

CANCUN STATEMENT OF FEDERATED STATES & REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

ON LOW CARBON & CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

Recognizing that a 'clean revolution' with a surge in the rate of deployment of energy efficient and alternative energy technology is now necessary to accelerate the transition to a global low carbon economy;

Confident in the fundamental scientific understanding of climate change and the urgent need for action that it demands;

Motivated by the enormous benefits a clean revolution will create, including long-term sustainable economic growth, enhanced energy security, increased competitiveness and new, green jobs;

Mindful of the fundamental role of federated states and regional governments ('states and regions') as incubators of this clean revolution and of the fact that sub-national governments have responsibility for implementing an estimated 50 to 80% of the actions necessary to keep global mean temperature increase below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;

Mindful of the fundamental role of states and regions in developing sufficient responses to adapt to the most dangerous consequences of climate change;

Reaffirming the commitments already made by states and regions in 2005 (*Montreal Declaration*), 2008 (*Poznan Statement of Action*) and 2009 (*Copenhagen Statement of Federal States and Regional Governments*). Noting that these commitments have led to the development of a range of policies to encourage a low carbon economy within the jurisdictions of members of The Climate Group's States and Regions Alliance;

Recalling the *Paris Statement of European Regions* made to European Union leaders (March 2010) to warn that more ambitious climate and energy policies will be essential to powering future competitiveness, growth and jobs; the *Bonn Declaration of State and Regional Governments* (June 2010); and numerous other initiatives by states and regions in 2010 to strengthen cooperation between sub-national governments globally in combating climate change and accelerating the shift towards a low carbon economy;

Recalling the *Copenhagen Statement* in particular and the signatories' commitment to report back in 2010 on progress made, including progress against specific commitments made in the 'Billion Trees Endowment' in Annex of this Statement;

Recognizing that despite the groundbreaking efforts of states and regions to date, there remains an urgent need to accelerate the pace and scale of low carbon development and clean technology deployment;

Acknowledging that such change will require innovative public-private partnerships between governments and business to mobilize policies, technologies and financial mechanisms and create comprehensive low carbon solutions;

Conscious of the importance of sustainable land use practices in promoting low carbon development;

Convinced that practical action at the state and regional level can play a catalytic role in building confidence and trust for comprehensive and ambitious climate action at the national and international level;

Emphasizing the important role of states and regions to strengthen international solidarity and achieve concrete actions on adaptation and mitigation in the developing regions;

Mindful of the above, and as the world's most influential coalition of states and regions that committed in Copenhagen to taking practical action to expand low carbon technologies (such as building energy efficiency, energy efficient lighting, electric vehicles, renewable energy technologies); we further commit to:

Developing specific policies and/or financial mechanisms within our remit in the following areas to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, stimulate green jobs and promote energy security:

Decreasing energy use

- *We will encourage reduced GHG emissions resulting from overall energy consumption across areas of urban planning and land use management; and*
- *We will encourage behaviour change to save energy (local consumption, heating and cooling, electric appliance management etc.).*

Promoting energy efficiency

- *We will encourage and support energy efficiency solutions, for example in lighting systems, by enacting appropriate measures (legislation, regulations, programs and financial mechanisms within our jurisdictions;*

- *We will encourage reduced GHG emissions from energy consumption in urban environments through, for example, 'smart' services¹; and*
- *We will undertake ambitious programs on building refurbishment.*

Supporting the transition to a sustainable transport system

- *We will adopt appropriate measures within our jurisdictions to encourage the transition to a more sustainable transport system by inter alia:*
 - *Accelerating the uptake and promoting the use of more efficient internal combustion engine (ICE), alternative fuel and electric vehicles;*
 - *Developing rail for freight and passenger transport; and*
 - *Promoting sustainable public transport (i.e. car-sharing, centers of mobility and bicycle racks in rail stations).*

Encouraging renewable energy generation

- *We will commit to stronger targets in light of declining prices for land- and marine-based renewable energy.*
- *We will encourage the transfer of skills and data from our experience with renewable energy.*

Exploring more detailed sectoral agreements between states and regions (and potentially businesses) on renewable energy, energy efficiency and alternative fuel and electric vehicles from now to the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) in South Africa.

Continuing to expand this network of states and regions and increase our cooperation with national governments, cities, financial institutions, business and civil society.

Further expanding our engagement with an active mentoring states and regions in developing economies, recognizing the need to share our knowledge and resources with those most vulnerable and least able to respond to climate change (commit mentoring support to at least one other region, province or state in a developing nation).

Engaging the business sector in delivering on the commitments laid out herein.

¹ 'Smart services' refers to ICT enabled climate solutions such as smart grid, smart buildings, smart transport, smart meters etc.

Remaining committed to delivering existing ambitious climate policies within our jurisdictions.²

Reporting back at COP 17 in South Africa on commitments and progress made with preparatory reporting conferences in the different world regions.³

Emphasizing the ongoing necessity to reach an internationally binding agreement, we call on the Parties to the UNFCCC gathered in Cancun, to:

- Adopt a balanced package of substantive decisions on the core elements of mitigation, adaptation, technology, financing and capacity building in order to lay the basis for agreeing to a new global climate agreement by COP17; and in particular to:
 - *Formalize and build upon the mitigation pledges already made since current mitigation offers are not sufficient to meet the 2°C threshold;*
 - *Launch the first stage of a REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) mechanism;*
 - *Get climate finance flowing to support adaptation, mitigation, technology and capacity building actions; and*
 - *Set ambitious targets in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy.*
- Recognize that there needs to be a shared commitment between the parties and the states and regional governments and that without this agreement the actions of states and regions and their communities will not be enough to meet the challenges of climate change or reap the rewards of moving to a low carbon economy.
- Formally recognize and acknowledge the important role of federated states and regional governments in the UNFCCC agreement for reaching these objectives.

Signed

²A proposition to suspend California's Global Warming Solutions Act, AB32, was recently rejected.

³A preparatory European meeting will be hosted in Lyon, in October 2011, during the Conference of Regions on Climate.

°CLIMATE LEADERS SUMMIT 2010

