Non-Party stakeholders’ inputs for the Talanoa Dialogue
Question 1 – Where are we?

OUR COMMITMENTS & ACTIONS

The U.S. Climate Alliance is a bipartisan coalition of U.S. governors committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Alliance now has 17 members, representing a large and diverse cross-section of the country committed to climate action. Collectively we are home to more than 40% of U.S. population and account for roughly $9 trillion dollars in economic activity—a larger economy than all but two of the countries in the world.

Smart, coordinated state action can ensure that the United States continues to contribute to the global effort to address climate change. Each Alliance State commits to:

- Implement policies that advance the goals of the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025
- Track and report progress to the global community in appropriate settings, including when the world convenes to take stock of the Paris Agreement, and
- Accelerate new and existing policies to reduce carbon pollution and promote clean energy deployment at the state and federal level.

Alliance states are leading the country in combatting climate change by investing in clean energy, energy efficiency and climate resilience.

In the **power sector**, all Alliance states have a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), or a state-wide renewable energy goal in place. Carbon pollution caps cover 56% of Alliance state electricity generation. We have attracted nearly $100 billion in renewable energy investment since 2011, with wind, solar, geothermal and biomass generating capacity growing 5-fold over that period. Add in nuclear and hydropower, and Alliance states now collectively generate more than half of our electricity from zero-carbon sources.

In the **buildings sector**, Alliance states lead the country in ambitious building energy codes, appliance standards and utility-driven efficiency programs. 45% of LEED certified green buildings are in Alliance states. The top ten highest ranking states in terms of energy efficiency policy are Alliance members. We attracted $3.4 billion in new investment in utility-driven energy efficiency improvements in 2015 alone. These investments reduced the amount of electricity households and business had to buy in that year by nearly 13 billion kilowatt hours, enough to power 1.2 million average-sized homes.

In the **transportation sector**, most Alliance states are members of the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program. The Alliance accounts for over 70% of all battery electric, plug-in hybrid and fuel cell vehicles
sold nation-wide last year. The nearly 400,000 ZEVs on the road in Alliance states at the end of 2016 reduce U.S. oil dependence by roughly 21 million barrels each year.

Alliance states are also working to make our communities and economies more resilient to the changes in the climate that are already occurring. This includes investing in vulnerability assessments, community-focused emergency preparedness, more resilient buildings and infrastructure, coastal ecosystem and buffer restoration, forest restoration, and drought management planning.

The Alliance has made substantial progress towards the implementation of our commitments and is accelerating its efforts. Specifically, the Alliance is driving progress on improving greenhouse gas emissions inventories; sequestering carbon in forests, farms, and other landscapes; reducing short-lived climate pollutants; exploring innovative financial mechanisms; building state and community resilience to climate change impacts; and collaborating on clean transportation, among other issues. In the months ahead, the Alliance will continue to advance ambitious climate policy within our states, and share best practices and lessons learned among member states. Through these initiatives, we will use the powers available to the states to deliver even greater emission reductions within the Alliance and will consider enhancing ambition before or in 2020. We also will work to attract new member states and help drive policy innovation and low-carbon market transformation across the country.

| LEADING BY EXAMPLE |

Examples of policy leadership from Alliance states across the economy include:

- **CALIFORNIA**
  California was the first state in the nation to adopt an economy-wide cap-and-trade program with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. This summer, California extended this landmark program to 2030 to deliver economy-wide GHG emission reductions of 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

- **COLORADO**
  As a large oil and gas producing state, Colorado became the first in the nation to regulate methane from oil and gas wells, significantly reducing emissions of this potent GHG. Since 2014 oil and gas operations have been implementing the nation’s toughest leak detection and repair requirements resulting in a 65% decline in the number of leaking facilities. These and other efforts appear to be having a significant positive impact. Since 2013 we have seen a 24% decline in methane concentrations at our air monitoring site located in the oil and gas field north of Denver.

- **CONNECTICUT**
  Connecticut’s Green Bank, the first in the nation, was recently recognized by Harvard as its “Innovations in American Government Award” winner for 2017. The guiding philosophy of the CT Green Bank is to use limited public dollars to leverage private capital in order to deploy
renewables and efficiency at scale. For every $1 of public funds invested by the CT Green Bank there has been $6 in private investment in the Connecticut economy.

- **DELAWARE**
  Delaware’s Renewable Portfolio Standards Act (RPS) requires 25% of the state’s electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025. In addition, an Offshore Wind Working Group was established by Executive Order in August 2017 to make recommendations regarding the development of offshore wind power.

- **HAWAII**
  Hawaii has become the first state in the nation to commit to achieve 100% renewable electricity, including wind, sun, falling water, biogas, geothermal, ocean water currents and energy conversion, biomass, biofuels, and hydrogen from renewable sources. This will be achieved by 2045 through the state’s renewable portfolio standard (RPS), with interim 30% by 2020, 40% by 2030 and 70% by 2040.

- **MARYLAND**
  Maryland’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act calls for a 25 percent reduction in emissions by 2020, and 40 percent reduction by 2030. The state is currently developing a comprehensive plan for reaching these ambitious targets while maintaining a commitment to grow Maryland’s economy and job base. With a leadership state role in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and a state bipartisan climate commission focused on mitigation, science and resilience, Maryland has been at the forefront of climate action.

- **MASSACHUSETTS**
  In 2016, Governor Baker signed a comprehensive climate change Executive Order 569, advancing policies and strategies to enable the Commonwealth to meet the aggressive emission reduction targets of 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, under the Global Warming Solutions Act and launching an integrated statewide strategy on climate change adaptation. Governor’s Baker Energy Diversity legislation, signed in 2016, and currently being implemented calls for the largest procurement of renewable energy in state history.

- **MINNESOTA**
  The 2007 Next Generation Energy Action set a 25% Renewable Energy Standard by 2025. As of the end of 2017, Minnesota has achieved 25% of its electricity coming from renewable sources. Governor Dayton is pursuing an increase of this standard to 50% by 2030. This policy, along with several others, has helped to create over 57,000 clean energy jobs in Minnesota.

- **NEW JERSEY**
  Since taking office on January 16th, Governor Murphy has issued an Executive Order to begin the process of re-entering the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) – a cooperative,
market-based program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, joining seven other Alliance States engaged in the program. He has also directed the Board of Public Utilities to begin the process of advancing 3,500 MW of offshore wind energy generation by 2030 – the most ambitious statewide goal to date.

- **NEW YORK**
  New York State has established ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets to reduce emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% by 2050. In addition, the Clean Energy Standard requires that 50% of electricity in New York come from renewable energy sources like wind and solar by 2030. New York State will be coal-free by 2020 and develop up to 2.4 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030.

- **NORTH CAROLINA**
  North Carolina has risen to #2 nationally for installed solar capacity and is home to over 34,000 clean energy jobs because of a range of state policies, including the N.C. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS). REPS requires investor-owned electric utilities to source 12.5% of their energy needs through renewable energy or energy efficiency measures by 2021. Governor Cooper signed the Competitive Energy Solutions for North Carolina legislation in July 2017 which will roughly double N.C.’s solar generation over the next 4 years.

- **OREGON**
  Oregon is the first state in the nation to enact a law that prohibits the state’s largest investor owned utilities from including electricity generated from coal in their rates for Oregon ratepayers by 2030. In addition, negotiations among state agencies and Portland General Electric resulted in an agreement to close the state’s only coal-fired plant in 2020, two decades earlier than its assumed operating life.

- **PUERTO RICO**
  The Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) serves as coordinator of the Puerto Rico Climate Change Council since 2009. DNER’s Office for Coastal Management has completed the Guide to Resilience, and four coastal municipalities’ adaptation plans. DNER is currently developing a self-vulnerability assessment and climate data tools.

- **RHODE ISLAND**
  Governor Gina Raimondo has set an ambitious agenda to maintain Rhode Island’s commitment to a clean energy future. Rhode Island is home to the nation’s first offshore windfarm. Governor Raimondo set the goal of increasing Rhode Island’s clean energy resources tenfold by 2020 to 1000MW, and Rhode Island is on track to meet that goal. An original member of the RGGI cap and trade program, Rhode Island invests all proceeds back into emissions reductions, including programs to promote tree-planting, clean energy on farms and energy efficiency — ranking 3rd in the nation on energy efficiency. And, Governor Raimondo signed a “Lead by Example”
Executive Order which directs state agencies to procure all electricity from renewable sources by 2025.

- **VIRGINIA**
  Virginia’s Department of Environmental Quality is in the process of finalizing a regulation to limit carbon pollution from power plants. The regulation will establish a cap on carbon emissions from power plants and will enable Virginia to link the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and participate in the quarterly auctions.

- **VERMONT**
  Through an active engagement of public private partnership Vermont is working directly with local businesses to increase investment in electric vehicles. Drive Electric Vermont is a coalition of policymakers, industry leaders and civil society groups striving to increase the number of electric vehicles on the roadways. To accomplish this, Vermont is focusing their attention on key areas such as infrastructure, legislation, finance, innovation, and education.

- **WASHINGTON**
  Washington’s Clean Air Rule puts a declining cap on major greenhouse gas emission sources including industrial, energy and transportation and uses market based policies to drive a 27% reduction in GHGs by 2036.

Alliance members are compiling and sharing policy best practices and lessons learned both among themselves and with other states across the country. This inventory, available online at [https://www.usclimatealliance.org/state-climate-energy-policies/](https://www.usclimatealliance.org/state-climate-energy-policies/), will continue to expand in the weeks and months ahead.

### QUANTITATIVE IMPACT

Thanks to the policy leadership described above, Alliance states have already made impressive progress within their jurisdictions towards achieving their share of the U.S. contribution to the Paris Agreement. Independent analysis from the Rhodium Group finds that between 2005 and 2015, Alliance states collectively reduced net GHG emissions by 15%, compared to a 10% reduction for the rest of the country. We are half way to 2025 and more than half of the way to meeting our share of the Paris Agreement target.

Climate and clean energy policies in Alliance states have attracted billions of dollars of new investment and helped create more than 1.6 million clean energy and energy efficiency jobs. Alliance states have accelerated clean energy deployment while ensuring reliability, expanding consumer choice and lowering energy bills for families and businesses. Alliance states are demonstrating that acting on climate does not require sacrificing economic growth. In fact, the opposite has proven true. Between 2005 and 2015, the combined economic output of Alliance states grew by 14% while the rest of the country grew by 12%. On a per capita basis, economic output in Alliance states expanded twice as fast as
in the rest of the country during that period. Our states are proof that fighting climate change and fostering economic growth can go hand in hand.

Alliance states are building on our track record of action. The policies we have adopted will continue to attract new jobs and investment in the years ahead in clean energy, energy efficiency and clean transportation while simultaneously driving down GHG emissions across our states. Will this be sufficient to achieve our goal of meeting our share of the U.S. emission reduction targets under the Paris Agreement?
The analysis finds that Alliance states will continue to lead the nation in reducing GHG emissions and we are set to meet our share of the U.S. emission reduction target. Under current policies, Alliance states are projected to achieve a combined 24-29% reduction below 2005 levels by 2025\textsuperscript{1}. The Alliance is squarely on track—irrespective of federal inaction—while continuing to grow our economies and drive job creation.

\textsuperscript{1} This analysis was completed before Maryland and New Jersey joined the Alliance