

SUBMISSION OF AILAC-CARICOM-EIG

The Talanoa Dialogue (TD) – The political phase and potential outcomes

Objectives of TD

- The intent and objectives of the Talanoa Dialogue are contained in decision 1/CP.21 at para 20:
 - to take stock of the collective efforts of parties in relation to progress towards the long-term goal referred to in Article 4.1 of the Paris Agreement; and
 - to inform the preparation of NDCs pursuant to Article 4.8.
- There is an alarmingly large gap between the emissions reductions needed to meet the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit and the emissions reduction targets contemplated by the current NDCs. Only decisive action can help to prevent the worst impacts of climate change.
- We must ensure that the outcome of the Talanoa Dialogue can fulfil its purpose of guiding the preparation of NDCs to be brought forward in 2020, so that they can be better informed by what is needed for limiting warming to 1.5°C. If this does not happen, critical time for bringing down global emissions will be wasted.
- Therefore, it is essential that the political phase of the Talanoa Dialogue delivers clear outputs that capture political momentum for greater mitigation ambition in NDCs and long-term low GHG emission development strategies by 2020. Suggested approaches and outputs are outlined below.

Issues to consider going into COP24:

For vulnerable countries, the full consideration of the IPCC 1.5 Special Report will be critically important and inform the preparations or update of NDCs. The TD outputs should fully consider and reflect the main conclusions of the IPCC report, and inform the preparations or update of NDCs based on the best available science.

Possible approaches to delivering an effective TD at COP 24

The TD should provide for a common understanding of opportunities that exist for achieving enhanced mitigation actions that are conducive to higher collective ambition.

The Heads of State Summit to be held the 03rd of December will be an opportune time for generating political momentum for the TD ahead of the formal TD sessions which should be held early in the second week of COP24.

The High Level discussion on TD should be conducted in a flexible and interactive manner that allows participants to engage directly with each other. This interactive process can take place in parallel with the more formal presentation of National Statements. There also needs to be sufficient time for the preparation of outputs. It is important that the TD is focused in scope to ensure wide participation of Heads of State and Government Ministers, given the limited available time.

Accordingly, the TD could start with an opening session where all leaders, Ministers or heads of delegation are present, to be opened by the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC and that includes a presentation by the Chair of the IPCC on the main findings and conclusions of the Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Active discussion among leaders/ministers in Talanoa format, guided by questions such as the following:

- *How can Parties be more ambitious in their NDCs, in line with the scientific conclusions of the IPCC, in order to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement?*
- *How can long-term low GHG emission development strategies help Parties in that process, of higher ambition, to achieve the long-term 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement?*
- *How can we support each other to facilitate the preparation of long-term low GHG emission development strategies?*
- *How can the mobilization and provision of means of implementation effectively be channeled to unlock the untapped mitigation potential identified by developing country Parties in conditional components of communicated NDCs?*
- *How can this be approached in a balanced and coherent manner to ensure that Parties effectively integrate this potential into the updating of NDCs by 2020 in accordance to what was agreed in Paris?*

Outcomes from these discussions should provide inputs for any outcomes of the TD, which should be made clear and with the support of Ministers. It is therefore proposed that these questions can be circulated to Ministers in advance to facilitate preparation.

It is our view that a **COP decision** is a crucial component of the outcome and will:

- Create political ownership of operational next steps by establishing a direct link between the political discussion and the decision;
- Represent a tangible outcome of a year-long process involving Parties that would also signal continuity beyond COP 24;
- Provide concrete guidance/next steps through to 2020 at the operational level for Parties in preparing or updating NDCs and enhancing ambition;
- Provide some level of responsibility and accountability by Parties that may not necessarily be achievable with a political declaration alone that does not have status under the Convention;
- Delivery of a strong political message to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change.

A COP decision can comprise the following main elements:

- Welcome the completion of the mandate contained in Paragraph 20 of Decision 1/CP.21 to “take

stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress towards the long term goal referred to in Article 4 Paragraph 1 of the Agreement”

- Welcome the IPCC 1.5°C special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above preindustrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways.
- Reaffirm the need to respond to the request contained in paragraphs 23, 24 to update by 2020 current NDCs and the invitation of paragraph 35 of Decision 1/CP.21, and in accordance with Article 4.19, to formulate mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emissions development strategies, taking into account its common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.
- Underline the importance that such tasks should be done in a participatory manner, incentivizing the dialogue with Non-State Actors, including the private sector, without affecting the nationally determined nature of these processes.
- Reaffirm the need for mobilizing adequate means of implementation for climate action with a long-term view, as a fundamental component of the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- Placeholder for messages that may come from the high-level discussions (TD-styled questions above) for Parties to operationalize, with a view to enhancing ambition.

This decision can be complemented by a political declaration by ministers, urging increased ambition in the new or updated NDCs to be communicated in 2020, as well as in their long term low GHG emission development strategies.