

## **Partnering with non-state actors for climate change adaptation: which potential in different world regions?**

**Paris UN FCCC COP21, December 2, 2015**

**10 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

National governments sitting at the UN FCCC COP 21 have the responsibility to define targets in terms of emissions reduction and adaptation actions. Their operational implementation however largely depends on actions by non-state actors, like companies, NGOs, federal States, provinces, regions and cities, and the financial sector. Their initiatives to cut greenhouse gas emissions are becoming increasingly significant and could save up to 1.8 gigatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in 2020 (UNEP 2015). Similarly, non-state actors are often committed to adaptation actions that may considerably participate in applying national and subnational strategies and plans.

Municipalities are creating new local resilient development opportunities, knowledge-sharing mechanisms and expertise in implementing adaptation measures (Mayors Adapt), Networks of municipalities exist in Europe (MayorsAdapt) and worldwide (C40 Cities) involving local governments working for local adaptation. International organisations have also prepared tools and guidelines for easing local implementation of adaptation actions in particular territories (Guidelines for local adaptation in the Alps, 2014).

Increasingly, companies commit to autonomous adaptation actions consistent with their economic targets. The private sector can find new business opportunities, create new markets, recognise and manage risk, all of which are critical to ensuring resilient businesses and communities. Voluntary international standards on adaptation (ISO 2015) and innovative tradable vulnerability credits (The Higher Ground Foundation 2015) are being developed. Skills are developing to support infrastructure, risk management and technology cooperation (ICCF 2015) and financial backing ensuring value protection, promoting investments in low-risk sectors and sites, adopting solutions for risk-exposed sectors, including new financial products incentivising autonomous adaptation (UNEP-FI 2015 and EBRD SEI 2015).

However overall, non-state actors' (and particularly business and the financial sector's) engagement in adaptation is still at an early stage. The case has to be disclosed for companies to view building community climate resilience as an imperative for business strategy beyond philanthropy and cooperating with governments at different levels. The co-benefits that can derive from increased resilience could be significant for both and the actors involved in multi-stakeholder partnerships can provide complementary assets for successfully addressing climate change adaptation and resilience (UNEP 2012).

The workshop builds on experiences of NSAs, including national, regional governments, networks of municipalities, and the private and financial sector and sees the participation of a wide board of professionals and policy makers that will discuss current actions and future tool for fostering partnerships between the public and the private sector and an increased involvement of the business community in newer climate policies.

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### Welcome and greetings

Mario MAZZOCCA, Undersecretary of Regione Abruzzo (Italy)

Francesco LA CAMERA, Director General, Italian Ministry of Environment, DG Sustainable Development, Environmental Damage, Relationships with the European Union and International Organisations (SVI)

*Which role for non-state actors in implementing climate adaptation and resilience?  
State of the art and prospects at the sub-national and local level, in the business and financial sector  
and the role of networks and multi-stakeholder partnerships: concrete actions, experiences, next  
steps, visions and policy engagement*

### A round table discussion, questions and answers with:

Lola VALLEJO, OECD Environment Directorate, Environmental Performance and Information (EPI)

Maddalena DALI', European Commission, Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA), Unit Adaptation to Climate Change

Andreas KRESS, The Covenant of Mayors and Mayors Adapt

Iris FLACCO, Regione Abruzzo (Italy), Department of Energy policy, air quality and national environmental information system

Alessandro CORRADO, Regione Lombardia (Italy), Delegation in Brussels

Joost VENKEN, Deputy Mayor of Hasselt. City signatory of the Covenant of Mayors & Mayors Adapt, Belgium

Ira FELDMAN, International Standard Organisation, ISO - SC7 Adaptation

Craig DAVIES, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development - EBRD\*

Karl SCHULTZ, The Higher Ground Foundation – Vulnerability Reduction Credits (VCRs) project\*

Moderation:

Luca CETARA, EURAC research, University of Camerino and European School of Economics

### Sources and highlights

UNEP (2015). Climate Commitments of Subnational Actors and Business

<http://uneplive.unep.org/theme/index/13#nonstateactions>

MayorsAdapt (2015). Five good reasons to join. [http://mayors-adapt.eu/wp-](http://mayors-adapt.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Mayors-Adapt-Outreach-5-Good-Reasons-to-Join.pdf)

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UNEP (2012). Business and climate change adaptation.

[https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues\\_doc/Environment/climate/Business\\_and\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Adaptation.pdf](https://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/issues_doc/Environment/climate/Business_and_Climate_Change_Adaptation.pdf)



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ICCF (2015). ICC The Road to COP 21 (web) <http://cop21.iccwbo.org/>

UNEP. <http://www.unepfi.org/>

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development – EBRD (Investing in Adaptation and Sustainable Energy Initiative) <http://www.ebrd.com/what-we-do/sectors-and-topics/sustainable-resources/climate-change-adaptation.html>

C40 CITIES. <http://www.c40.org/>

The Higher Ground Foundation (Vulnerability Reduction Credits)  
[http://www.thehighergroundfoundation.org/vulnerability\\_reduction\\_credits.html](http://www.thehighergroundfoundation.org/vulnerability_reduction_credits.html)

Climate Alliance (Hasselt)  
[http://www.climatealliance.org/309.0.html?&tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=2079&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=288&cHash=d63e05ec9e367e20bd0060b712146331](http://www.climatealliance.org/309.0.html?&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=2079&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=288&cHash=d63e05ec9e367e20bd0060b712146331)