

# Consultation on the 2015 International Climate Change Agreement: Shaping international climate policy beyond 2020

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1. How can the 2015 Agreement be designed to ensure that countries can pursue sustainable economic development while encouraging them to do their equitable and fair share in reducing global GHG emissions so that global emissions are put on a pathway that allows us to meet the below 2°C objective? How can we avoid a repeat of the current situation where there is a gap between voluntary pledges and the reductions that are required to keep global temperature increase below 2° C?

“Green and growth are 2 sides of the same coin” as announced by President Barroso during the Covenant of Mayors Ceremony held on 24.06.2013. Local and regional authorities are demonstrating that ambitious climate and energy policies can yield to GHG emissions reduction, the creation of local jobs and the improvement of citizens’s quality of life.

Energy Cities is therefore asking for the European Commission to defend ambitious targets for GHG emissions, adopt an ambitious and binding framework for 2030 and to involve local authorities in the designing and implementation of the climate and energy policy framework.

2. How can the 2015 Agreement best ensure the contribution of all major economies and sectors and minimise the potential risk of carbon leakage between highly competitive economies?
3. How can the 2015 Agreement most effectively encourage the mainstreaming of climate change in all relevant policy areas? How can it encourage complementary processes and initiatives, including those carried out by non-state actors?

Climate and energy policies have to be fully integrated into sectorial policies at all levels of government.

Local and regional authorities, as “non-state actors” must be acknowledged and supported considering their possible contribution.

4. What criteria and principles should guide the determination of an equitable distribution of mitigation commitments of Parties to the 2015 Agreement along a spectrum of commitments that reflect national circumstances, are widely perceived as equitable and fair and that are collectively sufficient avoiding any shortfall in ambition? How can the 2015 Agreement capture particular opportunities with respect to specific sectors?

5. What should be the role of the 2015 Agreement in addressing the adaptation challenge and how should this build on ongoing work under the Convention? How can the 2015 Agreement further incentivise the mainstreaming of adaptation into all relevant policy areas?
  
6. What should be the future role of the Convention and specifically the 2015 Agreement in the decade up to 2030 with respect to finance, market-based mechanisms and technology? How can existing experience be built upon and frameworks further improved?

Local and regional authorities, like other market players need and enabling environments (i.e. legislative, regulatory and financial) so as to develop long-term strategies and implement them successfully.

7. How could the 2015 Agreement further improve transparency and accountability of countries internationally? To what extent will an accounting system have to be standardised globally? How should countries be held accountable when they fail to meet their commitments?
  
8. How could the UN climate negotiating process be improved to better support reaching an inclusive, ambitious, effective and fair 2015 Agreement and ensuring its implementation?

By giving more recognition to local and regional authorities and offering them a place at the negotiating table. If local authorities are often pointed at as part of the problem since most of GHG emissions are coming from urban areas, they are implementing climate and energy policies which are delivering concrete results.

9. How can the EU best invest in and support processes and initiatives outside the Convention to pave the way for an ambitious and effective 2015 agreement?

By further acknowledging and supporting local authorities in their climate mitigation and adaptation policies. The Covenant of Mayors is a successful example of the voluntary commitments made by local authorities to support the EU 3x20.