

Rabat Declaration

Subnational governments face the challenges of implementing the three global agendas

INTRODUCTION

1. In a global context that is both highly mobilizing and highly demanding for subnational governments, the United Organization of the Regions (ORU-Fogar), since its creation in 2007, has set itself the ambition of being the voice for the subnational governments of the world and making a strong contribution to consolidating their role as major actors in the sustainable development of territories and as a contributor to institutional, political and legal reforms at state level and as a vehicle for new practices, on a worldwide scale, particularly through decentralized cooperation.

CONSIDERING

2. The commitment of ORU Fogar with the objectives stipulated in its Statutes and the interest in favoring the exchanges and associations of its members
3. The key role of the subnational governments in establishing a strategic space for convergence between the national and local levels, based on the territorial approach and the participation necessary for more egalitarian and sustainable territorial development.
4. The subnational governments are the best placed to assess the environmental, social and economic realities relating to their territories and to adapt public policies to the specificities and needs of each region, while remaining open to the world, through exchanges, mobility and cooperation.

WE DECLARE

5. That we, members of ORU-Fogar, as representatives of the world's subnational governments and their networks, gathered in Rabat, Morocco, on the occasion of the 11th edition of the World Forum of Regions, wish to strongly reiterate our support for the three global agendas on sustainable development, namely: the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda, assuming the commitment to align our policies with the challenges on a global scale and making our message of the 2030 Agenda "leave no one behind".
6. That we remain convinced, as subnational governments, that the regional level is the optimal strategic level for the achievement and territorialisation of the objectives of these three agendas, as it constitutes the appropriate platform for the effective participation of the various actors in a new governance of territorial action based on an inclusive, partnership-based process, in accordance with the principles of local democracy, aimed at thinking and co-constructing the sustainable development of territories, in order to meet citizens' aspirations.

7. That we are also convinced that intermediate governments are in a position to put in place tangible solutions to the implementation of the 2030 agenda, to help mitigate climate change and to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement, especially since, in the current context, the IPCC Special Report on the consequences of global warming, published on 8 October 2018, calls for serious action to limit global warming to 1.5°C and not 2°C as soon as possible, to avoid irreversible consequences on the planet.
8. That we advocate the role of intermediate governments in ensuring the correlation between small-scale local development and spatial planning and attractiveness within a global framework capable of articulating partnerships with the main global, regional and state organizations according to the priorities set and establishing a solid and sustainable co-financing framework.
9. That we undertake to continue efforts to expand the network of subnational governments and strengthen the representativeness of subnational governments in major international events.
10. That we are fully aware of the crucial importance of strengthening the managerial and technical capacities of elected officials and managers in the subnational governments in strategic planning, resource management, international cooperation, communication, monitoring and evaluation. We will continue to work to establish inclusive, effective and accountable regional structures
11. That we are convinced that the subnational governments can only play their full role if the regionalisation process launched by national governments is complete, irreversible and implemented in a strong and accelerated way by guaranteeing a transfer of competences in line with the resources allocated to the subnational governments.
12. That we urge States to ensure an equitable distribution of means and resources to enable subnational governments to develop the potential of their respective subnational governments while strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of territories, developing concrete economic dynamics and reducing disparities between urban and rural areas within the same territory.
13. That we strongly invite international organizations, as privileged partners in the implementation of integrated development programmes, to closely support regional dynamics and the recognition of the regional level as an essential platform for articulation between the state and local levels.
14. That we called for donor support to legitimize regional access to the various funding programs on the same basis as cities by ensuring an appropriate balance in the distribution of funds for the development of the various regional development programs.