



# LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE RUN-UP TO PARIS CLIMATE 2015: FROM LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS TO GLOBAL FACILITATORS

Synthesis of a Parliamentary report submitted by Ronan Dantec,  
Senator for the Loire-Atlantique *département*, and Michel Delebarre,  
former *Ministre d'État* and Senator for the Nord *département*

GUIDELINES REPORT





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# Preamble



*“Locally elected officials are on the front line in the fight against climate change”.* This is the phrase that greeted me in September 2013 during a trip to Dakar in towns suffering the worst of the damage caused by coastal erosion. Faced with these tangible challenges, from adaptation to the impacts of climate change to transport, energy development and urban planning policies, elected officials are mobilized on every front in the struggle against climate change.

This is why I entrusted the drafting of this report on local governments in the fight against climate change to Ronan Dantec and Michel Delebarre, to help prepare for the negotiations of the Paris climate agreement in 2015. In many ways they are central to the agreement. This is because an essential part of the investments needed for a successful transition is in their hands.

It is also because, worldwide, from Senegal to the United States and China, many local governments have not waited for a global climate agreement to change how they work and to develop policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or to adapt to the impacts of climate change. When united in a network, they sometimes work more quickly than states.

Local governments have this power of forging ties. Through their policies and tangible projects, local governments can demonstrate that the energy and climate transition is within our reach. By making these prospects part of the daily life of the planet’s citizens, through transport planning policies, they can ensure the mobilization of all stakeholders, which will be essential for international negotiations on climate change to at last be successful.

The report by Senators Ronan Dantec and Michel Delebarre addresses the desire of local governments to be more closely involved in preparing for the major events of the climate negotiations. It contains 30 precise, useful proposals covering the major stakes of the participation, action and mobilization of local governments. Along with Laurent Fabius, we will make local governments central to our reflections. We are certain that only universal mobilization will allow us to conclude an agreement in Paris in 2015 to keep global warming beneath the 2°C threshold.

**Pascal Canfin,**  
Minister Delegate for Development

# ABOUT THE TWO AUTHORS OF THIS REPORT

## Ronan Dantec

Ronan Dantec was elected as a Senator for the Loire-Atlantique *département* in September 2011. He is Vice-President of the Senate Sustainable Development, Infrastructure, Equipment and Territorial Development Commission.

Ronan Dantec is also climate spokesperson for the global United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) network, President of the climate network of the Eurocities network of European cities, and President of the environment commission at the French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AFCCRE).

As Vice-President of the Nantes Métropole urban community with responsibility for climate planning from 2001-2011, he was responsible for the “Nantes, European Green Capital 2013” portfolio.

## Michel Delebarre

Michel Delebarre is a former *Ministre d'État* and is a Senator and Mayor of Dunkirk (*Dunkerque*). In 1995, he led the Dunkirk urban community into a political sustainable development project. In 1996, he signed the Aalborg Commitments, and the Dunkirk agglomeration has always proven itself through its innovations in the field of sustainability.

Michel Delebarre initiated the National Energy Conference, and as President of the European Committee of the Regions launched the Convention of Mayors alongside the European Commission.

As an activist for decentralization and the role of local government in the effective implementation of public policies, he has always advocated increased accountability of territories in climate matters. He organized the 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Sustainable Cities & Towns in May 2010 in Dunkirk and participated actively in structuring networks of elected representatives at the national, European and international levels to ensure recognition of the role of “local government”.



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# Introduction

Climate change is without a doubt the first international issue to require absolute solidarity. Its effects naturally transcend borders, whatever their nature, while its treatment continues to be countered by conflicts of interest, economic lobbies and governmental caution. It is also a question of democracy.

First and foremost, however, the challenge is one that concerns our social model, our consumption, our lifestyles and work habits, and the new points of reference that, today, must define the framework of our development and our liberation.

There is a strong cultural dimension to the issue, for the solutions to the problems that it raises must undeniably lead to, and be accompanied by, a thorough reassessment of our references, codes, behaviours and indicators, so that development and liberation may finally be compatible with sustainability.

The reality is that we are acting in a restricted environment, with limited natural resources, in a world that is still oriented towards production and reliant on fossil fuels. Moreover, billions of men and women in emerging and developing countries currently aspire to the lifestyle of citizens of industrialized countries, made possible by economic development that entails extremely high emissions of greenhouse gases and consumption of natural resources. Despite an endless stream of economic, financial, environmental, demographic and food crises, we are still struggling to change the system...

There is widespread awareness, but people tell themselves that there is still time, perhaps... We leave it to the experts of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to establish and inform us of the limits, the consequences of breaching the threshold, and to model tomorrow's world at +2°C or +4°C. Today, two years away from the Paris 2015 World Climate Conference, our responsibility is to pave the way, with the necessary decisions, for future generations to inherit a planet that is still viable. The 2015 deadline, which should conclude another cycle of climate negotiations, since the international community has committed to reaching a global agreement, corresponds to the post-2015 develop-

ment agenda: definition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established at the Rio+20 Summit in June 2012, and the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDG). The convergence of these two international processes demonstrates that the challenge of the 2015 deadline is, above all, to define new models of development.

We believe that human intelligence is capable of inventing a new society which demonstrates greater restraint and respect. Above all, we believe in collective mobilization. In the context of 2013, we welcome the bold decision made by the President of the French Republic, François Hollande, to hold the next Conference of the Parties (COP 21) in Paris in 2015.

Bold, because to assume one's responsibilities with regard to climate change despite the current crises shows real conviction. We are aware that this confers on us not only a collective French ambition but also a certain pride.


Whatever the deadline, 2020, 2050, or 2100, we know that we must globally reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to within set limits, to ensure that the planet remains viable and to prevent a chain of successive crises.

The challenge does not reside solely in the continued discovery of solutions via technical progress and human intelligence, but also in the way that we mobilize all governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to progress collectively towards a new form of governance...

Paris Climate 2015 is the opportunity to make this happen! The Prime Minister, Jean-Marc Ayrault, and the Government have made it clear that the success of this conference depends on widespread mobilization of the stakeholders, who all have a part to play.

This process of mobilization requires an agreement between states, defining rules and objectives, but ultimately consists of concrete action, at a local level, by citizens, companies, constitutional bodies and institutions.





That is the subject of this report. Such action is driven, above all, by local governments, which design, initiate and coordinate local projects. We will illustrate this idea in our report, using examples of best practices and tools made available to local areas. Local governments, aware of their role, must be granted the responsibilities that they are keen to assume in the fight against climate change, so that they may support and uphold the commitments made by the states. There is still some way to go, but a number of solutions and proposals exist.

Above all, we firmly believe that, beyond their usual remit, they can make a three-fold contribution, by mobilizing local civil society, playing a key role in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and, lastly, facilitating negotiations between states and subsequent action.

This report is based on more than 30 consultations with experts, representatives of the French authorities and the European Commission, and networks of elected officials, as well as 300 responses from local governments to the questionnaire that we sent to them. We are sincerely grateful to them for their informative and useful contributions.

Real interest has been shown, and France can hope to count on its territories and elected officials. A process must be set in motion, both in France and throughout Europe. But, in order to persuade, it is necessary to demonstrate, reassure, and build links. We offer 30 proposals on how to launch this mobilization towards a successful COP 21. At a global level, the networks of elected officials, the strength of the French-speaking community and our diplomatic network are assets that we must exploit. Things are changing in the United States, in China and in many other countries, but we must help support this movement. We believe that local governments are one of the keys to doing so!

**Ronan Dantec**, *Senator for the Loire-Atlantique département*

**Michel Delebarre**, *Former Ministre d'État – Senator for the Nord département*

# Summary of the proposals

## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE RUN-UP TO PARIS CLIMATE 2015: FROM LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS TO GLOBAL FACILITATORS

### 1. Building the capacity of local governments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions

Our proposals are consistent with the goals of this international conference, which will aim both to promote concrete action by stakeholders and to further the usual multilateral negotiations between states. In the language of climate negotiations, this implies a readjustment of the balance between top-down (commitments made by states filtering down to national stakeholders) and bottom-up (definition of goals based on stakeholder involvement). It would probably be more accurate to imagine a matrix structure, where the vertical axis corresponds to the commitments made by states, while the horizontal axis represents commitments made by different sectors (industry, transport, agriculture, territories, etc.) on an international scale, and the two axes must obviously converge. In this framework, local government action could, on a global scale, have the greatest impact in terms of reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

1.1 Supporting action by French and European local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

*1.1.1 Conclusions of the National Debate on the Energy Transition (DNTE) (French debate)*

#### Proposal 1:

**Rigorously apply the recommendations of the National Debate on the Energy Transition (DNTE) concerning the role of local governments, particularly in the context of the future act on planning the energy transition.**

*1.1.2 Opportunities linked to European funds*

#### Proposal 2:

**Launch discussions promptly, at a national level and in association with the local government networks concerned, on the synergy that must be created between European funds earmarked for climate issues, future development contracts and the establishment of “new generation” Regional Climate Air Energy Plans (SRCAE). These discussions must be linked to the national goals for the energy transition and include time frames for implementation, as well as tools for pooling best practices. The mobilization of rural territories and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) are two issues that must be given due consideration.**

## Proposal 3:

In association with European local government networks and the Committee of the Regions, support the consolidation of European programmes for pooling “climate” experiences and develop international exchange programmes linked to local government projects (with China, the United States, etc.).

### *1.1.3 Support for carbon market mechanisms*

## Proposal 4:

Uphold the commitment to boost the price per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> by reducing the number of quotas available on the European market (for example, by supporting the market reform measures proposed by the European Commission, as for the “backloading” mechanism), and, in particular, by committing to an ambitious objective for 2030, as this is the only way to sustain prices in the long-term. This commitment would be in line with the goals declared by the President of the Republic, namely to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030 and 60% by 2040.

## Proposal 5:

In liaison with local government networks, promote greater inclusion of local government action in the regulated market (Joint Implementation and Clean Development Mechanism) and adopt an open attitude in international negotiations with regard to compatibility between domestic carbon markets and possible links between local markets in different countries.

1.2 Supporting action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by local governments in developing countries

### *1.2.1 Reinforcing the link between decentralized cooperation and European and national policies*

## Proposal 6:

Promote a greater focus on the climate dimension of the European development policy. In this work in progress, it is important to strengthen coordination between European action (including at the level of delegations) and decentralized cooperation.

## Proposal 7:

Initiate discussions within the National Commission on Decentralized Cooperation (CNCD) on the development of actions to combat climate change (mitigation and adaptation). These discussions could benefit from improved registering of climate-related initiatives on the French map of decentralized cooperation actions (in records updated each year by the Delegation for the External Action of Local Government of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

## Proposal 8:

Amend article L. 1115-1-1 of the French General Code of Local Governments to include the possibility of allocating funds generated by the “waste” tax or charge, up to a limit of 1%, as in the fields of water and sanitation (Oudin-Santini act) and energy (Xavier Pintat amendment).

## Proposal 9:

Strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the French Development Agency and local governments. In this context, reflect on the development of technical and financial tools to support decentralized cooperation.

Promote similar reflection on the significance granted to decentralized cooperation by international structures for development finance (World Bank, development banks).

### *1.2.2 Facilitating direct access to international funding for local governments in developing countries*

#### **Proposal 10:**

In international negotiations, advocate mechanisms that allow local governments to gain direct access to the various forms of funding that are available, particularly as regards the Green Climate Fund.

#### **Proposal 11:**

Make it a priority to develop local pilot programmes illustrating the value of additional synergy between existing funds, with new climate-development-governance eligibility criteria. These programmes should focus on key issues such as transport, waste disposal and methanization, energy production in medium-sized cities, etc.

#### **Proposal 12:**

Support experiments to measure territorial emissions as part of a broader Measurable, Reportable, Verifiable (MRV) process, in both developed and developing countries, and on different territorial scales. Advocate international funding mechanisms that take into account the actual reductions achieved by territories.

#### **Proposal 13:**

In the context of decentralized cooperation, mobilize French local governments on adaptation issues. Support experimental projects and, more generally, in international negotiations, promote ambitious mechanisms offering aid to the most vulnerable territories. Develop specific expertise by exploiting France's skills in this area. The National Observatory on the Effects of Climate Change (Observatoire National sur les Effets du Réchauffement Climatique, ONERC) could be assigned this work.

## **2. Local governments are crucial to mobilization for Paris Climate 2015**

Although four years have passed, the failure of the Copenhagen Conference is still at the forefront of people's minds and pessimism is fuelled constantly by alarming news about the continuing rise in fossil fuel use. There is disagreement as to whether it is still worth fighting for the success of this type of international summit, or even, more broadly, for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We are facing a rising tide of climate-pessimism! Through their concrete action and closeness to local inhabitants, local governments are particularly well placed to drive this remobilization, in coordination with State-sponsored initiatives. Successful awareness-raising will rely partly on our ability to demonstrate the mutual benefits resulting from climate change policy development.

## 2.1 Mobilizing locally elected officials

### Proposal 14:

Ensure that Regional Climate Air Energy Plans (SRCAE) and Local Climate Energy Plans (PCET) are implemented rapidly, following the adoption of the act on the energy transition. Ensure that they are partly focused on raising awareness and mobilizing citizens in advance of the Paris 2015 Climate Conference. The link between the implementation of local government climate initiatives and the mobilization of French society prior to Paris Climate 2015 should be addressed in a specific discussion between the State and local government networks.

### Proposal 15:

Promptly initiate discussions on a training course for local and regional elected officials on climate issues and local climate policy application. This training should include a specific module on the challenges linked to the COP 21 negotiations, with a view to mobilizing local stakeholders, and a module on decentralized cooperation relating to climate issues. The French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) has a key part to play in establishing these training programmes.

### Proposal 16:

Use all national and European events led by local governments (seminars, conferences, etc.) as an opportunity to mobilize locally elected officials and other stakeholders with regard to COP 21. The French State and its agencies, which are often represented on the steering committees of these events, must remain attentive to this obligation and to the quality of the messages delivered (goals of the negotiation, participation expected from locally elected officials and civil society stakeholders, points of consensus that should make COP 21 a success).

## 2.2 Mobilizing French society as a whole

### Proposal 17:

Focus on mobilizing young people, particularly adolescents, as part of the preparations for COP 21. Specific agreements could be discussed with departments (which oversee education of under-15s) and regions (education of over-15s, apprenticeships, etc.) with a view to developing programmes to raise awareness of climate issues, taking account of the new opportunities provided by the Internet and social networks. This relies on the mobilization of the Ministry of National Education (note that the issue of sustainable development education is on the agenda for the 2013 environmental conference). The French government should also seek to ensure that these actions are complementary to other initiatives aiming to mobilize young people that could be led by civil society stakeholders, community education networks, etc.

### Proposal 18:

Mobilize migrants' associations with regard to COP 21, include them in programmes for mobilization events linked to Paris Climate 2015 and in decentralized cooperation climate initiatives.

### Proposal 19:

In the context of public service, consider producing television series on the work carried out by local governments to combat climate change. This concept could also be extended to worldwide initiatives, for broadcasting via France Medias Monde (French international broadcasting services), and to European initiatives, via Euronews.

## 3. Local governments are crucial to negotiations

### 3.1 Network mobilization strategy

#### *3.1.1 Supporting a global mobilization time frame that is not linked to COP 21*

In international climate negotiations, local governments are considered by the UN to represent civil society, in spite of their request for “intergovernmental” status, which would give them greater access to the negotiations. They therefore count as one of the nine “core groups”, alongside, for example, companies and NGOs. This means that they evidently do not play a full role in multilateral negotiations between states: they are not seated at the table of negotiators and they do not contribute directly to the drafting of major international agreements. Nevertheless, their role and the way in which it is perceived have evolved significantly since the first climate negotiations and it is important, today, to re-evaluate their ability to influence the negotiations. The specific nature of the COP 21 climate negotiations leads us to explore ways to strengthen the role of local governments in order to reach an ambitious agreement. Although we must not forget that the COP is a negotiation between states, the failure of previous negotiations has opened up new pathways and consolidated the role of non-State stakeholders, especially local governments, which are particularly active today at a global level, as climate and development agendas converge. We propose to “play the local government card”, as we believe that they may have a positive influence on the negotiations.

#### **Proposal 20:**

**Support from France for a mobilization and expression time frame for local government networks which is not linked to COP 21, presentation of local governments and renewed focus on their proposals during events run by France.**

### **Projected time frame for global networks of local governments 2013-2014**

**28 September 2013 in Nantes:** global summit of cities and territories on climate, and presentation of the joint road map for international networks of local governments leading up to Paris Climate 2015.

**November 2013:** COP 19 in Warsaw. Local government session, as part of the conference.

**Spring 2014:** global meeting of networks, and statement ahead of the New York summit, organized under the leadership of Ban Ki-moon (plan for a meeting in association with the pre-COP in Bonn in June 2014). Presentation of this statement and mobilization of networks for the three events (New York in September 2014, pre-COP in Caracas which should be very open to civil society stakeholders, and COP 20 in Lima).

**Autumn 2014:** world summit of regions in France, which will be an opportunity to reaffirm the message after the New York summit and before Lima.

#### *3.1.2 Launching civil society involvement, in the context of converging climate and development agendas*

#### **Proposal 21:**

**On France’s initiative, with the official representatives of the core global groups, launch discussions on events to mobilize civil society in advance of COP 21, highlighting points of convergence between the development and climate agendas, including a plan for a global civil society event to be held during the first semester of 2015. Support initiatives that promote close dialogue between the core groups and which could be organized in association with local government networks.**

## Proposal 22:

Establishment of a high level group of key figures in global civil society, including leading elected officials from developed and developing countries, to support global negotiations, make proposals and identify sticking points.

### 3.2 Building on global action by local governments

#### *3.2.1 Supporting proposals by local government networks*

## Proposal 23:

Active support from France, especially with regard to the European Commission and the Member States of the European Union, for building up the Group of Friends for Sustainable Cities, in the context of the climate negotiations. Its consolidation and its capacity to pass on messages and proposals will be a decisive factor in boosting the positive influence of local government networks for a successful COP 21.

## Proposal 24:

Actively support European Union negotiators as they carry forward the proposals made by local government networks, set out in the Local Government Climate Roadmap presented in Nantes on 28 September 2013.

#### *3.2.2 Using local government networks to relay messages*

## Proposal 25:

Set up a pavilion on the Paris-le-Bourget site specifically for global local governments. This site must include an area for the organization of “side events” (as is traditional in major UN conferences), which will provide an opportunity to review all of the initiatives undertaken by local governments, in the context of “matrix” negotiations. It is also a question of providing a well-adapted space (small meeting rooms, for example) that will enable local government networks to play the role of facilitator.

## Proposal 26:

Strengthen our contacts with the European local government networks, whose members can pass on specific messages to national delegations to the EU, and support the establishment of regular contacts before and after COP 21 between the European local government networks and the European negotiating delegation.

#### *3.2.3 Taking into account the network of French-speaking communities*

## Proposal 27:

Advocate a strong commitment from the International Organization of La Francophonie in mobilizing for COP 21, in particular concerning the “local government” aspect, in liaison with the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF).





### *3.2.4 Enhancing cooperation with local government networks*

## **Proposal 28:**

By taking up the proposal of the Laignel report, propose that the first annual “diplomacy and territories” conference focus on climate negotiations. Mobilize the French diplomatic network on the importance of identifying cooperation and twinning prospects with a climate dimension in each country. Consider the possibility of using them in bilateral contacts ahead of the conference between states and our diplomatic representations.

## **Proposal 29:**

Conclude agreements with the French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AFCCRE) on the mobilization of twinning programmes and Cités unies France (CUF) with a view to enhancing decentralized cooperation on climate and development themes. This involves strengthening the involvement of local representatives and international civil society with the goal of positive influence over the ambition and conclusions of the climate negotiations.

## **Proposal 30:**

Establish a committee to follow up the mobilization of local governments for the 2015 Paris Climate Conference. This committee could be made up of the main French, European and international networks, and should meet regularly.



# Conclusions

The Paris Climate Conference will come at the end of 2015, where the new development agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for all countries and, of course, a new global climate agreement will have to be decided.

When France proposed its candidacy to host this Conference of the Parties, it took on a great responsibility. It affirmed its determination to make a strong contribution to the drawing up of this new global regulatory framework, which is needed to address the major challenges of underdevelopment and environmental crises.

But the context of 2015 is not the same as that of 1992. Many failed global conferences, conflicts and diplomatic crises have highlighted the difficulty of multilateral negotiations between states, and the inability to come to an agreement and a compromise when close to 200 national interests are sitting around the table.

More than twenty years after Rio, this world is not however completely deadlocked. Strong stakeholder dynamics give rise to optimism: the Internet revolution, increased information exchanges and real time interconnection are powerful levers supporting the construction of a global human community, conscious of a shared destiny and of the need for collective responses that go beyond mere national borders. There are multiple citizen movements that show the dynamism of global civil society that is becoming aware of its own strength. Technical and scientific progress and strong economic momentum – such as the rapid development of renewable energy at global level – also show that solutions already exist which should be extended and generalized.

One of the reasons for belief in the ability of the global community to prove themselves equal to the challenges is the emergence of local governments which has marked recent decades. At the forefront of the search for answers to poverty and environmental damage, locally elected officials have developed solutions and a shared culture based on the pooling of their experiences. This global network of local officials has organized itself through internationally recognized networks capable of expressing themselves relevantly in major international forums. This local government involvement is therefore a precious asset which France needs to leverage for the 2015 Conference to be successful. This is the meaning of the 30 proposals in this report.


We need to emphasize that, without the concrete and regular efforts of local government, suited to the specificities of each area in France and around the world, no country will be able to meet its own targets for greenhouse gas emissions, as national reductions are by definition simply the sum of the efforts made in each territory. We therefore need to determinedly build their capacity to act at national, European and international levels by adopting the necessary laws to strengthen their efforts and by facilitating their access to financing.

We must keep in mind that the proximity of local and regional elected officials to their populations makes them key players in climate efforts. This involves at the same time changing habits to reduce everyone's environmental footprint as well as having official national and global opinions in climate negotiations that support the conclusion of an ambitious agreement.

After the failure of Copenhagen, there are major doubts concerning the ability of states to agree on the possibility of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and a form of "climate fatalism" could take hold. By showing that solutions exist and work, that shared benefits are generated in terms of quality of life and purchasing power, local government is the antidote of this pessimism. France therefore needs to rely on its locally elected officials to spur on society on these issues. Local and regional government networks are ready, and a shared reflection needs to be launched.

Lastly, we need to determine the outreach role of this network of local and regional officials globally. This network is often built on bilateral relations, twinning programmes, decentralized cooperation and exchange of best practices. This nascent "local diplomacy" is little used by countries that often fear undermining their own prerogatives. But it is not a matter of replacing negotiations between states with decisions made within local government networks. Rather, it means taking advantage of bilateral relations of confidence between locally elected officials in different countries to pass on messages. It means taking advantage of the global capacity for expression that is common to all local government networks to affirm that an ambitious global agreement is possible.

Holding COP 21 in Paris is clearly a key opportunity for France to measure its outreach at the beginning of this 21<sup>st</sup> century. Leveraging local government bodies and their many international commitments is an opportunity to reinforce it.

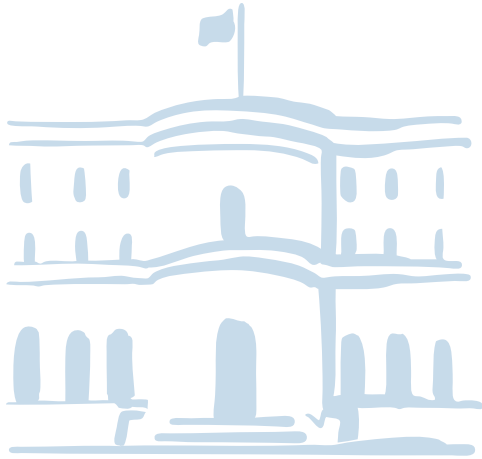


On the strength of the success of the actions conducted at home, but aware that without ambitious international agreement frameworks, we have, through the consultations we have carried out, sought to draw up tangible, operational and realistic proposals to enable France to build close cooperation with local governments in the run-up to 2015.

While the international community has struggled since the end of the 1990s to conclude the ambitious agreements that are however required by the rapid degradation of our planet, we are convinced that success at the Paris Conference would open the way for new global regulation. This is how great the stakes are.

But this goal cannot be achieved without new cooperation with all actors of “global civil society” and, in particular, local governments. This report aims to contribute to this new process. Paris Climate 2015 needs to be a milestone in the organization and the holding of major international conferences.





## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE RUN-UP TO PARIS CLIMATE 2015: FROM LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS TO GLOBAL FACILITATORS

Local governments are on the front line of the fight against climate change, both to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in many areas (energy, transport and urban planning) and to implement reforms to adapt to the impacts of global warming. In this report, the Senators Ronan Dantec and Michel Delebarre list 30 proposals to strengthen the integration of local governments in international climate negotiations ahead of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference. This Conference should result in the negotiation of a new universal agreement on climate change, applicable to all parties and entering into force in 2015, in order to limit global warming to 2°C.

The two Senators highlight that local governments have become crucial stakeholders in policies to combat climate change, in both the North and the South. They propose to strengthen decentralized cooperation efforts in this area. They also emphasize the direct role of local governments in negotiations as stakeholders who can make proposals and facilitate greater ambition. Lastly, they demonstrate the momentum generated by local governments in the mobilization of citizen needed for the 2015 Paris Climate Conference to be successful.