

## RESOLUTION

adopted by the General Assembly of Climate Alliance  
on 21 September in Essen, Germany



Climate Alliance

# LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES AS DRIVERS OF CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY TOWARDS A GOOD LIFE FOR ALL

Submitted by the municipality of Hesperange, Luxembourg

## BACKGROUND

As the interplay between social, environmental and economic development is key to sustainable development, Climate Alliance welcomes the Agenda 2030 adopted by the United Nations in September 2015 and its holistic approach. The included 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) apply universally and lay the foundations for sustainable development worldwide.

International frameworks such as the Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement as well as the New Urban Agenda emphasize the importance of coherent political actions while highlighting the important role that regional and local authorities play in daily climate action. While the SDGs are global, around two thirds of the goals can only be realized if implemented at the local level. Approximately 4,900 local and regional governments are active in decentralized development cooperation (Atlas of Decentralised Cooperation for Development). The needed cross-cutting efforts for the implementation of global goals require ambitious action and comprehensive support on all levels.

Climate Alliance member municipalities in cooperation with its indigenous partners have stood for a holistic approach to climate action, linking concrete local solutions with global responsibility since the city network was founded back in 1990. Climate Alliance is also the only municipal network with concrete reduction targets. The members contribute to the targets and partially adopted their own local objectives. Regular review and reporting contribute to the achievement of the targets.

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In 2015, the members of Climate Alliance agreed on a resolution about “The Post-2015 Development Agenda – from visions to measures and solutions” and committed to additional ambitious global climate protection goals. Based on our long-time experience gained during – amongst others – delegation tours with indigenous counsellors and exchanges with local authorities, we strengthen these objectives and extend our recommendations and demands for the transformation of our world towards climate justice.

Climate change is, after all, not only an environmental problem – it is a socio-cultural one with roots in social inequality and differential use of resources. This becomes painfully clear in looking at the injustice faced by indigenous peoples.

### RESOLUTION TEXT

**We, the Climate Alliance’s members, gathered together at the General Assembly in the City of Essen, Germany, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2017:**

*Assert* the importance and need of global partnerships to fight climate change, adapt to the unavoidable consequences of climate change and promote climate justice.

*Emphasize* the support of our indigenous partners in the Amazon basin represented by the COICA. The recognition of their land titles are a basic condition in securing their right to self-determination, for only if they hold adequate land will they be able to survive as peoples. To preserve the rainforests of the Amazon Basin, indigenous land rights must be recognised.

*Stand behind* the Climate Alliance principles on climate action – fair, nature-based, local, resource-saving and diverse.

### Based on our identity and principles, we

*Welcome and confirm* the Paris Agreement and the Agenda 2030 with the SDGs contained therein as important global agreements for a sustainable development. The reference of both agreements to local authorities and indigenous peoples as key actors is especially significant.

*Emphasize* that the partnerships between Climate Alliance and indigenous partners are based on the principles of a sustainable development – as laid down in Agenda 2030 and the 17 SDGs. We see this as a model for all North-South partnerships and project cooperation.

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*Underline* that “parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples [...]” as mentioned in the preamble of the Paris Agreement.

*Highlight* the need of a stronger commitment to partnership and cooperation to achieve the SDGs, as mentioned in the Agenda 2030. “These inclusive partnerships built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national and local level.” (SDG 17)

*Admit* the need to localize the SDGs and to integrate them into local development strategies, taking into account the planet’s boundaries and limits to growth.

*Highlight* the threat of current offset mechanisms, as they are not proven to be able to deliver on expectations and have the potential to increase pressure on forests and indigenous peoples.\*

*Stress* the need of an integrated approach to achieve climate justice.

*Underline* the significance of partnerships with indigenous peoples, based on human rights and the principle of sustainability, as a role model for global cooperation.

### **To achieve these objectives, we contribute to sustainability and**

*Emphasize* the need of bringing together all actors, as called in the Paris Agreement, to “uphold and promote regional and international cooperation in order to mobilize stronger and more ambitious climate action by all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other subnational authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples”.

*Recall* the need for ambitious reductions plans and adaptation strategies which contain regular monitoring.

*Recall* focus on sustainable lifestyles, fair and sustainable consumption.

*Aim at* political coherence on all political levels and decisions.

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### We also call on the European Union and its Member States to

- *Ensure* transparency and access to information, especially in decision-making processes at local, national and European levels, as well as in value chains and financial flows.
- *Create* a legal framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda objectives, including the abolition of environment and climate-damaging subsidies.
- *Ratify* the ILO Convention No. 169
- *Establish* a mechanism for the accountability and responsibility of national parent companies for the social and environmental wrong-doings of their subsidiaries.\*\*
- *Update* the European Sustainability Strategy, based on the principles of the 2030 Agenda, and develop a suitable indicator system.
- *Introduce* coherence check for implementation instruments as well as coherent funding strategies at EU and national level.

**We suggest to our members to prepare and vote their own resolution as a (re)commitment to localize the Paris Agreement as well as the Agenda 2030.\*\*\***

\* See Resolution "Compensation of CO2 Emissions", Aachen 2008

[http://www.klimabuendnis.org/fileadmin/Inhalte/1\\_About\\_us/Resolutions/CA-Resolution\\_Kompensation\\_DE\\_200804.pdf](http://www.klimabuendnis.org/fileadmin/Inhalte/1_About_us/Resolutions/CA-Resolution_Kompensation_DE_200804.pdf)

\*\* The French National Assembly passed a law in March 2017 that defines the responsibilities of parent companies for the wrong-doings of their subsidiaries ("**Loi relative au devoir de vigilance des sociétés mères et des entreprises donneuses d'ordre**"). This makes France the first country to require, in contrast to voluntary self-commitment, large companies to prevent and reduce human rights abuse and environmental risks through appropriate measures. The Catalan Parliament has adopted a similar resolution in November 2016 ("resolucio 359 / XI del Parlament of Catalonia, sobre el respecte dels Drets humans via les Empreses catalanes que l'Opera a exterior), endorsed by Catalan municipalities (Carta de suport per a la creació d'un marc legislatiu per respecte dels drets per part de les empreses catalanes a l'exterior).

\*\*\* We would like to emphasize the objectives and principles of Climate Alliance and to highlight the local relevance of the Paris Climate Agreement and the Agenda 2030 *Transformation of our World* with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.