



Network of Regional Governments
for **Sustainable Development**

nrg4SD at UNFCCC COP17/CMP7

28 November – 9 December 2011, Durban, South Africa

Click for: [Key nrg4SD dates at COP17 – Advocacy Paper – Detailed info on events – Practical info](#)

At the 17th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change nrg4SD will continue to advocate for the implementation of the recognition of subnational governments as ‘governmental stakeholders’, following the Cancun Agreements at COP16.

In principle COP17 is expected to have a low political profile compared to previous editions - due amongst other things to the Rio +20 Conference taking place in June 2012. But low political profile does not mean low technical work. This is the reason why nrg4SD will actively participate in the negotiations over the 2 weeks, maximising its collaboration with long-term partners and the UNFCCC Secretariat.

Key nrg4SD dates at COP17

Detailed info on these and other events is available below

Friday 2 December AM – Distinguished guest speech by nrg4SD in ICLEI’s event “The Durban Local Government Convention: Adapting to a changing climate - Towards COP17/CMP7 and beyond”

- Venue: eThekweni City Hall, Durban
- No official accreditation to UNFCCC is required but please confirm your attendance to nrg4sd@nrg4sd.org
- Attendance is open to all nrg4SD members for the whole duration of the event (2 – 4 December)

Monday 5 December – 18.00-20.00 - nrg4SD convenes a high-level political delegation at the Belgium-Wallonia official side event

- Venue: EU Pavillion at the official COP17 negotiation venue ICC
- Official accreditation to UNFCCC is required
- Attendance from all nrg4SD members with official accreditations is warmly encouraged

Tuesday 6 December – evening – nrg4SD showcases the Mbale-Wales Partnership at the official launch of the UNFCCC Secretariat Programme of successful climate change partnerships

- Venue: Official COP17 negotiation venue ICC
- Official accreditation to UNFCCC is required
- Attendance from all nrg4SD members with official accreditations is warmly encouraged as this Programme will constitute a key tool for subnational governments’ engagement in UNFCCC in the future

Wednesday 7 December AM (tbc) – Strategic meeting between nrg4SD and ICLEI: looking into further synergies ahead of key international dates

- Venue: Official COP17 negotiation venue ICC
- Official accreditation to UNFCCC is required

Second week of COP - nrg4SD internal meeting on preparations towards Rio +20 - TBC

3– 9 December - nrg4SD exhibit booth at UNFCCC COP17 – Official negotiation venue ICC

nrg4SD advocacy paper for UNFCCC COP17

The nrg4SD Secretariat is currently preparing a position paper on the basis of the advocacy paper entitled '*Subnational Governments: Key Actors in Climate Action – A contribution towards COP17*' which was submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat and the Parties during the intersessional meeting in Bonn, Germany in June 2011, as well as on the latest developments at the intersessional negotiations in Panama in October 2011

nrg4SD Secretary General Maruxa Cardama will take active part in the two weeks of official negotiations, collaborating directly with ICLEI, in its capacity of focal point of the 'Local Governments and Municipal Authorities' (LGMA) constituency, and other long-term partners and like-minded organisations.

Detailed schedule of activities

20 – 21 October, Lyon, France – European Conference of Regions on Climate Action: The Region of Rhône-Alpes, nrg4SD and the °Climate Group (T°Cg) co-organised this preparatory event to COP17, which provided a starting point for regular high-level dialogue on climate change solutions in which Regional Governments exchange ideas and experiences creating a continuous momentum to spur a clean revolution at subnational level. Good regional practices and innovative public-private partnerships were presented, paving the way for further interregional cooperation actions. High-level representatives from the UNFCCC Secretariat, the EU Committee of the Regions, the UN Development Programme, the European Commission and the CEMR participated at the event. ICLEI and UCGL (who also sits in the LGMA constituency for UNFCCC) were supporting partners of the Conference.

2-4 December, eThekweni City Hall, Durban – Distinguished guest speech by nrg4SD in ICLEI's event "The Durban Local Government Convention: Adapting to a changing climate - Towards COP17/CMP7 and beyond"

- No official accreditation to UNFCCC is required but please confirm your attendance to nrg4sd@nrg4sd.org
- Attendance is open to all nrg4SD members for the whole duration of the event (2 – 4 December)

This Convention is strategically timed to take place during UNFCCC COP17 in order to build upon the recognition of local governments as the governmental stakeholders in the Cancun Agreement, with a specific focus improving the profile of adaptation as a critical tool in achieving local developmental and sustainability objectives. nrg4SD has been invited to give key-note intervention in the opening section of "Messages of Goodwill from UN bodies and stakeholders", which will take place on the morning of Friday 2 December immediately after an intervention from the President of South Africa (incoming President of COP) and alongside interventions from UN VIPs such as UNFCCC Executive Director Mrs. Christiana Figueres. On the morning of 4 December a discussion session with COP negotiators will be organised. ICLEI is kindly opening the attendance to all nrg4SD members but we kindly request you to please confirm participation to nrg4sd@nrg4sd.org.

5 December – 18.00-20.00 - EU Pavillion, official negotiation venue ICC - nrg4SD convenes a high-level political delegation at the Belgium-Wallonia official side event

- Official accreditation to UNFCCC is required

Wallonia will be hosting a side event '*Fast Start Finance Wallonia initiative: When European subnational initiative trigger fast start project in African LDCs Countries*'. Based on the Wallonia fast start initiative and 4 projects carried out in French speaking African countries, this side event aims to illustrate how European subnational governments such as Wallonia are deploying actions targeting local African's communities needs to address climate change issues as adaptation and low carbon development strategy. At this event, host African countries will also have the opportunity to present their specific involvement and management of these initiatives. In a global context, many are the subnational governments carrying out climate action

initiatives, domestically and in the framework of interregional solidarity schemes, with an aim to come up with innovative approaches that deliver rapidly on the ground and give priority to capacity building. Wallonia has kindly offered a second part of this event to nrg4SD who will convene a high-level delegation from different subnational governments in order to present the political, technical and financial commitments towards climate action that subnational governments around the Globe are deploying either individually or in partnership. Attendance from all nrg4SD members with official accreditations is warmly encouraged.

6 December – Evening - official negotiation venue ICC - nrg4SD showcases the Mbale-Wales Partnership at the official launch of the UNFCCC Secretariat Programme of successful climate change partnerships

- Official accreditation to UNFCCC is required

After successful preparatory work between nrg4SD and the UNFCCC Secretariat, Wales and Mbale as members of nrg4SD will present the [Wales-Mbale Climate Change Tree Planning project](#) as part of an this high-level event. The event will mark the launch of an official Programme of the UNFCCC Secretariat targeted at showcasing successful climate change mitigation and adaptation partnerships put together by different stakeholders. Projects for this launch have been selected according to the following criteria: (i) initiatives in Africa, (ii) adaptation and mitigation actions, (iii) results already delivered and (iv) impact on urban poor. Attendance from all nrg4SD members with official accreditations is warmly encouraged as this Programme will constitute a key tool for subnational governments to engage in UNFCCC in the future.

3– 9 December - nrg4SD exhibit booth at UNFCCC COP17: This exhibit booth will display publications of nrg4SD and of its members including brochures, advocacy and position papers, and technical and background documents. nrg4SD members are encouraged to communicate to the [nrg4SD Secretariat](#) if they would like to display any documents at the exhibit booth during COP17. Please note that due to the logistics implied members are strongly encouraged to contact the nrg4SD Secretariat as soon as possible.

Other events of possible interest to nrg4SD members

3 – 4 December - World Climate Summit: The World Climate Summit (WCS) complements the UNFCCC process by exploring, refining, and supporting the development and expansion of bottom-up approaches from business and finance in collaboration with governments. The most important and affected sectors of the economy will be addressed, with sessions structured to formulate new strategies for each sector. Each session will bring the most respected speakers and experts in business, finance and government to optimize crosspollination of ideas and resources. The organisation The °Climate Group is looking into the possibility of organising a roundtable on the role of subnational governments in climate action on Sunday 4 December. Click [here](#) for more information on the WCS.

8 December – SBI Special High Level Event for Stakeholders: following nrg4SD’s previous work (as part of the LGMA Major Group) with the UNFCCC Secretariat on enhancing the engagement of observer organisations in international climate change negotiations, the network will pursue the possibility of participating at a technical level in a session at COP17. If such as session is confirmed by the UNFCCC Secretariat, it will prove particularly interesting for nrg4SD members attending COP17.

Click [here](#) to access all the available documents for UNFCCC COP17 via the UNFCCC official website.

Practical information

We strongly advise nrg4SD members to look into their travelling and accommodation as a matter of urgency due to the restricted availability and the high demand

Accommodation

Thompsons Africa is the official travel agent for UNFCCC COP 17 – click [here](#) to check accommodation and book online. Due to high demand of rooms and limited availability please can you e-mail your booking details to cop17@thompsons.co.za and you will be given the best available options.

Travel

South African airways is the official airline of COP17. Click [here](#) for travel information. Most international airlines arrive at the Oliver Tambo International Airport (ORTIA) in Johannesburg. A few international airlines fly directly to Durban's King Shaka International Airport, but otherwise Durban could easily be reached with a one hour domestic flight from Johannesburg's ORTIA.

Visa requirement

Click [here](#) for detailed information on visa requirements provided on the official COP17

For more information on any of the above, please contact Lucy Mathieson on lmathieson@nrg4sd.org or via Skype on lucy.mathieson