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Michèle Sabban in France's COP21 Dream Team



Michèle Sabban with President Hollande, Laurent Fabius, Ségolène Royal, and other French climate leaders at the Elysee Palace

Ms. Michèle Sabban, President of R20, joins France's special COP21 team, a 400-member squad mobilized to ensure the success of the Climate Summit in December.

“What is at stake, is not just quality of life, it is the lives of populations, regions and ecosystems,” said President Hollande to the dream team in September at the Elysee in the presence of the press.

Financing climate policy will be critical. The aim is to get 100 billion dollars a year as of 2020. “Every country must confirm its commitments and add new ones,” said President Hollande. R20's Michèle Sabban couldn't agree more, climate financing is critical to helping vulnerable countries deal with this challenge. In fact, she is leading the **R20 Fund for Women in the Green Economy** along with Washington-based Reta Jo Lewis, former Special Representative for Global Inter-governmental Affairs at the Department of State under Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, and R20 Ambassador for Women.

The R20 Fund for Women is aimed at providing financial support through grants to businesses, start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises led by women, worldwide.

TOP WOMEN LEADING CLIMATE ACTION

Our President's contribution to climate leadership has not gone unnoticed, she was recently named by France's popular *Le Figaro Madame* magazine as one of the top 10 French women leading climate action.

“We have created a green fund just for women, which supports projects in North America, as well as South America, China, Senegal, Morocco, and Spain, to begin with. Women are front-runners on climate issues,” said Ms. Sabban.

“To contribute to the Solutions' Agenda for COP21, we have gathered 100 solutions that we can implement and replicate easily (water, solar energy, waste management, etc). Arnold Schwarzenegger will present those at the Sorbonne University to 1,000 students, during the Climate Summit,” Ms. Sabban added.

[Click here to read the full article in French.](#)



POLITICS & ADVOCACY IN ACTION

R20's President, Ms. Michèle Sabban, has participated in several high-level political events championing subnational efforts to neutralize climate change, and promoting the role of women in the green economy.

New York Forum Africa (28-30 August): An event held under the High Patronage of Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, the President of Gabon, gathered economic and political world leaders in Libreville, Gabon to discuss the next stage of development of the great continent. The event was the only pan-African summit to be held in Africa in 2015. It was held in conjunction with another important event, the first Climate South Initiative, to define the role of countries in the South in the fight against climate change, and to identify solutions ahead of COP21 in Paris. Ms. Sabban participated on a panel with Mr. Etienne Massard, the Secretary General of the Gabonese Presidency, during which time she presented R20's projects and the R20 Fund for Women.

“We cannot overlook 49% of the world's population, so we want to help women who want to launch green businesses. We are talking about solidarity between women. We want to give



(Left) Ms. Michèle Sabban (R20) with First Lady Sylvia Bongo Ondimba (right)

women a platform to support other women,” said Ms. Sabban on the Fund.

The response to the announcement was so positive that President Bongo Ondimba, First Lady Sylvia Bongo Ondimba, and Michèle Sabban had a private meeting after the panel discussion to discuss setting up a Fund in Gabon. The First Lady graciously offered her support to help set it up.

[Click here for the video of the event.](#)

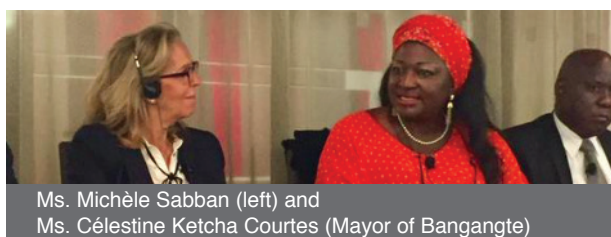
POLITICS & ADVOCACY IN ACTION



Bogota Climate Summit (20-23 september): Organized by the Mayor of Bogota, Mr. Gustavo Petro, Latin America's largest event in preparation for COP21. Michèle Sabban addressed the hundreds of participants emphasizing the importance of empowering subnational governments so that they may proactively steer their regions towards the green economy.



During a meeting with Ms. Sabban, the First Lady of Bogota (the Mayor's spouse) expressed her support for R20 stating that Colombian women need initiatives like R20's. Ms. Sabban detailed the inner workings of the R20 Fund for Women in the Green Economy during a meeting with women leaders and CEOs.



Ms. Michèle Sabban (left) and Ms. Célestine Ketcha Courtes (Mayor of Bangangte)

Climate Week NYC (24-29 Septiembre): In New York City, Ms. Sabban attended several side-events during Climate Week, where she met with Mr. Khalifa Ababacar Sall (Mayor of Dakar), Mr. Mpho Parks Tau (Mayor of Johannesburg) and Mr. Gustavo Petro (Mayor of Bogota). She held a meeting with Ms. Lakshmi Puri (Assistant Secretary General of the UN and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women), to discuss the R20 Fund for Women.

In a side event on the social economy attended by President Francois Hollande of France, Ms. Sabban took the stage to affirm the important role that women play in the economy, and the tremendous positive contributions women make every day to counter climate change. The event was attended by the Chilean Minister of Social Development, the Ambassador of Chile, Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta (President of Mali), and the French Minister of Development. Other events Ms. Sabban attended include:

- **No transformation without localization:** *How a strong focus on the subnational level is essential for the effective implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda:* Organised by the Global Task Force (GTF), UNCDF, and the Ugandan Government. Ms. Sabban spoke of innovative finance mechanisms, the importance of subnational regions, and a United Nations for regions. She then met with Ms. Célestine Ketcha Courtes (Mayor of Bangangte), who expressed interest in the R20 Women's Fund. The mayors of Dakar, Johannesburg and Bogota also participated in the event.
- **Innovative finance mechanisms:** Attended by President Francois Hollande, Laurent Fabius (French Minister of Foreign Affairs), Annick Girardin (Secretary of State for Development). Ms. Sabban answered questions about subnational innovations, and whether they match the scale of the challenge.
- **Empowering women in climate action:** Attended by Ms. Hakima El Haite, the Moroccan Minister of Environment, and Ms. Pascale Boistard, the French State Secretary for Women's Rights.

ORAN, ALGERIA

MANAGING WASTE AS A RESOURCE

The waste management program in Oran is making great progress with 113 tons of waste sorted (for recycling) since the program was launched in April.

[Click here for more from the R20MED newsletter.](#)

As a result of R20's successful project deployment Oran, the French Embassy in Algiers awarded €60,000 to R20MED to finance awareness campaigns and training on household waste sorting in three additional neighborhoods of Oran: Ibn Sina, Essabah et Sidi El-Houari.

The purpose of this project is to train local residents, youths, teachers, associations and business owners on sorting practices. **“This is a participatory process that seeks to involve the various local social actors as well as youths, teachers and other key stakeholders”**, said Rachid Bessaoud, the Director of the R20MED office.



Over 5,000 school pupils from the three selected neighborhoods will participate in eco-educational activities. A forum will be organized for youths and members of associations to exchange experiences and produce an eco-citizen's guide to waste sorting for school children.

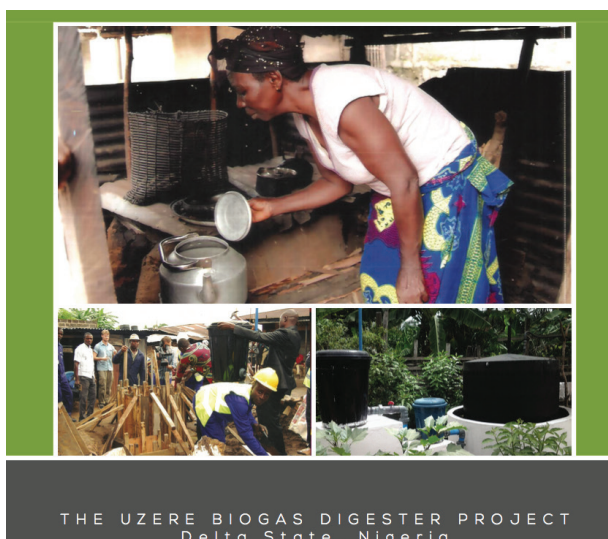
DELTA STATE, NIGERIA

TURNING WASTE INTO ENERGY

Biogas digesters have been constructed for 10 households in the rural community of Uzere.

The Delta State Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Environment under the Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC), initiated the pilot project for rural household biogas using agricultural waste and food scraps from the kitchen for the generation of clean, safe, and reliable energy. The biogas digesters were engineered and constructed by the Biotec Development Network, a local company run by Mr. Ifeanyi Aghaulor.

[Click here for the project case study.](#)



THE UZERE BIOGAS DIGESTER PROJECT
Delta State, Nigeria

SMART CITIES

R20 and Seventh Generation Advisors in California are working together to introduce their global network of partners, governments, companies, financial institutions, and academic institutions to the future of the Smart City.

We realize that it is a tremendous opportunity for municipalities across the world to adopt sustainable, modern solutions to improve conditions for both the city and their citizens. We also recognize that because this is a new trend, there is no definitive guide for a city to become “smart.” For this reason, we are researching and analyzing solutions and case studies, and sharing them with the appropriate stakeholders with the goal of developing real projects through our global network.

To assist cities, our team is working with city representatives to conduct an inventory of current practices from which we can then identify potential avenues of collaboration.

We have created a Smart City survey which serves as the first step in this process. The Smart City can be broadly defined, but it is our hope it can be measured and understood to help foster development.



image by freepik.com

For more information on this survey and/or R20/SGA's Smart City Initiative, please contact our Smart City Director, Gregory Lopez: Gregory@sgadvisors.org or 310-664-0300.

COMPACT OF STATES & REGIONS

R20 is proud to announce that one of its most active members, the Delta State of Nigeria, is one of the first Observers to join the Compact from Sub-Saharan Africa. By joining the Compact as an observer, Delta State will have two years to develop and publicly announce their GHG emissions target and to build a GHG inventory. In the meantime, they are already reporting their current climate actions to the Compact partners. R20 looks forward to assisting Delta State with its ambitious climate change goals and looks forward to seeing the Delta State recognised at COP21.

“On behalf of the people of Delta State, I want to congratulate the Compact of States and Regions for the unparalleled drive in emission reduction. With the assistance of R20, our State has been able to establish projects focused on Climate Change mitigation and adaptation and creation

of green jobs in line with the SMART agenda of my Administration,” Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, Executive Governor of Delta State, Nigeria.

The governments which have so far signed up to the Compact represent over 10% of GDP and 220 million people. The plans – which will be achieved through a combination of measures including renewable energy and energy efficiency programs – will:

- Cut emissions by 2 GtCO₂e by 2020 relative to ‘business as usual’
- Cut emissions by 7.9 GtCO₂e by 2030

More information.

SUMMIT OF CONSCIENCE

Paris. July 21, 2015. At the unprecedented event in Paris, luminaries, religious figures, spiritual leaders, and high-level officials gathered to make their moral case for climate action. As the Paris Climate negotiations are just around the corner, the Summit of Conscience cemented the commitments of these public figures to advocate for environmental consciousness.

The conscience and the heart were the central theme at the summit, which was a unique event blending the scientific and institutional reasons for fighting climate change, with the very real and mostly unspoken need for compassion, love and solidarity for all our fellow human beings.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, R20 Founder, who was unable to participate in person, sent in an inspiring [video](#).



Arnold Schwarzenegger for the Summit of Conscience (July 21, 2015 - Paris)

TAP at COP21

To complement national efforts to mitigate climate change, the focus of action has been moving to include subnational entities such as cities and regions. With this in mind, ICLEI – Local governments for Sustainability, a partner of R20, has launched the Transformative Actions Program (TAP), which aims to bring together and showcase “ambitious, cross-cutting, multisectoral, inclusive and innovative mitigation and/or adaptation actions led by local and subnational governments”.

ICLEI, in partnership with various nongovernmental organizations including R20 and co-hosted by the City of Paris and the City of Bristol, has set up the Cities and Regions Pavilion – TAP 2015 for the duration of the two-week COP21 Conference (30th November – 11th December 2015) in Paris.

One of the main objectives of the Pavilion is to showcase TAP projects for both promotion and potential investor/funding partner matching.

“This is an excellent initiative to showcase the power of subnational governments taking on the climate challenge. We are proud to support the TAP Pavilion,” said Christophe Nuttall, Executive Director of R20.

TAP | **Transformative Actions Program**

[Click here for the TAP website.](#)

Four R20 projects have been submitted to the TAP by respective members: three from the Oran Province in Algeria (waste, LED lighting, etc.) and one from Delta State in Nigeria; which is seeking funding partners for its Integrated Territorial Climate Plan projects (biogas digesters, water filters, setting up farmer field schools).

NEW PARTNERSHIP

R20 and Lebendige Stadt signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance cooperation between German regions and R20's members on sustainability projects.

The agreement was signed by Christophe Nuttall, Executive Director of R20, and Alexander Otto, Founder of the Lebendige Stadt Foundation.

“We are very pleased to work with such an internationally operating and renowned organization such as R20 in the future. With their support, our Foundation’s best-practice projects can inspire other international projects and many cities will undoubtedly benefit from them,” said Alexander Otto.

The Lebendige Stadt Foundation is focused on illumination concepts, green areas and the creation and design of urban spaces. The Foundation has initiated and supported a wide range of “best practice” projects and has provided a total funding volume of around 30 million euros. Leading individuals from the worlds of politics, business, culture, science and the media have been involved in these projects on behalf of the Foundation.

More information.



Mr. Alexander Otto (Founder, Lebendige Stadt),
Dr. Christophe Nuttall (Executive Director, R20),
Dr. Andreas Mattner (CEO, Lebendige Stadt)