

Subnational Governments: At the heart of environmental action in North America and around the World

31 August 2011, 9h00 – 12h00, City of Québec, Québec

For the first time since its creation, nrg4SD will hold its Annual General Assembly in North America. This forum will be an excellent opportunity for U.S. and Canadian ministers and senior officials responsible for the environment, sustainable development, and climate change issues to build and strengthen ties with their nrg4SD counterparts from Europe, Latin America and Africa who are also taking part in this event.

Forum participants will be asked to report on the activities of subnational governments in North America, especially within existing coalitions of states, and will be invited to discuss the role of the states and regions on the world stage.

Objectives of the Forum

- To promote a dialogue between North American subnational governments and nrg4SD members on topics of interest to the Network;
- To enable nrg4SD members to learn about the various North American initiatives targeting climate change and other environmental issues;
- To give North American participants the chance to learn about nrg4SD activities around the world, especially as regards the recognition of the role of subnational governments and regions by United Nations' entities.



Agenda

8h30 Welcome to participants

Presenter and moderator

Mr. Alain Webster, Vice-Chancellor on Sustainable Development and Governmental Affairs, University of Sherbrooke

9h00-10h15 Subnational Governments: At the heart of environmental action in North America

Presentations of individual initiatives and environmental coalitions of subnational governments

Speakers

Mr. Pierre Arcand, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Parks, Québec

Hon. Rob Renner, Minister of the Environment, Alberta

Mr. John Shea, Secretary of the Conference of New England Governors and Premier of East Canada

Ms. Dasha Rettew, Head of Member Engagement, The Climate Group

Mr. Peter Johnson, Deputy Director, Water Resources Regional Council of the Great Lakes and St Lawrence River

Mr. Hector Eduardo Gomez Hernandez, Secretary of State for the Environment for Sustainable Development, Jalisco

Ms. Silvia Whizar, Coordinator General of ANAAE and Secretary of State for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Tabasco

Presenter

Mr. Alain Webster, Vice-Chancellor on Sustainable Development and Governmental Affairs, University of Sherbrooke

10h35-11h45 The role of subnational governments in North America and internationally, and the importance of international networks: Discussion

This session will allow panelists to discuss their vision on the role of subnational governments and regions within their countries, on their continents, and internationally, as well as the opportunities created by the strengthening of international networks of federated states and regions.

Questions

- What are the advantages and interests for subnational governments to join international networks of subnational governments and regions?
- What are the advantages of bringing together and consolidating networks of subnational governments and regions at the international level?
- What are the opportunities for subnational governments and regions to be more active on the international scene and gain greater recognition by the international community?

Intervenants

Mr. Pierre Arcand, Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Parks, Québec
Mr. José Gabriel Alamo de Meneses, Secretary of State for the Environment and the Sea, Azores
Mr. José Luis Benítez Gil, Under Secretary of State for the Environment and Natural Resources and Secretary of CONAGO, Hidalgo
Mr. Bruno Covas, Secretary of State for the Environment, São Paulo
Mr. Francisco Javier Diaz Carvajal, Secretary of State for Economic Development, Quintana Roo
Mr. Coumba Ndoffène Bouna Diouf, President of the Regional Council of Fatick
Mr. Francisco Elizondo Garrido, Secretary of Ecology and the Environment, Quintana Roo
Ms. Béatrice Gendreau, Regional Councillor for Forests and Organic Farming, Aquitaine
Mr. Hector Eduardo Gomez Hernandez, Secretary of State for the Environment for Sustainable Development, Jalisco
Mr. John Griffiths, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Wales
Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim, President of the Regional Assembly, Timbuktu
Mr. Jean-Yves LeDrian, President of the Regional Council, Brittany
Mr. Léon Bruno Likoku, President of the Commission PAJ of the Provincial Assembly, Equateur
Ms. Marta Marín, Delegate of the Government of the Basque Country
Mr. Andrew Mawejje, Chief Administrative Officer, Mbale
Mr. Leonardo Moura Vilela, Secretary of State for the Environment and Water Management, Goiás
Mr. Aliou Niang, President of the Region of Saint Louis and President of the Association of Regions of Senegal
Mr. Dominique Ramard, President of the Environment and Energy Commission of the Regional Council, Brittany
Mr. Luis Recoder i Miralles, Minister for Territory and Sustainability, Catalonia
Mr. Aboubacar Rélwendé Savadogo, President of the Regional Council of North Burkina Faso and Secretary General of the Association of Regions of Burkina Faso
Mr. Rob Renner, Minister for the Environment, Alberta
Mr. Bouamor Taghouan, President of the Region of Rabat Salé Zemmour Zaer
Mr. Michel Vauzelle, President of the Regional Council, Province Alpes-Côte d'Azur (PACA)
Ms. Silvia Whizar, Secretary of State for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Tabasco and Coordinator General of ANAAE

11h45-12h00 **Summary of discussions by Mr Hugo Séguin - Research Associate at the Centre of International Studies of Montreal (CEIM) and Lecturer, University of Sherbrooke**