



# R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT



ANNUAL REPORT 2018  
#R20AWS



## **Imprint:**

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## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The annual R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT (R20AWS) is initiated and organized by Arnold Schwarzenegger's NGO R20. Under the patronage of the Austrian Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen and with the support of Austrian Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and Elisabeth Köstinger, Austrian Minister of Sustainability and Tourism, the event became an internationally recognized high-level conference on climate change. The summit took place on May 15th, 2018 in Vienna's Hofburg Palace with over 1200 participants and speakers from 70 nations. The goal was to bring together key stakeholders, promote partnerships and exchange knowledge and best practices with the aim of fulfilling the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and accelerating climate action. The activities and community linked to the R20AWS are continuously growing and the following report provides an overview of the key events, activities and publications from 2018.

The Summit was accompanied by a press conference initiated by Minister Elisabeth Köstinger, together with Brune Poirson, Secretary of State attached to the French Minister of Ecological and Solidary Transition, concerning the importance of Carbon Pricing. After the conference the attendees had the chance to see Dr. Jane Goodall and Monika Langthaler, Director of the R20AWS, in conversation with Curt Faudon about his movie "Good Shepherds", which was subsequently shown in the Gartenbaukino.

The outcomes and impact left by the R20AWS were wide-ranging. On the day of the summit a "Message to the World" signed by the Austrian President, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Monika Langthaler was given to all conference attendees and partners, which provided a commitment to leadership for a sustainable future. Meanwhile, the R20AWS Special Report showcased examples of best practices, including success factors and policy recommendations. A "Summary of Content" was published that combined all keynote speeches, panel discussions and contents of sessions. As official partner of the UN Talanoa Dialogue, the R20AWS also

published a contribution paper emphasizing the vital role of regions and cities in achieving the Paris Agreement objectives.

In between the summits, the R20AWS works with its partners on various long-term projects and finds further opportunities to become more involved in the international climate process. The Post Paris Navigator is an example of this, which has become a tool for channelling information and matching relevant stakeholders within Austria. The R20AWS has additionally participated and collaborated with separate climate summits, including the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco and the One Planet Summit held during the Climate Week in New York. Furthermore, the R20AWS organized a side event at the High-Level Forum Africa-Europe in cooperation with the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. All these activities led to the COP24 (24<sup>th</sup> annual Conference of the Parties) in Katowice, where Austria holds a leading role while hosting the EU Presidency, and enabled Austrian companies and organizations to present themselves to the international climate community in an Austrian pavilion. The outlook contains themes that will be discussed at the next R20AWS on May 28th, 2019

## 2 INTRODUCTION

"As Federal President I am pleased to meet international leaders once a year here in Austria to discuss and to push joint solutions on climate change."

**Alexander Van der Bellen**  
*Federal President of Austria*



"The R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT shows that a clean economy is a growing, healthy economy by shining a light on the fantastic work already being done by cities, states and regions around the world to transition away from dirty fossil fuels and toward a green future."

**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
*Initiator, R20AWS*

"We must act with common purpose to raise ambition while we still have time to limit temperature rise to well below 2 degrees, and as close to 1.5 degrees as possible. I count on you to take ambition to new heights today and pave the way for more leadership and innovative action – the focus of this Summit. Next year I am convening a Climate Summit to galvanize greater climate ambition."

**António Guterres**  
*Secretary General, United Nations*



“Business and climate protection are not contradictory, it is about sustainable growth. The greatest economic success will do us no good if it destroys our livelihood.”

**Sebastian Kurz**  
*Federal Chancellor of Austria*



“The R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT is a milestone in the international climate process in strengthening public awareness and paving the road for COP24. Sustainability, climate and environmental protection doesn't mean abandonment of prosperity, but must be considered as a driving force.”

**Elisabeth Köstinger**  
*Federal Minister for Sustainability,  
Agriculture and Tourism*

“The 2018 conference proved itself to be a major success, whereby the results of the R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT have been submitted to the United Nation's Talanoa Dialogue. We call on the global community to recognize and further emphasize the leadership of the regions. They play a key role in achieving the Paris climate goals.”

**Monika Langthaler**  
*Director, R20 AUSTRIAN  
WORLD SUMMIT*



### 3 ABOUT THE R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT



*Monika Langthaler, Director of R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT; Arnold Schwarzenegger, Initiator and Chair of R20; Alexander Van der Bellen, President of Austria and Patron of the Summit*

The R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT is an annual event organized by Arnold Schwarzenegger's NGO R20 Regions of Climate Action. Under the patronage of the Austrian Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen and with the support of Federal Chancellor of Austria Sebastian Kurz, and Elisabeth Köstinger, Austrian Minister of Sustainability and Tourism, the Summit serves as a meeting place for "action heroes" working on solutions to some of the greatest challenges for our world: climate protection, health and sustainability. The Summit brings together leaders from politics, businesses, civil society, start-ups, representatives of regions and cities, climate and energy experts from different sectors as well as research and science. The aim is to create partnerships and to exchange best practices, committed to the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, born in Austria, has committed himself to climate protection for many years with his unique approach of „less talk and more action“. As former Governor of California and Founder and Chair of R20, he has personal experience of the power regions hold to combat climate change. He has demonstrated how subnational governments can create and implement green solutions by themselves, independent from

national or international decisions or agreements. For this reason, he initiated the R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT together with Monika Langthaler (Director, R20 Austria&EU) and with the support of the Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen in 2017.

There are many connections between R20 as an international organization and the R20AWS: The NGO R20 Regions of Climate Action with its headquarters in Geneva focuses on the development of tools for sub-nationals to implement climate projects through means of financial funds, feasibility studies, as well as capacity building and training.

The R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT, organized by R20 Austria&EU, is an annual event showcasing the work of R20, whilst additionally promoting climate action success stories of pioneers and best practice projects, with global media coverage, in order to support a positive outcome at this years' COP24 in Poland and beyond. The Summit is a milestone on the global climate action movement to demonstrate the power of regions and leadership. As Director of R20 Austria&EU (with its headquarters in Vienna), Monika Langthaler is the organizer of the R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT, coordinating both R20 and R20AWS initiatives.

The R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT stretches beyond the one-day event to become part of a global process to implement and accelerate climate action. On the road to the COP24 in Katowice, Poland (Dec 3-14), the 2018 Summit has resulted in concrete outcomes and a compelling message to the world, signed by Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen and Arnold Schwarzenegger. The results, projects and solutions provided and promoted by the R20AWS serve as inspiration for

the implementation of climate action and set successful instruments on a global level. With each related gathering and conference, the global climate movement allows us to learn from each other, whilst stimulating and mobilizing new stakeholders to join us in accelerating climate action and establish innovative financial instruments. The R20AWS serves as a bridge builder to address new groups and make the implementation of SDGs and the Paris Agreement a success story.



The seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) to transform our world

## 4 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE R20AWS 2018



R20AWS 2018 took place in the Festsaal within Vienna's Hofburg Palace

After the launch of the R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT in June 2017, the initiative was further developed this year and the conference designed accordingly. 1200 participants attended the opening, which took place in the Festsaal within Vienna's Hofburg Palace, where a video accompanied the Vienna Boys' Choir in a creative and highly visualized performance.

There followed a high-level session with keynotes provided by Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, UN Secretary General António Guterres, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen.



Keynote Speech: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Initiator of R20AWS

Subsequently, speeches and talks were given by political representatives including Federal Minister Elisabeth Köstinger, Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg, Danish Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Vice Mayor of Vienna Maria Vassilakou, Vice Mayor of Beijing Sui Zhenjiang, as well as Jane Goodall and Bertrand Piccard representing spokespeople from the world of economics and engaged organizations.

### Facts from the R20AWS 2018

- Over 1200 participants from 70 countries
- 31 partners from business, cities, regions, UN, academics, media, NGOs
- 120 speakers, experts and moderators
- Focus sessions on green finance, sustainable energy, future mobility, health, urban-rural-connections, sustainable investment, green infrastructure, health & pollution
- Global media coverage
- The Summit highlighted the possibility of a future that can benefit everyone in our global society. A healthy environment impacts all aspects of society; therefore, our initiative builds new and permanent bridges between key stakeholders.

Find more: [www.austrianworldsummit.com](http://www.austrianworldsummit.com)

Summary: [www.austrianworldsummit.com/images/pdf/SummaryAWS.pdf](http://www.austrianworldsummit.com/images/pdf/SummaryAWS.pdf)



Implementation Panel: Klemens Hallmann, Bertrand Piccard, Melinda Crane, Maria Vassilakou and Fran Pavley

In the afternoon, 8 sessions took place in which participants presented and discussed some of the most important environmental issues, future solutions and examples of best practices. Furthermore, the transformation towards a sustainable society was discussed in an additional side session of the Vienna Energy Forum, an initiative organised by UNIDO.

### Carbon Pricing Initiative of Austrian Minister of Sustainability and Tourism

During the Summit, Elisabeth Köstinger, Austrian Minister of Sustainability and Tourism, initiated a press conference together with Brune Poirson, Secretary of State attached to the French Minister of Ecological and Solidary Transition, to discuss successful instruments for an effective European climate policy.



Press conference: Elisabeth Köstinger, Austrian Minister of Sustainability and Tourism, Brune Poirson, Secretary of State, France (c) BMNT Gruber

The key proposal highlighted within this press conference was the introduction of carbon pricing. „It is now the right moment to implement a Europe-wide minimum price for CO<sub>2</sub>“ Minister Köstinger pointed out. “It’s important to achieve real-cost pricing in the energy sector. Europe is on its way to a decarbonized future and Austria will

make its contribution with its climate and energy strategy. On this issue, France is an important partner for us to form an alliance of European member states with a common carbon pricing system. Secretary of State Brune Poirson outlined the “magic of carbon pricing”, whereby this money can contribute to the financing of green energy transition and stressed that France will maintain a leading role in this process. The Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen and Chancellor Sebastian Kurz also underlined the need to set a Europe-wide price on CO<sub>2</sub>.



Solutions Panel: EU Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič, Minister Elisabeth Köstinger, Melinda Crane, Prime Minister Erna Solberg and Jane Goodall

### R2oAWS Movie Night at the Gartenbau Cinema

Following the conference, the R2oAWS invited attendees to a viewing of the movie “Good Shepherds” by Curt Faudon at Gartenbau Kino. The event opened with Jane Goodall (who participated in the film) giving an interview, alongside the film’s director Curt Faudon and director of R2o Austria&EU, Monika Langthaler. During the interview, Monika Langthaler presented Dr. Jane Goodall with a check of EUR 7,500 as a donation from R2o Austria&EU to the Jane Goodall Institute, for climate resilient projects.



R2oAWS Movie Night with Curt Faudon, Monika Langthaler, Jane Goodall and Natascha Unger

### Promoting Public Transportation in Vienna

Transportation represents one of the largest and fastest growing sectors of increasing energy demands and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: with a share of 29 percent, it contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions in Austria. In the EU the share of this sector is about 25 percent, whilst globally it is approximately 15 percent. In order to achieve our climate targets, urgent measures must be taken in the transport sector. The R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT wanted to underline the important role of public transport in this context. For this reason, a specially branded tram operated in Vienna. Not only did this draw attention to the conference, but also encouraged climate-friendly transportation with its slogan: "Umwelt schützen – Bim benutzen" (Protect the environment – use the tram).

To minimize the impact on the environment, the event was organized in adherence with the standards and guidelines of the Austrian Green Meetings eco-label. In addition, it was conducted as a carbon neutral event. For example, all energy required for the conference was provided by sustainable sources. Furthermore, any greenhouse gas emissions that could not be avoided, such as due to car or airplane travel, were compensated for.



R20AWS tram in Vienna

## 5 IMPRESSIONS OF THE R20AWS 2018



## 6 RESULTS OF THE R2oAWS 2018

### 6.1 Message to the World

The R2o AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT is part of a global process to implement and accelerate climate action. As a milestone on the road to the COP24 in Katowice, Poland (Dec 3-14), the Summit has spread a strong message to the world, signed by Austrian Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Monika Langthaler.

*"We, as the R2o AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT 2018 held in Vienna on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018, are committed to showcasing and promoting additional leadership for a sustainable world. By bringing together political, business and finance leaders, as well as science and civil society, the international Summit presented solutions for tackling climate change and fostering new and innovative financial mechanisms for the sub-national level. We need to accelerate and empower climate action and strengthen the global response to threats of climate change and pollution by advancing the green economy, adopting clean technologies, developing climate resilient innovation, investing in infrastructure, and creating stronger public-private partnerships."*

*"We will share our experiences and do our utmost to support each other on our common main goal: to commit political and business leaders, representatives from regions and cities, and the general public to do more to improve our planet and usher in a new era of carbon neutrality and prosperity. Our work will culminate in a call to action to nations to step up their ambition under the Paris Agreement by publishing new commitments before 2020 and cut emissions on a science-based trajectory that limits warming to well below a global average increase of 2 degrees Celsius."*

*(Abstract from the Message to the World)*

The message was spread throughout the conference participants and our network, the original document can be downloaded on our website ([www.austrianworldsummit.com/images/pdf/message-to-the-world.pdf](http://www.austrianworldsummit.com/images/pdf/message-to-the-world.pdf)).

### 6.2 R2oAWS Special Report



R2oAWS Special Report 2018 for distribution at the conference

The R2o AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT showcases successful examples of accomplished economic projects that have contributed to climate protection and sustainable development, in order to encourage imitation and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future. We are therefore constantly seeking Best Practice Projects related to developing and emerging countries that deliver a positive climate impact and can serve as an example to others. Numerous companies and organizations followed our first call focused on Biomass & Waste to Energy, which was part of the Post Paris Navigator (a project of brainbows with the support of the Austrian Development Agency together with the Austrian Economic Chambers). The ten best practice projects selected are listed on our website ([www.austrianworldsummit.com/projects](http://www.austrianworldsummit.com/projects)). Moreover, the Special Report discussing each project, together with derived success factors and policy recommendations can be downloaded from [www.austrianworldsummit.com/images/pdf/Projectcall.pdf](http://www.austrianworldsummit.com/images/pdf/Projectcall.pdf). The second best practice call, which started in October, focuses on Innovative Financing for Climate Projects (see section 7.1 below).

### 6.3. Part of the Talanoa Dialogue

The Talanoa Dialogue is a story telling tool for generating greater awareness of the actions governments, communities and organizations undertake to reduce emissions and build greater resiliency to the effects of climate change. The intention is to generate greater confidence and enhanced ambition, and capture political momentum.

The R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT was official part of the Talanoa Dialogue, which was the first opportunity for Party and non-Party Stakeholders to contribute their perspectives to the negotiations of the COP24 meeting in Poland. The Fijian and Polish Presidencies will synthesize the information and insights gained during the preparatory phase to provide a strong evidence-based foundation for the political phase of the Talanoa Dialogue. The wrap-up of the preparatory phase will take place in the first week of COP24 and consider the implications of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.

Our contribution to the UN Talanoa Dialogue ([www.austrianworldsummit.com/images/pdf/AWS2018\\_TalanoaSubmission\\_upload.pdf](http://www.austrianworldsummit.com/images/pdf/AWS2018_TalanoaSubmission_upload.pdf)) summarizes the key outcomes of the 2018 R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT. It is a call for further and enhanced climate leadership and to emphasize the leading role of regions and cities achieving the Paris Agreement objectives with the understanding that local communities hold the power to make things happen and become the drivers of change. By building bridges between decision makers, investors, financial institutions and enablers on sub-national level, we can shape a world which is healthier and less



*Talanoa Dialogue with Arnold Schwarzenegger and leading minds from different sectors*

polluted whilst simultaneously creating jobs and boosting the economy towards increased sustainability. In addition to this contribution, Arnold Schwarzenegger partnered with the Prime Minister of Fiji and COP23 President Frank Bainimarama to convene a meeting in October that brought together key actors to focus on the impact of sub-national financial systems, and to consider how joint public-private financing can support low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure in developing nations. Chaired by Arnold Schwarzenegger and moderated by Climate Policy Initiative Executive Director, Barbara Buchner (member of the R20AWS Advisory Board), the dialogue was held at the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator and included participants such as Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, singer and philanthropist Akon, San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, former California State Senator Fran Pavley, Christophe Nuttall, CEO of R20, CEO of the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, Terry Tamminen (member of the R20AWS Advisory Board), Commissioner California Energy Commission, David Hochschild, and many others.



## 7. OUR ROAD TO THE COP24 AND BEYOND



We continue to interact and work closely with the ever-growing community around the R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT. The following timeline outlines the key milestones of this global process running up to our next conference on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019, as well as emphasizing that the R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT is more than a one-day event.

### 7.1 Post Paris Navigator: 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Practice Call

In between summits we constantly work with partner organizations on various projects. One central long-term project is the Post Paris Navigator (© brainbows gmbh) with the support of ADA (Austrian Development Agency) and together with the Austrian Economic Chambers (WKO ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA). This Post Paris Navigator is a tool with which to identify and match relevant actors and to facilitate successful entries into new markets for companies. Another part of this project is to prepare and deliver information concerning the global climate change process, political framework conditions, and success factors of best practice projects.

The overall goal is to establish an active community for networking, to share valuable knowledge and experiences, as well as to speed up the implementation of climate-resilient, sustainable projects.

A Special Report was presented at the R20AWS, which comprised ten selected projects from a first international Best Practice Call call focused on Biomass & Waste to Energy.

A second call has already started and will be open until February 2019. During this time we seek sustainable best practice projects that explore innovative financing approaches to deliver climate action. We specifically search for projects related to developing and emerging countries which apply financing models like blended finance, crowd-funding and philanthropic money and/or receive support from International Financial Institutions.



Kickoff Workshop of the Post Paris Navigator

The submitted projects will be evaluated with regard to innovation, replicability and climate impact, as well as their contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Together with selected submitters and experts, crucial success factors will be identified and summarized again in a Best Practice White Paper for international stakeholders. Finally, the most outstanding projects will be invited to take part in the next climate conference R2o AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT (e.g. via online media, as participants, or at a side event).

Link: [www.austrianworldsummit.com/survey](http://www.austrianworldsummit.com/survey)

The current call focuses on innovative financing or climate projects. We are specifically looking for projects:

- delivering a positive climate impact,
- relating to developing and emerging countries,
- which apply (at least to some extent) innovative financing models like Blended Finance, Crowd-investing/Crowd-lending, Philanthropic Money, etc.,
- and/or receive support from International Financial institutions/mechanisms like the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund, Regional Development Banks (e.g. IDB, AfDB, ADB...) or corresponding European or national entities (e.g. EIB, EDF, ADA, OeEB, KfW etc.)

## 7.2. Global Climate Action Summit



*Global Climate Action Summit in California with Jane Goodall, Alec Baldwin and Mayor of San Francisco, London Breed amongst others*

R2o AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT was also part of the Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS) in San Francisco which included business, city and state leaders to call on national governments to increase their pledges to the Paris Agreement. Sub-national actors asked nations to update their pledges to reach the 1.5 degree climate goal. The message from Governor James Brown and former mayor of New York City and philanthropist Michael Bloomberg was clear: Even without President Trump and his administration on the environment's side, the US is managing to uphold the Paris Agreement. Sandra Gottschall from the R2o Austria&EU was part of a panel discussion "Superheroes for Sustainable and

100% Renewable Energy", at a Global Climate Action Summit Affiliate Event at the California College of the Arts organized by REN21 and partners. The all-day event examined the role of leaders, policy, finance and innovative technologies to drive the energy transition with 100% renewables. World famous pioneer Bertrand Piccard opened the event focusing on the need for innovation and the willingness to take risks. The day ended with a call for action by the Honorable Mayor Skadron, Mayor of Aspen, Colorado/USA, whose electric utility is the first in Colorado and the third in the US to be powered by 100% renewable sources. At the Global Climate Action Summit

hundreds of commitments were announced by states, regions, cities, businesses, but also by investors and NGO's, showing that it is possible and urgent to step up climate action together, for instance:

12 regions - including Catalonia, Lombardy, Scotland, and Washington State, representing over 80 million people and over 5 percent of global GDP will have 100% zero emission public fleets by 2030.

21 companies announced the Step-Up Declaration, a new alliance dedicated to harnessing the power of emerging technologies and the fourth industrial revolution to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all economic sectors and ensure a climate turning point by 2020.

42 financial institutions representing over \$13 trillion in assets announced a commitment to helping cities, states, and regions finance climate action including European Investment Bank, World Bank and IFC.



GCAS Affiliate Event of REN21 at the California College of the Arts

### 7.3 Climate Week & One Planet Summit,

Alongside the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, the tenth Climate Week was celebrated in New York in the last week of September to generate political momentum to ensure a strong outcome at the Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December 2018. UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa called for increased urgency in combating climate action, leadership and a strong multilateral response. She stressed efforts that empower bottom-up



GCAS Affiliate Event at Bloomberg Offices with Lord Nicholas Stern as keynote speaker

action, in the form of "inclusive multilateralism," which recognizes the need for "more voices at the table".

The Climate Week included, among others, a high-level discussion on the scaling-up of financial flows to low-emission and resilient infrastructure investments and the second One Planet Summit. The first One Planet Summit convened in Paris on the second anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2017 by President Emmanuel Macron, UN Secretary General António Guterres and Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group. In the lead-up to annual international climate talks (COP24) this December and the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Action Summit in 2019, the One Planet Summit is another milestone along the road to Paris Agreement implementation.

The Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and R20AWS organizer Monika Langthaler were part of the Austrian delegation to meet high-level decision makers from across all sectors – heads of state and government and business leaders. The summit intended to review the progress made in the implementation of the commitments announced at the first One Planet Summit and to scale-up collaborative efforts to tackle the climate challenge, with the focus on climate finance.

African leaders committed to raising up to USD 1.4 billion in order to finance clean infrastructure projects in Africa. H.E.M. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and current President of the African Union, announced his support for the creation of an international coalition of public and private stakeholders to fast-track sub-national sustainable infrastructure on the African Continent. Over the next 4 years, the Sub-national Climate Fund Africa (SnCF Africa) will commit up to USD 350 million, mobilizing private co-investment to reach up to a total of USD 1.4 billion, in partnership with African sovereign wealth funds, Afreximbank, and private investors from the AfroChampions Initiative. This major step forward in climate finance, implemented by R20 Regions of Climate Action and BlueOrchard Finance, with support from the European Union and the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCOM), is expected to further innovative clean tech and low-carbon projects in Africa while providing this rapidly urbanizing continent with an ambitious roadmap to cleaner growth.

Providing more details on SnCF Africa's operating model, Christophe Nuttall, who serves as Executive Director of R20, explained that "the fund will work through sub-national, especially city authorities, to leverage their potential to contribute up to 70% of global climate change mitigation and adaptation impact, while addressing the as-yet neglected mid-market for municipal infrastructure, that is, initiatives worth USD 5 to 50 million in cost of construction". He also insisted on commitment to quality and impact, stressing that "SnCF Africa sets a standard to be followed, reducing the dangers of 'greenwashing' by establishing certification procedures for its activities, simplified processes for projects to access carbon credits as well as clear and measurable climate change and development impact targets that are aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".



Group photo at the One Planet Summit with Amina Mohammed, Emmanuel Macron, Alexander Van der Bellen, Michael Bloomberg, Christine Lagarde amongst others

## 7.4 Support of the first Climathon in Vienna

Climathon is a global movement dedicated to solving city climate challenges ([www.climathon.climate-kic.org](http://www.climathon.climate-kic.org)). Originally conceptualized as a 24-hour hackathon by EIT Climate-KIC, an EU climate innovation initiative funded by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, Climathon has since taken off as a global movement, engaging citizens on climate action and providing cities with continued support on the unique challenges they face. Climathon has grown tremendously in recent years, encouraging more cities and innovators across the globe to drive climate action. The 2018 edition of the 24-hour

climate change hackathon took place simultaneously in more than one hundred major cities around the world in October.

In Vienna, the participants, consisting of start-ups, professional developers, techies, entrepreneurs and students, got the chance to solve one of these existing challenges: hot places in the city, shared mobility, decentralized energy systems, smart consumer participation, or urban rain water management. The best solution developed during the Climathon in Vienna has the possibility of becoming involved in the R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT 2019.



*Participants, organizers and partners of the first Climathon in Vienna*

### 7.5 Activities at COP24 in Katowice

The UN Climate Conference (COP24) in Katowice, Poland, has achieved its determined goal: on December 15th, the delegates finally adopted unanimously a rulebook for the Paris Agreement. In addition, the almost 200 states agreed on ways to implement the Paris Agreement and thus limit global warming to 1.5 degrees compared to the pre-industrial era.



*Michał Kurtyka, COP24 President, after the announcement of the final deal*

To ensure that the rules are actually followed, the principle of „naming and shaming“ was introduced: Responsible states are publicly named and denounced for violations. Thus, states are not forced to protect the climate, but can hardly escape it. Transparency and comparability are important prerequisites: Starting in 2020, states have to report every two years on what measures they are taking to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and they will have to disclose how their emissions are developing.

The R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT team was present at the COP 24 in Poland and used the meeting of international experts, institutions and political representatives for important discussions and networking – also at the Austrian Pavilion, where innovative solutions „Made in Austria“ were prominently presented.



*Evening reception at the Austrian Pavilion with the Minister of Sustainability Elisabeth Köstinger*

### 7.6 Side Event at the High-Level Forum Africa-Europe

In the second half of 2018, Austria has held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In this role Austria wanted to improve and to extend the cooperation between Africa and Europe. Therefore, President Kagame of Rwanda, who is the 2018 Chairman of the African Union, and Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz have decided to call a High-Level Forum for European and African leaders, as well as CEOs of global companies and other stakeholders, which takes place in December in Vienna. The Forum aimed to explore needs and identify new opportunities to deepen the partnerships between technology exchange and trade, and recognize the importance of economic growth in creating employment and building resilient societies, whilst additionally fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals. It also has aimed to contribute to the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs announced by European Commission President Juncker recently.



*Discussion about "Mobilizing Finance for Climate Action in Africa"*

The R20AWS and its partners therefore organized a side event "Mobilizing Finance for Climate Action in Africa" at the Forum, as a means to demonstrate examples of how to enhance equity and efficiency of finance and strengthen governance along the climate finance value chain – from the global to the local level.

## 8. OUTLOOK

Based on the conclusions of the R20AWS 2018 and our on-going exchanges with network partners, preparations for our next Summit are underway. Key issues that the R20AWS 2019 will explore include:

### Green Finance

There exists a need for new and innovative finance models to bridge the investment gap, which remains a major challenge. Directing and mobilizing both public and private capital towards climate and sustainable projects, while making financial markets sustainable are crucial to meeting the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. The role of sub-national institutions must be focussed on in terms of financial instruments because they are already leading the way to promoting and implementing solutions. R20 will play an active role in bringing together financial institutions, investors, foundations and public authorities on international and regional levels to implement sustainable investment strategies.

### Promoting and Transferring Best Practice Examples

With improved collaboration and the expansion of networks, we can go further. Many existing models and projects can easily be adopted and put into practice. However, various sectors need additional encouragement, such as the heating and clothing industry.

Notably in these underestimated industries numerous challenges remain whereby best practice models would provide a significant impact and have a role model effect.

### Solutions & Instruments

As part of a global network of partners, the R20AWS gives visibility to climate action solutions with the aim of improving instruments and measures by addressing obstacles and defining opportunities. New approaches are required regarding strategies, instruments and governance to facilitate, inspire and make possible the transition to a carbon-neutral economy and climate-resilient society. By focussing on climate action solutions for the sub-national level we bring concrete examples into discussion and promote bottom-up activities.

### Climate Communication

The R20AWS aims to highlight social and communication aspects of the transition process. With Arnold Schwarzenegger as a driving force for climate activism the Summit providing inspiration to a wide range of people through various media channels. The R20AWS will discuss and develop strategies and tools to overcome current obstacles and strengthen public discourse about climate change internationally.



Johan Rockström (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research) and Christiana Figueres (Mission 2020) presenting the phases of the global climate movement

## TEAM



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## PARTNERS

Thanks to our network of engaged partners we are part in the global climate action movement.

- UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change)
- UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)
- World Health Organization
- Sustainable Energy for All
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
- Global Covenant of Mayors
- Jane Goodall Institute
- Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation
- Solar Impulse Foundation
- USC Schwarzenegger Institute
- REN21 - Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century
- REEEP - Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
- Climate Policy Initiative
- Climate-KIC
- International Solar Alliance

## ADVISORY BOARD

The R20 AUSTRIAN WORLD SUMMIT initiative is also supported by its Advisory Board, an independent body of leading experts from science, business and relevant institutions and organizations. It provides non-binding strategic advice to support the initiative on the long term.

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