

Roadmap and framework for delivery of the Action Agenda to 2020

I. Guiding principles and objectives

1. Urgently deliver results and increase action and ambition from all actors to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement, including by influencing 2020 NDCs;
2. Strengthen existing initiatives with the greatest impact, and create new initiatives to fill gaps with the greatest potential - either in terms of scalability or potential for innovation/transformation - while ensuring broad geographic and thematic representation;
3. Track implementation to demonstrate credibility and promote best practices for robust initiatives to enhance delivery;
4. Ensure co-ownership of the Action Agenda by initiatives and networks, successive champions and COP presidencies, and the UNFCCC Secretariat, with the support of the broader UN system; while promoting effective leadership and continuity;
5. Nurture non-bureaucratic, "light touch" institutional arrangements that build on the existing ecosystem for climate action.

II. Key functions required for an effective Action Agenda

In order for the Action Agenda to effectively achieve its objectives, a variety of entities (further detail in Appendix 1) will need to coordinate around four key functions:

1. **Orchestrating initiatives.** Many initiatives are self-organized by participating organizations. Others, however, have benefited from a catalyst in order to provide the initial impetus and structure around which organizations can cooperate. And all initiatives can benefit from appropriate support from governments, international organizations, or other entities to expand in scale. This orchestrating function is essential to the success of a decentralized realm such as the Action Agenda. While each initiative and sector will be different, individual initiatives, champions, and thematic facilitators will play the lead role in strengthening and scaling existing initiatives and creating new ones to fill key gaps. Building on the LPAA experience, this crucial role will require ongoing investment of time and resources over the coming years, and will benefit from the support of various entities, including the Action Agenda Support Unit, UNFCCC, presidencies, UNSG, and supportive Parties.
2. **Tracking and delivery.** Tracking implementation is essential to demonstrate the credibility of initiatives and commitments to a range of stakeholders. Individual initiatives and sectors are establishing systems to track their own achievements, progressively harmonizing as appropriate. The NAZCA portal will continue to be improved and operated by the UNFCCC in consultation with the data and research community. To build on these efforts, champions, thematic facilitators, the UNFCCC, and the Support Unit can conduct an annual survey of Action Agenda initiatives to present ahead of the COP high-level event (a Champions' report is planned for COP22). A number of research organizations will continue to assess the aggregate impact of initiatives and their relationship to NDCs. Champions and presidencies, through the stakeholder input mechanism, will progressively encourage and incentivize initiatives to organize themselves along best practices.
3. **Flow of events.** Moments such as the high-level event at COP and summits organized by sectors or initiatives are critical to sustaining momentum and ensuring a dynamic interplay between the UNFCCC process and broader groundswell of climate action. Champions, supported by thematic facilitators, will work with sectors and initiatives to increase cohesion and synergy of the events, aiming to establish a regular calendar. Presidencies, champions, and the UNFCCC, in consultation with the stakeholder input body, will organize annual the high-level event at the COP. Leading initiatives and the Support Unit, supported by the UNFCCC, stakeholder input body, and successive champions, will begin immediate preparations for the 2018 no-state actor summit.
4. **Broader impact of the Action Agenda.** A significant component of the value of the Action Agenda is its potential to leverage influence in the broader climate change realm. All actors can coordinate to communicate the implementation and ambition of the Action Agenda to

key audiences. Supportive national governments and others can work to feed outcomes of the Action Agenda into the Technical Examination Process, the 2018 facilitative dialogue, and pre-2020 formulation and communication of NDCs.

Please refer to Appendix 1 for a more detailed description of which entities can help deliver these functions through an effective division of labor.

III. Roadmap to 2020: key events and milestones for the Action Agenda

The Action Agenda should follow a regular rhythm, building in scale, from now until 2020 (see roadmap diagram).

Throughout the year, individual initiatives, networks, and sectors/thematic clusters will hold climate action events. Champions and the UNFCCC will work with these actors to promote an efficient division of labor and regular pattern for these events, consolidating where desirable.

The annual high-level event at COP, mandated to increase pre-2020 action by the COP21 decision and building on the Lima-Paris Action Agenda and the COP20 decision, will focus on strengthening and taking stock of Action Agenda initiatives and the broader groundswell of climate action, provide an opportunity for new initiatives to be announced, link to Technical Examination Process (TEP) and national policies, and begin to identify priorities and milestones for the following year.

In addition, a Climate Action Summit will be convened in mid-2018 that will serve as a “forcing moment” to catalyse climate action and energize the 2018 facilitative dialogue on collective ambition by:

1. Demonstrating the impact of existing commitments of cities, regions, companies and civil society as well as the aggregate effect of these commitments;
2. Allowing non-Party actors to redouble their commitments and create a collective benchmark of ambition that could be as a reference point;
3. Enabling national governments to formulate more robust NDCs based on demonstrated momentum and political support in key sectors, and setting out the key actions that governments would need to undertake to enable non-Party stakeholders to deliver further.

Several crucial steps must be taken in the next several months to establish this framework:

late-June	-Strengthen the role of thematic facilitators -Build consensus on criteria for inclusion and core themes -Re-brand the global climate Action Agenda
June - August	-Contribute to Champions’ consultation on the roadmap for the Action Agenda
Before COP22	-Finalize institutional arrangements for the Action Agenda, including the stakeholder input body and Support Unit

III. Strengthening the ecosystem for climate action

A number of existing actors in the ‘ecosystem’ for climate action will continue to play a strong role:

1. Initiatives and networks representing cities, companies, regions, investors, civil society, international organizations, and cross-sectoral initiatives, etc.
2. Thematic facilitators (exact arrangements vary by sector and are self-organized)
3. High-level champions appointed by presidencies
4. Presidencies of COP20-26

5. UNFCCC Secretariat
6. UNSG and the broader UN system
7. Supportive national governments

Moving forward, it may be advantageous to build on the existing ecosystem of the Action Agenda by strengthening it in four key ways:

1. Themes

To provide continuity and stability, it will be important to continue to structure the Action Agenda by theme. There were 12 themes for the LPAA, and these can be rationalized going forward. Obviously many initiatives will fit into more than one theme, and so should be allowed to categorize themselves under multiple themes and direct their efforts wherever the greatest value lies. A core set of themes should be established that will not change between now and 2020. Other themes may evolve following shifting priorities, such as from the champions and presidencies.

2. Stakeholder input body

It is crucial for the initiatives and actors that comprise the Action Agenda to play an active role in its development and operation. Under the LPAA, leading initiatives and networks, civil society groups, and the research community have provided important advice to the champions, presidencies, and the UNFCCC that has facilitated shared strategic alignment on the Action Agenda and helped to create a sense of co-ownership. Key questions on which these stakeholders can provide input include: identifying gaps and priorities, defining criteria for inclusion in the Action Agenda, planning the 2018 summit and narrative arc, and developing and diffusing best-practices for initiatives. It may be desirable to create a clear body or process to provide this advisory and strategic, as opposed to operational input (in contrast to the individual networks and thematic facilitators). That said, it is important not to create redundancy, so to the extent a new body or process would overlap with existing networks like Friends of Climate Action or Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions, it should either take over some functions from other networks or differentiate itself from them to avoid redundancy.

Various options for a stakeholder input body can be considered:

Option 1: Peruvian Presidency consultative model	Option 2: Stakeholder Council model	Option 3: Organic model
Following the example of the Peruvian Presidency in the lead up to COP20, an informal but consistent group of leaders would be convened by the champions and presidencies on a regular (i.e. monthly) basis in order to provide strategic guidance and alignment on key issues.	The champions nominate a representative cross-section of Action Agenda leaders to serve on the Stakeholder Council for rotating terms (i.e. 1-2 years). This body provides input on key processes (e.g. planning of high-level event).	No new entity is established. Champions continue to receive advice on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis from various constituencies, with entities like Friends of Climate Action and Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions playing <i>ad hoc</i> roles.

3. Support Unit

Successive champions and presidencies, initiatives and networks, as well as UN bodies, will benefit from a small support staff to underpin the work of the Action Agenda. This Support Unit could help strengthen existing initiatives, organize events, facilitate tracking, and assist with communications, providing an essential “backbone” to the Action Agenda. Furthermore, putting a dedicated unit of staff in place through 2020 will provide essential continuity and institutional memory within the Action Agenda. It is envisioned that this Support Unit will work closely with the champions, and from pooled resources contributed by thematic facilitators and initiatives/networks.

Various institutional options have been proposed for this Support Unit:

Option 1: ICANN model	Option 2: New Climate Economy model	Option 3: House in existing organization	Option 4: Distributed model
Incorporate a new non-profit organization. Its board will comprise successive champions, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, and representatives of the Stakeholder input body. Support Unit staff will work for this new organization, co-locating with successive champions.	A commission will be created comprised of successive champions, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, and representatives of the Stakeholder input body. It will direct the work of the Support Unit staff, who may be organized as per option 3 or 4.	No new entity is created. Instead, Support Unit staff are housed in a single existing international organization or other entity such as a firm, but coordinate with the broader Action Agenda, and especially the champions.	No new entity is created. Support Unit staff are seconded or employed by various actors across the Action Agenda ecosystem.

4. *Thematic facilitators*

It is worthwhile here to call attention to the critical role of thematic facilitators in the Action Agenda ecosystem, as their indispensable but often behind-the-scenes role often goes unrecognized. In a number of sectors, various thematic facilitators have been the glue that binds the catalysts of the Action Agenda (such as the champions, Presidencies, and UNFCCC) with the sectors and initiatives themselves that seek to deliver climate action. They have also proven instrumental in connecting initiatives to external resources in some cases. In the LPAA model, representatives from France, Peru, the UNSG, and the UNFCCC performed key elements of this work (e.g. the Peruvian government and the forestry sector). Other areas of the Action Agenda have their own thematic structures (e.g. the We Mean Business coalition for the private sector, or the various city networks). And because the capacity and deep sectoral relationships of the Presidencies and UNFCCC are often somewhat limited, outside thematic facilitators can be pivotal in leveraging the Action Agenda to its fullest potential.

Therefore, solidifying and strengthening the role of the thematic facilitators is central to strengthening the ecosystem for climate action. Because different themes of the Action Agenda are organized in vastly different ways, it is important for the champions and other more centralized elements of the Action Agenda not to be overly prescriptive about how various the sectors organize themselves. Thematic facilitators should be organically organized along sectoral lines and enjoy broad trust and credibility with the sectoral community. But because some sectors are more organized and integrated than others that more be more diffuse, and the champions and their teams can play a useful role in terms of encouraging and incentivizing greater organization for those sectors that require it.

Appendix I. Responsibilities and division of labor to deliver on the key functions of the Action Agenda

Function	Entities responsible	Process
ORCHESTRATING INITIATIVES		
Strengthening and scaling up existing initiatives	Individual initiatives, champions and thematic facilitators, supported by stakeholder input body, UNSG, and supportive governments and international organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Individual initiatives should have work plans for increasing scale and deepening ambition consistent with Paris objectives -Champions with Support Unit support initiatives to access new participants, funding, other resources -UNSG, supportive national governments and international organizations, and other supporters help initiatives gain participants, funding, resources, coordinating with Champions -Champions and stakeholder input body work together to identify opportunities for addressing key geographic, thematic, or ambition gaps
Inclusion of (old or new) initiatives to be part of Action Agenda	COP Presidencies, Champions, UNFCCC, with input from stakeholder input body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -COP presidencies and champions, supported by UNFCCC, issue call for initiatives in Q1, following priorities identified at COP -All entities may propose initiatives for inclusion based on AA objectives -COP presidencies and champions, supported by UNFCCC and Support Unit and in consultation with the stakeholder input body, finalize inclusion of Action Agenda initiatives well in advance of COP -Existing initiatives that are not able to demonstrate sufficient progress after two years may not be included
Creating new initiatives	All stakeholders, supported COP Presidencies, Champions, and UNFCCC, with thematic facilitators and the stakeholder input body playing a catalytic role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All stakeholders, supported by presidencies/champions, thematic facilitators, and UNFCCC, may launch new initiatives based on gaps/opportunities identified at previous COP high-level event. Champions and thematic facilitators should play a leading and catalytic role
TRACKING AND DELIVERY		

Tracking delivery of existing initiatives	Individual initiatives and themes/sectors, UNFCCC, UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -NAZCA portal maintained and operated by UNFCCC with input from stakeholder input body, presidencies, and champions -Individual initiatives and sectors will have their own tracking tools that should be harmonized over time -UNEP maintains general database of cooperative initiatives -UNFCCC and facilitators will conduct annual survey of AA initiatives, presented at COP
Harmonization	Stakeholder input body, UNFCCC, UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Special working group of the stakeholder input body will work to progressively harmonize data and methodologies, in close collaboration with the UNFCCC, UNEP and others
Summary/aggregation of impact of Action Agenda	UNEP, individual initiatives and sectors, civil society and research community, with overarching assistance from UNFCCC and Support Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UNEP will include review of initiatives in annual Emissions Gap Report -Individual initiatives and sectors will report on their own -Joint report for 2018 summit coordinated by Support Unit and UNFCCC, with advice from the stakeholder input body
Ensuring credibility	Champions and presidencies, UNFCCC, stakeholder input body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Parties and observers to the UNFCCC may make submissions to the COP presidencies/champions questioning whether a given initiative serves the objectives of the Paris Agreement -Such submissions may be considered in the selection process described above -Champions/Presidencies may respond publicly to such enquiries to explain how a given initiative does / does not meet advance the objectives of the Action Agenda and Paris Agreement

EVENTS		
Planning of the high-level event during COP	Presidencies and champions with UNFCCC in consultation with the stakeholder input body and assisted by the Support Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Emphasis on assessing progress -Identification of key gaps and opportunities -Link to TEP and national policies -Select initiatives to feature at COP based on objective, transparent criteria, and do so well in advance

Planning of thematic/sectoral events throughout the year	Individual initiatives/networks and sectors, supported by thematic facilitators and champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Individual initiatives and networks will carry forward a wide range of events throughout the year -Champions, supported by thematic facilitators, will work with initiatives/sectors to increase cohesion and synergy of events -Aim to establish regular calendar and to combine events where possible -Emphasize local, regional, and national events to expand community of climate action
Planning of 2018 summit	Support Unit and leading initiatives supported by UNFCCC, stakeholder input body, and successive champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Begin planning as early as possible in 2016 -The next UN Secretary-General could play a key role in supporting the summit
BROADER IMPACT OF ACTION AGENDA		
Communicating the ambition and implementation of the Action Agenda to key audiences	Champions and presidencies with capacity from Support Unit, stakeholder input body, individual initiatives, supportive national governments and international organizations, UNSG	-Champions/presidencies work with initiatives, stakeholder input body, and UNFCCC to coordinate messaging
Linking Action Agenda to achievement of NDCs and raising ambition	-Friends of work stream 2 and champions, supported by UNFCCC and aligned initiatives	-Mechanisms to feed outcomes of Action Agenda into TEP, 2018 facilitative dialogue, pre-2020 formulation and communication of NDCs

Action Agenda Roadmap to 2020

