Global Climate Action Agenda Climate Champions Release Detailed Roadmap: I4CE's contribution to the call for submissions to Parties and Non-Party Stakeholders

The current situation

The description of the current situation is informative and accurate and it emphasises key issues such as the urgency of climate action, the need to move faster in mobilizing non-state actors (NSA) and the search of an equilibrium between adaptation and mitigation. However, if the champions would like to supplement the text, they may consider:

- First, recalling the ambitious targets and objectives set by the Paris agreement and the current gap, thus the crucial need to scale-up non-party stakeholder efforts and the need for them to engage into close collaboration and dialogue with governments and to monitor and support the implementation, the experimentation, and to push for the increase of ambition of NDCs.
- Second, emphasising the need for strengthened engagement and actions between non state actors (NSAs) and governments to close the emissions gap and remain in alignment with the long term objectives of the Paris Agreement.
- Third, highlighting the importance of engaging subnational actors who regularly interface with the private sector to enable the emergence of multi-actor projects with far reaching social and environmental benefits.
- Fourth, helping develop platforms to facilitate NSA involvement in the design and implementation of NDCs with a focus on raising and maintaining a high level of ambition and safeguarding commitments against backsliding. This is especially relevant to Parties who may be experiencing a period of political uncertainty that could impact the achievement of climate objectives.
- Finally, it is also worth mentioning that even though the climate agenda is less visible this year, it has remained and needs to remain as active in the coming years. Thus, the need to keep in on the top of the political pile and to continue systematically addressing climate in international negotiation for where NSA actors are involved, and to link this issue, when possible, into other international actions like SDGs' implementation.

The role of the high-level champions

In addition to the roles defined in the current road map, the climate champions could help to further mobilise NSAs at the coming COP and beyond by:

- Encouraging NSAs to increase their participation in country-driven definitions of NDCs and associated policy frameworks. The CCA roadmap could benefit from more detail on the channels available or to develop to allow NSAs to help extend ambition and reinforce the "ratcheting mechanism" of NDCs.
- Identifying sectors that can be "change makers" and supporting them to make strong commitments to climate excellence.
- Monitoring debates and dialogues to ensure that they are aligned with the long-term objectives of the Paris Agreement. This could take the form of an alert system to identify significant projects, operations, policies (eg. urban policies, business deals, trade agreements, subnational development strategies, infrastructure projects, etc.) that are either good examples of alignment, or clearly not aligned with these global goals and support the identification of alternatives to improve them.
- Capitalising on existing networks to build multi-actor relationships while drawing attention to potential synergies that can be achieved between different levels of government stakeholders and NSAs. In doing so, efforts should be coordinated to avoid duplication and increase effectiveness and the sharing of good practices. In particular, successful examples of well collaborative governance and vertically integrated jurisdictions and their key factors of success (including relevant decision

making tools) could be highlighted. There is still strong need to raise awareness and understanding of the new cooperation framework set by the Paris agreement (contributions from all countries to the global effort, strong participation of NSA, common objectives towards low-carbon climate resilient development, etc.) amongst NSA networks, especially of the least climate-aware ones that feel less concerned by climate change challenges and opportunities.

- Restoring and building support for high impact initiatives and projects undertaken by NSAs and enabling them to coordinate new initiatives that contribute to the fulfilment of NDCs which leverage local skills and resources.
- Work in the establishment and or strengthening of coordination mechanisms between parties and non-party stakeholders in order to ensure coherence, replicability, and increased effectiveness of measures (ie. avoid duplicated efforts).

It is interesting and necessary to track implementation of existing initiatives and mentioned in the CCA Roadmap. However, following the "ratchet-up" scheme of NDCs it could be envisioned that champions work with the promoters of highly promising and replicable initiatives so that they also increase ambition of their commitments in for example 5-year cycles. The "extension of ambition" of both public and private initiatives is a key issue that needs to be addressed in a much more explicit manner in the roadmap.

Transparency and tracking

More attention should be directed towards assessing initiatives in the context of the direct, indirect and co-benefits achieved. By tracking and communicating the positive results of initiatives undertaken over the last year since COP21, champions could create greater incentives for new actors to implement successful projects.

A harmonised assessment tool (applied to all climate initiatives in the GCAA) would be ideal to measure the ambition, results and impact of all NSA actions alike. However, it would most probably not be the most efficient in practice (as it depends on the goals, the data availability, the required degree of precision, the cost to collect the data, etc.) and it is difficult to envision. A number of transparency frameworks apply their own criteria to track and assess implementation. For example, for the action of cities the Compact of Mayors has used specific criteria which may be different from the criteria used by other networks.

In view of this, rather than determining a universal tool, the champions may consider emphasising the need for criteria which:
- Highlights the need for transparency on the framework used by each type of actors (and/or networks), with detailed information on the nature, scope and hypotheses on which the criteria are based. This would facilitate open discussions and some comparability between initiatives.
- Promotes exchanges and discussion between various existing standards and critical reviews with the potential to harmonize as much as possible existing assessment criteria.
- Builds consensus on the meaning of various indicators including core-methodologies and guidelines, acknowledging that there is no ideal metric (especially when dealing with issues relating to climate adaptation and resilience). It is also key to account for both short term GHG reduction impacts and more medium and long term alignment with low-carbon climate resilient long term pathways and thus avoid lock-in.
- Allows to identify and showcase the most replicable and relevant options.
- Aims to tackle co-benefits such as health, jobs created, food security, poverty alleviation, etc. Stronger consideration and understanding of these co-benefits can help incentivize new initiatives.
- Includes a financial dimension indicating that resources, whether in-kind or monetary, are being made available for the implementation of commitments.

For COP22 the role of NAZCA could be used to:
- Reinforce NSA ambition by focusing on new and additional initiatives that go further than policies implemented at the national level.

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- Showcase successful, hybrid multi-actor initiatives with enough details to encourage more collaboration as well as initiatives that demonstrate good business-sense and are able to mobilise finance from various resources.
- Provide examples of best practices from different sectors, country blocks and domains, with explicit criteria or methodologies to verify commitments.

High-level event

- In order to enable NSAs to capitalise on the momentum of the COPs and increase the impact of high-level events, special attention should be made to convene the participation and engagement of new-comers or actors who typically are less visible internationally and less publicised. This could help facilitate the dissemination of new information and could help forge new collaborative initiatives.
- When considering the "best in class," high-level champions may consider taking into account which NSA initiatives are more or less aligned with the long-term decarbonisation goal of the Agreement, and if possible existence of co benefits.
- Identify sectors/domains which have experienced difficulty with regard to adopting low-carbon policies/adaptation strategies and help connect them with NSAs who can support their progress.

The role of the TEMS

The Agreements approach to create greater synergies between Parties and NSA and Parties is paramount in the achievement of Paris objectives. By including the development of the technical aspects of cooperation within the Global Action Agenda, TEMs would enable concrete steps towards developing the necessary capacities to implement effective decarbonisation/adaptation strategies within the right groups. They could also help in the definition of the harmonised methodologies or criteria (see Q3), notably for the Nazca (and/or GCAA). In part, this could be enabled by disseminating research materials that are relevant and provide factual, practical and theoretical insight into high–level issues.

Among other themes, TEMs could work on decision making tools to integrate externalities, co benefits, and uncertainties with the help, if needed, of numerous research centres and institutions.

Beyond the knowledge sharing value of TEMs, at this stage in the climate negotiation process, it is important that they deliver practical conclusions and recommendations that:
- are well within the themes of the discussion;
- capitalise on knowledge from past experiences, both from the past negotiations and NSA initiatives;
- provide concrete elements for negotiators and initiative leaders, and guarantee the coherence;
- help to identify and create mutually beneficial partnerships.

I4CE publications relevant to these topics: To know more about I4CE's work: www.i4ce.org

- Policy Brief: *COP21 – a successful 'end of the beginning*
- Policy Brief: *The Paris Agreement: a new international framework to facilitate the uptake of carbon pricing*
- Policy Brief (Forthcoming) *Climate Governance and the Paris Agreement: betting on cooperation*
- ClimasCOPe issues :
  o #3 The accounting of GHG emissions (MRV)
  o #4 On the mobilization of non-state actors for the climate action.
  o #5 Climate Change Adaptation
- LPAA Focus on Cities & Regions, Scientific Brief on the implications of local and regional jurisdictions for mitigation and adaptation to climate change: How can they enhance engagement of their constituents? State of science and focus on economic and financial tool
- Project final report: *COordination of EU Policies on « Energy and CO2 » with the EU ETS by 2030 (COPEC)*[1]

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[1] . For instance, I4CE's analysis of PA cooperative approaches in the context of carbon pricing, suggests that in the coming years, subnational actors and NSAs could be leaders in adopting policies that aim to put a price on carbon. In view of this, it could be beneficial to introduce TEMs that could help NSAs, subnational actors and UNFCCC Parties identify and understand carbon pricing tools and how to operationalise them effectively at all levels.