

High-Level Event on Accelerating Climate Action

I. Background

In accordance with the mandate contained in the decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 120, the High-Level Event on Accelerating Climate Action will provide an opportunity to:

- Further strengthen high-level engagement on the implementation;
- Announce new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions;
- Report the progress made by new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions;
- Engage dignitaries of Parties, international organizations, international cooperative initiatives and non-Party stakeholders.

The high-level champions wish to provide a space for all those engaged in implementing action, which supports the objective of the Convention and the aims of the Paris Agreement, to share success, lessons learned, and best practices. Hence, allowing to identify potential synergies in their activities and to catalyze greater ambition and accelerate the pace of implementation.

The High-Level Event will take place on Thursday, 17 November 2016 and will be the culmination of a series of thematic action events, aiming to demonstrate the progress achieved in the implementation since COP 21.

II. Outline of the High-Level Event (10:00–13:00) Plenary Casablanca

A. Opening ceremony

The High-Level Event will be opened by dignitaries from the Kingdom of Morocco, the Republic of France and the United Nations. The opening will establish the vision for the event and emphasize the urgency of accelerating actions to address climate change.

- Keynote address on “*The Urgency of ambition*” by a civil society representative;
- The high-level champions will present the concept of the High-Level Event and the outcomes and announcements of the thematic days.

B. Recognizing progress and identifying opportunities

Session 1: Nature-based solutions

This segment will build upon the outcomes of the thematic action events on forests, water, oceans, agriculture, and food security. It will highlight the role of nature and nature-based solutions in both adaptation and mitigation.

A keynote speaker will present on “*The role of nature in addressing climate change*” and will be followed by discussion among a panel of high-level representatives from Parties, non-Parties and international organizations.

Session 2: Sustainable infrastructure

This segment will build upon the outcomes of the thematic action events on industry, energy, transport and cities and human settlements, and will highlight the importance of immediate investments in sustainable infrastructure in delivering on long-term goals for adaptation and mitigation.

A keynote speaker will present on “*The economic case for immediate action*” and will be followed by discussion among a panel of high-level representatives from Parties, non-Parties and international organizations.

C. Providing and mobilizing finance

This segment will provide a high-level recap of pledges and announcements made during the thematic action events by public and private finance representatives.

D. The way forward

The high-level champions and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary will present “A Way Forward to Accelerate Global Climate Action”. The way forward will address all those engaged in climate action: Parties and non-Parties. It will summarize the champions’ recommendations based on the consultations held during 2016 and also address their proposed approach for accelerating climate action in the period 2017–2020.

This segment will provide a platform for launching partnerships to support the proposed action plan.

Closing remarks will be made by the President of COP 22.

III. Follow-up working sessions (afternoon – time and venue to be confirmed)

In order to accelerate implementation of the identified opportunities, the plenary session of the High-Level Event will be complemented by high-level working sessions.

These sessions will be organized by high-level representative from Parties, non-Parties and international organizations who wish to do so. The champions will be available to attend and to facilitate discussions. Any Party or non-Party wishing to propose topics for such follow-up working sessions are requested to contact the high-level champions through the secretariat (globalclimateaction@unfccc.int), no later than 7 November, 17:00 CET. Time and location of these sessions will be announced on the UNFCCC website.