



## Inputs to Talanoa Dialogue

29 October 2018

### WHERE ARE WE?

#### **“The South African Youth Perspective”**

By South African Youth Climate Change Coalition (SAYCCC) Non-Profit Organization.

RSA Reg no. 157-650 NPO.

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### Question 1 – Where are we?

The climate change crisis is distressing for everyone, we are the first generation fully suffering the impact of climate change and this crisis is socially, environmentally and politically challenging. Preventing catastrophic climate situations is not only a question of reducing carbon emissions, but is also about creating a sustainable and livable future, and we are a generation that still can make it.

#### *NDP and NAS*

South Africa ought to eliminate poverty, reduce inequalities and grow an inclusive economy by 2030, that is according to and through the National Development Plan (NDP). We understand that the NDP is a set of overarching objectives and key targets to transform the nation, but since climate change threatens all sectors, the wide approach to climate change should also be integrated in the NDP, while the National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) delivers implementable climate solutions for all sectors.

#### *Paris Agreement*

We understand the Paris Agreement (PA) as a global commitment by the international community to combat climate change and its impacts, focusing on mitigation, adaptation, resiliency, loss and damage and climate finance. The assessment reports inform us that we are at a situation where the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of all states are not ambitious enough to achieve the PA long terms goals. We understand that the NDCs differ from country to country because of national circumstances and priorities for climate action. The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report states in particular that countries like South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia are already suffering from global warming and temperature increase. According to the Climate Action Tracker (CAT) 2017 assessment of the NDCs, South Africa is one of the countries whose ambitions are not enough to achieve the 1.5/2°C goal, and whose ambitions are highly insufficient that they could only lead to 4°C. The IPCC special report also indicates that the Transformation Plan – Agenda 2030 might be jeopardized by global warming. That means the poor would be poorer, inequalities will remain especially on health and economy sectors, and all life on earth is in danger. Therefore there must be urgent revisions to NDCs in order to place the world on track towards a 1.5°C limit trajectory.

### *Adaptation*

The South African context on climate adaptation is a situation where lifestyles are forced to change as a result of climate change. There is a gap on the National Adaptation Plan/Strategy for integration of human rights. With many parts in South Africa already suffering from droughts, limited health facilities and a large number of people living in poverty, the adaptation strategy should fully mainstream human rights: right to life, to food, to safe and consumable water as well as proper sanitation, right to health, to proper housing and protection of the vulnerable.

Global warming cannot be ignored in any aspect of climate change, on climate adaptation we believe that there is a great significance of the 'shared socio-economic pathways that the IPCC special report talks about. The IPCC report talks about the shared socio-economic pathways that include both quantitative and qualitative socio-economic models which are of course science based but well coherent with societal and economic development.

### *Adaptation Transparency and Accountability*

The plans, policies and budgets, including roles, responsibilities and procedures have not yet been adequately communicated, especially to the youth. On accountability, we believe that all sectors should define their responsibilities for climate adaptation because it has everything to do with social justice.

### *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

The South African Youth Climate Change Coalition (SAYCCC) is committed to the SDGs to achieve a prosperous future. Apparently, global warming, according to the IPCC special report is likely to jeopardize the achievement of the SDGs very directly. Global warming encompass heat-waves, heavy rainfall and floods, drought or dryness, sea level rise, effects on marine and land ecosystems, agriculture systems, and health systems. That is how SDGs are at risk in the face of global warming. This is the very reason why there must be an urgent revision on every country's NDCs and plans for the 1.5/2°C goal.

### *Intergenerational Equity*

We need to be part of the solutions, those solutions shall be championed by us from now and in future. On the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2018, we met in Nairobi, Kenya, as African youth representatives to deliberate on Intergenerational Equity and Justice Perspectives. The intergenerational equity is well considered in many spheres of climate platforms and actions, but the following are crucial questions that still bother us:

1. Does intergenerational equity from policies' outlook resonate with the demands and needs of the youth?
2. Is intergenerational equity about numbers in meetings?
3. Is it about having the youth in senior/executive positions?
4. What are the youth learning from the older generation?

The ACT Alliance defines Intergenerational Equity and we subscribe to it as follows:

"Intergenerational Equity refers to the full, equal and meaningful participation of youth in all activities, processes and platforms for climate action. Intergenerational equity is an integrated approach, concerning the wellbeing and equity of current and future generations, who most likely will face difficult living conditions in a changing climate, but who are not responsible for causing them."

We further endorse the “Statement by the African Youth on the Space for Engagement in Climate Change Matter, Green Growth and Intergenerational Equity (09 October 2019 Statement).”

**Recommendations:**

1. *We recommend that climate change be prioritized in national societal initiatives including the NDP and very importantly in the Integrated Youth Development Strategy.*
2. *We recommend a robust and comprehensive long term strategies to achieve complete decarbonization by midcentury, noting that decarbonization benefits the health of human beings and biodiversity.*
3. *We recommend a revision and enhancement of the Nationally Determined Contributions.*
4. *We recommend investment into renewable energy to fasten a green economy which can save our society and decrease job unemployment, because we have many young unemployed graduates.*
5. *We recommend the inclusion of climate education starting from basic education curriculum though to higher education curriculum. It is equally important to include climate change education in informal education in order to prepare current and future participants of the South African Economy for the green and blue economy in South Africa.*

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The **South African Youth Climate Change Coalition (SAYCCC)** is a coalition/network of young climate and environmental activists. The organization was registered as a Non-profit organization in 2015 according to the South African Non-Profit Organisations Act 71 of 1997 with Registration number: 157-650 NPO.

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