

**TOWARDS CARBON NEUTRAL
AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENT TERRITORIES**

LETTER OF INTENT

WITH REGARD TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

A COMMON PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN

UNITED NATIONS

(UNDP, UNEP)

AND ASSOCIATIONS OF REGIONS

(NRG4SD, CPMR, NF, AIRF, AER, OLAGI, FOGAR, THE CLIMATE GROUP)

1. **Meeting in Saint-Malo (Brittany - France) on 29 and 30 October 2008 at the initiative of nrg4SD** (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development) on the occasion of the World Summit of Regions on "Climate Change: the Regions in Action" at the invitation of Mr Jean-Yves Le Drian, President of Brittany Region, Ms Esther Larrañaga and Mr Pierre Uys Co Chairs of nrg4SD, the associations of Regions, sub-state bodies (Federal State, Region, Province, *Länder*, etc.), UNDP and UNEP, signatories of this letter of intent, and thanks to the initial willing of nrg4SD and UNDP, and on the demand and the active role of Regions from the five continents, agree to step up their action with regard to tackling climate change by accompanying the Regions in developing and implementing their Climate Change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

2. They feel that this dimension does indeed appear to be a necessary complement to the strategies and actions that already exist at national level in order to assure an articulation of efforts between all levels of governance and building synergies. Regional governments, which are active players in development policy, are convinced that this development policy will not be effective unless it takes on board, in full agreement with their national governments, the major upheavals that will result from climate change in most of the world's Regions

3. **To this end, the signatories of the present letter of intent are determined to set up a partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).**

4. This partnership, named UN – Regions Partnership "Towards Carbon Neutral and Climate Change Resilient Territories", aims to assist and promote decentralized cooperation with and among the regions in developing real strategies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change by allowing them to draw up their own Integrated Territorial Climate Plan (ITCP) that can be integrated into public policy and regulations on the one hand and investment projects on the other hand for which the partners will help to seek to access to the various existing financial mechanisms.

The partnership will be based on inter alia:

- Know-how and **good practice** exchanges between the United Nations, national governments, regions and the private sector, etc.
 - Customization and provision of **methodological tools** taking into consideration ongoing experiences and techniques necessary for the drafting of the Integrated Territorial Climate Plan (ITCP)
 - **Training** on the use of these tools, and on the design of strategies and an ITCP
 - Assistance to select projects within the ITCP and identification of the appropriate regulatory and financial instruments: **public policy / investment projects**
 - Technical assistance to facilitate access to **new financial mechanisms**.
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5. This partnership is to be considered as an added value in relation to the actions already led by national and regional governments and associations of Regions within their own remit where appropriate and those led under the national and regional groupings – for instance the European Union - to which they belong. This partnership is therefore designed and led in full cooperation and total coordination with current and planned initiatives at national, regional and global levels. It helps towards stepping up the application of guidelines on mitigation and adaptation as defined by the UNFCCC. It also serves as an operational support for "external" actions to be defined by the European Union with regard to adaptation.

6. In order to achieve this coordination and to ensure full cooperation, the content of this partnership is based on the following guidelines:

- **This is an open dynamic process** designed to integrate the guidelines that will be adopted in the future in the framework of the “Conferences of Parties” and the continental and sub-continental groupings, such by the European Union with regard to adaptation;
- **This process must remain flexible** as regards the methods and delivery instruments to be proposed in order to take into account the diversity of regional experiences with regard to climate change and the diversity of the existing situations at global level, both in terms of response capacity (including institutional and political contexts) and the geographic conditions encountered; This process draws on existing methods and instruments insofar as they comply with the technical and scientific requirements and allow for an effective contribution towards the targets and priorities of the territories concerned.

7. The UNDP and UNEP on the one hand, and the associations of Regions on the other hand, hereby intent:

- **To set up a scientific working group** made up of technical staff representing the signatory parties or third-party institutions approved by the signatory parties, to define the actual arrangements for this partnership in terms of methods and instruments;
- **To form a steering committee** made up of institutional and political representatives of the signatory parties and selected pilot regions to specify the institutional, administrative and financial arrangements and to draft a monitoring procedure and sharing of responsibilities for this initiative that will define the relations between the partners, where Regions will have an out most active role. The Steering Committee will define precisely the three phases presented below.
- **To design and implement the UN – Regions Partnerships “Towards Carbon neutral and climate change resilient territories” around three main working phases:** .
- Raise awareness among at least 500 Regions worldwide is made up of two main axes: the preparation of tools to disseminate knowledge and the organisation of learning workshops by peers and assist a small number of pilot regions in developing their Integrated Territorial Climate Plan;
- Assist at least 50 Regions in developing their Integrated Territorial Climate Plan, with a first batch of pilot Regions;
- Deliver public policies and regulations on the one hand and investment projects on the other hand thanks to the assistance given to Regions to access the different existing financial mechanisms (public development aid, GEF, MDG Carbon Facility, CDM, adaptation fund, PPP, decentralised cooperation, private foundations, 1% water, etc.);

The signatories are committed to develop and implement this initiative in full partnership with UNFCCC and call the European Union and the other continental and sub-continental groupings to take part in this initiative by joining the working group.

The signatories call on the UN-Member states and other appropriate bodies to co-fund this important partnership.

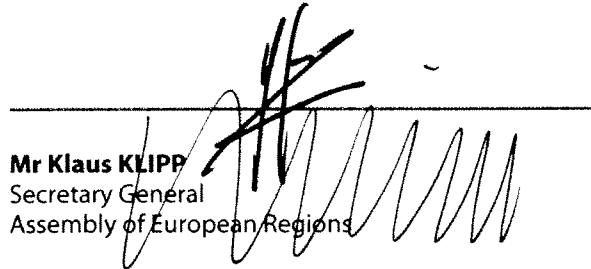
8. In addition to the present signatories, other associations of Regions and UN Agencies may join this partnership. As well, Regions on an individual basis or through the networks in which they are members are welcomed to support the partnership.

9. In this regard, the stakeholders signing the letter of intent shall unite their efforts to ensure that their approaches and concerns are be taken on board in the run-up to the events in Strasbourg (European Development Days), Poznan (UNFCC), Copenhagen (UNFCC), Limoges (AER) and in their resulting conclusions.

SIGNATORIES

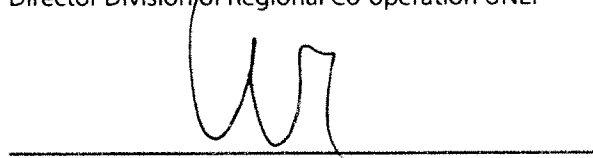
Mr Yannick GLEMAREC

UNDP Executive Coordinator for the GEF,
and Director of the Finance for Environment,



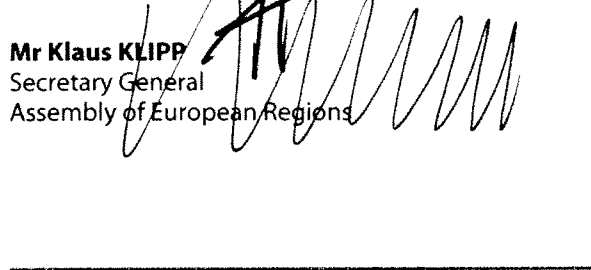
Ms Cristina BOELCKE

Director Division of Regional Co-operation UNEP



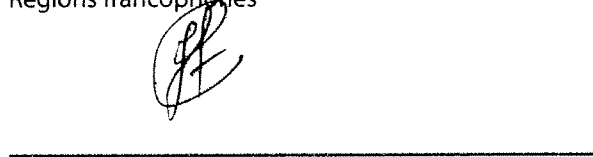
Mr Klaus KLIPP

Secretary General
Assembly of European Regions



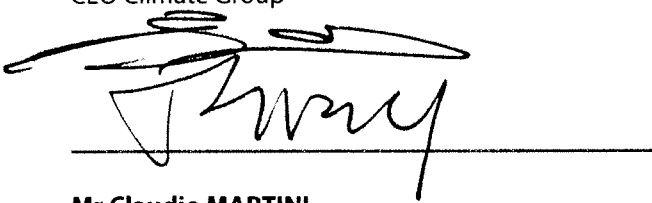
Mr Abdelkébir BERKIA

Secretary General Association Internationale des
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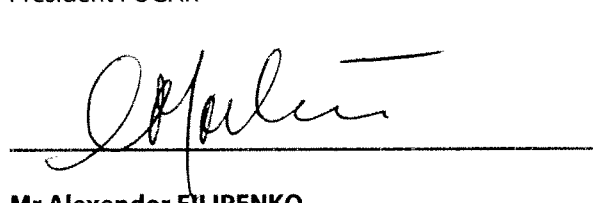
Mr Steve HOWARD

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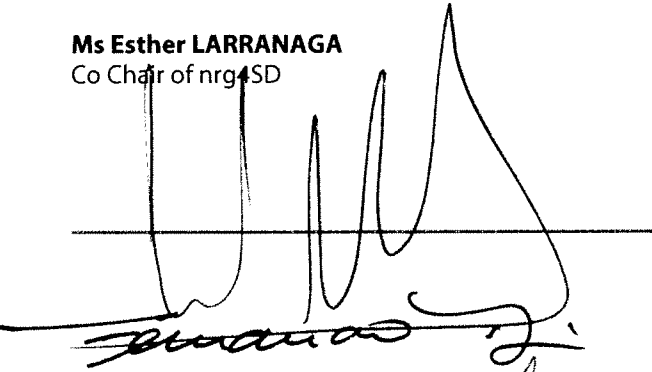
Mr Alexendor FILIPENKO

Chairman Northern Forum



Ms Esther LARRANAGA

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Mr Jorge OLMEDO

Secretario Ejecutivo OLAGI



Date: October, 30th 2008
Saint Malo, Brittany

