

**Title:** China's inputs on Talanoa Dialogue

**Topic:** Where are we? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?

**Objective:** To elaborate China's views regarding "where are we", "where do we want to go", "how do we get there" and the next steps.

**Summary:**

The Talanoa Dialogue should be comprehensive, balanced, facilitative and constructive, in order to facilitate ambitious actions and extensive cooperation.

On “where are we”, an objective and comprehensive description of the status of climate change and the efforts we have taken are outlined. The threats from climate change are real and growing, however, the efforts we have made are significantly inadequate. There are still huge gaps in pre-2020 period in mitigation ambition and actions, and developing countries are still facing with various difficulties and barriers in delivering climate actions, further efforts are needed to put the mitigation and adaptation actions into practice through enhanced international cooperation, and the principle of CBDR-RC is facing serious challenge.

The question of “where do we want to go” should be considered in a holistic manner and in a broad context of sustainable development, poverty eradication and the principle of equity. By pursuing low carbon and climate-resilient development including the long-term goal highlighted in Article 4.1 of Paris Agreement, we are actually strive for a clean and beautiful world and a community with a shared future for mankind.

On “How do we get there” , low carbon and climate-resilient transformation is critical. The transformation includes energy revolution, social-economic development transformation, and lifestyle change towards green and low-carbon ways. It is also important to integrate relevant Sustainable Developments Goals and to promote international cooperation under the guidance of the principles of CBDR-RC and equity.

Key messages from Parties’ inputs should be reflected in the report of preparatory phase precisely and integrally. During political phase, it is important to delicately arrange the agenda of dialogue and other significant activities to attract the maximum participation. The outcome of the dialogue should reflect the discussions and consensus in a balanced manner.

## 1. Features of the Talanoa Dialogue

- Comprehensive and balanced. The Talanoa Dialogue should consider mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology, and capacity building in a comprehensive, balanced, and holistic manner. It is also important to consider both pre-2020 and post-2020 action and ambition.
- Collective. The Talanoa dialogue is to take stock of the collective efforts not individual effort to evaluate the “collective progress” rather than individual progress.
- Facilitative. The key feature of the Talanoa Dialogue is facilitative, in other words non-compulsive. Parties should decide on their own on how to apply the outcome of the dialogue and on their subsequent actions.
- Constructive. Positive and encouraging messages should be sent out through the Talanoa Dialogue to show the willingness and ambition of Parties and various stakeholders to combat global climate change. The dialogue should not only identify the gaps, difficulties, and barriers, but also the progress, lessons learnt, good practices, and solutions, particularly collaborative solutions.

## 2. The input of China for the guiding questions

### (1) Where are we?

Regarding the question of “where are we”, it is important to have an objective and comprehensive understanding of the status of climate change and the efforts taken to combat climate change, with a view to build a solid basis for further discussion and decision making process.

**The threats from climate change are real and present.** Record-breaking global temperatures, carbon dioxide concentrations and sea temperatures, as well as increasing ocean acidification were reported. Globally, more intense hurricane, monsoon and drought seasons are causing great loss to local residents. Global mean temperature has approximately increased by 1.1°C in 2017 above the pre-industrial level. Arctic sea-ice extent was well below average throughout 2017 and was at record-low levels for the first four months of the year. The Antarctic sea-ice extent is also at record-low or near record low levels.

**However, the efforts we take to address climate change are significantly inadequate. Firstly, there are still huge gaps in pre-2020 period in**

**mitigation ambition and actions.** In accordance with the findings of the IPCC, meeting the objective of limiting the increase in global average temperature to below 2 °C above pre-industry level requires developed countries as a group to reduce their GHG emissions by 25% to 40% below 1990 levels by 2020, while developing countries as a group should achieve a substantial deviation below the currently predicted rate of growth in emissions. Under the Cancun Agreement, most developed countries have made commitments on quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets (QEWERT) for 2020, but the aggregate ambition is far lower than the requirement to achieve the temperature goal. Moreover, the progress on achieving the QEWERTs is also inadequate. As for the implementation of Kyoto Protocol, there are only 2 years left for the second commitment period, but the entry-into-force conditions of Doha Amendment are still not satisfied.

**Secondly, developing countries are still faced with financial difficulties and barriers in delivering climate actions.** Lack of financial resources is one of the major barriers for developing countries to tackle climate change. According to Oxfam's analysis, the net assistance to developing countries specifically targeting climate change may have been just USD11-21 billion. <sup>1</sup>This number indicates a significant lack of progress on mobilizing USD100 billion climate finance by 2020.

**Thirdly, greenhouse gases are still accumulating in the atmosphere at a rapid speed.** According to the Global Carbon Budget<sup>2</sup>, The annual growth rate of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> was 6.1±0.2 GtC in 2016, which is well above the 2007-2016 average of 4.7±0.1 GtC yr<sup>-1</sup>. Although the increase rates of GHG emission of some major emitters have slowed down, given the global economic recovery, the increasing trend of GHG emission is expected to continue in the future. From 1870 to 2016, total cumulative GHG emissions were 420±20 GtC from fossil fuels and industry. Responsible actions should be taken immediately to mitigate the impacts of atmospheric GHGs.

**Good practices and opportunities with potentials in mitigation, adaptation, and international cooperation have been identified, which could provide guidance for future actions.** During the past four years, Parties,

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<sup>1</sup> Oxfam: Climate Finance Shadow Report 2016- lifting the lid on progress towards the \$100 billion commitment.

[https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file\\_attachments/bp-climate-finance-shadow-report-031116-en.pdf](https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bp-climate-finance-shadow-report-031116-en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Global Carbon Budget report 2017 summary highlights:

<http://www.globalcarbonproject.org/carbonbudget/17/highlights.htm>

UNFCCC bodies, and other stakeholders have identified opportunities to enhance climate actions and promote cooperation through the Technical Examination Process on mitigation and adaptation. Thematic expert meetings have been held to identify practical solutions for key areas, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, urban mitigation and resilience building, as well as development and implementation of adaptation plans. Further efforts are needed to put the mitigation and adaptation actions into practice through enhanced international cooperation.

## **(2) Where do we want to go?**

The question of “where do we want to go” should be considered in a holistic manner and in a broad context of sustainable development. To combat climate change is not only to limit the temperature rise, but it is more important to build a clean and beautiful world by promoting global eco-civilization and developing a community with a shared future for mankind .

**To limit the temperature rise by 2100 within 2 °C requests a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs in the second half of 21 century.** It is urgent to control GHG emissions in order to ensure the possibility to limit the temperature rise within a safe range. Correspondingly, adaptation goals, needs for financial resources and technology advancement also emerge. All these aspects of climate goals should be addressed in a holistic manner.

**Climate targets should be aligned with other 2030 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN in 2015.** Due to different national circumstances, countries have their own prioritized development agenda. Particularly for developing countries, issues such as eradication of poverty, food security, energy access, etc., are still their major concerns, which could not be overridden. Combating climate change is one of the key elements of sustainable development, and many climate actions have synergies with other SDGs. Take renewable energy for example, many countries take it as a clean, affordable, and low-carbon way to meet the energy demands, which contributes to mitigation of climate change, protection of environment, and inclusive energy access, etc.

**The global climate goals should be equitable, taking into account the principle of CBDR-RC.** Only an equitable mechanism can attract extensive and universal participation, build mutual trust, and inspire concrete actions. It is one of the most crucial elements for the success in combating climate change. An equity mechanism should be based on the principle of CBDR-RC. Countries’ national circumstances should be taken into account in evaluation of their ambitions. It is

also necessary to pay particular attention to developing countries' limited capacities and extra burden of poverty eradication thus to avoid conflict and promote synergy between climate actions and other development agenda.

### **(3) How do we get there?**

“How do we get there” is at the core of the dialogue. Low-carbon and climate resilient transformation needs to be accelerated. The transformation should consist of an energy revolution which aims to promote low-carbon energy, a social-economic development transformation which allows mainstreaming of low-carbon and climate resilient development, and a transformation of lifestyle which provides enabling environment and incentives for green and low-carbon lives. Meanwhile, it is also important to promote climate cooperation by implementing the UNFCCC outcomes including Bali Roadmap and Paris Agreement, taking responsible actions based on the principles of CBDR-RC and equity, and maintaining the positive momentum.

**We shall encourage technology innovation and enabling policy to promote energy revolution.** In recent years, countries have gained valuable lessons in pursuing clean, low-carbon, and affordable energy. Among all measures, renewable energy has become a popular prime choice for many countries in the ongoing energy transformation. Globally, More than 170 countries have established renewable energy targets, and nearly 150 have enacted policies to catalyse investments in renewable energy technologies. In 2015, renewable power generation capacity grew by 154 GW, an increase of 9.3% over 2014. <sup>3</sup>

**We need to accelerate the structural change in the economy in order to decouple the economic growth with GHG emission.** Many countries have claimed the decoupling of their economic increase with GHG emissions, to which economic structural change is one of the key drivers. With the economic growth and industry upgrading, most countries will experience economic structural change, and during this process favorable policies to low-carbon development should be in place to guide the transition. In the meantime, it is important to improve energy efficiency in high energy consumption industries, in order to lower the carbon intensity of the whole society.

**We shall continuously adhere to low-carbon and green development pathways.** Many countries have come up with their own development concepts to

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<sup>3</sup> IRENA (2017), REthinking Energy 2017: Accelerating the global energy transformation. International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi.

[http://www.irena.org/documentdownloads/publications/irena\\_rethinking\\_energy\\_2017.pdf](http://www.irena.org/documentdownloads/publications/irena_rethinking_energy_2017.pdf)

promote synergy between economic growth and environment protection. Take China for example, ecological civilization is listed along with economic, political, cultural and social progress as one of the five goals in the country's overall development plan. The key tenets of ecological civilization include the need to respect, protect and adapt to nature; a commitment to resource conservation; environmental restoration and protection; recycling; low-carbon use; and sustainable development, which means it is vital to sustain the nation's development while protecting the environment and adapting to climate change. But the challenges and cost during the course of transformation should not be neglected in the decision-making process of governments at various levels, and the people's welfare and needs should be placed at the center of this transition.

**We need to cultivate enabling environment to stimulate climate–friendly lifestyle and to provide more incentives for the transformation.** Combating climate change needs the efforts of every individual. It is important to promote a green revolution in the lifestyle, daily behavior and culture setting, to truly respect the nature and live in harmony with nature. Nowadays, more low-carbon products and services have been made available. In transportation sector, which is a major contributor of GHG emissions, such products and services, e.g. shared bicycles, electric cars, and high-speed railway, etc., enable people to travel conveniently with less carbon footprint. Policies and regulations should be in place to promote such behavior change as well as the diffusion of new technology and business model.

**We must adhere to multilateralism to address climate change by implementing the UNFCCC outcomes, including Bali Roadmap and Paris Agreement.** The rising impacts of climate change stresses the importance and urgency to build a community with a shared future for mankind. All kinds of concerns regarding climate change should be addressed equally to ensure that nobody is left behind when we tackle our common challenge. The UNFCCC, with nearly 200 Parties, is one of the perfect platforms to address this issue. The historic Bali Roadmap and Paris Agreement is of great value, and we must not let all our efforts be wasted. All partners should join hands to the implementation of UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, Bali Roadmap and Paris Agreement.

**Adequate financial, technological, and capacity building resources need to be provided to developing countries to enable them to take mitigation and adaptation actions.** Support received by developing countries should be commensurate with their actions. Many developing countries are more vulnerable, therefore need more efforts and measures to protect their residents, properties, and livelihood from the adverse impacts of climate change. Only if the developing

countries have successfully explored a low-carbon development pathway, can the peaking of global GHG emission come at early stage. However, many developing countries are not able to combat climate change only by their own efforts, and it makes international supports crucial for them to take action.

### **3. Next steps and outcome of the Talanoa Dialogue**

The key task of preparatory phase is to effectively process and synthesize the inputs submitted by Parties and non-Party stakeholders. In general, inputs from Parties, official national reports, and reports from intergovernmental organizations should be prioritized. At the meantime, experiences shared by non-Party stakeholders are important to identify the ways “to get there”. Key messages from the inputs should be reflected precisely and integrally both in the agenda setting for the roundtables of political phase and the outcomes. It is important to carefully arrange the agenda of dialogue and other important topics and events, e.g. pre-2020 stocktake, to avoid conflicting of schedule and attract maximum participation.

The technical reports should provide concise information on the collective progress towards the long-term global goals, including best practices and key difficulties and challenges.

The outcome of the Talanoa Dialogue should reflect the discussions in a balanced manner, with a focus on feasible solutions to address climate change issue. The summary of the political phase should capture the key messages from the roundtables and the consensus reached by high-level representatives, with a view to promote more ambitious actions both in sustainable development and combating climate change.