SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

Submission on the Roadmap for Global Climate Action

07/2016
INVITATION FOR SUBMISSIONS ON THE ROAD MAP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION
MESSAGE TO PARTIES AND NON-PARTY STAKEHOLDERS FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPIONS,
HER EXCELLENCY MS. LAURENCE TUBIANA, FRENCH AMBASSADOR FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND
HER EXCELLENCY MS. HAKIMA EL HAITE, MINISTER DELEGATE TO THE MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT OF MOROCCO, IN CHARGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1) The current situation:

The sense of urgency that led to the Paris Agreement and sustained the work on workstream 2 (pre-2020 ambition) throughout the whole of 2015 must be sustained. The high-level champions need to make sure that we do “more, faster and now” on enhanced pre-2020 action. Pre-2020 action is a key element for the implementation and success of the 2 Paris Agreement, equally for adaptation, mitigation and means of implementation. Notably, there is a need to quick-start implementation with a sense of urgency and ambition; create an interface with the real world and solutions, particularly the involvement of non-Party stakeholders; and maintain the political momentum.

Is this general presentation an accurate description of the current state of play? If not, what can we do more?

1.1) SEforALL Response:

The combination of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement has added urgency to SEforALL’s quest to go further faster: Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 and effectively zero-net emissions early in order to go well below 2 degrees and towards 1.5 degrees.

Sustainable energy will be critical in helping us avoid the worst impacts of climate change and in making a much-needed transition to sustainable development. In that sense our remit and the work we want to engage with partners across the globe is unique as - We want to help secure affordable, clean energy for the 1.1 billion people who have little or no access to energy, happen much earlier than 2030.

We are focused on 2018 and 2020 benchmarks in order to ensure we are well on the way to meet our 2030 (SDG) and 2050 (climate) goals. In order to meet these benchmarks and guarantee impact we have taken a heat map approach identifying those key priority countries with the highest opportunity for impact in the area of access, doubling the rate of energy efficiency and
doubling the market penetration of renewable energy. Matching these objectives with countries with the greatest impact will immediately reduce GHG emissions.

Our theory of change is efficiency first - a political focus on productivity, closing the access gap front and center of integrated plans, and then shifting the energy mix to renewable energy. If you look at most Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC’s) and national action plans for GHG emissions reduction the focus is on energy and transitioning towards low carbon energy systems and technologies. Never before have we been that close to a worldwide shift in promoting sustainable energy above fossil fuels for a cleaner, more just world for all.

We also believe the Champions could play a particular role in bringing more attention to the importance of demand side management solutions within this shift and the significance of ensuring access to modern energy systems.

The role of the high-level champions:
As champions of global climate action, we believe that we need to be an interface between action on the ground and the UNFCCC negotiation process, between non-Party stakeholders and Parties. We intend to track implementation of existing initiatives to demonstrate credibility, promote best practices and enhance delivery. We will also support new initiatives focusing on adaptation, with a view to broadening the country coverage and including more initiatives coming from developing country Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

Is this an accurate description of the role the high-level climate champions should play with regard to the mobilization of non-state actors? Is there anything else they should do, or are there things mentioned here that they should not do?

2.1) SEforALL Response:
SEforALL believes that the two champions hold a very important role within the COP process and that their link to non-party initiatives and ensuring greater action on the ground should be more clearly highlighted and better understood by all parties.

The role of the Champions is key in tracking results, promoting high-impact non-party initiatives, and ensuring that such initiatives are showcased in order to increase their outreach and scale. SEforALL believes we have to help our partners go further faster and the Champions could also play an important role in pushing the GCAA non-party stakeholders to do the same.

The role of the Champions should be to make the link between non-party initiatives and the overarching climate change goals and mitigation process. This entails:

1. The proper identification of those actions and commitments of real significance e.g game changers
2. Looking at the sectoral, geographic impact of particular actions and commitments of significance
3. the quantification of the GHG emissions that these initiatives will help avoid.
4. Working with key stakeholders to identify opportunities for possible replication and scale

Together we will need to ensure that climate action leaves no one behind, is gender balanced, focuses on a “just transition” to modern energy, and is seen as a way to accelerate rather than hinder development. It is also imperative that the current momentum achieved in Paris is not lost and that the NDC’s are fully implemented into strategic action plans that deliver quick and tangible results on the ground.

It will therefore be important to collectively tell stories because good news doesn’t travel fast yet is essential to influence real change. We offer ourselves as storytellers of change and catalysts for action and hope the Champions will play a similar role.

We would like to work together with the Champions to focus on those areas where impact can be delivered both on meeting the SDG7 goals and maximising GHG reduction potential in the energy sector. This work could focus on identified priority areas so as to build a domino effect of impact and replication, which would further enhance scale and deliver faster results. This will also entail greater effort on a properly interlinked process between the implementation of NDC’s, national Action Agenda’s (AA’s), and Investment Plans (IP’s) so that non state parties can also support a more streamlined national approach.

When mapping non-party contributions it is fundamental that the Champions find a way to build further bridges between all actors. This means that the Champions will need to continue to build on the LPAA process currently open to a variety of actors (regions, cities, non-governmental organisations, the private sector etc …) by ensuring that the most disenfranchised are also represented and part of the process such as the poorest of society and women (not only around gender discussions but also as effective solution providers).

2) Transparency and tracking:

We need to help non-Party stakeholders achieve the recognition they seek. At the same time, we owe it to the integrity of the UNFCCC process to make sure that these initiatives and coalitions achieve the targets they set for themselves; that these targets are truly consistent with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement; and that the participants in initiatives and coalitions are actually doing what it takes to achieve the commitments they made. Therefore we intend to work on improving transparency of action and tracking of implementation to demonstrate the credibility of their work.

*How do we assess the initiatives? What would be the ideal set of criteria? Who would assess them? What should be the role of the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA)?*

3.1) **SEforALL Response:**

Ensuring that non-party action delivers on the Paris Agreement It is core to the successful implementation of the GCAA commitments and a key responsibility of the champions. However, in order to optimise the NAZCA portal, urgent updating and enhancement is necessary to make it an effective tool that both monitors and evaluates projects submitted and enables the
identification of game changing initiatives. Optimisation would entail the identification of gaps, and establishing where more initiatives are needed therefore helping carve a pathway forward that is more focused, effective and inclusive.

A process of criteria development, monitoring and evaluation and identification of game changing initiatives should be jointly run by the UNFCCC and the Champions potentially with the UN so as to make the necessary links with the SDG’s. The ideal set of criteria could address:

- Sectoral or thematic coverage
- Geographic coverage
- Scope
- Time/duration
- Measurable impact

4) High-level event:

The high-level climate champions will facilitate, through strengthened high-level engagement in the period 2016–2020, the successful execution of existing efforts and the scaling-up and introduction of new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions. The high-level event at the Conference of the Parties (COP) is now the main annual showcase of climate action.

*What do Parties and non-Party stakeholders expect from the high-level event at COP 22?*

To have a real impact at COP 24 in 2018, the Climate Action Summit showcasing the results of non-state actor initiatives would need to take place sufficiently in advance. Should it be organized in the summer of 2018?

5.1) SEforALL Response:

Despite the success of COP 21 and the enthusiasm linked to the LPAA and now the GCAA, there is a general feeling that actions should be further accelerated and that events need to have clear objectives and lead to concrete results.

COP 22’s high-level event should therefore focus on showcasing action oriented initiatives and the opportunities for replication and scalability. It should identify what has been achieved since COP 21, which actions have been successful and which ones have not been, and where the key challenges remain with a discussion on possible solutions.

SEforALL would welcome working with the Champions on contributions regarding energy productivity and access in particular with a focus on ensuring an and honest dialogue building on best experience, and innovative ways forward which not only feature technological solutions but also process and finance tools. The high-level event could take advantage of the heat map identification we have undertaken to ensure a focus on priority areas and countries in order to assess where we collectively stand and what still needs to be done to enable a just energy transition and access to modern and clean energy.
Due to the importance of more action oriented exchanges we agree that ample time should be given to the preparation of the Climate Action Summit in order to prepare COP 24. Therefore Summer 2018 seems to be a good time to organise the showcasing of non-party action.

5) The role of the TEMS

We intend to use the tools created by Parties for the enhancement of climate action prior to 2020, such as the technical expert meetings (TEMs). These meetings have a whole new role to play in the dynamic and should be more concrete, focused, and connected to initiatives of the action agenda.

Do you share the belief that the format of the TEMs should evolve in the light of the Global Climate Action Agenda? How could we ensure that the TEMs are more solution-oriented?

5.1) SEforALL Response:

The Technical Expert Meetings (TEMS) represent key opportunities for major stakeholders to gather and discuss technical issues. As such, it is crucial that they remain focused, bring together relevant party and non-party actors, and address progress. TEMS should be targeted to focus on key issues that can help governments achieve their goals. They should provide governments with an overview of the high-impact initiatives that they can work with, and on how these initiatives can enable them to reach their NDC’s. They should also represent opportunities for governments to present their needs, but also the best practices and lessons learnt that can benefit all stakeholders.

TEMS should have a stronger focus on finance issues – these meetings should give the participants the possibility to identify financing tools that will allow to quickly implement real solutions and deliver results.