



Roadmap for the Global Climate Action Agenda Views by C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group

1) On 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?

We firmly support this general framing, particularly around the tremendous pace and scale of action needed before 2020, and the importance of Non-Party Actors. In addition, we suggest to include the following elements:

- **Urgent action now to avoid making the “wrong” policy decisions in short term.** A vital focus must be in avoiding further long-term “carbon lock-in”, in ensuring that the policy and investment choices being made day in day out, particularly in the fast urbanizing global south, favor a climate safe development path. New infrastructure and consumption choices are being made regularly around the world, for instance public investments in large new power generation. Since these decisions are happening anyway, and potentially represent commitment to significant future emissions, efforts must focus on identifying these crucial points and ensuring policy makers are able to lock-in low carbon trajectories now.
- **Long term planning and huge investments are needed to ensure this happens.** 2050 deep decarbonization plans aligned at national, regional and local levels are the only way to achieve this goal. A cohesive, integrated and iterative approach is needed to ensure the most efficient deployment of scarce resources.
- **This investment will have wide ranging socio-economic benefits.** It must appeal to the inherent wider benefits of sensible climate plans, given the range of priorities political leaders face in the Global South and the Global North (including equity, prosperity, health, wellbeing and employment).
- **Cities, regions, businesses, investors are actors of the Post-Paris agenda:** the massive mobilization of local and regional governments, the private sector and citizens appeared to be the game-changer that made the intergovernmental agreement possible. As a result, cities, regions, businesses, investors and civil society groups, gathered by the Paris Agreement under the name of “Non-Party Stakeholders”, are now key **actors** of its delivery. This new reality has been progressively integrated into UNFCCC discussions and processes through the Action Agenda, that established COPs as a *dual* process where both Parties and Non-Party Actors are invited to showcase their climate ambitions and achievements.

For the full narrative on “**Cities in the Post-Paris Agenda**” based on C40 Research, please refer to the annex.

2) On 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?

Acting as an interface between Non-Party Stakeholders and the UNFCCC negotiation process, enhancing the contributions of cities, regions, businesses and investors in the delivery of the Paris Agreement, is an important mission of the High-Level Champions. To support it, **the Global Climate Action Agenda must be strengthened** as a robust, permanent mechanism designed to encourage, register, showcase and scale-up those climate commitments. A representation system of Non-Party Stakeholders could be explored to give the GCAA a democratic basis, as well as **promote a bottom-up or horizontal decision-making approach**. Those representatives or Non-Party spokespersons, some of which need to be mayors, could also act as Deputies to the High-Level Champions, as rallying influential people and increasing the champions’ team seem imperative to achieve the outcome referred in Point 1.

However, from a city perspective, the most valuable role of the High-Level Champions should go further and be mainly focused on building a strong relationship between countries, cities, regions, private sector and others, improving their domestic cooperation and aligning their efforts around the 1.5 degree common goal. The key alliance needed here is **a better integration between National and City climate action**, as identified in a recent C40 research, that one of the main barriers to effective climate action at city-level is the lack of coordination between city, regional and national governments, or poor vertical integration. Cities are already demonstrating tremendous ambition and competency, volunteering to take on ever greater responsibility in delivering on the Paris Agreement and sharing knowledge and best practices with each other; however many cities lack the resources – financial, legal, political - to do so. So, **the greatest support needed by cities is that the High-Level Champions act as champions to national governments to secure greater resources and mandate for cities to deliver climate action.**

3) On 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)?

Transparency and tracking are crucial for Non-Party Stakeholders to gain recognition for their climate leadership and assess their contributions to the Paris Agreement’s delivery. To make sure all good wills are taken into account in the collective climate effort, the Action Agenda should be **inclusive** and able to integrate any initiative focused on achieving the Paris Agreement’s long-term goal, at local, regional, national and global levels.

All of them should be **data-driven** and using **standards** allowing comparison and benchmarking. All data reported to NAZCA should make reference to a credible standard, showing that a robust and published process has been followed. Two types of standards are needed: **1) standards for GHG inventories and climate risks assessments and 2) standards for climate actions or policies**, as several organizations are testing now¹. Non-Party Actors greatly vary, so at the moment no universal standard exists for all types of Non-Party Actors (cities, regions, businesses, etc.), however **recommendation on certain robust standards should be provided** (for any sub-national entity, this should be the [GPC](#) for area-based GHG inventories and [CRAFT](#) for climate risk assessments). An effort should be done to link or **integrate the standards that are already in use** among Non-Party actors, instead of creating new ones. In the future, more could be done through the introduction of an ISO for example.

Assessing the Action Agenda’s initiatives is one of the missions of the High-Level Champions, that should be conducted with **independence and impartiality**, with the support of a specialized, dedicated team.

4) On the 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?

COP22 High-Level event must be a highlight of the official agenda. COPs will be really dual when this event (also called “Action Day”) will be truly considered as a key moment of the Conference, communicated accordingly and adequately attended by Parties. **Its main objective is to take stock of the Non-Party Stakeholders’ contributions towards the achievement of the Paris Agreement’s long-term goal**, through existing or new coalitions and initiatives, enhancing their climate leadership with speakers selected by their own constituencies (cities, regions, businesses, investors, women and other groups). This session should not only provide an assessment of the collective progress, but also a clear view of what is needed to achieve more.

¹ The World Resource Institute developed a “Policy and Action Standard” in 2014: <http://www.wri.org/publication/policy-and-action-standard> .

To be useful to the climate sphere and accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the following questions should be covered through a **constructive dialogue between Non-Party Actors and Parties**, aiming to deliver **concrete solutions to overcome the barriers to climate action**:

1. How does the 1.5 degree target translate into climate action across specific sectors?
2. Vertical integration: key to success of long-term decarbonisation strategies
3. Winning the climate argument: collectively making the case for climate action throughout society
4. Unlocking climate action through public-private partnerships at all levels
5. Climate finance for all

Around this high-level, high-visible event, and building on the one-week LPAA segment developed at COP21, **several workshops² on key focuses should deepen the discussion** between Party/Non-Party and among Non-Party Actors, with the clear objective to produce **concrete outcomes** such as joint action plans and new alliances or initiatives. We recommend to maintain the focuses explored at COP21 to give continuity and strengthen sectorial dynamics: Cities and Subnationals, Energy Efficiency (including Building), Renewable Energy, Transport, Resilience, Private Finance, Innovation, Business, Forest, Agriculture. However it is crucial to promote a **cross-sector approach** to avoid silos and repetitions: for example, cities, subnationals and businesses should be included in all other focuses.

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?

2018, a crucial year to ramp up climate ambitions. The 2018 dialogue will be a key milestone on the road to 2020 to track progress, build accountability and ensure the delivery of 2020 commitments; but also, and most importantly, to create the conditions for ratcheting up ambition. According to the Paris Agreement's "ambition mechanism", the next rounds of National Determined Contributions (NDCs) must collectively ramp up climate action until GHG emissions reach net zero by 2050. To make this ambition realistic, citizen and business support for long-term transformational action, and 2050 decarbonization plans are imperative. The IPCC Special Report on 1.5 degrees published ahead of COP24, where cities will be given special attention, will provide the scientific basis for this long-term planning.

Mobilizing Non-Party Actors ahead of COP24. For 2018 to be a success, the mobilization of cities, regions, businesses, investors and citizens across all continents has to be maintained and broadened. If Non-Party stakeholders are the groundswell of climate action, their impulse is needed to create political momentum, make the low-carbon/resilient transition credible, force Nations to increase their ambition and deliver on their climate commitments at the required pace and scale. The 2050 national decarbonization plans in particular, need to be discussed, prepared and backed up by a wide coalition of political, social and economical forces, to engage markets into the low-carbon transition.

2018 Climate Action Summit: what for? A significant Climate Action Summit in the summer of 2018 appears to be the best way to focus everyone's efforts. Its primary objective should be to deliver a "*Non-Party Stakeholders Stocktake*", an assessment of the aggregated contributions of cities, regions, businesses and investors to the Paris Agreement's ambition. Additional desirable outputs could be:

² Following the excellent methodology tested at the First Forum on Alliances and Coalitions held in Rabat in June 2016.

- 2050 decarbonization and adaptation plans by cities, regions, businesses and investors, aligned with the Paris Agreement’s long-term goal
- Integrated Non-Party and Party long-term plans in adaptation and mitigation
- New mechanisms for funded, targeted, systematic, thematic and regional coordination between Non-Party actors, particularly cities and the private sector
- A financial package for climate action in cities and regions
- Recognition and increased ambition for existing initiatives
- Climate commitments by new actors and sectors, especially from the Global South and from oil-producing countries
- New technological and financial solutions to remove barriers to climate action at all levels and across all sectors

C40 is currently in conversations with the Climate Group – States and Regions, the State of California and We Mean Business to develop a joint vision of the 2018 Climate Action Summit, that is expected to be ready to share in the upcoming weeks.

5) On 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?

The Technical Experts Meetings should definitely evolve to be more solution-oriented, and should serve as periodical progress review and experience-sharing in relation to the coalitions and initiatives registered under the Global Climate Action Agenda.



ANNEX

Cities In The Post-Paris Agenda

Cities must be recognized and empowered as leading actors in delivering climate targets. As recognized by national governments at COP21 in Paris last year, truly transformational and urgent action is needed on climate change. Cities are necessarily at the forefront of driving this action. Urban areas are more exposed to the risks of climate change, often being coastal, densely populated and relying on remote supply chains for resources. Cities must also be the focal point for mitigation action, as they are responsible for driving 70% of energy-related global carbon emissions. The staggering increase in the scale and pace of action required to meet the ambition of the COP21 Paris agreement demands an immediate end to business-as-usual in urban development and renewal, in favor of zero or low-carbon new development and the extensive retrofitting of existing urban areas.

The most urgent priority is supporting cities to avoid locking in further emissions, particularly in the global south. The C40 report *The Decisions We Make Today Will Shape Tomorrow*³ shows that based on current trends of consumption and infrastructure development, within five years we will have “locked-in” sufficient future emissions to exceed 2 degrees carbon budget. In fact our research indicates that a **third** of these emissions will be determined by cities, necessarily making them pivotal actors in any foreseeable solution. Without the mayors that govern our cities and the citizens that they represent, the climate threat cannot be dealt with.

Cities are the world’s economic engine, and recognize the reward in taking action. As an example, C40’s 80+ member cities comprise over 600 million people and are responsible for a quarter of the world’s GDP. That would put C40 on top of the list of countries in terms of economic output globally. Cities know low carbon urban development makes good economic sense. C40’s collaboration with the Global Commission on the New Climate Economy on *Seizing the Global Opportunity*⁴ found that cities taking a low carbon development path will save 16.6 trillion dollars (USD) by 2050.

That said, the scale and pace of climate action required demands delivery strategy that aligns world’s prevailing agendas, including prosperity, health, wellbeing and employment. In the context of ongoing global economic challenges, the perception of trade-offs between socio-economic development and measures to reduce the risk of dangerous climate change are likely to persist. As such, there is an added imperative to communicate and act on the inter-connectedness of environmental, social and economic development aspirations, changing the conversation around climate action. In a recent project,⁵ C40 cities highlighted that difficulties in making the case for climate action are one of the leading challenges to undertaking ambitious urban climate action today, in particular around understanding and articulating the wider benefits of such action, and ensuring any benefits are inclusive and equitable.

³ http://issuu.com/c40cities/docs/the_decisions_we_make_today_will_sh

⁴ <http://2015.newclimateeconomy.report>

⁵ <http://www.c40.org/researches/unlocking-climate-action-in-megacities>

However there needn't be conflict between these priorities; in fact, they can and should be mutually reinforcing. It is necessarily the case that many urban policies deliver on multiple agendas. For example, transportation demand management improves *health* through cleaner air, increases *connectivity* through reduced congestion; delivers *economic benefits* through less time wasted in traffic; can promote *equity* with attention to affordable housing in the area; and lowers *GHG emissions* through a shift to alternative transport modes. On a broader scale, the work of the *New Climate Economy Commission*, a C40 partner, demonstrates that countries and cities that follow a low-carbon development path will raise living standards faster, and embed more sustainable economic growth, than those that continue on a high-carbon development path.

Solutions to climate change also present opportunities to forge a more just, equal society. The OECD-Ford Foundation "Inclusive Growth in Cities" campaign underscores the urgent need to address rising inequalities in cities all over the world through inclusive approaches to education, labor, housing, infrastructure and public services. Efforts to address climate change connect with many of these sectors, from green jobs to efficient buildings and from low-carbon transportation to clean, affordable energy. The pursuit of low-carbon development through these areas presents an opportunity for cities to tackle the dual challenges of inequality and climate change together, while ensuring sustainable economic growth and the delivery of critical benefits to urban populations.

The scope and potential for cities to do so is enormous. The *C40 Potential for Action*⁶ report, launched at C40's closing event at COP21 in Paris in 2015, identifies an opportunity of at least 27,000 actions in just 66 C40 cities, meaning cities are able to expand the enormous progress they've already made several times over. The report further establishes that there are more than 2,000 actions that could be initiated in the very short term, and that could be catalysed for as little as \$6.8bn USD, and could potentially save as much as 450 MtCO₂ cumulatively by 2020. This decisive action will show strong leadership in moving towards the total 3.7 GtCO₂/yr savings potential waiting to be unlocked in the world's cities by 2030.

The challenges that need tackling are becoming clear. For the first time, representatives from more than 80 of the world's largest cities have revealed the barriers that are limiting their ambitions to tackle climate change, in a new analysis by C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group (C40). [Unlocking Climate Action in Megacities](#) also presents a corresponding set of innovative and replicable solutions to overcome these challenges. The key barriers to effective city action on climate change identified in *Unlocking Climate Action in Megacities* are:

- A lack of co-ordination between city, regional and national governments (vertical integration);
- Green projects falling through the cracks between different arms of city government (city governance);
- Collecting, accessing, analysing and presenting information about the benefits of action on climate change (making the case for climate action);
- Communicating benefits of green initiatives with citizens and other key stakeholders (;
- Failure to work effectively with the private sector; and
- Securing funding for green projects in cities.

Direct intervention is required to start mitigating these challenges, and C40 is already taking some huge steps. In a precedent-setting move that will finally put green infrastructure funding in reach for cities in low- and middle-income countries, C40 announced a new Cities Finance Facility to help cities

⁶ https://issuu.com/c40cities/docs/c40_citypotential_2015

prepare sustainable infrastructure projects to attract investment. The facility is set to unlock \$1 billion of investments for fast-growing cities of developing countries within four years. Other efforts further the case for climate action by collecting and making widely available evidence on the co-benefits to city climate action.

Cities have the power to act coupled with a talent and desire for collaboration, and now cross sector cooperation is needed to unlock their potential. As shown in C40 report *Powering Climate Action*⁷, cities have a strong base of power to unilaterally deliver action across many sectors. However, it also shows action is most successful where cities collaborate, with 40% of city-wide actions taken by cities using a collaborative governance approach, compared to 5% for cases where governance is unilateral. C40, as a membership of cities fostering collaborating through networks, is working proof that cross boundary collaboration between city governments is both possible and is delivering enormous results. This is the city success story. Yet most importantly of all, *Potential for Action* demonstrates in three out of four cases the challenges cities face today cannot be overcome without the involvement of the private sector, national government, regional government or civil society. For instance city collaborations offer a lucrative opportunity for the private sector; every USD\$1 million invested in project preparation could yield USD\$20 to 50 million in capital support for successful projects. Additionally, C40 research indicates that climate action holds significant co-benefits in terms of improving economic and social well-being of citizens. All these actors interact and depend on one another to take action, and so by the same stroke, lack of cooperation can only hinder all. The next phase must involve collaboration not just between city authorities, but between all those who deliver action within cities.

⁷ http://issuu.com/c40cities/docs/powering_climate_action_full_report