

# Submission of the United Nations Environment Programme on the Road Map for Global Climate Action

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## Introduction

In response to the invitation by the high-level champions, appointed in decision 1/CP.21, to submit views on their Road Map for Global Climate Action, the United Nations Environment Programme is honored to make the following submission. It focuses on the specific questions that the high-level champions have formulated<sup>1</sup>.

## Specific questions from the high-level champions

### *1. The current situation*

#### **Pre-2020 action paramount to staying within 2°C limit**

We fully agree with the observation that pre-2020 action is a key element for the implementation and success of the Paris agreement. The importance of enhanced early action has been extensively discussed in our Emissions Gap Report series and is recapitulated in the 2015 edition<sup>2</sup>. Benefits include reduction of lock-in of carbon and energy intensive infrastructure, reduction of climate risks, improved public health as a result of lower air pollution.

#### **More focus on linking the UNFCCC negotiations with real world solutions and challenges**

The description of the current situation is accurate in our view. UNEP agrees that there is a need for a stronger interface between the UNFCCC negotiations between Parties on the one hand, and the real world, with concrete initiatives, actors, opportunities and challenges on the other.

### *2. The role of the high-level champions*

UNEP agrees with the described roles of the high-level climate champions, including the new focus on adaptation initiatives and the wider geographical participation. An important role is communicating to an external audience (general public) the success and impacts of existing non-state actions. On the element of tracking implementation of existing initiatives: this can be very time and resource consuming and technically challenging at the same time, especially considering the high numbers of initiatives and

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<sup>1</sup> In document <http://www.cop22.ma/sites/default/files/high-level-champions-invitation-submissions.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Especially in chapter 2. [http://uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/theme/13/EGR\\_2015\\_301115\\_lores.pdf](http://uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/theme/13/EGR_2015_301115_lores.pdf)

coalitions. A division of tasks could be considered instead. See below under 3. Transparency and tracking.

### 3. Transparency and tracking

#### **Focus on real impact, use existing impact reporting mechanisms and the Climate Initiatives Platform**

We agree that more emphasis should be placed on tracking and evaluating existing climate initiatives. to demonstrate their credibility and enhance their delivery. The UN Climate Summit in September 2014 and the Lima and Paris COPs have been important launch pads for new initiatives, but as the landscape becomes more crowded it is will be difficult to focus on all of them. As time is also running out to act before 2020, we understand that the champions will therefore support those initiatives that have the greatest impact on the ground, consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement. In order to be able to separate the wheat from the chaff, the following mechanism and division of tasks could be considered.

First, it has to be noted that a number of reporting mechanisms for initiatives already exist. For instance, CDP (for companies and local governments) and carbonn Climate Registry (for local governments) provide excellent reporting services, focusing on individual entities. Their reports could be used to get an impression of impactful initiatives.

For cooperative initiatives there is no such reporting mechanism yet. However, the UNEP Climate Initiatives Platform<sup>3</sup> could fulfill an important role. So far, the Platform collected comprehensive information on more than 200 of these cooperative initiatives, driven by non-state actors. The information includes thematic focus, type of initiative, description, goal and activities, participant, funders etc. Before COP22 it will be fully updated. In addition, attention will be given to initiatives around adaptation. Also, initiatives will be able to self-report (voluntarily) new information or suggest existing information being corrected. With the help of an Expert Advisory Group other new useful features will be developed, including a reporting template. The initiatives would (voluntarily) provide as much information as they can or want, based on this template. In providing this information, the Climate Initiatives Platform is in a good position to help in evaluating and tracking cooperative initiatives, demonstrating their credibility and enhancing their delivery, in addition to the existing functions of collecting initiatives, and informing and inspiring potential new participants. The assessment of the actual emission reduction impact could be performed by interested researchers. UNEP could then bring these papers together in synthesis reports such as the Emissions Gap Report series. UNEP could also perform independent assessments, in a follow-up to our 2015 Commitments from subnational actors and business report<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://climateinitiativesplatform.org/>

<sup>4</sup> [http://apps.unep.org/redirect.php?file=/publications/pmtdocuments/-Climate\\_Compmitments\\_of\\_Subnational\\_Actors\\_and\\_Business-2015CCSA\\_2015.pdf.pdf](http://apps.unep.org/redirect.php?file=/publications/pmtdocuments/-Climate_Compmitments_of_Subnational_Actors_and_Business-2015CCSA_2015.pdf.pdf)

#### **4. High-level event**

The focus of the high-level event should be on demonstrating impact and giving recognition and visibility to “high-impact” initiatives. Consider a more dynamic format, beyond a panel. Ideas for example, include learning from the SKOLL WORLD FORUM – who has often used the “one open seat” - which, in addition to the panelists already on the stage, is reserved for a member /s of the audience to join the panelist in interactive discussions.

#### **5. The role of the technical expert meetings**

##### **Seek active participation from related initiatives and distribute results more actively**

We agree that the Technical Expert Meetings should be more concrete, focused and connected to action on the ground. The TEMS can be strengthened by bringing in a wider-range of outside experts who are involved in implementing initiatives in the field. The representatives of initiatives around a similar theme could be invited to join the meeting. In doing so, the participants in – for instance – transport initiatives could benefit from information shared at the meeting around the same theme, and, vice versa, other meeting participants could benefit from knowledge shared by the transport initiative. In order to focus more on solutions, the representatives of initiatives could be asked to share their lessons learned. What worked, what didn't? (Learning from failures is as important as learning from success). In addition, the summary of the meeting could be actively distributed to initiatives that have a related theme.