

Summary Report

Informal round table on NDC ambition @ COP 25

6 December 2019, 13:00 – 15:00; MR 12, Hall 9, IFEMA Madrid, Spain

Objective and approach

The COP 25 Presidency organized an informal round table on NDC ambition for Parties and non-Party stakeholders with the objective of discussing aggregate efforts to address climate change and share views on how, in the run up to 2020, the gap in ambition could be bridged by new or updated NDCs.

The event consisted of two segments (i) understanding ambition in NDCs and the meaning of enhancing NDCs; and (ii) challenges and links to sustainable development. Colombia, Ghana, Fiji and the UK provided short ice-breakers.

Participants engaged in a positive discussion looking at next year's requirements for NDCs and long term strategies. During the discussions, participants emphasized the need for operationalizing the meaning of ambition at the national context. Representatives from the constituencies of admitted NGOs highlighted the critical role of non-Party stakeholders for enhancing ambition and stressed their readiness to work with governments towards a low carbon climate resilient future.

Take-away messages

The COP25 Presidency appreciated the constructive participation of all Parties and constituencies, which allowed for a rich exchange, based on concrete examples and good practices.

Throughout the discussion, it was underlined that every Party is the sole responsible to determine its own level of ambition, which is a principle enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

At the same time, the candid exchange among Parties created an atmosphere of trust and interest to learn from each other and to identify potential opportunities of aiming at higher levels of climate action both for mitigation and adaptation.

- The meaning of ambition includes:
 - o Action in mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation in a balanced and complementary manner.
 - o Better information: quality and quantity;
 - o Enhanced transparency and clarity of NDCs;
 - o Progression in terms of efforts to reduce emissions and increase resilience;
 - o Progression in results.
 - o Social inclusiveness and whole-of-government approach
- NDCs communicated by 2020 need to reflect highest possible ambition on mitigation, adaption and support, and consider messages by science;
- The aggregate effect of these NDCs should improve the projected aggregate effect of the NDCs communicated in 2015 and 2016;
- Experiences and existing gaps from the past should be the starting point for future ambition;
- Ambition is not only a plan or a number, ambition is also action and implementation of policies and measures, projects, initiatives, and enhanced cooperation;
- Ambition requires a whole of government and whole of society approach, including all relevant stakeholders, such as the youth, indigenous people, the private sector, science, local communities, and municipalities;

- Next NDCs should be prepared with the participation of a broad group of non-Party stakeholders, including inter alia regions, cities, private sector, youth, indigenous peoples and the scientific community;
- NDCs and climate ambition should be gender-responsive;
- Implementing climate ambition requires relevant capacities across stakeholders from all sectors to be strengthened;
- To achieve transformational change, NDCs have to be linked to long-term development pathways and be integrated with development objectives and long-term sustainable development planning;
- Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is critical for implementing climate ambition and vice versa;
- Implementing ambition requires financial resources and financial mechanisms that are predictable, sustained and flexible;
