

Subnational Climate Action Hub *A Secretary-General Initiative*

Declaration by UN System Members

Announcement on 8 December, 2015

To support the action agenda on climate change and sustainable development at the local level, United Nations agencies, funds, and programmes have agreed to cooperate and collaborate within the United Nations Secretary-General's Initiative on a "Subnational Climate Hub."

We recognize that the Sustainable Development Goals represent the ambition of all countries to achieve progress on a transformative agenda. To achieve the collaborative ambition that was ultimately agreed at the intergovernmental level, we believe it is necessary to drive implementation through action on the ground, at the regional and local levels, where the goals, many of which are directly linked to climate change, merge into low-emission and climate resilient development opportunities.

We agree to support and work with non-state actors and governments to deliver on the Goals by reaping the benefits of cooperation through partnerships among peers and across various stakeholders including national and sub-national governmental, business and civil society actors. We have many activities and experiences in this regard and believe that now is the time to broaden our commitment to implementation at the sub-national level.

The Secretary-General's 2014 Climate Summit marked a turning point for catalyzing action. It brought many sub-national and national actors together in initiatives to reduce emissions and build climate resilience. The Lima-Paris Action Agenda has propelled the action agenda to the next level, expanding existing initiatives and building new ones.

This action agenda has highlighted the strategic need to focus on the critical sub-national space. It has also yielded many powerful lessons on the dynamics that are necessary to reach scale through increased cooperation of stakeholders.

We have seen the development and organization of new global collaborative efforts such as the Compact of Mayors, the Covenant of Mayors, the Compact of States and Regions, the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, the Buildings Alliance, the Sustainable Energy for All Energy Efficiency Accelerators and many others. We have heard about only a small sample of this impact here in Paris, yet it is evident that these efforts are already having a profound impact at the local level.

Building on this experience and the lessons learned, we are committing ourselves to increased collaboration through:

- Collectively expanding our outreach to national and sub-national governments, businesses, and civil society organizations to further implementation efforts through the "Subnational Climate Action Hub."
- Supporting multi-stakeholder action in the implementation of INDC's at all levels of government.
- Identifying and deploying solutions to key development and climate challenges at subnational level (including improved subnational policies for climate change, adaptation and reducing the risk of climate related disasters, energy decarbonisation, access to renewable energy, forest conservation and reforestation, low-emission transport and sustainable buildings).
- Supporting the reporting and monitoring of the social, economic and environmental benefits and achievement of the SDGs at the subnational level.
- Expanding our knowledge-sharing and transfer in order to enhance our understanding, replication, and use of best practices for improved country-level implementation of climate change policies, programmes, investments and activities.
- Intensifying our joint advocacy and/or coordinated efforts on subnational climate action, taking advantage of the benefits of cross-UN collaboration across jurisdiction levels and peers.

Under the guidance of the Secretary-General, we commit to the establishment of the Hub immediately following COP21. In 2016, working together with all interested partners, including those supporting the follow up on the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, we will expand this UN collaboration to include additional UN, private sector, civil society, national government and subnational network partners. We look forward to utilizing forthcoming opportunities to advance the Hub including during the 2016 Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, Habitat 3 and COP22, among other key milestone events.