

This resolution aims to develop the Work Programme of nrg4SD in the thematic area of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services based upon the ongoing work carried out with the Secretariat of the Convention On Biological Diversity (CBD) around the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity, endorsed through Decision X/22 (hereafter 'Plan of Action').

nrg4SD warmly welcomes the adoption of the Plan of Action, which demonstrates the crucial role of subnational governments in sustainable development matters and the increasing recognition of this reality in the international sustainable arena. nrg4SD is grateful to the CBD Secretariat for its tireless encouragement of a territorial approach to biodiversity protection and for the invitation extended to nrg4SD for working towards the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Key nrg4SD initiatives and areas of work on biodiversity shall concentrate on:

1. Establishing a fully operational nrg4SD working group dedicated to the implementation of the Plan of Action – Following the proposal from the nrg4SD Secretariat for introducing working groups in the different areas of work of the network, a series of thematic groups are now up and running. A group of nrg4SD members has informed the CBD Secretariat of their keen interest in biodiversity conservation. In this context, it is agreed that:

- The State of Paraná shall act as coordinator of the working group. Other members of nrg4SD expressed interest in joining, such as Quebec, Sao Paulo, Catalonia, Michoacan/ANAAE, Goias, Rio de Janeiro, Callao and Burkina Nord. An invitation to other members is open.
- Following the agreement with the CBD Secretariat, this nrg4SD Working Group shall work and be recognised as a platform for the implementation of the initiatives and decisions of the UN CBD Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments (see item 4 below);
- nrg4SD members taking part in the group and the nrg4SD Secretariat shall seek partners and resources to implement and develop the work programme established for the group;
- nrg4SD members shall communicate to the nrg4SD Secretariat any initiatives related to the areas of the group's work programme that they carry out in their respective territories. The first meeting of this group will take place at the launch of the Advisory Committee of Sub-National Governments on February 14-16, 2012, in Curitiba, Parana (see item 4 below).

2. Contributing to the development of expertise and capacity on the implementation of the Plan of Action – The Plan of Action offers tools for improving subnational biodiversity policies. In this context, it is agreed that:

- nrg4SD shall contribute to the global dissemination of the practical meaning and impact of the Plan on Action at subnational level, for instance via publications and technical seminars jointly organised with other members of the Global Partnership on Sub-national Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities;

- nrg4SD members shall inform the nrg4SD Secretariat, and their respective Focal Points at national level for the Convention on Biological Diversity of the initiatives they are carrying out in their respective territories in development of the Plan of Action;
- nrg4SD members who are involved in international negotiations via their national delegations shall maximise any opportunity to call on their respective national governments to encourage the implementation of the Plan of Action.

3. Maintaining and enhancing the engagement with the CBD's Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action on Biodiversity – Following the collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and others in the run up to the adoption of the Plan of Action, nrg4SD was invited to join the Global Partnership. This has allowed nrg4SD to position itself as a key stakeholder of the CBD and to identify project ideas for joint work with other members of the Global Partnership. In this context, it is agreed that:

- The ongoing work of the nrg4SD Secretariat with the CBD Global Partnership constitutes an excellent opportunity for (i) seeking new alliances with like-minded partners with the aim to create synergies and win-win scenarios; while preserving the specific mission of nrg4SD and interests of its members; and for (ii) conveying advocacy messages to the Parties of the CBD.

4. Contributing to the establishment of an Advisory Committee of Subnational Government - The Plan of Action foresees the establishment of 2 advisory committees – one of Cities and Local Authorities and another one of Subnational Governments – for channelling collaboration with CBD Parties towards the achievement of the ultimate goal of biodiversity conservation. In this context, it is agreed that:

- nrg4SD members interested in engaging actively in the Advisory Committee and becoming members of it shall communicate their interest to the nrg4SD Secretariat within the next 2 months (i.e. until end October 2011). The selection of candidates will be carried out on the basis of the eligibility criteria set jointly with the CBD Secretariat (which include the existence of a strategy or action plan on biodiversity, excellence in biodiversity governance, commitment to international cooperation and attendance of at least one meeting of the Committee per year). Up to 8 regional coordinators will be elected with the mandate of coordinating communications and promotion of additional membership.
- Following the invitation of the CBD Secretariat, nrg4SD shall fulfil an *ex officio* membership to the Advisory Committee with the aim of representing the interest of the global constituency of subnational governments and of bringing in the technical input of subnational governments who are not direct members to the Advisory Group.
- The nrg4SD working group shall provide input to the first official meeting of the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments for the implementation of the Plan of Action, which will be hosted by the State of Paraná on February 14-16, 2012.

5. Encouraging decentralised cooperation projects on biodiversity – Decentralised cooperation is an excellent tool for achieving sustainable development goals at subnational level. Yet its full potential for biodiversity governance is to be unfolded, particularly a coordinated approach with international cooperation at national and regional levels. In this context, it is agreed that:

- The nrg4SD working group shall encourage the match of project ideas and funding streams for the deployment of integrated biodiversity protection initiatives at subnational level;
- The CBD LifeWeb Initiative constitutes a best practice in the establishment of partnerships for financing protected areas and in-situ conservation, and offers a solid ground for extending its scope to the subnational level. nrg4SD members interested in playing a significant role in such extension shall communicate it to the nrg4SD Secretariat within the next 2 months (i.e. until end October 2011);
- nrg4SD members shall inform the nrg4SD Secretariat of any foreseen or established decentralised cooperation projects in the field of biodiversity carried out by their respective governments.

6. Developing specific pilot projects – As suggested by the work programme of the working group, specific pilot projects shall be encouraged amongst members of the network, as well as between them and other subnational governments and relevant international organisations. In this context, it is agreed that the nrg4SD working group shall aim at developing pilot projects on, for instance:

- The elaboration of guidelines for the development of subnational/regional biodiversity strategic action plans;
- The development of a set of indicators on the Aichi Target for the subnational/regional level, based on the experience of the City Biodiversity Index CBI (Singapore Index) and the CBD Indicators Framework.