



Network of Regional Governments
for Sustainable Development

nrg4SD comments and proposals for amendments to the zero draft of the Rio +20 outcome document

General discussion comments and recommendations

- We **acknowledge and warmly welcome the important mentions for the Major Group 'Local Authorities' and the local dimension**, by recognising the essential role of local governments and the need to fully integrate them into all levels of decision making on sustainable development (SD). From the perspective of regional governments – intermediate levels of government such as Federated States, Regions, Provinces and others - **the wording, however, fails to reflect the richness of multilevel governments below the national level, as well as the fact that the complementarity and synergy between subnational and local governments has been key to achieving results over the years. This is also due to the restrictive wording currently used for the name of the Major Group – 'Local Authorities'. In this context, we call for the recognition of the multiplicity and richness of subnational governments.** Some of the amendments put forward below go hand in hand with this call.
- We believe that global environmental governance and a sustainable development framework capable of embracing true multi-stakeholder and multilevel governance will be essential to achieving SD on the ground. **The full potential of Federated States, Regions, Cities and other local authorities in their capacity of "governmental stakeholders," must be recognised.** The specific recognition of their governmental nature must also imply an **enhancement of the engagement and accreditation mechanisms currently in place for the Major Group within the UN.**
- In order to improve the achievement of SD on the ground, **it is important to ensure the territorial dimension of any agreements reached by means of,** among others, the establishment of **sub-systems of governance at and the access to adequate funding** by subnational levels of government.
- Some nrg4SD members highlight the need **to recognise the Mediterranean region as a priority area,** given the complexity of the environmental, social, cultural, political and economic challenges there experienced.
- The importance of global **Sustainable Development Goals** should be reinforced with appropriate **indicators** and evaluated according to **specific targets.** These should be completed with a **'roadmap' for unfolding Sustainable Development Goals at all levels of government.**

Specific amendments suggested

- Paragraph 12, "...national, **subnational and local** policies and plans; national, **subnational and local** legislation and institutions ..."
- Paragraph 13, "we nevertheless observe that, despite efforts **by all levels of** Government and non-State actors in all countries,"
- Paragraph 17, "... By incorporating their specific knowledge and practical know-how into national, **subnational** and local policy making ..." – engagement with Major Groups and outline of current Major Group, including 'Local Authorities'. It is considered important to incorporate their specific knowledge and practical know-how into national and local policy making. The role of parliaments is acknowledged.
- Paragraph 20, "We also acknowledge the essential role of **subnational and** local governments **as full-fledged partners in sustainable development** and the need to integrate them fully into all levels of decision making on sustainable development"
- Paragraph 22, "We commit to improving governance and capacity at all levels-global, regional, national, **subnational** and local- ..."
- Paragraph 25, "We are convinced that a green economy, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, should contribute to meeting key goals – in particular the priorities of poverty eradication, food security, sound water management, universal access to modern energy services, **resource efficiency**, sustainable cities, management of oceans and improving resilience and disaster preparedness, as well as public health, human resource development and sustained, inclusive and equitable growth that generates employment, including for youth..."
- Paragraph 26, "We acknowledge that a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication should protect and enhance the natural resource base – **recognising the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services** – increase resource efficiency, promote responsible consumption and sustainable production patterns, and move the world toward low-carbon development"
- Paragraph 33 b. "A toolbox of good practices in applying green economy policies at regional, national, **subnational** and local levels;"
- Paragraph 38, " We encourage to develop their own green economy strategies through a transparent process of multi-stakeholder consultation **and coordination at a multi-governmental level**"
- Paragraph 44 "We recognize that strong governance at the local, **subnational**, national, regional and global levels is critical for ..."
- Paragraph 44a, " Integrate the three pillars of sustainable development and promote the implementation of Agenda 21 and related outcomes, consistent with the principles of universality, democracy, **social justice, solidarity**, transparency, cost-effectiveness and accountability, keeping in mind the Rio Principles, in particular common but differentiated responsibilities"
- Paragraph 44c, "Monitor progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and relevant outcomes and agreements, at local, **subnational**, national, regional and global levels"
- Paragraph 44e, "**Promote education for development as an essential tool for the needed social transformation in developed countries and the eradication of poverty and reduction of inequality in developing countries**"
- Title "D. Regional, national, **subnational**, local"
- Paragraph 74, "We also recognize that significant job creation opportunities can be availed through investments in public works for restoration and enhancement of natural capital, sustainable land and water management practices, family farming, ecological farming, **sustainable** production systems, sustainable forest management, rational use of biodiversity for economic purposes, **sustainable tourism, sustainable mobility, waste and recycling sector**, and new markets linked to renewable and unconventional energy sources. We encourage business and industry to contribute to green job creation throughout their global supply chains, including through support to small and medium enterprises"

- Paragraph 77, “We stress the need to provide social protection to all members of society, including those who are not employed in the formal economy. In this regard, we strongly encourage national, **subnational** and local initiatives aimed at providing a social protection floor for all citizens”
- Paragraph 91, “We support mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services in policies and decision-making processes at international, regional, national and **subnational** levels, and encourage investments in natural capital through appropriate incentives and policies, which support a sustainable and equitable use of biological diversity and ecosystems”
- Paragraph 94, “We recognize that mountains are highly vulnerable to global changes such as climate change, and are often home to communities including of indigenous peoples, who have developed sustainable uses of their resources yet are often marginalized, sometimes with high poverty rates, exposure to natural risks and food insecurity. We recognize the benefits derived from mountains and their associated ecosystems. We also recognize the need to explore global, regional, national, **subnational** and local mechanisms to compensate and reward mountain communities for the services they provide through ecosystem protection”

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