



# COP28

## Highlighting the Crucial Role of Multilevel Governance in Climate Action and Implementation

*Dubai, December 4, 2023*

Today, the Italian Pavilion at COP28 in Dubai hosted a significant side event organized by Regione Lombardia, Fondazione Lombardia per l'Ambiente, Regions4, and Under2Coalition. The event focused on the theme "Climate Change agendas at the national level: how to strengthen their effectiveness within multilevel governance."

The event attracted high-level speakers and experts from various regions, shedding light on the importance of subnational governments in shaping effective climate policies.

**Giorgio Maione, Minister for Environment and Climate, Lombardy Region, Italy**, kicked off the event by expressing the Lombardy Region's pride in hosting and supporting the side event. He emphasized the crucial role of subnational governments in climate change mitigation and adaptation, aligning with global agendas. Minister Maione highlighted the recent Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS) and the European Council's recognition of the leadership of local and regional governments in accelerating climate action.

He reiterated the European Parliament's calls for global financial contributions, biodiversity protection, renewable energy targets, and the end of fossil fuel subsidies. The Minister emphasized the need to bring climate change policies to the local level to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.



Giorgio Maione, Minister for Environment and Climate, Lombardy Region, Italy



Vannia Gava, Vice Minister for Environment and Energy Security, Italian Government stressed the necessity of coordinated efforts across all levels of governance to address the complex challenges of climate change. She emphasized the importance of multilevel governance in fostering collaboration, breaking down barriers, and aligning efforts toward a shared objective.

Ms. Gava highlighted that climate change impacts every aspect of society and economy, affecting health, food security, water resources, and overall quality of life. She advocated for integrating climate action seamlessly into all sectors and policies through a multilevel governance approach, ensuring a comprehensive and holistic response.

During the expert panel, Jordan Harris, Regions4 Executive Director, provided insights into the progress and challenges related to the vertical integration of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). He emphasized the urgent need for increased ambition and effective implementation, particularly in the face of the current trajectory leading to a 1.7-degree Celsius temperature increase by the end of the century, according to the Global Stocktake (GST) trace.

Furthermore, he stressed that the urgency to adapt swiftly cannot be overstated and needs a significant increase in funding for adaptation, estimated at US\$194-366 billion annually according to the UNEP 2023 GAP report.

Looking at collaboration with national governments, According the NAP Global Network, 100 of NAPs mention sub-national actors and 53 percent of NAPs mention vertical integration. Still, multi-level collaboration needs to be reinforced.

Harris highlighted Regions4's climate initiative, RegionsAdapt. Since 2021, significant progress has been seen in 36 regions from 16 countries, according to our RegionsAdapt 2023 Progress Report on 'Addressing Climate Justice in Regional Adaptation Planning and Actions', which will be launched tomorrow at 5 pm.

***“Our expectations and efforts around COP28 are crystal clear: we must recognize and empower subnational governments in participating, integrating, planning and implementing NDCs and locally led adaptation strategies”***



Nehmat Kaur, Head of Under2Coalition/The Climate Group, discussed the opportunity of vertical integration, emphasizing the need for NDCs and NAPs to align with ground realities and community needs. She highlighted the recently launched CHAMP initiative, endorsed by 60 countries, aiming for deeper implementation and inclusion of subnational governments in NDCs.

Kaur emphasized the importance of sectorial collaborations and breaking down specific issues for effective climate action.

## **HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Building Multi-level Governance Mechanisms for Accelerated Action**

The roundtable discussion featured notable representatives from Scotland (United Kingdom), KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa), Friuli-Venezia-Giulia (Italy), São Paulo (Brazil) and Baden Württemberg (Germany) to address how regional governments are putting into place regional climate plans/programmes/actions in collaboration with different levels of governance and actors, and what instruments regional governments are putting into place and/or are missing to allow for collaboration with different levels of governance and actors.

**Máiri McAllan, Cabinet Secretary, Scotland, United Kingdom**, emphasized Scotland's goal to transition from an oil and gas economy to a renewable one. She highlighted the importance of subnationals leading by example and collaborating with both national governments and local communities. McAllan underlined Scotland's commitment to a just transition, climate justice, and the upcoming National Adaptation Plan.

***“Subnationals can lead by example, strengthening collaboration both with national governments, but even more importantly with our local communities, based on the principles of fairness, and no one left behind.”***

**Premier Nomusa Dube Ncube, Governor, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**, discussed South Africa's vertical integration approach, working on NDCs with various districts and provinces. She highlighted the integrated Climate Council, emphasizing collaboration with local municipal authorities on climate actions, energy, local greening, and disaster response training.

***“In KZN our integrated Climate Council consists of civil society, academics, the business community, and local governments. Working together we don't see each other as adversaries, but as a collective with a common goal faced with a common crisis.”***

**Fabio Scoccimarro, Minister for Environmental Protection, Energy, and Sustainable Development, Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, Italy**, discussed Friuli-Venezia-Giulia's international collaborations and initiatives, such as the North Adriatic Hydrogen Valley. He emphasized the region's commitment to sustainable development, climate neutrality, and innovative projects like Namirs for rapid response to incidents at sea. Scoccimarro stressed the importance of political responsibility, international cooperation, and public engagement for successful climate policies.

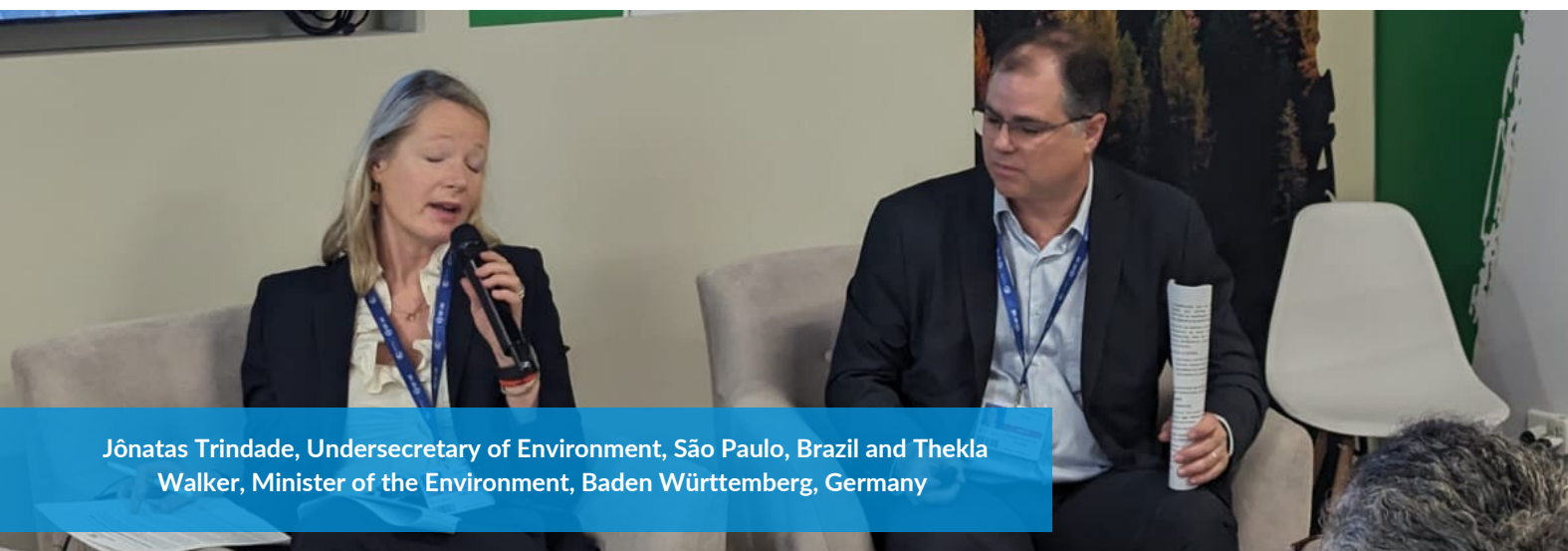


Máiri McAllan, Cabinet Secretary, Scotland, United Kingdom; Premier Nomusa Dube Ncube, Governor, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; and Fabio Scoccimarro, Minister for Environmental Protection, Energy, and Sustainable Development, Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, Italy.

The event continued with **Jônatas Trindade, Undersecretary of Environment, São Paulo, Brazil**, who highlighted São Paulo's efforts to build resilience against climate change. He discussed a capacity-building project to involve municipalities in climate adaptation and resilience planning, addressing vulnerabilities, and fostering knowledge sharing. Trindade presented the state's ecological economic zoning and strategic guidelines for climate change resilience.

Moreover, **Thekla Walker, Minister of the Environment, Baden Württemberg, Germany**, shared Baden-Württemberg's ambitious climate targets, emphasizing transparency and monitoring of measures in various sectors. She highlighted the importance of region-specific requirements within national legislation and showcased municipal heat planning as an example. Minister Walker stressed the need for strong partnerships at all levels to combat global warming and achieve climate goals.

***“The fight against global warming requires strong and determined partners at all levels. We are one of the most successful regions in Europe with climate protection, but we should get strong public support around Europe to get the implementation done.”***



Jônatas Trindade, Undersecretary of Environment, São Paulo, Brazil and Thekla Walker, Minister of the Environment, Baden Württemberg, Germany

Fabrizio Piccarolo, Lombardy Foundation for the Environment, Italy, concluded the event by highlighting the crucial role of subnational authorities in driving progress on climate change. He emphasized the Lombardy Foundation for the Environment's commitment to creating customized strategies for resilience to climate change at the regional and local levels.

The side event provided a platform for fruitful discussions and showcased innovative approaches from regions around the world, reinforcing the idea that effective multilevel governance is essential for accelerated action on climate change. As COP28 continues, the insights shared at this side event are expected to contribute significantly to global efforts in achieving sustainable and resilient futures.



*Speakers at the Side Event 'Climate Change agendas at the national level: how to strengthen their effectiveness within multilevel governance'*

