the projet.

10. Report and discussion on financial matters on the basis of proposals by the Treasury

MXC informed members that CPMR Director for Sustainable Development Mr. François Desrentes will be retiring at the end of 2010. She thanked him for his unconditional support and investment over all these years, since the very beginning of the Network and for the energy put in the elaboration of this particularly important 2011 Budget proposal.

The video recording of EM was played.

FR summarised the discussions held along the different points of the agenda related to the 2011 budget:

Members present at the meeting stress the need to equip the Network with sufficient resources in this crucial moment.

They recommend to the next extraordinary SC meeting to agree on:

- keeping annual fees as the ordinary contribution;
- exploring options with the Treasury for encouraging early payments and discouraging late ones
- increasing annual fees as suggested by the proposal for the 2011 Budget presented by the Treasury
- encouraging extraordinary one-off contributions from those regions able and willing to do it, and
- enhancing the work of all regions towards the recruitment of new members

Another working group on international climate change negotiations

Wales and Quebec interested in Rio +20 working group

Members delighted to accept Quebec's invitation – strategy towards North America - MXC to work with Quebec colleagues

Deep gratitude to Mr. François Desrentes for the support and investment since the beginning of nrg4SD

Members stress the need to equip nrg4SD with sufficient resources and make recommendations to the next extraordinary SC meeting in this line, including keeping annual fees as ordinary contributions and raising their amount