

Collaboration Agreement between The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development and The °Climate Group

Memorandum of Understanding

THE °CLIMATE GROUP



Network of Regional Governments
for Sustainable Development

June 2011

Goal and rationale

This memorandum of understanding constitutes a collaboration agreement between the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) and The Climate Group (T°Cg) building upon the shared commitment to work together on climate action matters at subnational level and the common membership to both networks that several subnational governments/regions have.

Objectives

To structure the ongoing dialogue between both parties and to further the progressive collaboration in areas of mutual agreement; while respecting the identity and individual working programmes of each network.

Collaboration context

This agreement:

- Recalls that nrg4SD and T°Cg represent worldwide subnational governments/regions at international level and enjoy the common membership of several members;
- Recognises that collaborative and partnership approaches will be instrumental to the implementation of innovative effective solutions for delivering on climate change and sustainable development goals at all levels of government;
- Recognises the unique contribution that subnational/regional governments and the private sector, as well as the collaboration between them, can offer to sustainable development and climate change;
- Recalls that subnational governments are particularly well placed for identifying the needs and the strengths of their societies in climate action and that many subnational governments around the world enjoy legislative competences and are responsible for the elaboration and implementation of policy, legislation, fiscal mechanisms and public investments plans in several areas - such as transport, energy, the environment, agriculture, forestry, industry, spatial planning, resource management, technology

development and transfer, civil protection or development cooperation - that directly influence GHG emissions levels and deal with the impacts of climate change.

- Recalls that both nrg4SD and T°Cg work directly with international and stakeholders in order to help establish and develop commitments, as well as to deliver on targets to generate climate action and embed sustainable development.
- Recalls that nrg4SD:
 - Promotes sustainable development at the level of subnational government around the Globe;
 - Acts as the voice and representative of subnational governments at global level in the field of sustainable development as the only international network representing solely subnational governments with worldwide presence today;
 - Seeks a wider recognition at international level of the importance of the commitment of subnational governments towards sustainable development;
 - Contributes to the elaboration and implementation of responsible and ambitious policies and tools with a territorial dimension adapted to the subnational level, as well as to the establishment of adequate resources;
 - Encourages the understanding, partnerships, projects and expertise exchange among its members, and also between them and other major international stakeholders, and that
 - Under its current work programme, nrg4SD focuses on 3 main thematic areas – climate change, biodiversity, water resources and sanitation – and the cross-cutting theme of sustainable development.
- Recalls that T°Cg believes that:
 - Climate change is an urgent problem that requires collaborative international efforts to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and transition to a low carbon economy;
 - A broad market transformation is needed in the way we produce and consume energy, with a rapid shift to low and no carbon energy sources and substantially increased efficiency and energy savings. Transforming the market and reducing GHG emissions must be pursued in a manner that equitably reconciles development goals and climate protection.

- Individuals, companies and all levels of governments share the responsibility to minimize GHG emissions by implementing or providing solutions and measures, many of which already exist.
- Highlights that both networks have strong convergence on climate change issues and establish a broad range of partnerships with UN entities, civil society stakeholders and other key international actors.
- Recalls that nrg4SD represents subnational governments/regions worldwide and that T°Cg represents business and state and regional governments, thus making the 2 networks different and yet complementary in their goals and in their actions.

Areas of collaboration

Both organisations agree to collaborate in the following areas:

- To identify areas of focus for each organisation in order to avoid duplication of efforts.
Without excluding any individual work on any theme and without pre-empting the decisions of the governance bodies of each organisations regarding its respective work programme, nrg4sd could focus on activities climate change adaptation given its overall work on sustainable development; whereas TCG could focus on climate change mitigation given its activity on the low carbon economy and the clean revolution.
- To take maximum advantage off the geographic complementarity of both organisations, especially in the developing countries. nrg4sd has a strong membership-base in Latin America and Africa; whereas TCG, given its offices in India and China, enlarge state and province membership in Asia
- To increase capacity on climate change action in mutual benefit of subnational governments/regions and business of nrg4SD and T°Cg.

Both networks will support capacity building in specific climate change fields, including adaptation and mitigation aspects.

- To enhance the collective capability of nrg4SD and TCG in seeking international recognition of the contribution of subnational governments and businesses to the global climate change agenda.

Both networks will coordinate outreach to UN entities, international climate change actors and civil society stakeholders.

- To collaborate jointly with other networks where appropriate - including any proposed financial institution such as a Green Investment Bank - and in complementarity with any the individual collaborations of each network.

Both networks will keep each other informed on any individual collaboration with other networks relevant to this MoU, as well as on opportunities for joint collaboration with others.

- To be mutually supportive of each other's work.

Tools for implementing this collaboration

- This document sets a general framework that can be reviewed on an annual basis.
- The above mentioned areas for collaboration shall be developed in more detail in an agreed annual work plan that will specify the development of joint materials, events or other activities, including the agreement of the resources to be committed by both parties and any joint fundraising activities relevant to the work plan.
- Both networks can terminate this agreement by means of a reasonable notice and avoiding jeopardising ongoing joint or individual projects.

Signed in Barcelona on 1 June 2011 by

Mr. Lluís Recoder i Miralles

Minister for Territory & Sustainability,
Government of Catalonia
Northern Co-Chair of nrg4SD - On behalf
of all nrg4SD co-chairs

Mr. Mark Kenber

Chief Executive Officer
On behalf of The °Climate
Group