



Youth submission to the High Level Champions

About the authors :

CliMates is an international think-and-do tank on climate change bringing together young volunteers from more than 30 countries, both students and young professionals. Its goal is to take on the climate challenge by:

1. Developing and promoting innovative ideas and tools
2. Influencing decision-makers
3. Training youth to become change-makers
4. Engaging in interdisciplinary research and action-based projects

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This submission is also supported by the following organizations :

Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth.

Launched in 2015, SDSN Youth is the global youth division of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a new initiative to amplify the tremendous energy and capabilities of youth in generating broader buy-in for the Sustainable Development Goals by mobilizing resources and building capacity to empower action.

Through education and global cooperation, SDSN Youth provides a global platform to advocate for change and offer solutions for achieving the SDGs. We work alongside policymakers and receives assistance from field experts. The global reach of the SDSN, with its strong links to universities from around the world, provides a unique opportunity to effectively involve youth in the post-2015 agenda.

 www.sdsnyouth.org | www.unsdsn.org

 networks@sdsnyouth.org



UK Youth Climate Coalition

The UK Youth Climate Coalition aims to inspire, empower, mobilise and unite Young people to take positive action for a cleaner, fairer future. We were born out of the inspiring stories of other Young people from around the world who were taking climate change action into their own hands. UKYCC is run entirely by a team of highly motivated Young volunteers between the ages of 16 and 29.

 <http://ukycc.org/>

 hello@ukycc.org



uk youth climate coalition
uk youth for a clean, fair future

We first welcome the timely release of the roadmap by the two High Level Champions and congratulates them for their initiative of holding a wide consultation from State and Non-State actors on this matter. This is a clear recognition that civil society cannot be excluded or ignored in climate change negotiations and in the UNFCCC process.

Question 1. Current situation

We agree with this general description of the current situation, especially as regards the need for a “quick-start implementation with a sense of urgency and ambition”.

The current commitments, even if fully achieved, take us very far from the level of ambition agreed on in Paris. Failing to deliver on this aspect endangers the future of current and future generations and neglects the principle of intergenerational equity proclaimed in the preamble of the 2015 Paris Agreement. We acknowledge that maintaining a high level of ambition is important, but, beyond that, it is even more important to take action faster and start now. The more climate action is delayed, the more we will have to do in the future, and the more the burden will be carried by future generations and fragile communities. The emergency is now so severe that the implementation of national policies and non-state actors commitments should not wait for international decisions. Consequently, the enhancement of the pre-2020 climate action by the High Level Champions and a transparent monitoring process are necessary.

Question 2. The role of High Level Champions

We agree that the role of High Level Champions would have to be an interface between action on the ground and the UNFCCC process in order to facilitate the implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement and to scale up efforts in the pre-2020 period. Improving the inclusion of Non-State Actors will be decisive in achieving this goal.

While we acknowledge the importance of involving businesses and local authorities in the process, we notice that very few references are made to other types of Non-State Actors in the roadmap (such as indigenous or youth), even though their commitments are as

important. In particular, the role of NGOs in education for sustainable development (ESD) are central in building the low-carbon climate-resilient societies that we need. Thus, we consider that the High Level Champions should also foster and support these sorts of initiatives around the world. This could be concretely translated into the construction of a global NAZCA-like platform, co-funded by the UNFCCC, the COP presidencies and the UNSG Office, which would take stock of the local and regional initiatives in the field of ESD.

We draw attention to the fact that climate action is not only about carbon sinks and greenhouse gas emissions. The High Level Champions should be vigilant about the fact that climate action must include social and long-term environmental aspects. To do so, they can rely on the expertise of the many NGOs committed to tracking the social and environmental safeguards of development projects, but also on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which seem to be a relevant framework to assess the desirability of these projects.

Question 3. Transparency and tracking

We support the caution expressed in the roadmap to avoid greenwashing. More than just listing and mapping the initiatives, the High Level Champions should also ensure their compatibility with the long term objectives of the Paris Agreement, and the principles contained in both its preamble and in the Convention. The official recognition has to be demanding and inclusive at the same time.

To keep the evaluation “light touch and efficient”, we recommend building on the lessons learnt from the evaluation process of the initiatives registered in the NAZCA platform. The High Level Champions could, as a first step, lead a harmonization process of the different existing evaluation methodologies in order to make them both sector-relevant and comparable. We suggest that this process is undertaken in a transparent way, in coordination with the UNFCCC Secretariat and that it involves representatives from both Parties and the nine different Constituencies of the Convention.

Question 4. High Level Event

We acknowledge the importance of organising a High Level Event in order to showcase the best practices of both Parties and non-Party stakeholders. Regarding non-Party stakeholders, all types of initiatives should be promoted, not only the ones created by businesses and local authorities, as mentioned in the roadmap. This should be done in a manner that all people (including youth) can understand.

Question 5. Technical Experts Meetings

In our experience, TEMs sometimes display a low level of expertise from the party representatives, and do not work effectively as a place for knowledge-sharing, but rather as a place where each party repeats its positions in the current negotiations. If the TEMs are to be made more concrete and solution-oriented, We recommend that a greater place should

be made for interventions from civil society (whereas now, constituencies are sometimes granted a 2-minute speech at the end of the meeting). Indeed, as they have strong field experience and an important level of expertise on the different topics, civil society representatives are likely to present much more concrete solutions, and to share relevant knowledge with Parties. We also recommend keeping the TEMs related to the negotiation process but involving the implementers rather than the negotiators (or both) on the party side.

Other role the High Level Champions could play

In coordination with the UN Secretary General's office, the High Level Champions could enhance the synergies between the UNFCCC process and the 2030 Sustainable Agenda, in particular in becoming the entity that assesses the progress made on Goal 13 (Climate Action). The High Level Champions could also be a link to other International institutions such as ICAO/IMO, the Montreal Protocol, and to the negotiations on environmental services and goods at the WTO.