

## Return on experience from the Lima-Paris Action Agenda's French managing team in response to the Champions' call for contribution regarding the Roadmap for Global Climate Action

The team that led the operational implementation and development of the LPAA within the French COP21 negotiations team welcomes the invitation made by the Champions to all stakeholders to submit views/contributions on their Roadmap by 1 August 2016. With this document, we would like to shed light on our return on experience from organizing the LPAA in 2015, which may be used as suggestions regarding the evolution and the future of the Action Agenda, and may inspire the Champions' roadmap.

**In 2014, at the Climate Summit organized in New York by the United Nations Secretary General office,** international cooperative initiatives to accelerate the adoption of low-carbon and resilient trajectories and solutions were announced. These partnerships later formed the basis of the LPAA, **which was formally launched at the COP20 in Lima by four partners – called the “quartet”:** the UNSG office, the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, the Peruvian presidency of COP20 and the future French Presidency of COP21. This formed an unprecedented and unequalled model of governance.

The LPAA aimed at **inspiring, structuring, and showcasing climate action.** Its objective was to scale up the level of ambition, by promoting best-in-class initiatives and attracting other actors inside the concrete climate action sphere.

The LPAA has resulted in a massive mobilization of state and non-state actors, involving almost **10,000** stakeholders — States, cities, regions, companies, investors and NGOs — from **180** countries in more than **70** cooperative initiatives. All of them were showcased during the COP21, throughout a rich LPAA sequence.

At the COP21, the collaborative approach undertaken with the LPAA was recognized in **Part IV of the Decision** ("Enhanced action prior to 2020"), and in particular in paragraphs 117 to 124, which highlight the LPAA results. States are encouraged to cooperate with non-state actors. Furthermore, the Parties encourage the creation of new partnerships and the strengthening of existing coalitions, "building on the Lima Paris Action Agenda", and also encourage to report on progress. The **Champions**, appointed by the successive Presidencies of the COP, are invited to "further the voluntary initiatives of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda".

## KEY FEATURES OF THE LIMA-PARIS ACTION AGENDA IN 2015

### I. To identify relevant initiatives, the LPAA quartet established a common approach based on key guiding principles:

1. The selection of **ambitious commitments consistent with a 1.5-2°C objective**, and geared towards concrete outcomes.
2. **Inclusiveness**, to make sure initiatives were open to all stakeholders – various regions, industries, stakeholders groups, etc. - and that this Action Agenda did not belong only to some.
3. The use of selected **simple, transparent and objective criteria**, defined by the four partners, to ensure the robustness and the credibility of the process. To be considered as part of the LPAA, initiatives were requested to demonstrate:
  - Operational, short-term goals as well as credible, long-term commitments;
  - Capacity of the stakeholders of the initiative to implement by themselves or collectively these commitments.
  - Relevance and credibility (rely on strong scientific basis, be consistent with a 1.5-2°C temperature increase objective and resilience objectives, have resources available, commit to report on progress and activities).
  - Additionally, the quartet paid special attention to including and empowering initiatives focusing on capacity-building in developing countries.
4. Commitments were **distributed in 12 areas: 8 sectoral areas key for climate action** (forests, agriculture, resilience, renewable energy, energy access and efficiency, transport, buildings, SLCPs) as well as **4 transversal cross-cutting themes** (private finance, innovation, business, and cities and territories). This structuration was defined in response to a scientific analysis of areas essential for effective and ambitious climate action (particularly, the UNEP *Emissions Gap Report*).
  - One of the goals of the quartet was to ensure that there were indeed coalitions to address each of the challenges of climate change, within these 12 areas. Depending on the situation in each sector, the LPAA partners either selected initiatives or encouraged the start of new ones in areas not well covered so far.
  - In 2015, for some sectors, the mobilization of the coalitions was supported by staff of “the quartet”. In other areas, the LPAA partners identified intermediaries, which could be called “facilitators”, on which they relied to various extents to organize the mobilization of stakeholders within their sectors. In the long run, these facilitators could continue playing a role in strengthening the “communities of action”.

### II. To showcase the initiatives, databases were set up:

1. The LPAA website, to present the selected coalitions, their objectives, partners, contact details, etc.,
2. The NAZCA platform (Non-state Actors’ Zone for Climate Action), launched in COP20 to index the more than 10.000 individual commitments made by individual organizations (companies, cities, NGOs, universities, etc.).

### III. In addition, at COP21, a sequence of 12 thematic events (“Focus events”) and an Action Day were organized to present the initiatives and commitments made by the LPAA initiatives.

## 2016, A PIVOTAL YEAR FOR CLIMATE ACTION

In the years to come, it will be necessary to continue triggering global engagement to accelerate action, and to demonstrate its usefulness with regard to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the scaling up of countries' ambition.

2016 is for many reasons a pivotal year to reflect on:

- some kind of **governance model** that could take over the main organizational functions of the LPAA;
- a **more structured mechanism to ensure accountability**, which would help identifying and promoting the best initiatives, while identifying those unable to demonstrate progress.
- the extent to which the coalitions can contribute and **support countries in developing and updating their national plans, and notably their national contributions (NDCs)**;
- **the ability of these coalitions and "sectoral communities of action to drive change**, including to influence negotiations in other fora (G20, G7, WEF...) or regional organizations (EU).

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Moving forward, several tasks that were initiated by the quartet – or simply envisioned, by lack of time ahead of COP21! - could be deepened and developed, to structure and strengthen the Action Agenda landscape. Some of these tasks were discussed during the first Alliances and Coalitions Global Forum, in June 2016 in Rabat. Based on our experience, as well as feedback we received, we would recommend to:

1. Design a simple, transparent reporting system.

**The main challenge of the Action Agenda is to demonstrate the implementation and the progress of the individual and collective commitments** to strengthen the confidence of stakeholders and civil society. Publishing the information collected is also the best way to make coalitions accountable for their commitments.

To that extent, two tools may be useful:

- an online questionnaire to annually collect the information directly from the coalitions;
- an online space to present the coalitions and track their progress using the information previously collected (which would replace the former LPAA webpages).

The tools could be designed in cooperation with the sectoral facilitators, to strengthen the sense of ownership by stakeholders.

The data collected could also be made available to civil society organizations (NGOs, think tanks, research institutes), so that they can carry out their own external assessments and analysis, thus contributing to reinforcing overall confidence in the Action Agenda.

2. Safeguard and reinforce the sector-based approach.

Sector-based approach is very relevant for countries when implementing climate actions. Ministers from various sectors are indeed increasingly called upon to promote climate-related policies. Countries and non-state actors will want to understand how coalitions can help showing the way in these sectors, and for some, they will want to join them. Ensuring some continuity in the sectoral approach of the Action Agenda and consolidating this approach can help the global climate action.

**It would contribute to:**

- strengthen communities of action and develop shared visions and narratives; as it is easier to share experience within the same community;

- fill in thematic or geographic gaps; actors in a similar sector might be well placed to identify what key actions – and therefore coalitions – are lacking;
- prevent redundancies, although horizontal coordination would be needed to fully avoid them;
- to promote linkages, where they are needed.

In 2015, some areas, intermediaries (facilitators) played a leadership role. **Facilitators** reduce the number of interlocutors by sector, which might be useful for the “central team” as well as the Champions. They can contribute to gradually strengthen the "communities of action" by spreading the narratives of the Action Agenda, building a shared vision. They can also play a coordinating role in shaping selected annual events that can become key for sectoral mobilization. To play this role, it is essential that their neutrality is preserved and recognized by other stakeholders. We recommend to identify and install facilitators in each of the Action Agenda sectors, where feasible, following a bottom-up approach (notably, each sector should organize itself and somehow identify its facilitating entity).

3. Ensure that the coalitions share common, even though minimal, characteristics.

**The coalitions should share some minimal characteristics which would be objectively determined, to ensure the credibility of the Action Agenda.** Using the same logic as the criteria used by the LPAA quartet in 2015, this could include:

- Having an identified narrative describing operational and short-term goals as well as credible long-term commitments, and demonstrate that the necessary stakeholders are part of the initiative.
- Demonstrating its relevance and credibility (scientific basis and consistency with an objective of 1.5-2°C warming and of resilience, available resources, commitment to report on their activities).

4. A light, central organization, to support the Champion’s role

**The future "champions" and presidents of the COP, supported by the UNSG and the UNFCCC, will give new directions for mobilization every year, while guaranteeing the continuity and respect of the founding principles of the Action Agenda.**

- The involvement of the COP presidency brings a political, geographical and/or thematic added value, and it strengthens the appropriation of this Agenda by all regions.
- The presidencies will probably choose to focus especially on some subjects, in order to make their mark on the Action Agenda. Nevertheless, it will be necessary to ensure the heritage and continuity of the Agenda over time.
- Champions and COP presidencies also have a fundamental role to play in ensuring that the Action Agenda remains open and balanced.

The **two champions have a crucial high level role to play in engaging different actors** - ministers, local authorities, CEOs, notably - to provide an essential financial and political support to initiatives. They are also expected to organize the reporting of results.

**To support their task**, the creation of a **small, permanent support team** (perhaps formed of a mix of staff from the presidencies, UN agencies or foundations) seems necessary. This team would be able to ensure the continuity of the momentum and the monitoring of the initiatives, as well as the communication and logistic organization of the Action Agenda. It would help successive champions and COP presidencies preserving the heritage and memory of the Action Agenda over time. The UNFCCC secretariat could be a good place to host this team to ensure this continuity.

This team could also be in charge of **identifying initiatives** with regards to the set of characteristics mentioned above, in order to include them in the Action Agenda. Civil society representatives could be involved in this process to ensure that the perspective of the civil society is taken into consideration.

Finally, each year, the two champions could gather all the coalitions and alliances and representatives from civil society to collect their opinions and recommendations for the two years ahead.

**Given that one of the main successes of the LPAA sequence at the COP was that it gave space and shed light on the work of the coalitions, bringing them a strong political support, the logic of organizing sector-specific events might be pursued.**

**Such events could ensure the strengthening of the “communities of action” and attract new stakeholders.** They could give them a chance to network, to debate, and to work together – in a logic of high-level dialogue with policy-makers. Moreover, if planned ahead by the presidencies, the “central team” and the UNFCCC secretariat, their organization could be the occasion to help consensual facilitators to emerge.

#### 5. Get ready for 2018.

2018 will be pivotal in demonstrating progress. **A "market place" creating a dialogue could be established between countries and coalitions** to discuss specific policies, operational support and activities, ambition levels, as well as the long term road map. Facilitators could be in charge of reconciling the sectoral progresses made by coalitions with the NDCs.

In conclusion, the Action Agenda is a movement that existed before Paris and will continue afterwards. Its impact can be very powerful if organized in a way that is helpful both for parties as well as for non-parties. We hope that these remarks based on the experience of the LPAA can contribute to that aim.