



Memorandum

How can countries and other actors work together to step up ambition in 2018?

November 2017

Summary: *2018 is a critical year to step up climate ambition on the road to 2020. The groundswell of climate action by non-party stakeholders creates opportunities for national governments to harvest the experience, resources, and achievements of cities, business, regions, investors, civil society, and others to enhance their own ambition. Summarizing a discussion of these issues held on November 15, 2017, at COP23, this document recommends how this process can unfold in 2018.*

2018 is a critical year for stepping up ambition

In September 2018, the Global Climate Action Summit will mobilize sub-national and private sector actors to advance the low-carbon real economy . A successful summit will signal the opportunities for increased ambition in the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue and COP24 that December, where countries are expected to signal a willingness to enhance ambition in their climate action plans as specified by the ratcheting mechanism of the Paris Agreement. Successful and increasing action by cities, states/regions, businesses, and other non-party actors is a critical signal that the world can reach the Agreement's objective of staying well below 2° C and pursuing 1.5° C, the urgency of which will be highlighted by the IPCC Special Report on 1.5° C due in 2018.

Successful 2018 outcomes for countries and other actors

Successful outcomes in 2018 include:

1. COP24 sends a collective intentional/signal to enhance ambition by 2020
2. Individual countries take on board specific ideas from non-party stakeholders on how to enhance their ambition in the next round of NDCs and in other policy areas
3. Non-party stakeholders
 - a. Demonstrate concrete progress on existing pledges and overall emissions gap
 - b. Make ambitious new commitments/initiatives, especially in thematic areas or geographic areas that are currently underrepresented
 - c. Identify and communicate opportunities for countries to increase ambition

Content of non-state contributions

What information and actions can non-party stakeholders contribute to the Talanoa Dialogue and other discussions on raising ambition?

1. **Demonstrating progress (TD question 1: “where are we?”)**. Non-state actors working both individually and in cooperative initiatives should continue to report on their progress. Individual-level progress should be reported to NAZCA via the data providers, while cooperative initiatives should respond to the Marrakech Partnership survey. In addition, the data and analysis community is currently working to provide more robust quantification of non-state climate action which will be delivered in 2018.
2. **New ambition (TD question 3: “how do we get there?”)**. While delivering current pledges and expanding participation in existing initiatives is a priority, non-state actors should communicate new pledges and initiatives that arise, especially in underrepresented thematic and geographic areas.
3. **Opportunities for countries to enhance ambition (TD question 3: “how do we get there?”)**. Non-state actors can identify specific opportunities for national governments to increase ambition. Such opportunities should include the following elements (it may be helpful to circulate a standard template to serve as a basis for how these opportunities get communicated)
 - a. What is the opportunity?
 - b. What benefits can it provide (mitigation, adaptation, SDGs, other)?
 - c. What are some successful examples/cases?
 - d. How is the process for doing it (“how to guide”)
 - e. Where can countries that want to do this find:
 - i. Capacity building
 - ii. Funding
 - iii. Partnerships

Channels: How can non-party stakeholders communicate these messages to countries and intergovernmental processes?

There are many channels through which non-party stakeholders can communicate to parties the need and opportunity to step up ambition. The key challenge is to ensure coordination between these various channels. Because time and resources are limited, it will be important to focus on those channels that allow for the most substantive and high-impact opportunities.

1. **Talanoa Dialogue**. The Talanoa Dialogue will have a technical phase throughout 2018, and then a political phase at COP24. It will ask three questions: where are we, where do we want to go, and how do we get there? Individual non-party stakeholders will have a chance to make submissions directly. However, the TD will also take in, and be informed by, synthetic outcomes from several related processes, including those listed below. In

this way it serves as an umbrella for many of the other channels, funneling them into a political moment at COP24.

2. **Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.** The Marrakech Partnership should serve as the key coordination body for non-state actors across the channels, providing the “glue” that binds the various elements together. The Partnership will also provide three key channels from non-state actors to parties: NAZCA, the Yearbook of Climate Action, and the Global Climate Action sequence at COP24. All of these should be considered direct inputs to the Talanoa Dialogue, responding to all three questions.
 - a. **NAZCA:** showcasing scale and scope of climate action, highlight new ambition (TD Q1). A new version of NAZCA should be launched by Sep 2018.
 - b. **Yearbook:** Reporting on progress made and opportunities for the future (TD Q1 and Q2).
 - c. **Global Climate Action sequence at COP24:** Reporting on progress made, showcasing new ambition, and elevating “asks” to parties in/around political segment of TD (TD Q1, Q2, Q3)
3. **Global Climate Action Summit (California).** The GCAS will bring together a wide range of actors and demonstrate the real progress happening on the ground in key areas. It should provide a direct input to the Talanoa Dialogue by showing the scale and scope of what is already being delivered (TDQ1) and raising the salience of both the collective need to raise ambition (TDQ2) and key opportunities for countries to do so (TDQ3).
4. **Technical Examination Process.** COP23 adopted a decision to significantly change the TEMs. The TEMs are meant to serve as a forum for technical discussions between experts, party and non-party, on specific policy options to deliver climate action, but they have not worked well thus far. COP23 decided that a multi-year work plan for the TEMs will be adopted by January 12, 2018. In addition, non-party stakeholders are empowered to volunteer to coordinate specific TEMs on specific topics, and all TEMs are meant to focus on concrete next steps. Non-party stakeholders should step into this opportunity. TEMs can be held during UNFCCC sessions (most proximately the May 2018 intersessional) and also at a regional level around the world. These TEMs should be organized around existing meetings, with the results reported back to the UNFCCC.
5. **Pre-2020 Action stock-taking processes.** As a result of the increased attention to pre-2020 action at COP23, an annual stocktake of pre-2020 action will take place in 2018 and 2019. The Marrakech Partnership is explicitly identified as a key source of information for these stocktakes. Ensuring that the Marrakech Partnership is working well will thus be important for communicating to parties through this channel, which may be especially relevant for emerging and developing countries.
6. **National-level dialogues and direct cooperation between parties and non-state actors.** While the international level processes are important to get right, the most powerful drivers of ambition lie at the national level. The Talanoa Dialogue can call for countries to initiate national-level consultations. Already some non-state actor groups are planning to work with countries to hold national-level dialogues on opportunities to enhance ambition. Such dialogues can be captured and communicated through the TEP

or the Marrakech Partnership, or directly by parties/non-parties, into the Talanoa Dialogue.

Next steps and timeline

1. While planning for the California Summit is proceeding, it is critical to begin immediately designing a work plan for the Marrakech Partnership (including NAZCA, Yearbook, and meetings), the TEMs (regional and at UNFCCC sessions), National Dialogues, and the Talanoa Dialogue as a whole. This process should begin now and finish before end of January 2018. Planning should also include a shared calendar of events across the various thematic areas of the Marrakech Partnership. While responsibility for this agenda is distributed and leadership shared, the short amount of time available make it critical for the Climate Champions and the UNFCCC Secretariat to deliver the key work plans, after consultation with parties and non-parties, by the agreed deadline.
2. Non-party stakeholders should
 - a. Produce the information/action on progress, new ambition, and new opportunities, and feed them into the channels identified
 - b. Volunteer themselves to organize TEMs, either global or regional, and especially how to build TEMs into currently planned events
 - c. Work with national governments to co-organize national dialogues
3. National governments should
 - a. Ensure that non-party voices are fully brought into the channels identified
 - b. Volunteer to (co)organize TEMs and national dialogues
4. A lack of resources continues to present a barrier to progress. Funders and donors are considered to review [the case for supporting climate action and the coordination mechanisms that delivers it](#). It is our collective responsibility to make sure that this ecosystem is strong.

Dec 2017	Agree Marrakech Partnership work plan for 2018
Jan 2018	Agree TEMs work plan through 2020
May 2018	Intersessional TEMs
Sep 2018	Global Climate Action Summit
Dec 2018	COP24