



Aide-mémoire: Alliances and Coalitions Global Forum Rabat, June 23rd and 24th, 2016

The COP 22 incoming Presidency held the first global Forum of Alliances and Coalitions of the Action Agenda in Rabat, on the 23rd and 24th June 2016. The forum gathered around 450 people representing a diversity of stakeholders, including governments, multilateral institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector, alliances and coalitions.

The Forum was intended to provide a discussion space to take stock after COP21 of progress made on climate action after the nomination of the first two High Level Climate Champions and the publication of their common roadmap and call for publications, and to reflect on the road to Marrakech and, beyond, to the full implementation of the action agenda.

- An initial plenary provided the opportunity for a general exchange about taking forward the climate action, building on such experiments as the Lima Paris Action Agenda, with a focus on timelines, coherence of work, and action.
 - o The discussions were opened by H.E. Salaheddine Mezourar, incoming president of COP 22, H.E. Ségolène Royal, President of COP21 and H.E. Manuel Pulgar Vidal, president of COP 20. They were followed by interventions of Robert Orr on behalf of the UNSG and James Grabert on behalf of the UNFCCC secretariat.
 - o Mr. Gérard Mestrallet, President of ENGIE, delivered a speech to give a holistic approach on the action agenda before chairing the roadmap presentation of the two Champions.
 - o The two High Level Champions, Minister El Haite and Ambassador Tubiana, presented their roadmap and called for more inputs from the audience on the consultation they launched last May in Bonn.
 - o The champions were given the opportunity to discuss with a balanced panel of representatives from governments and non-state actors on two issues: the next steps to strengthen the Global Action Agenda and the constructive influence of the Action agenda on national action plans.
- Participants then worked in four smaller break-out sessions focused on: action at national level; credibility and tracking of initiatives; coordination and key institutional arrangements needed to strengthen the action agenda; the High-Level Event on climate action in Marrakech.
- Following a report back by the facilitators of the first three break-out groups, a final plenary provided notably a space for the two champions to reflect on these discussions and announce the steps forward.

In order to ensure transparency, this *aide-mémoire* is prepared to reflect the understanding of the champions on some of the broad lines of the discussion and that is largely based on the reports prepared by the six facilitators whom the Champions gratefully thank.

1. KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE DISCUSSIONS

Theme A: What are the key institutional arrangements needed to strengthen the Global Action Agenda?

Moderators: Josefina Brana-Varela (WWF) & Sandrine Dixson (SE4All)

General considerations:

The discussions focused on how could presidencies and champions **help strengthen voluntary initiatives** and means of implementation to accelerate the trajectory from 2 °C to 1.5 °C. There was convergence about the need to ensure that the initiatives under consideration meet certain principles or characteristics. **There was a strong consensus on the need to support and strengthen the Champions' position so they can fulfill their roles.** The Champions and the coalitions should work together to accelerate and catalyze actions, which requires a year-round effort and collaboration, but also short, medium, and longer term objectives, creating a constant feedback loop between the global agenda and the local action and implementation.

Possible options identified:

- **On the principles to guarantee the credibility of the Global Action Agenda:**

Although some people mentioned that adopting criteria could result in the exclusion of certain initiatives or could deter action, **strong views were heard on the need for at least a minimum to be required as an entry point** (e.g. the initiative clearly articulates the climate links and benefits, it can show how it will contribute to the Paris agreement goals, it has some targets/milestones that allow to assess progress over time, etc.). A few people mentioned that businesses may get discouraged with criteria; business representatives called for clarity on expectations and requirements to be part of the action agenda.

There seem to be more and more acceptance about the usefulness of a **"funnel" approach**, with different levels of criteria or guidelines: in the wider end of the funnel, there could be NAZCA and the broader set of criteria, while in the narrower side of the funnel, there could be the high level event and the highest quality initiatives, those that are inspirational and exemplary. Specific examples of criteria mentioned by participants were: connection to the Paris goals, actionable targets, scalability and local ownership.

- **On the sectoral approach:**

The 12 areas of focus created by the LPAA for COP21 were generally supported. Although there were some opinions about the need to combine some of the areas, other people mentioned that clustering some of the current focus areas may have a negative effect of demotivating stakeholders. **Strong voices were heard, from both state and non-state actors, calling for respecting the self-organization, leadership, and independence of the coalitions:** the Champions and their potential supportive platform should enable and facilitate their actions, but should not aim to manage the coalitions and their initiatives.

- **On the institutional arrangements and governance:**

Discussions also highlighted that the Champions will not be able to drive the Global action agenda on their own. There was a proposal to establish a group of "strategic" actors called **"Friends of Champions"** from institutions and organizations, **such as the UNSG office, the UNFCCC secretariat and major constituencies and coalitions**, which could advise the Champions on strategic thinking on policy, direction of the action agenda and finance.

In general, participants expressed the desire to ensure the continuity of the action agenda building on previous arrangements, **promoting a "minimalistic" platform that facilitates the engagement, and provides the historic memory, continuity and stability to the action agenda, while the Champions inject the energy and force of strategic thinking and innovation.** This platform should not develop a lot of bureaucracy but rather act as the glue keeping all stakeholders involved in the realization of our common objectives.

Theme B: How to Track Progress since COP20? Moderators: Ann Gardiner (Ecofys) and Todd Edwards (Stanley Foundation)

General considerations:

Discussions focused on the need to provide credibility and to report on the implementation of initiatives and ensure their ambition and concrete impact. **Accountability was the most identified function of tracking, followed by mobilization.** Very little attention was given to dissemination of information or learning of best-practices.

Possible options identified:

- **On the importance of accountability:**

The metrics for accountability were nearly split between qualitative and quantitative, **with qualitative metrics taking a slight lead.** The reason for qualitative metrics varied by initiative; whereas some initiatives/sectors/pillars are more prepared and even desire more quantitative measures for strategic purposes. Therefore, a **sector-based approach seemed to be a cross-cutting** theme, which was regularly accompanied by the idea of self-governing of “tracking”; added to that was the need for some guiding principles, or light-touch governance, for practical purposes.

- **On a tracking mechanism:**

Several recommendations on the tracking mechanism were made without a consensus (unless by default because there were no, or very little, objections). They include:

- A tracking mechanism should have light-touch guidance, whereby “tracking” accountability is self-governed and reporting is centralized.
- Using a regular “loop” or annual reporting schedule and a process of debate of these reports timed with a rhythm of regular events.
- Consider a phased-approach, whereby initiatives track/report qualitatively until, or unless, quantitative metrics are available.
- To enhance accountability, ensure transparency by improving NAZCA (or other databases) for the ease of users to access information.

Some participants called for the Champions to issue a proposal, based on this feedback and the consultation process that could be open for comment for a specified period of time and could include a feedback loop for regular review and evolution of the tracking process.

Theme C: Reinforcing support for implementation of national action plans such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Moderators: Rosa Morales (Ministry of Environment of Peru) and Seyni Naflo (Climate ambassador, Mali)

General considerations:

The discussions were framed to assess the link between voluntary initiatives, NDCs and SDGs and how initiatives could contribute to strengthening national action plans, to enable Parties to meet expectations of the most vulnerable countries and deliver on the SDGs. Participants agreed that the link between national action plans and the action agenda was to be seen in light of the novelty of the process. We are indeed at the beginning of a **collective global learning curve.** The importance and usefulness of a collective and collaborative work, which leads to clarifying the strategies to be followed in order to know what works and what does not work was noted.

Possible options identified:

- On the mutually enriching relationship:

The discussions pointed out that the relationship between the coalitions and the NDCs is mutually enriching: a synergic relation between them on several aspects and it should be promoted with the following suggestions:

- Clarity and compromise from governments on NDC implementation will be needed,
- Clarity on goals and plans as well as in regulatory frameworks from governments will be useful,
- Compromise and effective implementation from initiatives to support the work of governments should be encouraged,
- For many sectors, the need for an honest conversation about what is really necessary to achieve NDCs and the required transformation,
- The need for governments to explain NDCs to the private sector and NDCs have to be integrated in the macro-economic background.

Furthermore, integrated national climate dialogues are needed to ensure clear regular **communication channels**, clarity in the information coming from NDCs and on the process of constructing NDCs with the participation from different levels of governments (from local to national).

- Further consideration should be given to making the relationship between coalitions and NDCs durable and sustainable.

This relationship should be based on a dialogue enriched by the search for complementarity towards maximizing synergies between actions and coalitions and, in particular:

- Strengthen initiatives which are targeted to come in support of NDCs: such initiatives should reflect upon objectives and targets set out in NDCs, which should be designed in such a way that can be translated in concrete and operational projects allowing more participation from non-State actors, in particular the private sector,
- Propose initiatives which, from the design phase of projects on, are thought through in accordance with and in support of NDCs,
- Make sure that initiatives aim at covering all sectors while promoting inter-sectoral positive impacts in taking account of the value chain of each sector,
- Encourage initiatives on adaptation aiming at increasing the level of climate resilience, such as **the AAA initiative** proposed by the Kingdom of Morocco, and scale up existing ones,
- Make sure that climate action at sub-national level, in particular **in cities and regions**, is encouraged by NDCs,
- Push initiatives with strong elements on capacity building and institutional strengthening: they can play a very important role in supporting NDCs successful and effective implementation.

- On the transformational impact of coalitions:

Coalitions were seen as crucial for actual transformation and scalability. They require and also create spaces for discussion, to bring together different logics, they promote participation of actors from different levels (local to global) and allow for exchanges to bring forward initiatives that are already on the table and work, as well as the identification of gaps. This beneficial impact should be promoted building on the following ideas:

- Providing visibility and recognition for work of coalitions is important, e.g. during COP successful cooperation between governments and coalitions can be showcased;
- Governments can draw from the potential **for innovation and the flexibility of the non-state actor** community, while initiatives could bring valuable contributions to identify next stage of NDCs.
- Non state actors and coalitions have capacities and means to help tracking **progress in NDCs implementation and to test models for MRV**.
- Allowing different ways of operating and different needs for each action area. Therefore, moving forward should allow for diversity and flexibility – especially regarding adaptation.

Theme D : Designing the concept for the high-level event (HLE) during COP22 - Josefina Brana-Varela (WWF) and Rosa Morales (Ministry of Environment of Peru)

General considerations:

Participants were encouraged to discuss on the High-level event on climate action to be held in Marrakech. Main topics included: the desirable format for the high-level event, and the dynamics of coalitions and conceivable deliverables for COP 22. The need to show progress towards the implementation of the agreement was underlined. There is a link between the Action Agenda and TEMs that should be highlighted. The HLE should also reflect the **balance between adaptation and mitigation**.

Possible options identified:

- **On the objectives of the event:**

The event should **showcase and reward outstanding actions**, in order to share lessons and experiences and show momentum to the wider public. The HLE should be **inspiring for others** (to make them join initiatives).

The HLE should also aim:

- to reflect on what has been done and not only showcase,
- to show and define a roadmap for the next year,
- to showcase and recognize new initiatives, to tie in more communities, and include new areas,
- to create a dialogue and connect stakeholders and initiatives,
- to go beyond the climate bubble (through social networks, for example).

The HLE should focus on concrete **implementation and initiatives** that are delivering action. The policy element might need to be toned-down, with more focus on the initiatives; government representatives should focus on the **link between NDCs implementation and the Action Agenda**.

- **On the champion's role :**

Since setting up the HLE is a lot of work and time is pressing, some actors have to help the champions to organize it (such as the COP22 team, UNFCCC, UNSG, constituencies or coalitions). The role of the Champions at the HLE could be to: provide **motivation, talk about obstacles** (to help preventing them), be the **memory that gives continuity** to the HLE and guide collective action. Champions should present results and moderate discussions.

- **On the format of the HLE event:**

There was a divergence of perspectives on the duration of the event (more than one-day long, one-day long or less-than one-day long). There seemed to be a consensus that a 3 hour-long event was too short to feature worthy initiatives. There was a consensus on the need to **find a balance between speaking slots for ministers and key speakers and a dialogue between initiatives, between the show and operational discussions**. There should not be any panels (echoed across many participants) at the HLE, as all initiatives would push to have a seat at the table.

Initiatives would like **to have a direct contact with the champions** and would like to show that they are involved in the COP process. It was noted, however, that it might be possible for the "contact" to occur outside of the COP and then could be released the day of the HLE through various mediums.

The HLE needs to be more dynamic in its format, the following suggestions were made: 180-second presentations (cf. the three minute thesis competition); HLE **should be the Platform** where the initiatives results, and needs will be presented to the HLE to get noted, and registered in dynamic discussion by peer-groups; speed-dating the brokering of new initiatives; workshops.

2. FIRST CONCLUSIONS BY THE CHAMPIONS AND PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

Both High Level Champions thanked the participants for their contributions and offered initial reflections on the following points.

a) There is a need to see concrete results at COP22 in Marrakech and, beyond, in 2018 in time for the facilitative dialogue

Paris was a success but much remains to be done; we have to keep the sense of urgency that shaped the pre-2020 agenda and climate action: now is the time for action, not comfort. We need to collectively enter into the next phase of growth and to provide a more orderly and better managed transition: it must be designed and coordinated;

The path to 2018 and the first facilitative dialogue: **the next three to five years are critical**: the actions taken in this period will provide a clear indication of how embedded the 2015 agreements (SDGs and Paris) are within core economic decision-making processes.

b) Work is needed both at country and global levels

- At country level :
 - Implementation of national action plans (NDC, NAMA, etc..) : what do countries need to make sure they work? Which kind of cooperation can help? What is the connection with the implementation of SDGs?
 - Preparation of **mid-century development strategies/** development and investment plans as mandated in the Paris agreement and defended by G7 countries: the 2050 plans could create valuable and tangible synergies between the climate and development agendas.

- At global level :
 - High Level Champions will make sure that all, parties and non-parties, are fully prepared for the first global meeting point on action: the facilitative dialogue of 2018.
 - Initiatives and coalitions have to deliver on their commitments : presentation of results by initiatives and coalitions are expected in Marrakech; the Champions will also provoke and encourage new initiatives such as the ones Morocco is promoting on agriculture and water ;
 - The High Level Champions do not see themselves less as the gate-keepers of climate action: they are not in a position to decide which initiatives should be “in” or “out”. However, they will need to be able to vouch for the credibility of the results and impacts of action on the ground : initiatives and coalitions will need to be fully transparent on the results of their action and the methodology they used; NAZCA will play a key role;
 - The coordination of the action agenda should remain light touch and respect the following principles: transparency; accountability from all ; inclusivity in exchange for commitment to respect basic principles; dialogue with all.
 - The Champions believe that a support unit for the champions’ work is needed and the wish to see the respective role of the UNFCCC secretariat and of the office of the UNSG further discussed.

c) Additional questions to participants and stakeholders

The two High Level Champions encourage all Party and Non Party actors to send their submissions by August 1st. They also ask all Parties and Non Party actors to reflect on the following additional issues which they expect to discuss again next September:

- proposals from coalitions, initiatives, actors on how they would like to organize themselves, which criteria for entry ;
- the organization of the High Level Event : additional proposals are requested;
- the preparation of 2050 low emission strategies in time for the 2018 facilitative dialogue.

d) Next steps

Finally, the High Level Champions proposed the following next step:

- August 1st : deadline for the call for submissions
- Early September : publication for discussion of the Champions' interim "Report on Climate Action": this report will reflect on the submissions and discussions with stakeholders and will propose some options and next steps on the champions' priorities;
- New York Climate Week (September 19-25) : the Champions will convene all interested stakeholders to a consultation meeting to discuss options and ideas proposed in their draft report;
- COP22: Presentation of the Champions' "Report on Climate Action".