



Roadmap for Global Climate Action

Submission by The Climate Group on behalf of the States & Regions Alliance and the Under2 MOU | July, 2016

Overview

This submission is prepared by The Climate Group in response to the invitation for submissions on the Road Map for Global Climate Action by Her Excellency Ms. Laurence Tubiana, French Ambassador for Climate Change and Her Excellency Ms. Hakima El Haite, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of Morocco, in charge of the environment.

This submission has been prepared taking into account needs and learning from running the States & Regions Alliance and the Under2 MOU and based on direct contributions by sub-national government members of these two initiatives.

1) The current situation

The sense of urgency that led to the Paris Agreement and sustained the work on work stream 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?

This is broadly accurate. With regards to the means of implementation and sense of urgency, there is a need to mobilize more financing to support non-Party stakeholder initiatives and projects. Rather than focusing on new initiatives, existing initiatives should be better supported. For example, the creation of a non-Party actor fund to support existing initiatives would be beneficial. If not, there is a risk of some initiatives being held up at the ‘scaler’ phase’ and objectives never being able to fully materialize.

In addition, enhancing delivery of pledged commitments and current initiatives such as the Under 2 MOU and the Compact of States and Regions should enjoy priority over a push for new commitments (unless there is a distinct unmet need). The various high-level calls in the run up to Paris led to some strong political commitments by non-Party actors in developing countries but with irregular levels engagement from the working level due to capacity. Therefore, creation of regional hubs could help to better support and align the needs of non- Party actors in these countries, particularly with regards to the implementation phase.

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?

The focus on non-state actors should be more balanced, so that businesses, cities, states and regions feel equally encouraged and the real impact of their action is considered. Whilst the role of cities and businesses as climate actors is well understood, the world's state, regional and provincial governments are significant players responsible for key areas of climate policy such as energy regulation, transport, adaptation, public planning, carbon pricing and low carbon investment. State and regional governments operate at a level where some of the most flexible and innovative policies are developed. They are key to successful action as they provide own legislative measures, develop implementation plans and are in charge of enforcement measures. They have the power and resources to act and at the same time are close to local business and communities/municipalities enabling a faster response to different policy needs. High-level champions should ensure that states and regions as important stakeholders will be recognized and engaged as key part of the non-party stakeholder agenda.

High-level champions could also be the key link between the different levels of government and private sector action. Vertical integration is always a crucial issue in the non-party stakeholder agenda but is too difficult for many networks to move forward on. There is a lot of potential which would be unlocked if vertical integration is more successful. The Under2 Coalition could provide a forum for this, as it brings together nations, regions and cities on the issue of 2050 pathways.

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)?

Enhancing and harmonizing Inventory, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (I/MRV) processes at national, state, and city levels is crucial to the effort to raise awareness of climate change and necessary GHG reduction, to consolidate data infrastructure for reporting GHG emissions and ultimately to reduce temperature increase below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels. Robust I/MRV, including GHG accounting and inventories based on sound methodologies across all sectors, is, in addition to a solid mitigation plan, essential for ensuring meaningful greenhouse gas emission reductions.



UNFCCC could initiate an iterative process between the non-Party stakeholders to issue a series of definitions and guidelines aimed at streamlining and strengthening the commitments from parties and non-state actors and respective I/MRV processes. Existing I/MRV initiatives from non-Party actors such as the Compact of States and Regions should be recognized and supported through this process rather than duplicating this work. The Compact of States and Regions uses aggregated data to showcase overall GHG reduction contributions made by subnational governments and through GHG inventory data assesses progress towards these commitments.

Ideally, these guidelines should be sector-specific and particular attention should be paid to some of the most challenging sectors (energy, transport, waste, land use and agriculture).

Examples include:

- Guidance on setting comparable GHG/ RES/ EE targets (base year/ intensity versus BAU versus absolute/ target year)
- Guidance on setting up and implementing GHG inventory protocols at the regional/local/business level
- Guidance on how to internalize carbon pricing for businesses
- Guidance on how to induce and calculate emission reductions and savings (BAU/ absolute/ emission factors) at the regional/local level
- Identify the sectors and categories for which a common set of MRV criteria may be practical at the regional/local level
- Review quality assurance and quality control practices for jurisdiction-level economy-wide inventories and identify guidance gaps;
- Assess which support is needed to move from lower tier methodologies for GHG emissions calculations to higher tier methodologies for GHG emissions calculations;

Validation by the UNFCCC will add to the credibility and will be an incentive for non-party stakeholders to participate in these initiatives. Equally non-Party initiatives on I/MRV enhance and support the credibility of actions by parties in this area. Therefore, NAZCA should remain a communications tool aimed at informing the wider public on non-state actor commitments around the world and the sharing of best practices. NAZCA should increase the appeal amongst citizens (set up a comms/ PR campaign). This will increase the appeal to be featured on the website.

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?

A number of high-level events took place over the past few months with a series of commitments being promised. There is a need to turn these ambitious commitments into concrete action. The next key milestone will be 2018, where countries will revise their



initial climate action plans, take stock of their efforts and measure progress towards the Paris Agreement's objectives. In order to re-inforce the focus on action and implementation, there is a need for more working-level workshops, hands-on webinars and focused seminars in the run-up to the Climate Action Summit in 2018.

Thematic focus areas for the Climate Action Summit could include Energy (Renewables and Energy Efficiency), Transport, Land-use (including Agriculture and Forestry), Low-Carbon Innovation and Water as well as carbon pricing. The 2050 pathways initiative as well as the I/MRV approach to enable greater transparency could provide the over-arching context for the 2018 summit and preparatory dialogues, with strong linkages with the Under2 MOU. The Summit should present the most innovative practices, initiatives and actions undertaken by non-Party stakeholders since the Paris conference. It should also provide good visibility for high-level representatives of different stakeholder groups (states and regional governments, local authorities, private sector, youth, etc.).

The Climate Group is currently working together with C40, We Mean Business and the Government of California on a proposal for the structure of the 2018 Summit.

Similar to dedicated action days at COP21 in Paris, institutionalizing a specific day at COP for subnational governments and providing formal mechanisms for accreditation for this day for subnational stakeholders who usually are not members of Party-delegations will be key to strengthen subnational action.

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?

The challenge is converting the TEMs from a knowledge forum to an implementation and action-oriented one. There is also the need to include a subnational perspective by providing capacity for exchange to discuss the needs and the perspective of sub-national governments. Capacity building is vital to unlock mitigation and adaptation potential of developing countries. At COP22, stakeholders need to encourage the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB) to address the gaps, to build capacity in developing countries. There is a need to not only strengthen North-South cooperation but also South-South cooperation.

Non-Party stakeholders also often have the power to act on carbon pricing, and TEMs on the different carbon pricing mechanisms available and the ways to implement them could also be prioritized as an effective way to reduce GHG emissions and tackle climate change.

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