



Informal Meeting for the Heads of Delegations of the Parties to the UNFCCC Summary Report

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Summary Report

Introduction

More than 40 Climate Change Heads of Delegations, attended the informal meeting organized jointly by the Moroccan COP22 Presidency and the incoming Fijian COP23 Presidency. The meeting took place from 7-8 September in Rabat, Morocco. It was attended also by officials from the UNFCCC secretariat, including the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa, the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the expectations for COP23 and beyond in an informal setting¹. It was an important milestone for the preparation of the Pre-COP Ministerial meeting to be held on 17 - 18 October 2017 and the upcoming intergovernmental climate change negotiations (6 - 17 November 2017, Bonn). The meeting started with opening remarks from the COP22/CMP12/CMA1 President, H.E. Salaheddine Mezouar, the incoming COP23 President, Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama and the Executive Secretary Ms. Patricia Espinosa. The following discussions were chaired by the Moroccan Chief Negotiator, H.E. Ambassador Aziz Mekouar and the Fijian Chief Negotiator, H.E. Ambassador Nazhat Shameem Khan.

The participants exchanged views and enhanced their common understanding on several key areas, including on how to advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement and secure means of implementation. In addition, the High-level Climate Champions Ms. Hakima El-Haite (Morocco), Hon. Minister Inia Seruiratu (Fiji) and the Fijian Climate Change Ambassador, H.E. Ambassador Deo Saran, presented an update and sought views on the work of Marrakech Partnership and the Global Climate-Change Action Agenda. The UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Ms. Patricia Espinosa, gave a presentation and responded to questions from Parties on the UNFCCC budget work programme for the 2018-2019 biennium, which will be proposed for adoption at COP23. The meeting concluded with a discussion on expectations for the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue and an update by the incoming Fijian COP23 Presidency on the preparations for Pre-COP, which will be held on 17-18 October in Nadi, Fiji.

While the meeting was conducted in a constructive spirit, it was also characterized by a sense of urgency as the most intense Atlantic hurricane observed in a decade - Hurricane Irma hit the north-eastern Caribbean islands of Antigua and Barbuda, destroying most of their infrastructures, causing many deaths and leaving hundreds of inhabitants homeless.

¹ The agenda for the meeting is available at: <http://www.cop22presidency.ma/ProgramHoD.pdf>

Many Parties expressed their deep sympathy and solidarity with the victims of this and other recent extreme weather events, which have been impacting numerous countries around the world.

In order to share information about the discussions at the informal Heads of Delegation Meeting with Parties unable to attend the Moroccan and the Fijian Presidencies have prepared this summary report, which reflects their views of the discussions.

Summary of the discussions

1. Paris Agreement Implementation Guidelines: expectations for COP23

The session was co-chaired by the Chief Negotiator for Morocco, Ambassador Mekouar, and the Chief Negotiator for Fiji, Ambassador Khan.

Ambassador Khan expressed the determination of the incoming Fijian COP23 Presidency to energize the spirit of the Paris Agreement and demonstrate the continuation of our global commitment to climate action at a very important time in the history of international climate negotiation. She highlighted the joint responsibility of Parties to deliver on the Paris Agreement Implementation Guidelines resulting from the work on the Paris Agreement work programme to accelerate the transition towards a safe and resilient low carbon economy. She emphasized, “our task is immense and challenging, but I am confident that we can build a high level of trust among Parties to reach an agreement on most difficult issues. More than ever, we need to work together and show our determination and collective commitment to global climate action”.

Ambassador Khan reassured the participants that the incoming Fijian Presidency will continue to work closely with the COP22 Presidency (Morocco) and the COP24 Presidency (Poland) to ensure a successful outcome at COP23. This means, among other things, providing certainty to the world that Parties are moving in the right direction and at the right pace to finalize the Paris Agreement Implementation Guidelines at COP24 in 2018 in Katowice, Poland. Ambassador Khan indicated that a priority for the incoming Fijian COP23 Presidency will be to make progress on the Paris Agreement Implementation Guidelines in a balanced manner on all of its elements, while at the same time securing continuous attention for enhanced pre-2020 action. The incoming Fijian COP23 Presidency is committed to presiding over and facilitating the negotiations with a high level of trust, transparency and inclusiveness.

Three questions guided the exchange of views during this session:

- What would the COP23 outcome need to contain to signal that the Paris Agreement Implementation Guidelines is indeed on track for conclusion at COP24?

- How can COP23 capture the interim progress in 2017 and what, if any, type of guidance would be useful to provide at COP23 to secure delivery of the final package in 2018?
- What will be clear success factors for COP23?

The discussions were overall very constructive. There was a strong shared awareness of the need to get to work and infuse the process with vision and energy at COP23 in order to be able to arrive at a balanced package at COP24. Many participants indicated that they are willing to move on from the technical discussions, which started in May 2017, to capturing interim progress at COP23 and mandating Chairs and Co-Chairs to prepare draft texts, under the guidance of the Presidency, at latest in the first half of 2018.

As currently some issues are progressing faster than others, several participants proposed that between now and COP24, more time could be allocated to elements which are lagging behind and that there be more interactive sessions such as roundtables, workshops or consultations facilitated by the Presidency and the relevant (Co-)Chairs. Other participants added that progress on all issues should be maximized. A number of participants indicated that an additional working session before COP24 could be useful, but noted there may be budgetary implications.

Many participants recognized the critical need to arrive at a coherent package of decisions across all issues and ensure continued and enhanced coordination among the various processes and constituted bodies involved in delivering elements of the Paris Agreement Implementation Guidelines. It was suggested that it might be helpful to project forward to end of 2018 and work back to identify what we need to achieve and by when.

The Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies and the Co-Chairs of the APA, along with their co-facilitators are expected to play an important role in terms of collecting the inputs of Parties, listing elements and narrowing down clear options on the pathway towards a balanced negotiating text. The Presidency is also expected to play a proactive role in setting up clear timelines to ensure the delivery of the whole package at COP24.

2. Global Climate Action Agenda

The session was co-chaired by the High-level Climate Champion of Morocco, Ms. Hakima El Haite and the Fijian Climate Change Ambassador, H.E. Deo Saran.

The Fijian High-level Climate Champion, Hon. Minister Seruiratu addressed the participants via a video message. He noted that "we need to do much more to convey the sense of urgency the Global Climate Action Agenda represents...Only then can we meet the targets set out in the Paris Agreement, including our goal to limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5 degrees above that of the industrial age". He emphasized that as a High-level Climate Champion, coming from a vulnerable small island developing state, he is committed to communicating this sense of urgency widely at all levels. Hon. Minister Seruiratu provided

feedback on the Climate Action Pacific Partnerships conference, which was held in Suva in July, and brought together more than 200 participants representing various organizations in the region. At the conference a Pacific Partnership was established, as part of the Grand Coalition for catalyzing more ambitious action.

The Fijian Climate Change Ambassador, H.E. Ambassador Deo Saran, in his capacity as Fijian Civil Society Focal Point on matters related to the negotiations, informed delegates that, as mandated in May 2017, the Fijian Presidency will hold the 1st dialogue between observer organizations and Parties shortly before COP23 in Bonn. He also stressed the importance of engagement between the Parties and non-Party stakeholders and the deep sense of shared leadership and global cooperation.

The Moroccan High-Level Climate Champion, Ms. Hakima El-Haite provided an update on the progress of the implementation of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, including on the activities of the High-Level Climate Champions. Since COP22 in Marrakesh, the Champions, with the help of the GCA support unit and various coalitions, have been hard at work consolidating the foundations for the Marrakech partnership by prioritizing coalitions action, creating new climate action dissemination networks and inventing new information tools to accelerate climate action on the ground.

Prioritize coalitions action. 75 international coalitions set up their own navigation and priority-setting tool: the draft impact and priority tracker. This tracker will be updated periodically to reflect the work plans and focus areas of the various institutions and organizations engaged. In the draft impact and priority tracker, the coalitions and initiatives identified in the seven areas covered by the Marrakech Partnership the desired impacts in terms of adaptation and mitigation and the actions to achieve it. For each impact, elements concerning policy makers have been identified.

Create new climate action dissemination networks. Three new networks will spread the climate action message:

- 1) **the Climate leadership network**, a voluntary network of high-level decision-makers and thought leaders (ministers, CEOs, governors, mayors and civil society leaders) would be called upon for specific advocacy activities up to 2020 and for enhanced high-level engagement at the COP.
- 2) **The Climate Action Collaboration Forum** to align a large broad range of stakeholders efforts with the Marrakech Partnership in a model of shared leadership to maximize synergies and impact.
- 3) **Communities of Climate Action Practice:** To maintain established relationships in the thematic areas and scale up the level of commitment, it is proposed to establish informal communities of practice for each thematic area.

Invent new information tools to accelerate climate action on the ground:

- 1) The first Climate action yearbook** will be presented at COP 23. It will enable the Parties to have a strategic navigation tool based on the voice of the coalitions in the 7 areas covered by the Marrakech Partnership: oceans, water, transport, energy, agriculture, human settlements, forests, and industry. It will include a strategic analysis for Parties to review the achievements of the Marrakech Partnership and its expectations to accelerate climate action.
- 2) The annual surveys sent by Champions to all Marrakech Partnership non-state actors members** in order to be informed of their progress, their best practices, their needs and, above all, their strategic observations from the ground. These surveys will be available online on the UNFCCC website at COP 23.
- 3) The climate stories bank**, dedicated to the media, will enable them to access to coalitions best practices by sector and geographical area. It will help to spread the best practices of all our coalitions well beyond the walls of the COPs in the seven areas covered by the Marrakech Partnership.

Participants provided information about various initiatives and reflected on the activities of the Climate Champions. Some key messages from the discussion were that:

- It is important to involve non-state actors, as they play a critical role for the implementation of climate action. The Marrakech Partnership seeks to harness and share their contributions.
- Non-state actors can bring valuable inputs to the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue.
- The High-Level Climate Champions and governments should look to widen engagement beyond the groups, which are already active on climate change and reach out to the general public. Only then, deeper greenhouse gas emission cuts can be realized to achieve the 1.5C objective and help the most vulnerable to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

3. Means of implementation

The session was co-chaired by the Chief Negotiator for Morocco, Ambassador Mekouar, and the Chief Negotiator for Fiji, Ambassador Khan.

Ambassador Mekouar recalled that COP22 in Marrakech gave a firm signal about the need to enhance action and support, and emphasized the important role of finance, technology and capacity building for the implementation of the Paris Agreement. He shared vivid examples of groundbreaking human achievements from the past, which would not have been possible without international collaboration on capacity building, technology transfer and finance.

The discussion revolved around four questions:

- What guidance should be provided to the Financial Mechanism to make finance flow faster to developing countries?
- What could be done to trigger more finance for adaptation?
- Supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement: how to accelerate delivery?
- What is needed to decide on the future of the Adaptation Fund?

Several participants stated that guidance to the financial mechanisms must focus on enabling greater accessibility for developing countries, in particular small island states and least developed countries, such as through further simplified access procedures and the provision of readiness support and capacity building. They also called for ensuring balanced finance for mitigation and adaptation by GEF, GCF and other funds. While some participants were of view that opportunities to use private finance for adaptation are limited and as such most adaptation finance should be expected to come from public sources, other participants noted the increasing engagement of the private sector in adaptation actions, in particular insurance, and the need to provide more incentives and use public funding to leverage private investments, including for adaptation. One participant proposed to look at innovative finance to mobilize climate investments, such as exploring options to mobilize idle finance.

Participants from developed countries emphasized their continued commitment to the USD100 billion Roadmap for climate finance by 2020. Many developed country Parties informed the meeting that they are already aiming for a balanced split in mitigation and adaptation finance. A number of Parties recognized the need for further capacity building to access the existing financial mechanisms and recalled the different actions undertaken by the GEF, GCF and other funds.

It was noted that an important aspect of scaling up adaptation finance is mainstreaming it into national planning and development.

Almost all participants recognized the valuable contribution of the Adaptation Fund and its success in providing direct access to finance so far as well as its possible link to future funding from the mechanism to be established under Article 6(4) of the Paris Agreement. While participants from developing countries expect concrete steps to ensure that it "shall serve" the Paris Agreement without delay and before all operational and funding issues are resolved, many participants from developed countries expressed preference to finalise the operational discussions before taking a decision.

4. UNFCCC Budget work programme update

The UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Patricia Espinosa, updated the participants on her planned adjustments of the work programme of the UNFCCC secretariat, in response to the request of Parties at SBI46 (May 2017, Bonn). The adjustments concern re-allocation of some resources and are within the appropriation lines of the core budget agreed at SBI46. The secretariat will submit its revised work programme, as mandated by Parties, for consideration at SBI47, and subsequent approval by COP23.

Some participants were interested in receiving more information about financial contributions by non-Party stakeholders and inquired about the possible role of Parties in discussing criteria and modalities for such contributions. Participants were informed that all financial contributions received by the secretariat are regularly reported to Parties and verified by external auditors..

5. Facilitative dialogue

The session was co-chaired by the Chief Negotiator for Morocco, Ambassador Mekouar, and the Chief Negotiator for Fiji, Ambassador Khan.

Ambassador Khan reflected on the consultation process that has been undertaken by the Presidencies with Parties and observer organisations and noted that there was a positive response to having a process rather than an event in 2018. She noted that the Fijian concept of 'Talanoa' had been broadly welcomed as a possible way of framing the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue. She explained that:

"Talanoa is a traditional word used in Fiji and the Pacific to reflect a process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue. The purpose of Talanoa is to share stories, build empathy and to make wise decisions, which are for the collective good. The process of Talanoa involves the sharing of ideas, skills and experience through storytelling. During the process, parties build trust and advance knowledge through empathy and understanding. Blaming others and making critical observations are inconsistent with the building of mutual trust and respect, and therefore inconsistent with the concept of Talanoa. Talanoa fosters stability and inclusiveness in relation to dialogue, by creating a safe space which embraces mutual respect for a platform for decision making for a greater good."

Ambassador Khan gave an overview of the areas of convergence that were emerging in relation to the design of the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue, in particular that the dialogue should be constructive, facilitative and solutions oriented. It should not single out individual Parties. She noted that there had been widespread support among Parties to structure the Dialogue across the following central questions:

- Where are we?
- Where do we want to go?
- How do we get there?

Ambassador Khan suggested that the Dialogue could consist of a preparatory and a political phase, with the preparatory phase starting in early 2018 and continuing throughout the year until the political phase, focused on Ministerial engagement at COP24.

The Presidency and incoming Presidency stressed the importance of the IPCC's 1.5 degree report as a key input which would require its earliest consideration by Parties. The

Presidency and incoming Presidency also noted the possibility of using an on-line platform to invite inputs from Parties and non-State Actors.

The participants confirmed their continued support and trust in both Presidencies to prepare and present the design of the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue for endorsement at COP23. Several participants highlighted that the High-level Climate Champions can play an important role in informing the dialogue by serving as a bridge between governments and non-State actors. A number of participants also proposed a continued role for the incoming Fijian COP23 Presidency in convening the Facilitative Dialogue in the course of 2018, in collaboration with the Polish COP24 Presidency.

Ambassador Khan noted that consultations remained ongoing and welcomed further feedback by Parties on the design and the process for adopting it.

6. Pre-COP update

The Chief Negotiator for the Fijian COP23 Presidency, Ambassador Khan, informed the participants that Pre-COP will be held in Nadi, Suva at the Sheraton Resort on Denarau Island. All participants are invited to attend the traditional welcoming ceremony in the evening of 16 October 2017. The Ministerial meeting will formally begin at 9.00 a.m. on 17 October 2017 and sessions will conclude early afternoon on 18 October 2017. After which, Ministers will be invited to join the organized site visits to local climate change initiatives and attend a formal closing Presidency dinner. Separately from the Pre-COP a Partnerships Day will be held on 16 October 2017.

Acronyms

APA	Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Fund
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change