



Climate Alliance views on the Roadmap for the Global Climate Action Agenda

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This paper presents Climate Alliance's views on the roadmap for the Global Climate Action Agenda, following the invitation for submissions put forward by high-level champions of climate action Ambassador Laurence Tubiana and Minister Hakima el Haité.

Climate Alliance is a European network of more than 1,700 local authorities committed to take action in fighting and adapting to climate change. When joining the network, the member municipalities commit with a common greenhouse gas emissions reduction target and to adopt a holistic approach to tackling climate change.

Climate Alliance has been engaged in the International Climate Process since its start. Last year Climate Alliance played an instrumental role in the lead-up to COP21 by actively contributing to the Lima Paris Action Agenda and by bringing local leaders to various events throughout COP. Now, after adoption of the Paris Agreement, together we face the challenge of implementation and accelerated action. National governments need their subnational governments and other actors to help them in achieving their climate targets, while subnational governments need their national level to provide them with enabling frameworks for action. There is a need to shift from 'action by a few to action by all' to deliver an effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. We therefore welcome the Global Climate Action Agenda as an important means to ensure the interplay between Parties and non-Party stakeholders in taking concrete action on the ground.

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?

Climate Alliance believes that the high-level champions will play an instrumental role in bringing Parties and non-Party stakeholders in working more closely. But they will need to be **supported by a strong and permanent team**, for instance within the UNFCCC Secretariat, who will **ensure continuity and stability** of the Global Climate Action Agenda process when COP Presidencies change. There is still a need to identify a **governance structure** of the Global Climate Action Agenda, namely how the different non-Party



stakeholders can be organised and liaise with Party stakeholders. For the setting up of different “coalitions” or themes of non-Party stakeholders and initiatives, it will be important to ensure an **inclusive approach**.

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?

Climate Alliance agrees that the high-level champions need to be an interface between action on the ground, including initiatives, and the UNFCCC negotiation process as well as between Parties and non-Party stakeholders. However, we believe that a **more concrete definition of this role** will be necessary. It will be important to have a **structured and formal process of dialogue between Parties and non-Party stakeholders** linked to the UNFCCC process. The high-level champions should ensure that there is a link between action on the ground and the formulation of NDCs of Parties as well as that those **NDCs will not be developed totally detached from other subnational plans**, such as local climate and energy action plans. National plans of good quality require cooperation between the different actors and in particular between the different levels of governance. This can only be done when having a proper understanding of the actions taken at local and regional levels. Therefore, it is important to ensure a **better alignment between national climate and energy action plans and local climate and energy action plans** in a multi-level governance perspective.

Today, there is a myriad of local governments from different sizes who have developed and are implementing their local climate and energy action plans. In the frame of the **Covenant of Mayors initiative**, this number accounts to over 5,400 Sustainable Energy Action Plans. In this context, a sound methodology for climate and energy planning and monitoring as well as a reporting framework has been put in place for some years, which provides accountability, transparency and credibility. It has allowed local and regional governments to create knowledge and capacities in energy and climate planning, thus contributing to a tipping point in integrated local planning processes in Europe. Moreover, the **existing reporting mechanism for local governments**, outlining the key elements of local plans, **offers opportunities to national governments to become more aware of local governments’ actions and needs**. The NDCs should therefore make use of existing building blocks like the local climate and energy plans. This also allows **ensuring policy coherence across different levels of government**, which is key for a successful implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The Covenant of Mayors is a good example of an initiative with a **tracking system** regarding the commitments made and their implementation. It is therefore important that initiatives continue to be self-organised as mentioned in the Roadmap for Global Climate Action and that the tracking of implementation is carried out within the framework of each initiative. The role of the high-level champions does not



necessarily need to focus in tracking implementation of all initiatives but instead in acknowledging initiatives that have a tracking system in practice for which their results could be used to demonstrate credibility and transparency.

As mentioned in the Roadmap for Global Climate Action, we agree that the focus of the high-level champions should be in supporting the initiatives that have the greatest impact on the ground (and that can demonstrate this), consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

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 to achieve an official recognition of non-Party stakeholders, including their related initiatives, within the UNFCCC process, Climate Alliance believes that there is a need to ensure that the initiatives that will be part of this process are **credible and their achievements are tracked**.

As there are several initiatives already tracking their progress (e.g. the Covenant of Mayors initiative which includes close to 7,000 local governments), we believe that adding another tracking system to be carried out by another body would only duplicate what is already being done by some initiatives.

We would propose instead, that there is a prior assessment of the initiatives to be part of the Global Climate Action Agenda process, in which a **labelling assessment** could be adopted. The initiatives could then receive labels based on a limited set of criteria, such as 1) Targets consistent with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement; 2) Existing tracking system for implementation; 3) Data validation by a third party; among others. This would allow to better identify the initiatives that are delivering on their commitments. If each initiative produces periodical aggregated results, this could also be shared with UNFCCC's NAZCA portal, so that it would be visible how much greenhouse gas emissions reduction (or other relevant indicators) the members of each initiative represent. Although some guidelines for providing data would have to be developed and shared with the initiatives in order to avoid that some report their impacts in cumulative terms whether others report yearly figures. All pre-identified elements required for providing a good basis for comparison should be provided by the initiatives.

The NAZCA portal hosts today very limited information on the cooperative initiatives. We would propose to expand the information on the initiatives following a similar structure and including the labelling assessment mentioned above. It would be important to show the overall commitments (intended contribution) of the initiatives as well as the achievements made so far, i.e. once a monitoring is carried out by the initiative we could see the progress towards the initiative's goals in a graphical manner. The main aim of the NAZCA portal has been to serve as a **"window"** to other existing reporting platforms, we believe



this aim should be kept and **duplication should be avoided**. NAZCA can have a very important role in compiling in one single portal the most meaningful information from all the different initiatives from non-Party stakeholders. NAZCA can also offer an official recognition to initiatives by having a set of **pre-defined and transparent criteria** which guarantees that the initiatives listed are credible and reliable. We believe that **NAZCA could be the main communication portal of the Global Climate Action Agenda** and serve as an **interface between NDCs and action from non-Party stakeholders**.

It is important that all initiatives are brought under one single platform, such as NAZCA. For instance, today there is the Lima Paris Action Agenda website, the Climate Initiatives Platform, among others, listing similar initiatives using a different structure.

In addition, we believe that it would also be important to look at what could be done from the Parties' side. We would like also to propose a **labelling framework for submitted NDCs**, which would tell us if initiatives of non-Party stakeholders have been included or have been aligned with the NDCs. This information could also be included in NAZCA for each initiative, i.e. identify in which NDCs the initiative(s) were taken into account. For instance, the submitted INDCs of Georgia and Armenia include the Covenant of Mayors initiative.

Finally, as proposed already above we would suggest a **permanent team within UNFCCC Secretariat** to develop further and manage the NAZCA portal. This team could be complemented by an **advisory board/council of individuals with recognised expertise** on the field of climate action, including both academics and practitioners working in non-Party stakeholders' initiatives. Their role would be mainly **strategic**, namely in defining the criteria for the initiatives, the creation of a labelling scheme, among others. The selection of experts to be part of this advisory board should be made in a transparent manner. A call for applications should be communicated to all non-Party stakeholders' groups.

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?

The annual high-level event at COPs is necessary, but it should not be the main focus of the Global Climate Action Agenda. The events should **be complementary to a whole collaborative, inclusive and structured process that runs during the year**. The objective should focus in **showing concrete examples of collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders**, but also in raising **difficulties and barriers** that still need to be overcome. It should provide an opportunity for non-Party stakeholders to demonstrate what they have been doing and where they need **further support from Parties**. The same should be valid the other way around.

The events should not be focused exclusively on showcasing the results of non-Party stakeholders' initiatives but be focused on **showcasing integrated action between Party and non-Party stakeholders**.



Furthermore, it is important that those events are **inclusive** and that the different groups of non-Party stakeholders have a chance to participate, namely in organising side events and proposing speakers. For this, there should be a **transparent process** communicated to everyone in advance regarding the **selection of contact points for the different focus areas/coalitions**.

In addition, this year takes place the “**Climate Chance Summit**” in Nantes, “the event for non-state actors dedicated to concrete action”, which is intended to take place every year before COPs. We believe that there should be a **clearer link between this event and the Global Climate Action Agenda**, namely how the outcomes can feed into the Global Climate Action Agenda and consequently in the UNFCCC process.

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?

Climate Alliance believes that already existing tools should be used if they have been working well until date, instead of reinventing new tools. In our opinion, the technical expert meetings (TEMs) should be very **practical and use interactive methods of participation**. It would be important to feed these meetings with practical examples that can be replicable. It will also be important to **reach-out different non-Party stakeholders** to give the opportunity to everyone to share their practical solutions and **avoid having always the same representatives**. In this way, more innovative solutions can be achieved. For this, we would recommend to carry out an **update of the mapping of stakeholders for each topic area**, so that they could be informed and invited to contribute based on the topics to be discussed.

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About Climate Alliance

For more than 25 years, Climate Alliance member municipalities have been acting in partnership with indigenous rainforest peoples for the benefit of the global climate. With some 1,700 members spread across 26 European countries, Climate Alliance is the world’s largest city network dedicated to climate action and the only one to set tangible targets: each member city, town and district has committed itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent every 5 years. Recognising the impact our lifestyles can have on the world’s most vulnerable people and places, Climate Alliance pairs local action with global responsibility. The network fosters cooperation with indigenous peoples, runs awareness raising campaigns and develops tools for climate action planning. It provides ample opportunity for participation and exchange while representing member interests at the national, European and international levels.