

29-31 August 2011

The Rio +20 Conference taking place in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, will review the progress in the field of sustainable development at international level since the UN Sustainable Development Conference of 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. The Conference aims to set out a new international environmental governance and institutional sustainable development framework. This constitutes an extraordinary window of opportunity for advocating for a better recognition of the crucial role that subnational governments have in this field and for the need of allocating them an adequate place in any future international environmental governance and institutional sustainable development framework.

This resolution aims to develop the Work Programme of nrg4SD in the area of the Rio +20 Process. Key initiatives and areas of work in the run up to the Rio +20 Conference shall concentrate on:

1. The Engagement in the Rio +20 process – Building upon the intense engagement of nrg4SD in the Rio+20 Process in the last year, via different United Nations entities - such as the Global Sustainability Panel, Bureau of the Rio +20 Conference, the Department for Economic and Social Affairs UN DESA, the Non-Governmental Liaison Service UN NGLS, the Non-Governmental Organisation Office/Department for Public Information UN NGO/DPI, the United Nations Environment Programme UNEP and UN Habitat - as well as in collaboration with partners from the different Major Groups, it is agreed that:

- It is essential to maintain a high-level of engagement in the Rio +20 Process in the acknowledgement that it constitutes a cross-cutting theme inherent to the core mission and objectives of nrg4SD;
- The nrg4SD Secretariat shall maintain and enhance the contacts established so far with UN entities and with partners of the Major Groups and seek new collaborations with like-minded organisations, 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 amplify the advocacy messages and strategy of nrg4SD in their regular contacts with UN entities, international organisations, national governments and regional negotiation groups;
- Members shall keep the nrg4SD Secretariat informed of their engagement with national or UN regional consultation processes and of the initiatives they are planning within their territories;
- Members shall consider inviting along the nrg4SD Secretariat to take part in their respective delegations to UN negotiation sessions and in the initiatives they plan within their territories;

2. The advocacy messages and input to the Rio +20 Process – The Rio +20 Process is a window for opportunity for the ultimate missions and goals of nrg4SD. This requires an active and constructive contribution from the network to the Process and involves detailed political and technical input, so as to reinforce messages about the commitment and sense of responsibility

with which subnational governments elaborate and implement sustainable development practically. In this context, it is agreed that:

- It is crucial to move quickly on to the definition and agreement of detailed political and technical advocacy messages and strategies in development of the ultimate goals of (i) promoting sustainable development at subnational level and (ii) securing an adequate place for subnational governments in any future international environmental governance and institutional sustainable development framework. To this effect, members are warmly encouraged to contribute actively to the advocacy initiatives proposed by the nrg4SD Secretariat, as well as to take ownership of any new ones;
- An essential first important milestone will be the nrg4SD contribution to the draft-zero for the Rio +20 Declaration within the deadline of 1 November 2011;
- It will be important to build advocacy efforts around the development and implementation of the notion of 'governmental stakeholders' which has been enshrined for the first time ever in an official agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change in the so-called 'Cancun Agreements' of December 2010 for referring to subnational governments and local authorities;
- nrg4SD shall also concentrate its advocacy efforts on the reorganisation of Major Groups in a way that reflects the specific identity of subnational governments and allows for direct representation and direct participation in international sustainable development negotiations;
- Should advocacy efforts be successful and result in the establishment of an independent Major Group for subnational governments, this will require a highly-resourced nrg4SD Secretariat, as well as the commitment from all members to actively engage and regularly participate in the activities of the Major Group;
- Any advocacy work should be developed by the nrg4SD Secretariat and by nrg4SD members individually in an integrated manner taking into consideration the impacts on the recognition of subnational governments in the so-called Rio Conventions;
- The nrg4SD Secretariat in close collaboration with members and on the basis of their technical input, shall produce a compilation of case studies demonstrating the impact of subnational sustainable development strategies on the ground from Rio to Rio +20;
- Post-Rio +20 work will be as crucial as the preparations towards the Conference. Some areas for nrg4SD to develop activities on shall be (i) integrated rural sustainable development and (ii) the transition towards and indicators of the Green Economy at subnational level.

3. The organisation of a World Summit of Regions and the 10th Anniversary of nrg4SD – Because the Rio +20 Process constitutes a window for opportunity, the active engagement and input to the Process should be complemented with active high-level political and technical participation in the Conference in June 2012. It is noted that 2012 marks the 10th anniversary of the creation of nrg4SD at the Rio +10 milestone in Johannesburg. In this context, it is agreed that:

- All efforts should be made by nrg4SD Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs, by the nrg4SD Secretariat and by all members individually to convene the 2012 General Assembly in Brazil and in the format of a World Summit of Regions to take place around the dates of the Rio +20 Preparatory Committee that is scheduled to precede the Conference. This responds to the objective of providing relevant and timely input to the Conference and to maximising the possibilities of inviting key decision-makers of the Conference – such as members of the Rio +20 Bureau, UN entities, national governments and negotiation groups;

- All efforts should be made by the nrg4SD Secretariat, by nrg4SD Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs and by all members individually to seek alliances with other organisations representing subnational governments and local authorities, as well as with other like-minded organisations in order to strengthen advocacy strategies and messages, ensure visibility and reduce costs. All alliances should be compatible with the specific mission of nrg4SD and interests of its members.
- Members shall contribute to the configuration of a high-level representative delegation of nrg4SD to the Rio +20 Conference both from the technical and political points of view. Members shall strive to be represented at the 2012 General Assembly by their respective highest-political authority.