



Non-Party stakeholders' input to COP24 Katowice - Result of Swedish Talanoa Dialogues

As a response to the call from the Fijian COP23 Presidency and the UNFCCC Secretariat to organise Talanoa dialogues on national and local levels leading up to the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 'the Katowice Climate Change Conference', dialogues were held on a European level and in most Nordic countries. As no dialogue was planned at national level in Sweden, we initiated three local and one national Talanoa in Sweden. The local dialogues in Malmö, Gothenburg and Östersund as well as the national dialogue in Stockholm particularly targeted youth, representatives from the business sector and NGOs in order to gather broader input through a multi-level approach. The dialogues were thematically focused on how we can reduce the greenhouse gas emissions through behavioural and lifestyle changes and changed consumption patterns, i.e. the so-called consumption-based greenhouse gas emissions.

The Swedish Talanoa Dialogues

The following is the Swedish non-Party stakeholders' input to COP 24 Katowice, a result of the Swedish Talanoa Dialogues organised by PUSH Sweden, the Swedish platform for youth sustainability cooperation, the independent think tank Global Utmaning (Global Challenge) and WWF Sweden. In the Talanoa spirit we both shared stories of how we on an individual level are doing it today ("Where are we?"), our visions for low-carbon lifestyles in the future ("Where do we want to go?") and what we need to do to reach those visions ("How do we get there?"). This submission will target mainly the second and third question, where most of the focus during the dialogues was put, and which we also see as the most important questions to answer.

1. Where are we?

- a. *The commitment (planned and/or announced) as well as the actions taken so far that are in line with aims of Paris Agreement, the 1.5/2 degrees' goal and the transition towards a net-zero emission society by this mid-century*

Sweden is considered to be one of the countries in the best position to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the global Paris Agreement on climate change from COP21 and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). Sweden has also committed to taking leadership for sustainable development in the coming decades, by initiating a high-level "champions" group of nine countries.

However, our footprint per capita is among the highest in the world. Therefore, local implementation of the global agendas will be key, in Sweden as well as globally, if we are to deliver on the commitments. While many actors and institutions have taken on independent roles to lead the way forward – national



leadership must be strengthened and adequately prioritise, minimise obstacles, and support local implementation. By leading the way at home, Sweden can be a global source of inspiration, show good examples and provide tools to support local implementation globally.

We have identified four areas of particular importance for local implementation of global agendas; global health and well-being, urban development, youth participation and sustainable financing. Therefore, our dialogues focused on reducing the consumption-based emission in order to raise the awareness of the importance of these emissions when it comes to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 and to highlight actions needed to be able to introduce policies and measures addressing these emissions. The consumption-based perspective on greenhouse gas emissions is lacking in the Paris Agreement and in NDCs in general. However, the recently published Special Report on 1.5°C by the IPCC mentions the need for transformation of society and that “behaviour change and lifestyle choices are important to drive down emissions”, especially when it comes to the importance of rapid and deep cuts to greenhouse gas emissions. The consumption-based perspective on emissions is also very clear in the Sustainable Development Goals, e.g. goal number 12: Responsible Consumption and Production.

b. Progress made so far against the above commitments, including success stories, case studies and gaps

Today we are lacking both sufficient data and goals for consumption-based emissions. Increasing knowledge in parallel with setting these goals are a necessity for a sustainable today and tomorrow. Currently, most countries, including Sweden, only have emission reduction targets for domestic emissions to a large extent excluding the consumption-based emissions perspective. Taking the consumption-based emissions into account would reflect the actual emissions from people’s behaviour, lifestyle choices and consumption better. For example, in Sweden the per capita greenhouse gas emissions are roughly 2 times higher for the consumption-based emissions opposed to the domestic territorial emissions. Including consumption-based emissions in the national target-setting and in the national monitoring and reporting would give both people, business and policymakers a larger incentive to reduce them. Such targets and monitoring can also be implemented by regional governments and cities on a regional and municipal level.

2. Where do we want to go?

a. Vision of the future for your organization and/or sector in terms of its possible role in achieving the 1.5/2 degrees’ goal and a net-zero emission world by this mid-century

We need visions of a future where we have no or very low emissions from our lifestyles and consumption to be able to determine the way forward. Following are some examples of visions from our Talanoa Dialogues:

- In the near future, all people are aware of the climate challenges, know that they should reduce their emissions by half each decade and are actively working towards reducing them through daily behavioural choices. For example, people are travelling by high-speed trains instead of



traveling by air. Consuming in a sustainable and responsible way has a high status and people are inspired by the climate heroes who are role models in having reduced the emissions resulting from their behaviour, consumption and other lifestyle choices.

- People are also satisfying their consumption based on psychological needs, instead of market needs, to create sustainable values and satisfy a decent quality of life instead of satisfying the needs of the market. There are political targets as well as policies and measures, both on national and local level, for reduced consumption-based emissions and for reduced meat consumption.
- Youth can and should play a crucial role in shaping the necessary visions, and the design of consumption patterns and lifestyles in the sustainable societies of the future. Often, young people are more creative and flexible and less prone to be locked in to behaviours causing high emissions. Young people are already today engaging in e.g. local projects and national networks, such as PUSH Sweden, but in our vision, even more young people are engaged for reducing the carbon emissions through consumption and behaviour.

b. Possible and potential new commitments and pledges of to achieve the 1.5/2 degrees' goal and a net-zero emission world by this mid-century

We - both as individuals and as countries - commit to act as good examples to inspire others to live with lower carbon footprints, instead of blaming others of e.g. eating meat and travel by airplane. There are many times a great barrier that has to be overcome when changing your lifestyle simply because some things are hard for individual people to change. Today we both see that many climate friendly, low carbon choices are more expensive and/or more cumbersome than conventional ones and that we live in a system which constantly encourages more consumption. It is of great importance to reduce these barriers, e.g. through development of strong policies and measures as well as encouragement. It is especially meaningful for those with the largest carbon footprints to reduce them.

3. How do we get there?

a. Ways in which the UN Climate Change process can help you achieve your vision and goals, and how your actions can help in expediting sustainable transitions to climate neutral societies

The following actions will help to achieve our visions and goals to support the transition to climate neutral societies:

- Using our consumer power and choosing the more climate friendly products and services from companies. This also includes selecting climate friendly financial services from banks, such as pension or equity funds aligned with the Paris agreement. As customers we can also contact companies and ask how they work to lower their emissions from the whole value chain.
- Politicians need to be brave and take radical decisions, paving the way for a more sustainable society, e.g. through investments in infrastructure. Creating greener ways of transporting such as high-speed trains, efficient local public transport and cycling friendly cities will be crucial.



- Actions such as green investments and funds supporting sustainable consumption and divesting out of unsustainable counterparts. Local complementary currency/currencies can act as leverage and encouragement for environmentally friendly actions, services and products.
- Science based climate targets covering the whole value chain. Transparently informing consumers about the carbon footprint of their products and services (e.g. by national and/or international collaboration develop climate footprint labelling of products and services). Developing new business models for a more circular economy, including sharing, reusing, repairing, recycling and services instead of products. The longer sustainability of products can also be stimulated through policy, e.g. putting a fee on short-lived “wear-and-tear” products.

From the UN Climate Change process, we need:

The consumption-based emissions need to be included in the agendas for the discussions during the UNFCCC conferences. To communicate wins and synergies with climate action and also communicate the synergies between reducing the consumption-based emissions and several of the Agenda 2030 SDGs. The UNFCCC needs to support collaboration and, perhaps even more important, collective action.

- b. Concrete solutions that have been realized while implementing your commitments, including lessons learnt from success stories and challenges, and case studies that are in line with the 1.5/2 degrees' goal and can support the Parties in achieving their NDC goals, enable higher ambition and inspire engagement of other non-state actors*

Lessons learnt and recommendations in support of achieving the NDC goals:

- Personal investors can contribute significantly to climate finance through e.g. crowdfunding or investing in renewable energy in in developing countries (e.g. Trine).
- Digitalisation can also help people to reduce their carbon footprint e.g. by application that visualise how much emissions your behaviour, consumption and other lifestyle choices results in. The applications can also give advices on how to reduce your emissions and follow up on goals you have set. The idea of using gamification to compare yourself to other people and “compete” against them to reduce the emissions could also create an impact. Digital platforms are also already changing the business world, enabling world-wide cooperation through video conferences and similar. This could drastically decrease emissions from business travelling.
- We need to highlight climate friendly choices which are also good for personal health and economy, such as replacing meat consumption with protein rich vegetables, e.g. legumes
- Plan cities in a better way avoiding sprawling and promoting digital communication can lower the demand for transportation in general and create a more transport efficient society. To incentivise the use of more efficient and greener ways of transporting politicians need to make the climate friendly choices cheaper and easier. Hence, the taxes on low-emitting transportation modes and products need to be lowered, e.g. in the form of free public transportation, and the taxes on high emitting transportation modes and products need to be raised, this would make the climate friendly choice more available for and attractive to most people.



- Another example which also improves health is switching from car to bicycle. It is important to visualise a future which is better - not only with lower emissions, but where we also have a higher quality of life and are happier and healthier than today.
- At a personal level we can also improve the reuse and recycling of the products we have already consumed. We can also strive to buy products second hand. Sharing of products is another way of keeping the service of the product while reducing the per capita carbon footprint, e.g. car sharing, sharing of machine tools.

c. *Collaboration models with other stakeholders and, in particular, between non-Party stakeholders, national governments and the UN Climate Change process that have been successful in helping you, or can help you, achieve your commitments*

The Swedish Talanoa Dialogues, organised by PUSH Sweden, the Swedish platform for youth sustainability cooperation, the independent think tank Global Utmaning (Global Challenge) and WWF Sweden, are in themselves a good example of a collaborative multi-stakeholder approach. The local dialogues in Malmö, Gothenburg and Östersund as well as the national dialogue in Stockholm, particularly targeted youth, representatives from the business sector and NGOs in order to gather broader input through a multi-level approach.

d. *Opportunities to further scale up action and means to address barriers that can enable even further action by non-Party stakeholders based on the actions you have taken to implement your commitments. ("We've made progress and have made new commitments as described above. This is what I need from national governments, other non-Party stakeholders and the UN Climate Change process to take even further action...")*

- **Policy levers:** The politicians need to set targets as well as policies and measures regarding the consumption-based emissions, both on national and local level. These policies and measures need to cover a broad range of areas, in addition to already mentioned transportation, infrastructure and urban planning also public procurement, food policies in public institutions, business for repair, reuse, recycling and sharing for reduced consumption-based emissions and for reduced meat consumption. Reduction targets for consumption-based emissions will set a standard and further motivate change. In order to set relevant targets and implement efficient policies and measures the politicians also need to demand and finance the development of more statistics and analysis from researchers and national authorities regarding consumption-based emissions.
- **Collaboration/cooperation opportunities:** International collaboration will be vital to continue inspiring each other with creative solutions and new ways of thinking. A deepened collaboration between countries will also be essential in creating the preconditions for sustainable lifestyles that goes beyond borders, a practical example being facilitating booking and paying for international train travels. On the civil society and grassroot level more and larger collaborations, in the advocacy for stronger climate action on all levels, could achieve a greater



impact. Especially youth are very engaged, but have limited resources; additional support would help increase capacity to drive transformational change among younger generations. International collaboration between researchers, national authorities, international agencies, etc on consumption-based emissions data, statistics and analysis can also improve the possibilities for better databases, e.g. a more world-wide database, on the carbon footprint of different products and services. Such a database could together with business be used to develop international climate footprint labelling of products and services and by that helping consumers in many countries to make better choices. This would in turn impact companies to improve creating a positive feedback mechanism between consumers and business. This international collaboration can also include best practice and results of different policies and measures, helping national and local governments to implement the most efficient tools.

Lessons learned

Lessons learned based on the experience and progress so far:

Our main positive takeaways from the Swedish Talanoa process are

- Greater focus on multi-level approaches and including stakeholders from different sectors when defining shared goals and visions of a more sustainable future.
- Addressing the urgency of working to change consumption patterns by addressing behavioural and lifestyle choices.
- The need to include SDG 12 and consumption-based perspectives on greenhouse gas emissions in the Paris Agreement and in NDCs in general.

Impact

Impact on non-Party stakeholders if these actions by national level governments and the UN Climate Change process and other opportunities are implemented and how much further they could go:

As a result of the Swedish Talanoa process, we have gathered enough data to confirm that our current way of living and consuming is unsustainable and will have to change with the help of policy, collaboration and encouragement. Addressing this issue in the Talanoa Dialogue has not only generated attention towards it, but also set a statement for and therefore apply pressure to countries and governments. By using our collective power and knowledge to include the consumption-based emissions in the climate negotiations we can increase our chances of reaching the 1.5°C target.