

29-31 August 2011

This resolution aims to develop the Work Programme of nrg4SD in the thematic area of climate action, which is carried out by the Technical Working Group on Financing Climate Action and the Advocacy Task Force on International Climate Change Negotiations.

Key initiatives and areas of work in the run up to the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that will take place in Durban, South Africa in December 2012, shall concentrate on:

1. Seeking the implementation of the recent recognition of subnational governments as ‘governmental stakeholders’ - After several years of tireless advocacy work from nrg4SD and other organisations representing the interests of subnational governments and local authorities, the ‘Cancun Agreements’ of UNFCCC COP16 recognised for the first time ever in an UNFCCC agreement, the crucial role of subnational governments as ‘governmental stakeholders’ in climate action. In this context, it is agreed that:

- nrg4SD shall concentrate its advocacy efforts on seeking the formal implementation of this notion, including adequate accreditation and participation mechanisms, for UNFCCC negotiation sessions;
- The ongoing work of the nrg4SD Secretariat with the UNFCCC Secretariat with regard to enhancing the engagement of observers in international negotiations constitutes an excellent opportunity for conveying this and other advocacy messages and shall be pursued with a long-term vision beyond COP17;
- The nrg4SD Secretariat shall maintain the ongoing collaboration with long-term partners such as ICLEI or The Climate Group and seek 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;
- nrg4SD members who are involved in international negotiations via their national delegations shall maximise any opportunity to call on their respective national governments and the South African government to put in place at COP17 accreditation and participation mechanisms for subnational governments and local authorities in accordance with the notion of ‘governmental stakeholders’.

2. Enhancing the position of subnational governments within UNFCCC constituencies – The Cancun Agreements did also enshrine a differentiation between subnational governments and local authorities under provisions of both programmatic and technical nature. Yet subnational governments are regrouped under the constituency for Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA). In this context, it is agreed that:

- nrg4SD shall concentrate its advocacy efforts on seeking the reorganisation of UNFCCC constituencies in a way that reflects the specific identity of subnational governments;
- Advocacy efforts in this sense, will require a highly-resourced nrg4SD Secretariat, as well as the commitment from all members who are already involved in international negotiations via

their national delegations or who are interested in international climate action to actively engage and regularly participate in the activities of the constituency;

- Any advocacy work to this regard is intrinsically linked to the overall advocacy work to be carried out by nrg4SD on the Rio +20 Process and therefore should be developed by the nrg4SD Secretariat and by nrg4SD members individually in an integrated manner;

3. Continuing nrg4SD's work on the field of financing climate action – The recently created nrg4SD Working Group on Financing Climate Action allows members to build capacity in a highly-technical area where expertise at subnational level remains scarce and international climate finance tools are rarely adapted to the needs and strengths of the subnational level. Besides, this working group constitutes a platform for developing specific nrg4SD advocacy messages on climate finance to be addressed to United Nations entities and European Union institutions. It also constitutes a hub for going one step beyond in the configuration and deployment of project-based mechanisms with a territorial dimension. In this context, it is agreed that:

- The Convention signed by nrg4SD and CDC Climat represents an excellent tool for the development of the works of this Working Group. Therefore the nrg4SD Secretariat and working groups members shall seek to maximise synergies and win-win scenarios; while preserving the specific mission of nrg4SD and interests of its members;
- The Working Group shall encourage the exchange and match of concrete project ideas;
- nrg4SD advocacy messages in this field shall primarily concentrate on (i) ensuring the continuity of project-based mechanisms beyond the current Kyoto commitment period; (ii) developing new innovative project-based mechanisms and other climate finance tools adapted to the subnational level, and (iii) lobbying for a territorial dimension within the future Green Fund;

4. nrg4SD's participation in COP17 – COP17, which takes place from 28 November to 9 December 2011, comes in the aftermath of the recognition of subnational governments as 'governmental stakeholders' in COP16 and just some months before the important *rendez-vous* for the recognition of subnational governments that represents the Rio +20 Conference of June 2012. nrg4SD enjoys an official accreditation towards UNFCCC and has been involved in intersessional negotiations and COPs for several years. In this context, it is agreed that:

- The nrg4SD Secretariat shall ensure the participation of nrg4SD in COP17 in a cost-effective manner, maximising the collaboration with long-term partners or like-minded organisations;
- nrg4SD members who are already involved in international negotiations via their national delegations or who are interested in international climate action shall actively contribute to the configuration of a relevant and representative nrg4SD delegation for COP17;
- The nrg4SD Secretariat shall seek synergetic and cost-effective alliances for joint work with ICLEI, following from the invitation of this organisation to join some of their activities in COP17; while preserving the specific mission of nrg4SD and interests of its members;
- nrg4SD shall adopt a 'COP17 Durban statement', in development and complement of the advocacy paper presented at the intersessional meetings in Bonn, Germany in June 2011;
- The nrg4SD Secretariat shall pursue ongoing works around the application for a side-event on 'Financing Climate Action at Subnational Level' and an exhibit booth for the second week of COP. This will be done in the understanding that the organisation of both activities is subject to the authorisation of the UNFCCC Secretariat.