

October 2018**Assessing global climate action after the California summit****Key messages for COP24**

The Global Climate Action Summit, held in San Francisco September 12-14, 2018 showed the world just how far climate action has advanced since Paris. Over 5,000 climate leaders from cities, states and regions, the private sector, investors, civil society, faith groups, and many other sectors gathered to showcase how they are delivering on the goals of the Paris Agreement.¹ The summit also mobilized over 500 new commitments,² and culminated in a call for national governments to step up ambition. This surge of climate action gives governments meeting in Katowice at COP24 new opportunities and impetus to implement and enhance their commitments by 2020.

This summary assesses where global climate action stands after the California summit by highlighting:

1. Findings from reports prepared for the Summit on the scale and potential of climate action
2. Key outcomes from the Summit
3. Opportunities for national governments to build on the groundswell of climate action

Scale and potential of climate action: key findings from a new wave of reports

The Summit inspired an unprecedented surge in research and reporting on climate action by cities, states and regions, businesses, investors, and civil society.³ This “family” of reports significantly advances our knowledge about climate action in three ways. First, the reports draw on a **wider range of data** than ever before, for example drawing in new information on climate action in developing countries. Second, the reports advance **new methodologies** for calculating the contributions cities, states and regions, and the private sector make to climate action, including ways to avoid “double counting” between, for example, cities and regions, and between national governments and actors operating in their jurisdictions. Third, taken as a whole, the reports offer the **most comprehensive global picture yet** of how these actors are accelerating climate action.

¹ The Summit program is available at: <https://www.globalclimateactions summit.org/program/>

² A full list of announcements is available at: <https://www.globalclimateactions summit.org/all-announcements/>

³ The information below draws from the following reports

1. Global Climate Action of Cities, Regions and Businesses http://datadriven.yale.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/YALE-NCI-PBL_Global_climate_action.pdf
2. Fulfilling America’s Pledge: How States, Cities and Businesses are Leading the United States to a Low-Carbon Future <https://www.americaspledgeonclimate.com/fulfilling-americas-pledge/>
3. Implementing Climate Ambition: Global Covenant of Mayors 2018 Global Aggregation Report https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018_GCOM_report_web.pdf
4. Bridging the emissions gap - The role of non-state and subnational actors, Pre-release version of a chapter of the forthcoming UN Environment Emissions Gap Report 2018 https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/26093/NonState_Emissions_Gap.pdf?isAllowed=y&sequence=1
5. Unlocking the inclusive growth story of the 21st century: Accelerating climate action in urgent times <https://newclimateeconomy.report/2018/>

While each report covers a different aspect of climate action, three consistent messages emerge.

Scale: First, an extraordinarily large and diverse array of cities, states and regions, and private sector organizations are taking climate action. While the individual reports differ in scope, at the broadest range they capture:

- Jurisdictions that are home to about 1 in every 5 people on Earth
 - 9,149 cities and municipalities from 128 countries, home to 16% of the global population
 - 245 states and regions from 42 countries, home to 17.5% of the global population
- 6,225 companies headquartered in 120 countries and representing \$36.5 trillion USD in revenue, larger than the GDPs of the United States and China combined

Results: Second, this action is delivering real results on the ground that save money, create jobs, make us healthier, and reduce emissions.

- In 2017, emissions reductions of states, regions and provinces reporting through the Compact of States and Regions were already 8.5 percent below their base years
- A quarter of the 100+ companies of the RE100 initiative have already achieved 100% renewable energy targets
- By 2017, about 70% of the international cooperative initiatives – such as Under2 Coalition, RE100, C40 and the Global Covenant of Mayors – registered on the UN’s Climate Action Portal⁴ showed high or medium-high output performance, meaning they were taking the kinds of steps needed to achieve their goals

Opportunity: Third, the potential of climate action going forward is vast.

- Global emissions in 2030 would be cut by a third (15-23 GtCO₂e a year) if international cooperative initiatives (a) meet their goals and (b) scale up to include new actors along their current growth trajectories. The potential emissions reductions depend on support from national governments in many cases.
- Combined with countries’ national contributions (that is, avoiding “double-counting”), these reductions could put the world on a path to the 1.5C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement.
- In the United States, if states, cities, and the private sector take the highest level of ambition, they could put the country in striking distance of meeting its Paris pledge despite backsliding by the US Federal Government.
- In addition to emissions reductions, climate action can bring US\$26 trillion in economic benefits through to 2030, including creating 65 million low-carbon jobs, avoiding 700,000 premature deaths from air pollution, and growing government revenue by US\$2.8 trillion.

⁴ Available at: <http://climateaction.unfccc.int/>

Key outcomes from the Global Climate Action Summit

The Global Climate Action Summit generated new outcomes in five challenge areas, with over 500 new commitments announced.⁵ Some of the most significant are highlighted below.

Healthy Energy Systems

- 144 major companies such as Tata Motors, Fujitsu and Dalmia, along with 16 healthcare institutions representing more than 1,200 hospitals, have set targets aligned with 100% Renewable Electricity.
- Also leading a shift toward are the 230 states, regions, cities and counties that have signaled a shift to renewable energy in their jurisdictions. 10 new jurisdictions signed up to the Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA), which now includes 78 members.
- The Summit has announced that 12 more mayors that have committed to 100% zero-emission-vehicle (ZEV) bus procurement by 2025 and by 2030 to introduce zero-emissions areas within major parts of their cities as part of the Green and Healthy Streets initiative, and a total of now 23 major companies committed to transitioning to 100% zero emission vehicles and installing charging infrastructure, while 12 more leading Governors and Premiers representing over 80 million people and over 5% of global GDP committed to zero emission fleets by 2030 through EV100 and the ZEV Alliance respectively.

Inclusive Economic Growth

- Over 130 companies have joined the Science Based Target Initiative (SBTi) since January, a 39% increase compared to the same period in 2017, which now makes 488 companies that have taken-up the challenge and have committed. As of the Summit, nearly one-fifth (17%) of the Global Fortune 500 have committed, and in total these companies represent a combined market capitalization of nearly USD\$10 trillion, around one eighth of total global market capitalization.
- The Just Transition Pledge for Cities was launched at the Summit, whereby individual cities commit to enhancing social dialogue with workers and their unions as part of the city's climate strategy is an important aspect of ensuring growth in the quality of jobs and not only the gross number of jobs touched. A similar Just Transition Pledge for Companies was also launched.
- 21 companies announced the launch of the Step Up Declaration, dedicated to harnessing the power of emerging technologies and the fourth industrial revolution to help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across all economic sectors and ensure a climate turning point by 2020.

Sustainable Communities

- As of the Summit there are 73 cities, representing over 425 million people, that have committed to Deadline 2020 to develop inclusive and 1.5C compatible climate mitigation and adaptation plans that reach net-zero by 2050 at the latest. This is the equivalent of avoiding 12 gigatonnes CO₂e by mid-century. Already 6,000 other cities are implementing Climate Action Plans that meet or exceed their country's Nationally Determined Contribution, and a total of 9,100 cities,

⁵ A full list of announcements is available at: <https://www.globalclimateactions summit.org/all-announcements/>

representing 800 million people, have or plan to develop Climate Action Plans that, if fully delivered, will amount to a 60 gigatonnes CO₂e reduction by 2050.

- Making cities more livable is a reason that 25 cities, states and regional governments signed the Advancing Towards Zero Waste Declaration pledging to reduce municipal solid waste generation per capita by at least 15% by 2030 compared to 2015, reduce the amount of municipal solid waste disposed to landfill or incineration by at least 50% by 2030 compared to 2015, and increase the diversion rate away from landfill and incineration to at least 70% by 2030.
- 12 companies, 26 cities, state and regional governments committed to owning, occupying and developing only Net Zero Buildings by 2030. An additional 718 cities globally have made commitments to increasing the efficiency of new and existing buildings.

Land and Ocean Stewardship

- 70 global supply chain actors and over 40 investors (managing over \$2.8 trillion) jointly pledge to work in collaboration with local and international stakeholders to halt deforestation and native vegetation loss in the Cerrado region of Brazil.
- Headwaters of Amazon announcement led by Amazonian indigenous federations and partners aims to protect indigenous territories of 60 million acres of rainforest
- Businesses and city governments serving over 60 million meals per year committed to reduce the GHG intensity of their food by 25% by 2030, with aims to grow to 250 entities by 2021.
- The Pacific Coast Collaborative Food Waste and Loss Commitment was announced at the Summit to cut food waste across the Pacific Coast by 50% by 2030, covering over 55 million people on the West Coast of the United States.
- The Global Environment Facility made a \$500 million financial commitment in grant funds to Food, Land Use, and Resilience as part of a multi-stakeholder initiative

Transformative Climate Investments

- With nearly 400 signatories with \$32 trillion in assets, the Investor Agenda combines the following four areas: 1. Investment in low-carbon / divested from coal and other fossil fuels; 2. Corporate Engagement with companies on climate change; 3. Policy Advocacy on climate change; and 4. Investor Disclosure in line with the Task-force on Climate-related Financial Disclosure principles. A total of 985 institutional investors with \$6.24 trillion in assets under management have committed to divest from fossil fuels, up from \$52 billion four years ago.
- The New York City pension fund doubling clean energy and climate solution investments to \$4 billion by 2021; ING Bank announced they will use the Terra alignment method so that their entire lending portfolio of more than \$600 billion in assets under management will be aligned to the Paris Agreement; Axa committed to increasing its funding for green energy projects to more than \$13 billion (€12 billion) by 2020, quadrupling its original target.
- Commitments from faith-based organizations are soaring with the backing of Pope Francis, with 138 new commitments since 2016, including the first divestment from India by Caritas India. A global initiative called Shine is bringing faith and philanthropy investments to bear on bringing one billion people in the developing world out of energy darkness.
- 29 philanthropies collectively announced \$4 billion in new climate investments over five years.

Opportunities for national governments to build on climate action before 2020

As the Summit's closing Call to Action made clear, the next two years represent a critical time for national governments to step up climate action. The Talanoa Dialogue at COP24 will highlight the urgency of enhancing ambition through NDCs and other means by 2020. And in 2019, the UN Secretary General's summit will present a key milestone for countries and other actors to signal new ambition.

While the scale and potential of climate action in cities, states and regions, the private sector, and elsewhere is massive, it does not and cannot substitute for action by national governments. We need "all hands on deck." In addition to their own goals and policies, national governments can support cities, states and regions, business, and investors to deliver on climate action by adopting facilitative policy frameworks. This mutual reinforcement flows both ways. Climate action "from below" can already help national governments overachieve their targets and create conditions for countries to step up ambition.

How can national governments most benefit from the wave of climate action on display in San Francisco? Engagement between national governments and other stakeholders takes different forms in different countries, depending on national circumstances.⁶ Nonetheless, many countries have found positive models to promote collaboration that other countries can learn from and adapt to their own needs. Emerging best practices include:

Create consultative processes or give an official role to local governments, the private sector, and civil society in climate policy-making and implementation. When national governments consult with all stakeholders they gain a more accurate picture of what ambition is possible, and also identify policies and practices that can be scaled nationally. Moving beyond consultation, national governments can create new processes and institutions to give local governments, the private sector, and civil society a greater role in climate policymaking and implementation.

Call on local governments, businesses, and civil society to act on climate change and empower them with platforms, resources, and expertise. National governments can empower local governments, the private sector, and civil society to take climate action by providing recognition and resources. This support can be most effective when it goes beyond simply implementing national mandates builds the capacity of other actors to taken even more ambitious climate action.

Link local governments, the private sector, and civil society to expertise and resources through transnational peer networks at the global, regional, and national levels. Global networks of cities, businesses, and other actors are a critical way to transmit information, expertise, and resources to their constituents around the world. National and regional information sharing is an important complement because climate action invariably involves national and regional particularities.

⁶ For a global mapping of interactions between national governments and sub- and non-state actors, see Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions, "Stepping up climate action at home: How local governments, the private sector, and civil society can work domestically help deliver NDCs and raise ambition," September 2018. Available at: <http://www.climategroundswell.org/blog-test/2018/10/15/meeting-summary-stepping-up-climate-action-at-home>