



**European Committee
of the Regions**

The President

Brussels, *date of official registration*
PCab/AA/dhdf (2022) Dxxxx.

Dear members of the Under2 Coalition,

I would like to thank you for the kind invitation to your General Assembly.

I regret not being able to take part in person and I would like to take the opportunity to share with you some key reflections as President of the European Committee of the Regions, the EU's political assembly of local and regional representatives.

We all share the same concerns for the future of our planet, while having to deal with multiple crises that require immediate action and risk overshadowing long-term priorities.

From the point of view of local and regional authorities, we need to urgently **move from commitments to achievements** by speeding up implementation and mainstreaming best practices to limit the temperature rise to 1.5°C by the end of the century. This is not new and yet it is still not happening, since the latest update of the Synthesis Report on Nationally Determined Contributions¹ confirmed that we are still heading towards a rise of more than 2.5°C.

We have been losing too much time in overlapping plans that cannot be implemented and sometimes even contradict each other and in various sectoral policies that solve one problem and create a new one. Cities and regions have too often been obliged to make their local action comply with top-down policies that take a one-size-fits-all approach.

We now need **one consistent enabling framework for local action geared towards a sustainable economy of wellbeing**, which must be open to a sound area-based approach and must be aimed at protecting the climate, the environment and people.

At the European Committee of the Regions, we believe that the UN must lead the way by creating a **new comprehensive framework for sustainability and wellbeing**, bringing together the various priorities in a new framework that better fits the complexity of our world and the reality of what needs

¹ <https://unfccc.int/news/updated-ndc-synthesis-report-worrying-trends-confirmed> : "However, the updated report also confirms that for all available NDCs of all 192 Parties taken together, a sizable increase, of about 16%, in global GHG emissions in 2030 compared to 2010 is anticipated. Comparison to the latest findings by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) shows that such an increase, unless changed quickly, may lead to a temperature rise of about 2.7°C by the end of the century."

to happen on the ground. This will help the EU and the other parties set up future-proof legislative frameworks for a transition to a wellbeing economy, going beyond GDP.

In recent years, the European Committee of the Regions and the Under2 Coalition have been cooperating closely with each other, which is formalised through a cooperation agreement that we are in the process of renewing.

I consider the Under2 Coalition a key partner in our efforts to ensure that cities and regions are involved in shaping our response to the climate emergency. You can count on the European Committee of the Regions and myself as strong partners in this cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Vasco Alves Cordeiro