



European Committee of the Regions

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Further involving cities and regions across the world into UN processes

Chapeau

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) calls on the United Nations to formally recognize the crucial role of subnational political leaders in meeting the targets of the Paris Agreement and to strengthen the formal inclusion of subnational authorities in the UN framework, as a guarantee of inclusiveness of UN processes as well as a proof of transparency and credibility of Parties' commitments. As unique institution gathering, in a Parliamentary organization, locally and regionally elected politicians from across the whole European Union and beyond, representing more than one million subnational leaders, the CoR stands ready to step up its collaboration with the United Nations to promote the shift towards a more inclusive global framework.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

The CoR calls for direct funding being accessible for subnational authorities to support them in facing the impacts of climate change and enhance their preparedness.

Considering the nature of implementation of sustainability policies at local level, the CoR calls to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to work in partnership with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) towards a consistent framework for climate neutrality and resilience, biodiversity protection and sustainable development, avoiding overlapping strategies; welcomes the Edinburgh Declaration on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework¹, which provides an example of an inclusive "whole of government" approach.

Chapter II. International peace and security

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

The CoR calls on the IPCC to further explore the implementation gaps of UN frameworks at subnational level, in order to provide Parties with scientific evidence in the field.

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[Edinburgh Declaration on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.](#)

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) calls on the United Nations to build upon the "[Edinburgh process for subnational and local governments on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: Edinburgh declaration \(cbd.int\)](#)" as well as on the [CHAMP initiative](#) and on the experience of the first-ever [Local Climate Action Summit](#) at UNFCCC COP28 to promote a more inclusive framework for the organized constituencies representing subnational public authorities.

Recalls that Subnational Authorities represent and promote the public interest of local communities and should therefore be considered as partners for the United Nations rather than stakeholders.

Also recalls that cities and regions across the world are the first-hand responders to the planetary crisis and the authorities being closer to the citizens' needs.

Considering the above, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) calls on the United Nations to ensure that subnational authorities are consistently engaged in the UN preparatory bodies of the different Conventions and that they are granted the right to take part to all negotiations as contributors or, at least as permanent observers. The CoR stands ready to act as facilitator of this process, in close coordination with recognized constituencies of subnational authorities and all relevant global networks.

The CoR emphasises its role as the institutional representative of more than one million local and regional leaders and network of networks; underlines its unique position as a driver for the implementation of United Nations priorities at local and regional level and its readiness to cooperate and partner with all relevant UN agencies to further multilevel cooperation on the way to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the Conventions.

Local Climate COPs and similar initiatives could provide an exceptional opportunity to reinforce the engagement of citizens into the key UN processes all over the year. In order to achieve this, the CoR calls on the United Nations to extend Regional Climate Weeks and similar initiatives to all continents and formally include the outcomes of such local summits into the related processes.