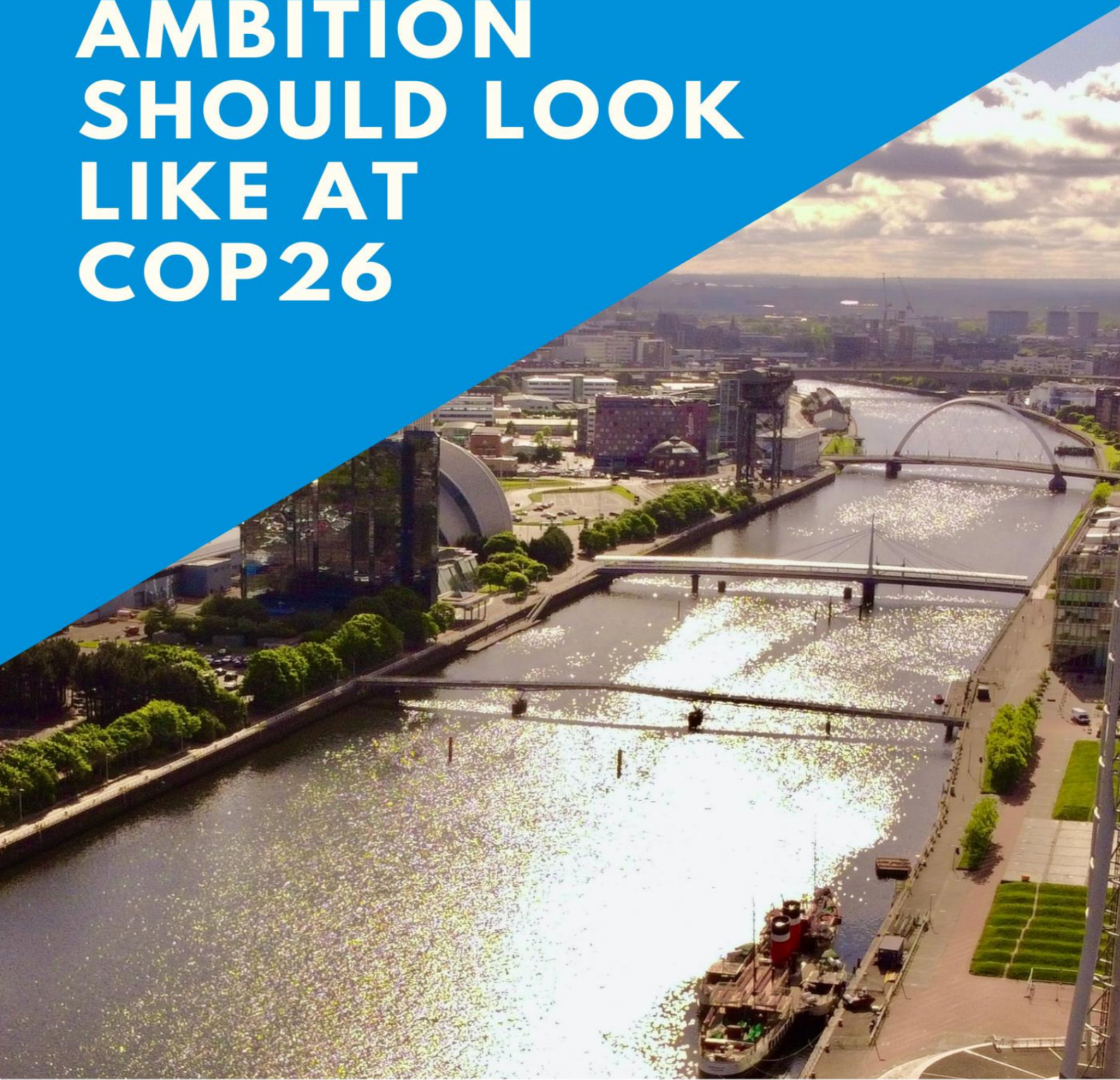


**REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS'  
CALL TO ACTION:**

# **WHAT AMBITION SHOULD LOOK LIKE AT COP26**



## STATEMENT

### Regional Governments' call to action: what ambition should look like at COP26

We, subnational governments, members of Regions4 and RegionsAdapt, recognise our key role at the forefront of responding to the climate crisis, and the need for accelerated action on mitigating and adapting to climate change.

### WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT

COP26 will be a critical moment in the global response to the climate crisis and must move the world away from promises and towards action. We are clear that keeping 1.5 alive is critical in ensuring that we can avoid the worst impacts of the climate emergency.

Parties must come to COP26 with enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation plans, and a commitment to mobilise finance to tackle climate change – at a minimum in line with the \$100 billion per year goal set out in the Paris Agreement. COP26 must also see better collaboration between all levels of government, cities, businesses, and people to deliver transformative action.

According to the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Climate change is widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and some trends are now irreversible, at least during the present time frame (IPCC 2021)<sup>1</sup>.

Climate finance is lagging behind the 100 billion dollars a year commitment, set in the Paris Agreement, and strong discrepancy remains between allocations of funds for mitigation compared to those allocated to adaptation (OECD 2021)<sup>2</sup>. Decentralized finance for climate actions is still much needed, and major barriers for regions to access these funds still remain (RegionsAdapt 2020)<sup>3</sup>.

States, regions, and devolved governments have an essential role to play in delivering the necessary action, being responsible for implementing 50-80% of necessary adaptation and mitigation actions.<sup>4</sup> Many are already taking ambitious actions to mitigate, adapt, and build resilience to climate change, and will bring their expertise and collective voice to COP26 - calling for increased ambition on climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

### WE CALL FOR

Working closely with the Marrakesh Partnership and the Local and Municipal Authorities constituency (LGMA), states, regions and devolved governments call for and expect COP26 to deliver on an ambitious mitigation and adaptation agenda, including:

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<sup>1</sup> [IPCC report: 'Code red' for human driven global heating, warns UN chief | | UN News](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Statement from OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann on climate finance in 2019 - OECD](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Regions4: Climate Change Adaptation in a Multi-Level Governance Context: A Perspective from Subnational Governments](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Regions4. Inspiring Subnational Climate Action. Cases and Lessons from Regional Governments. 2015](#)



➤ **Reaching net-zero emissions**

- 2021 is a critical year and a step in the decade of action - we need to see increased ambition from all national governments on mitigation, adaptation, and resilience
- We must see all national government publishing enhanced NDCs that commit to the emissions reductions needed to deliver on the Paris Agreement global temperature goals, with supportive policies and pathways for delivery.
- In line with this goal, states and regions need to set ambitious 2030 and 2050 - or earlier - emission reduction targets and develop pathways to reach these. Many are already taking the lead in doing so.

➤ **Raising ambition on adaptation and resilience**

- As nations continue to grapple with COVID-19, 2021 offers an unprecedented opportunity to establish resilient, sustainable, and green post-recovery economies.
- The reviewed Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and current national adaptation plans (NAPs) must include joint, amplified, and measured ambitions for resilience and adaptation, while reaching the most marginalized to ensure the co-benefits of wider and stronger social and economic cohesion.
- These plans need to be translated at the local and regional level through territorial integrated resilience plans, recognised and supported by national governments.
- COP26 must empower governments of all levels, and other non-state actors, to fulfil their potential to take rigorous and immediate action to deliver an increased resilient and adaptation actions.

➤ **Driving systems change towards multi-level governance**

- National governments will only be able to reach their climate targets if states, regions, and devolved governments, bring in their full potential. 50-80% of adaptation and mitigation actions will be implemented at the subnational or local level, and many governments are already delivering ambitious and innovative solutions that can be scaled up.
- State, regional, and devolved governments call for multilevel, solutions-oriented collaboration to become the new normal to raise climate ambitions and transition towards resilient economies and adaptation in each and every country.
- State, regional, and devolved governments must be involved in the design, coordination, and implementation of NDCs, and National Adaptation Plans.
- National governments need to align NDCs and National Adaptation Plans with the Sustainable Development Goals and connect with the biodiversity agenda, to allow for coherence and alignment of global agendas and priorities that can then be translated in regional and local actions.

➤ **Mobilize finance for adaptation**

- Shifting the trillions needed to achieve the Paris Agreement is essential, and national governments must provide credible targets and plans for deploying capital to developing countries and at the regional and local level.
- Available financial tools should support adaptation measures that protect the most vulnerable countries and communities from worsening climate impacts: equity, economic cooperation and social inclusion are all key factor to successfully tackle the climate crisis.



Regione Lombardia



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- States and regions must be fully equipped to respond to the climate crisis, and financial instruments, which need to be strongly oriented towards adaptation and resilience actions, must reflect this.
- NDCs and NAPs need to agree on budgets for financing subnational and local governments - especially in developing countries.
- International climate finance mechanisms (such as the Green Climate Fund) need to include regional level support and push national governments to support regional governments with funding at the local and regional level.

## WE COMMIT TO

States, regions, and devolved governments will continue to take ambitious action to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis and call upon all national governments to empower and enable states and regions to deliver on their potential to achieve a net-zero and climate-resilient future.

## RACE TO ZERO

States, regions, and devolved governments are already setting ambitious climate targets, with 55% of states and regions with a 2030 emissions reduction target showing greater ambition than their national counterparts.

We encourage all states and regions to join the UN High Level Champions' Race to Zero campaign, by adopting net zero targets by 2050 or earlier, and implementing pathways to get there.

## RACE TO RESILIENCE

Through the RegionsAdapt initiative and its renewed strategy, regional governments commit to the Race to Resilience campaign to accelerate their work on adaptation and resilience, calling to catalyse action by non-state actors to build the resilience of 4 billion people from groups and communities who are vulnerable to climate risks by 2030.

More than 76 members of RegionsAdapt, representing over 300 million people, are already committing to the Race to Resilience by:

- Taking stock of the current impacts of climate change in their territory by developing a vulnerability risk assessment that includes all vulnerable communities.
- Planning, prioritizing, and adopting an ambitious adaptation plan and/or programme (mainstreaming adaptation into other sectoral policies) and including the most vulnerable, with interim targets and long-term goals.
- Implementing concrete actions on adaptation in key identified priority adaptation areas<sup>5</sup>.
- Reporting annually on their progress through RegionsAdapt / CDP reporting platform to inform and improve policies and actions and inform the Race to Resilience and the Resilience Pathway of the Marrakesh partnership for Global Climate Action.

We call on states, regions, and devolved governments to join the RegionsAdapt initiative and the Race to Race to Resilience campaign to accelerate the pace and catalyse a step-change in global ambition on climate resilience, showing their contribution to our global climate agenda.

<sup>5</sup> Priority areas: Water resources and management, Resilience and disaster risk reduction, Agriculture and zootechnics, Forestry, protected areas and biodiversity, Infrastructure (including transport and energy) and territorial planning, Economic impacts and opportunities, social adaptation, and impacts.



**This statement is endorsed by members of Regions4 and RegionsAdapt**



Government of Basque Country



Government of Jalisco



Generalitat de Catalunya  
Government of Catalonia

Government of Catalonia



Cross River State Government



Government of Gossas



Government of São Paulo



Government of Centre-Nord



Government of Hauts-Bassins



Government of Ceará



Government of Québec



Government of Maharashtra



Note: This document will be updated as new endorsements come in.