

Response by the Hivos to the Champions' Roadmap for the Global Climate Action Agenda

Hivos welcomes the opportunity to present its views on the road map for global climate action. We are convinced that a strong Global Climate Action Roadmap, with the Global climate Action Agenda and enhanced pre-2020 action under the UNFCCC at its heart, will not only reduce emissions but can also play a vital role in progressing towards the Sustainable Development Goals, especially on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG7). The strengthening of the Action Agenda and the pre-2020 process is an important deliverable for COP 22 in Marrakech and beyond, and the high-level champions will need to play a pivotal role in achieving the best possible outcome. Below, Hivos provides suggestions and feedback on the areas of work outlined by the champions in the document (Global Climate Action Agenda: The Roadmap).

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 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?

Hivos fully supports the above analysis and agrees that implementation needs to be fast tracked and that non-party stakeholders have an important role to play. Additionally Hivos believes that with the global adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, actions should be encouraged to contribute to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure an integrated pro-poor approach is taken. To enable fast tracked action means of implementation need to be increased rapidly and should be additional to existing financial flows such as ODA.

Decentralised Renewable Energy plays a vital role both in mitigation and creation of resilience as well as in achieving universal energy access (SDG7). The IEA estimated in 2011 that USD 23 billion in additional financing is needed for decentralised energy access¹. Yet research by Hivos and IIED shows that the current amount of international public climate finance which is allocated to decentralised energy (on average USD 51 million per year) represents just 0.2 per cent of the annual amount the IEA says is needed.² Thus Hivos encourages the Champions to specifically focus on accelerating additional finance for pro-poor mitigation and resilience building through decentralised Renewable Energy and Clean Coking Stoves.

¹ IEA (2011) World Energy Outlook 2011. Available at: www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/weo-2011.html

² Rai, N, Best, S and Soanes, M (2016) Unlocking climate finance for decentralised energy access. IIED, London.

2. 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?

Hivos welcomes the concept of Champions for Climate Action to be a bridge between non-party stakeholders and parties. We would like to work together with the Champions in areas where impact can be delivered both on meeting the SDG7 goals and maximising GHG reduction potential in the energy sector.

Hivos highly appreciates the intention to include more developing country initiatives. Specific support should be given to pro-poor mitigation such as decentralised renewable energy and clean cooking and to initiatives where the most disenfranchised groups in society play a leadership role in the provision of solutions.

3. 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)?

In order for the action agenda to be effective, the criterion of participation needs to be strengthened and refined. The need for comparability and transparency of initiatives would require that final outcomes from the initiatives are quantifiable. Upfront information and details on the initiatives would help with scaling up and replicating actions in other regions and countries, while also ensuring transparency. The initiatives should also give upfront details on how they support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, if their focus is pro-poor and how they intend to involve different stakeholders.

Prior to initiatives being registered on the homepage, they must fulfil the information requirement filter. Additionally, all initiatives registered must abide by internationally recognised standards related to the respect by private actors of obligations related to human rights and public participation. Common matrices for reporting, monitoring and verification would go a long way in strengthening the effectiveness of the initiatives and would provide greater clarity on the expected emission reductions. Where possible existing indicators and tracking frameworks such as the Global Tracking Framework for Sustainable Energy for All³ should be utilised.

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?

Hivos welcomes the idea of a high-level event. Such an event should clearly showcase the implementation on the ground showcasing the co-benefits of climate action and specifically highlight pro-poor mitigation initiatives such as decentralised renewable energy and clean cooking. Furthermore it should be a place for new commitments – especially around additional means of implementation.

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?

Hivos supports that TEMs should more concrete, focused, and connected to initiatives of the action agenda. Specifically they should focus on pro-poor mitigation and how to overcome remaining barriers.

³ <http://trackingenergy4all.worldbank.org/>



Hivos

Hivos is an international organisation that seeks new solutions to persistent global issues. With smart projects in the right places, we oppose discrimination, inequality, abuse of power and the unsustainable use of our planet's resources. Counterbalance alone, however, is not enough. Our primary focus is achieving structural change. This is why we cooperate with innovative businesses, citizens and their organisations. We share a dream with them of sustainable economies and inclusive societies. www.hivos.org