



Network of Regional Governments  
for Sustainable Development

## nrg4SD activities towards Rio+ 20 - June 2012

### Internal Memo (subject to change)

**Objective:** This internal memo aims to inform members of on-going nrg4SD activities in the Rio+20 process towards the UN Conference in June 2012. Work will step up in the coming month and members are encouraged to keep an eye out on the [website](#) for more information, where updated versions on this memo will be made available.

#### *On-going work of nrg4SD under the Rio+20 Process*

Over the past months nrg4SD has actively engaged in the Rio+20 process, establishing an [internal working group](#), monitoring developments and positioning the Network in the process. A full list of nrg4SD [position and advocacy papers](#) are available as well as a [2011 calendar](#) outlining nrg4SD's engagement in relevant international dates.

***nrg4SD Working Group on the Rio +20*** - nrg4SD is fully involved in the Rio +20 process and has established a Working Group to coordinate the works of the network in this field. This working group aims to (i) analyse the complex institutional and political aspects of the Rio +20 Process and relevance to the role of subnational governments in achieving sustainable development, (ii) provide scientific and academic evidence for nrg4SD policy and advocacy positions, (iii) conduct relevant initiatives to position nrg4SD in Rio +20 and establish relevant partnerships with key actors, (iv) organise the participation of nrg4SD at the Rio +20 Summit in 2012, (v) contribute to the nrg4SD post 2011 work programme on Rio + 20, and (vi) follow up on the main outcomes of the Rio +20 Summit of relevance to the network. The nrg4SD Secretariat has elaborated a [Work Programme](#) for this group. Members interested in being added to the distribution list for this group please contact the [nrg4SD Secretariat](#).

***Advocacy – Input to UN's compilation document for the zero draft of Rio+20*** - Following an invitation from the Rio +20 Bureau to all relevant stakeholders to provide their inputs and contributions by 1st November 2011, and the 65th UNGA encouragement to support preparations in the run-up to Rio +20, the nrg4SD Working Group prepared and submitted a contribution to the compilation document to serve as a basis for preparing the zero draft of the outcome document of Rio+20. This gave nrg4SD the opportunity to outline its expectations for the outcome of Rio+20 with concrete proposals on the two themes of the Conference i.e. the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development and the Green Economy in the context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication. nrg4SD particularly called for the need for a multilevel and multi-stakeholder institutional framework that fully recognises the governmental nature of Federated States, Regions, Cities and Local Authorities and fully unfolds their contribution to international negotiations and policies on sustainable development. For a summary and the nrg4SD's main contribution, click [here](#).

Individual members of nrg4SD also submitted contributions to the zero draft outcomes document including Catalonia ([EN – CAT version](#)) São Paulo ([EN version](#)) and the Environmental Commissioners of Canada and Quebec ([EN version](#)).

***Initial discussions on the zero draft of the outcome document - January 2012*** - The [zero draft of the Rio+20 outcome document](#) became available on 9 January 2012. There are important mentions for the Major Group ‘Local Authorities’ and the local dimension, acknowledging the essential role of local governments and the need to fully integrate them into all levels of decision making on sustainable development. The wording so far is not fully satisfactory for regional governments. All subnational actors – regional and local - are subsumed under the expression ‘local authorities’. This, on the other hand, was to be expected and is driven by the current structure of the so called ‘major groups’. Major groups regroup the sectors of society accredited to engage in UN processes. The UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs UN DESA had confirmed that the zero draft would use the exact wording of existing major groups, and that is ‘local authorities’.

An initial email with first comments was circulated to Working Group members on 10 January 2012. The nrg4SD Secretariat is now producing a briefing note explaining the key proposals from this zero draft document. A [list of reactions from stakeholders](#) publically available has been compiled for members’ information. nrg4SD will contribute to discussions and table amendments via the relevant major group in the run up to negotiation sessions, particularly on the sections relating to the Institutional Framework and the Green Economy. Within the possibilities offered by the limited travelling budget of the nrg4SD Secretariat, this will again imply direct participation at preparatory and intersessional meetings for Rio + 20 and other UN events, such as UNEP’s Governing Council (for which all travelling expenses are covered by UNEP). Click [here](#) for the nrg4SD 2012 calendar outlining our activities on this front and our engagement in the key milestones of the process.

***Engagement with high-level UN officials*** – the nrg4SD Secretariat has carried out advocacy work with high-level officials from UN DESA, including Rio +20 Executive Coordinator Mr. Brice Lalonde, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service NGLS, the Global Sustainability Panel GSP, the UN Environment Programme UNEP, as well as with the Rio+20 Bureau itself. Contributions of nrg4SD to the work of the Global Sustainability Panel and a UN NGLS paper on the outlook of the process for subnational governments produced for nrg4SD are available on our [page](#) dedicated to sustainable development activities. The nrg4SD Secretariat will keep high-level contacts informed of our work and continue to enlarge its network of contacts on the occasion of our participation in relevant meetings, also with the vital support of Working Group members.

At this stage of the process, strategic moves from both the nrg4SD Secretariat and nrg4SD members are crucial. Any contributions to the nrg4SD Secretariat work, as well as any links from members to their national governments and/or UN contacts directly will make a difference to our positioning on multilevel governance and the future sustainable development framework.

***Engagement with UN Major Group coordinators*** – nrg4SD sits in the Major Group which is officially coordinated by ICLEI. The nrg4SD Secretariat enjoys a highly synergetic relationship with the coordinator and commends its efforts in representing the views of the group in different UN negotiations *fora*. In this synergetic work, particular emphasise is put on communicating to UN entities the governmental nature of local authorities and regional governments and the crucial importance of multi-level governance to sustainable development. nrg4SD and ICLEI secretariat hold regular discussions on how to coordinate their presence during the Conference.

## Key UN dates ahead of Rio +20

- **25 – 27 January 2012:** First initial discussions and comments on the zero draft outcome document, New York City, USA – This meeting will discuss initial comments on the zero draft document - **nrg4SD to contribute with views and amendments via the relevant Major Group – Quebec to participate directly**
- **18 – 19 February 2012:** UNEP’s Thirteenth Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum, Nairobi, Kenya - **nrg4SD participating sponsored by UNEP – preparations for Rio+20**
- **20 – 22 February 2012:** 12th special session of UNEP’s Governing Council/ Global Ministerial, Nairobi, Kenya - **nrg4SD participating sponsored by UNEP- preparations for Rio+20**
- **19-23 March 2012:** First round of 'informal-informal' negotiations on the zero draft of the outcome document — **This round of informal-informals will concentrate on the Green Economy - nrg4SD participating**
- **26-27 March 2012:** Third intersessional meeting of UN CSD - **nrg4SD participating**
- The schedule of informal-informal negotiations for the period after March 2012 will be discussed by the Bureau in its next meeting
- **13 - 15 June 2012:** 3rd Preparatory Committee Meeting UN CSD - **nrg4SD participating**

[Detailed nrg4SD 2012 calendar available here](#)

## Planned activities during the Rio+20 Conference

### ***nrg4SD 2012 General Assembly – 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary - World Summit of Federated States and Regions, Rio de Janeiro, 17 – 19 June 2012***

From 17 to 19 June, just after the last preparatory meeting of the UN for the Rio +20 Conference and before the Conference itself, nrg4SD will convene its annual statutory meetings - Steering Committee and annual General Assembly -, hold sessions of its working groups and celebrate its 10th anniversary after its creation at World Summit of Johannesburg in 2002.

The highlight of this 3-day programme will take place on 19 June with the organisation of a **World Summit of Federated States and Regions** which will bring together intermediate governments for around the Globe committed to adopting concrete initiatives for a green economy collation and for key drivers for sustainable development at subnational level.

nrg4SD and the host State of Rio de Janeiro have come together with our long-term partner the organisation The Climate Group to co-organise the World Summit taking place on the third day. The Climate Group is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, which brings together a global coalition of States and Regions, brands and public figures and pushes for policies, technologies and investment to make the Clean Revolution commercially viable and empower a smarter, better and more prosperous future for all. nrg4SD and The Climate Group share common members and officially institutionalised their long-term collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in June 2011.

The outcomes of the Summit will feed into the crucial international discussions to take place at the Rio +20 Conference and demonstrate how Federated States, Regions, Provinces and other intermediate governments from the five continents are committed to keep up their bold action towards the sustainable development of their territories in close collaboration and complementarity with all other levels of government and partnership with the private sector.

The **World Summit of Federated States and Regions** is open to all governments from Federated States, Regions, Provinces and other intermediate governments willing to commit to substantive

action in order to make a difference in the sustainable development of their respective territories. As co-organisers we are currently stepping up efforts to reach out to like-minded organisations and supporting partners. Members are kindly requested to help mobilise regional governments from around the world directly. More information is available [here](#).

The on-going work for the World Summit includes strategies on:

**(i) A Green Economy Coalition for the Sustainable Development of Federated States and Regions**

- A first technical meeting in order to identify actions for the Green Economy Coalition is taking place in a reduced core group format under the umbrella of The Climate Group and the Government of the Basque Country on 15 March 2012.
- A second meeting under the umbrella of nrg4SD and the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires is being considered for April 2012. The second meeting would take on a transatlantic perspective.

**(i) Key drivers for a sustainable development at subnational level** – work is being carried out to identify the key drivers of a green economy in the context of sustainable development at subnational level. Topics such as the city-region approach for a sustainable economic articulation of territories, rural sustainable development, the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity TEEB, forest management, water and climate nexus are being discussed. These topics could allow work with like-minded organisations and supporting partners and lead to concrete joint projects with the members of nrg4SD.

**Preliminary draft programme**

- **17 June PM: nrg4SD Steering Committee** (Steering Committee members only)
- **18 June: nrg4SD General Assembly** and working group meetings (possibly with like-minded organisations and supporting partners as observers)
- **18 June evening: 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of nrg4SD**
- **19 June: World Summit of States and Regions** - Launch of a green economy coalition and other key initiatives on sustainable development drivers

***A full programme is being prepared by the co-organisers and will be available soon on our website.***

***The Rio+20 Global Town Hall, convened by ICLEI as coordinator of the Major Group (running alongside the UN Conference)*** - By organising a Global Town Hall at the central Rio+20 venue, the Major Group is provided with a forum where they can interact with the national negotiators, debate the conference proceedings with their peers, and demonstrate their commitments and achievements. This will show the variety of exciting initiatives being undertaken at the subnational level and clearly display the importance of including subnational action when talking about sustainable development globally. The Global Town Hall is envisaged as an open endeavour 'by many, for many' and nrg4SD has been invited to incorporate the regional dimension. Discussions with ICLEI on this dossier are taking place. More information [here](#).

***Side events at the UN Conference*** - A number of on-site side events sponsored by Governments, Major Groups, UN system and other Inter-Governmental Organisations will be organised during the Preparatory Committee Meeting before the Conference (13 -15 June 2012), Four Days of Dialogue on Sustainable Development (16 -19 June 2012) and at Rio+20 (20 -22 June 2012). The on-site side events will take place inside RioCentro Convention Centre and will be coordinated by the Secretariat of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development UN CSD. In addition, there will be opportunities for stakeholders to organise UNCSD-related activities outside RioCentro Convention Centre (so called off-site events) in various venues in the City of Rio de Janeiro. For more information click [here](#) or contact

the [nrg4SD Secretariat](#). The nrg4SD Secretariat is examining this possibility in connection to a potential participation at the Global Town Hall and under a cost-benefit analysis approach.

## Practical information

### **Registration**

To attend the Rio+20 Conference, all organisations and major groups must register. As nrg4SD is not accredited to the UN Economic and Social Committee ECOSOC (*organisations accredited to ECOSOC can already pre-register for Rio+20*), the nrg4SD Secretariat is currently applying for accreditation to the Conference. The deadline for submitting accreditation applications is 20 February 2012. Once nrg4SD has submitted its application for accreditation, it will be reviewed by the UN CSD Secretariat and submitted for the registration process (pending approval). The nrg4SD Secretariat will keep members updated of the progress of the application. For more information on the accreditation process for UN CSD Rio +20, click [here](#)

Individuals may be able to participate through their national delegation and are encouraged to read the Information pack for participants [available here](#) for more information. You can also access this information on the right hand side of the home page of the UN CSD Rio+20 website [here](#).

### **Logistics**

**Travel arrangements and accommodation** – UN DESA underlines that all participants to Rio+20 are responsible for their own travel to and from Brazil and accommodation in Rio de Janeiro. The State of Rio de Janeiro is kindly helping nrg4SD with the possibility of organising a block booking for nrg4SD members. However the official booking system put in place by the Brazilian government introduces a high degree of complexity into this option. nrg4SD members who know they will be part of their national delegation will find it easier to use the centralised system put in place by the Brazilian government. *In any case all nrg4SD members are urged to arrange their own travel and accommodation due to the large number of participants expected at the Conference. Due to this expected high demand of participants, UN DESA officials are acknowledging that there will likely be a lack of accommodation.* All participants interested in attending should ensure that they have adequate medical insurance prior to arrival. More information is available [here](#).

For more information on any of the above, please contact the nrg4SD Secretariat on [nrg4sd@rg4sd.org](mailto:nrg4sd@rg4sd.org) or our website at [www.nrg4sd.org](http://www.nrg4sd.org)

nrg4SD Secretariat

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