



# REGIONS FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Declaration

We, Governors and High Representatives of the State of **California**, the **Emilia-Romagna** Region, the Province of **Gauteng**, the Province of **Guangdong**, Land **Hessen**, **Nouvelle-Aquitaine** Region and the Commonwealth of **Pennsylvania**, meeting in Bologna from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 for the international Conference “**Regions for sustainable global development**”, have established new objectives and new areas of cooperation for the global and sustainable development of our territories.

Globalisation has increased the complexity but also the potential of international relations and friendly cooperation among territories.

Technological and digital innovation, increasingly fast and disruptive, has dramatically changed the features and trends of the production of goods and services and of global value chains.

In the context of such a deep, structural change, it is fundamental to have access to human capital, skills, research and technologies suitable for governing and leading institutional, social, cultural and production processes that are innovative and sustainable and that, through international cooperation, connect with the drivers of change that are now transforming the world.

Against this complexity, we would like to highlight the extraordinary importance of regional and local governments in favouring a sustainable, inclusive and lasting growth of territories.

Territories stand for people, communities and societies faced with the great transformations that have marked the end of the 20th century and are reshaping the world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Our vision**

In an open economy, we are all interdependent, therefore we must build strong relationships, increase mutual trust and guarantee world peace, reinforcing cooperation and exchanges among the regions that have assumed leadership roles in their respective countries.

Cooperation among regions that have grasped the opportunities of globalisation, triggering processes of social and economic innovation, now becomes a sound guarantee for maintaining open trade of capital, goods, services and knowledge.

The global dimension of such a cooperation opens a new phase of relations which ought to create networks with less favoured regions too.

The development of such networks will involve cities, universities, research centres and cultural institutions as well as businesses, reinforcing mutual trust and reciprocity.

We therefore launch a strong appeal to continue cooperating at all levels among world communities and we undertake to strengthen collaboration among our local governments, in order to outline a new prospect of integration at world level.



## **Our principles and shared commitments**

Together, we agree that the objectives defined by Agenda 2030 and its programme of action for people, for the planet, for prosperity, for reinforcing universal peace and for the fight against poverty in all its forms and dimensions, are our priorities, determined to put them into practice through global collaboration for sustainable development, based on a spirit of reinforced global solidarity.

To strengthen greater cooperation among our territories, aimed at promoting wellbeing and sustainable individual and collective growth, we acknowledge as foremost subjects the safeguarding of the environment and the struggle against climate change; innovation and the digitalisation of production cycles; the use of big data for human development and for our societies; tourism and trade, culture, the enhancement of human capital, education, advanced training and research.

On the basis of these principles we undertake to develop, bilaterally and jointly, actions that may become points of reference for other regions, taking on the functions of global leaders, capable of interpreting the requests, the aspirations and the values of people and of our communities.

Lastly, we commit ourselves to continue to work together for the international repositioning of our territories agreeing on the idea that regions can be dynamic and driving forces in a process of positive globalisation capable to address the challenges facing humanity today with a great sense of responsibility.

Bologna  
June 14, 2019

