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IN SOLIDARITY FOR A GREEN WORLD

Our road to decarbonisation

CEMR and PLATFORMA messages



The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) launched in 1992 aims to combat and adapt to climate change. It includes the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international agreement, which pursues efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, launched in 2015, aims to implement 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the year 2030. Both agendas are running in parallel but need to interact more and involve the subnational level efficiently if all climate and SDGs targets are to be reached in time.

The latest UN Summit - the Summit of the Future - held in September 2024, highlighted the importance to interlink the global agendas (SDGs, climate, biodiversity...) in a more efficient way. This Summit also tackled how to engage with local and regional authorities to advance the 2030 Agenda (particularly the localisation of the SDGs).

CEMR and PLATFORMA are ready to support local and regional governments (LRGs) with concrete action but strategic involvement of the local level is needed worldwide.

CLIMATE CHANGE

2030 AGENDA

2015

FOUNDATIONS LAID

- Paris Agreement at the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP): Global climate pact adopted
- 1st Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 1.0)
- Setup of the Global Stocktake (GST)
- UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: 17 SDGs with 169 targets adopted



2020

THE GREEN REVOLUTION

- EU Green Deal: 2050 target of CO₂ neutrality introduced
- EU 20-20-20 targets achieved: reduction in CO₂, increase in renewable energy and efficiency
- NDC 2.0
- Leipzig Charter and territorial agenda renewal: focus on sustainable cities
- First SDGs implementation review



CLIMATE CHANGE

2030 AGENDA



2022-
2026

OVERCOMING FUTURE CHALLENGES

- 2022: COP27 Sharm el Sheikh: SURGE initiative
- 2023: COP28 Dubai: CHAMP initiative and LGMA position
- 2023: GST 1.0 (every 5 years)
- 2023: 6th Assessment Report IPCC (1st in 1990)
- 2024: COP29 Baku: Presidency MAP initiative and Truce deal; LGMA position
- 2025: COP30 Belem: 10th anniversary of Paris Agreement
- 2025: NDC 3.0
- End of 2025: EU Global Climate and Energy vision
- 2023: SDG Summit: 2030 Agenda mid-term review. Only 17% of SDGs on track.
- 2023: 1st EU voluntary review on SDGs
- 2024: Summit of the Future, Pact for the Future highlighting Climate and SDGs
- 2026: Opening of UN consultation to prepare post 2030 Agenda (tbc)



2027-
2030

DECISIVE YEARS

- 2027: IPCC Report on cities and climate
- 2028: GST 2.0
- 2030: EU 55% CO₂ reduction compared to 1990 levels (target)
- 2030: NDC 4.0
- 2030: SDG implementation deadline: final assessment of progress on UN's 2030 Agenda



2035-
2040

PROGRESS REVIEWS & NEW TARGETS

- 2035: EU 60% CO₂ reduction compared to 1990 levels (target)
- 2040: EU 90% CO₂ reduction compared to 1990 levels (proposed target)
- As from 2030: Post 2030 Agenda, implementation deadlines and targets (tbc)



2050

ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY

- The EU aims to reach full climate neutrality

GOVERNANCE

Real multi-level governance consultation, diplomacy, accountability mechanisms, and structured dialogue with local and regional governments (LRGs) are needed in international climate negotiations

Carbon neutrality is due by 2050 as agreed in Paris. It will be accomplished through political commitment, a solid governance mechanism, and leadership with all governments and partners at all levels.

LRGs of all sizes from urban and rural areas are part of the solution as they are closest to the citizens and the local reality. LRGs are important partners in international agreements especially through the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency (LGMA), which has adopted its COP29 position recently. But LRGs are still not seen as key actors. And the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) process is still not fully aligned with the LRGs.

LRGs call for a genuine dialogue with the negotiating parties and for inclusion in the national delegations to the COPs (eg. with COP28 Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships, CHAMP, which already recognized the importance of multilevel action and LRGs role in global climate action).

UN processes also need to be better coordinated and synergised, especially regarding the conventions on biodiversity and climate.

RESOURCES

Local and regional public investments are best placed to respond efficiently and timely to local needs and are key in attaining climate mitigation and adaptation objectives

68% of climate and energy competencies are allocated to LRGs. LRGs have proven sufficient technical, financial and legal capacity to deal efficiently with health, nature, biodiversity, or climate crises. But they cannot upscale this without appropriate resources.

National and European legal frameworks should take the diversity of LRGs and their territories into account. This should allow for different and tailor-made solutions and ensure an enabling fiscal framework to support local and regional public investments that contribute to decarbonization and sustainable development.

Therefore, last year, CEMR urged European policymakers to assess the impact that the new economic governance framework will have on LRGs in the EU. CEMR also stated that such impact cannot hinder the ability of LRGs to fulfil their mandates and provide essential services to citizens.

CEMR also advocated for a simplification of the rules on the exercise of public service missions. It called for a differentiated approach to consider the specificities of local and regional public services and investments.

CO-CREATION AND COOPERATION

Capacity-building, technology transfer, and partnerships need reinforcement to combat and adapt to climate change

The international community needs to further promote vertical and horizontal multi-level cooperation, peer learning, exchange of best practices, and capacity building.

More tools need to be used like the Reference Framework on Sustainable Cities, the Covenant of Mayors Europe, the Global Covenant of Mayors framework or the EU Development Education and Awareness Raising programme. Decentralised cooperation actions and processes are also instrumental to implement concrete actions in cooperation between LRGs.

Despite limited budgets, many subnational governments are showing exemplary technical knowledge and tools to implement effectively climate and sustainability initiatives. At the same time other LRGs often lack access to such know-how and resources and can greatly benefit from the experience of their peers.

Greater sharing of sustainable and climate-resilient, know-how and technologies with LRGs must also be promoted to accelerate progress in emissions reduction, adaptation measures and sustainable development.

LOCALISATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Localisation of the SDGs, a key factor in achieving climate objectives

A territorial approach to the SDGs and their localisation is crucial to achieving positive impacts on the ground. The 2030 Agenda's aims cannot be reached if LRGs cannot transform the international ambitions and the new ambitious Pact of the Future into reality.

In 2020 the OECD estimated that 65% of the 169 SDG targets are not attainable without the engagement of LRGs, and only 17% of all SDGs are on track. According to the CEMR/PLATFORMA SDG 2024 report, the subnational level can accelerate the process through innovative policies aligned with the SDGs, public awareness, and engagement.

Enhancing connectivity is crucial for driving this new way of working. Another challenge is the reorganisation of local and regional administrations so that technical departments can advance on SDG implementation. Moreover decentralisation and additional local responsibilities do not always come with increased budgets alone. And unless all these challenges are linked and accompanied with resources, the SDG targets will not be reached.

Cities are taking a wide range of measures to implement the SDGs at local level. Sustainable development has no end date. That is why cities need to be systematically involved in reaching the SDGs and the process beyond 2030.



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

The **Council of European Municipalities and Regions** (CEMR) is the broadest organisation of local and regional governments in Europe, with over 60 national associations of municipalities and regions from 41 European countries. Together, they represent some 130,000 local and regional governments. CEMR's objectives are twofold: to shape European legislation on behalf of local and regional governments and to provide a platform for exchange between its member associations and their elected officials and experts. CEMR is also the European Section of United Cities and Local Governments, the worldwide organisation of local government.

ccre-cemr.org

PLATFORMA is the pan-European coalition of towns and regions – and their national, EU and global associations – active in city-to-city and region-to-region development cooperation. It is a hub of expertise for European local and regional governments' international action, and works to bolster European local and regional governments' contribution to EU development cooperation policies and international frameworks.

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