

**INTERVENTION OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES CONSTITUENCY - LGMA
AT THE CLOSING PLENARY OF THE SBI35
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Delivered by Mrs. Maruxa Cardama, Secretary General of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development

Distinguished Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Distinguished Executive Secretary,

Thanks for giving me the floor.

I think that you would agree with me on the fact that the scale and urgency of the climate challenge requires action by all levels of government. Among them, local and subnational governments, which - at last – have been recognised as what they are, ‘governmental stakeholders’, by paragraph 7 of Decision 1/CP16 of the Cancun Agreements; following from the initial request of LGMA a couple of years ago.

Local authorities, cities, Federated States and Regions around the World are often responsible for the development and implementation of climate legislation, economic strategies and fiscal mechanisms, which aim at curbing GHG emissions; at enhancing the adaptation and resilience of communities, and at encouraging private investment in green technologies. Our closeness to citizens allows us to capitalize on the increasing demand for action, so we can all move together towards a new low carbon development paradigm. Moreover, many are the local and subnational governments from developing and developed countries which make climate solidarity happen by coming together in decentralised cooperation projects.

In this context, local and subnational governments believe that the design and implementation of climate policies need to run through all levels of government in interaction, synergy and complementarity. In our view, the recognition of governmental stakeholders as crucial actors in climate action constitutes an excellent opportunity to move further in this line.

Let me share with you just some areas in which this could happen easily.

NAPAS should not miss the opportunity to be comprehensive agreements between all levels and to incorporate the wealth of experiences acquired at the subnational and local levels; including decentralised cooperation initiatives for capacity building in this field.

The Climate Technology Centre and Network would deeply benefit from existing technology transfer agreements, public-private partnerships, technology clusters and research poles at subnational level. In this respect, frameworks are needed to cut red tape and facilitate the interregional and subnational dimension of these initiatives.

Granting appropriate access of local and subnational governments to any current and future financial mechanisms and funds would contribute to connecting to the real needs of territories and therefore help leverage further people-centered investment.

None of the goals of a climate multilateral agreement can be achieved without the contribution of all levels of government. Therefore it is essential that the new institutions now being set up ensure appropriate engagement with all governmental stakeholders. You can be sure, that local and subnational governments we stand ready to keep contributing to climate action. And we will do it in our condition of allies to multilateralism and multilevel governance. We sincerely hope you will not miss the opportunity to further capitalise on our political will, resource investment and expertise.

Thank you very much for your attention!