



CAN INTERNATIONAL
Briefing
Expectations for the 17th Informal
Meeting on Further Actions Against
Climate Change

March 2019

Climate Action Network (CAN) is the world's largest network of civil society organizations working together to promote government action to address the climate crisis, with more than 1300 members in over 120 countries.

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At COP24 Parties agreed largely the foundational elements of the implementation guidelines of the Paris Agreement. In 2019 countries need to complement their work in Katowice by agreeing on strong guidelines for implementing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, advance on the urgent issue of climate finance including finance to address loss and damage, and by strengthening domestic targets in line with the 1.5°C temperature threshold.

The 17th Informal Meeting on Further Actions Against Climate Change provides the opportunity to advance the discussion on these key issues. Climate Action Network prepared this Briefing outlining expectations for 2019 with the intention of supporting parties at this Meeting.

1. Building on the Talanoa Dialogue to address ambition gaps in line with the IPCC 1.5 Report

The IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C clearly spells out that limiting global temperature increase to a maximum 1.5°C is necessary, possible and urgent.

It is economically and technically feasible, but we need political will right now: Fast and massive reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the next decade are critical to protect ecosystems, avoid impacts and promote sustainable development.

The one year long Talanoa Dialogue saw parties recognizing that existing action was dangerously insufficient, and highlighting the climate impacts already being experienced by their citizens. At the same time - party and non-party actors alike emphasized that climate action has never been more feasible, or economically attractive. The arguments have never been clearer for enhancing both pre-2020 ambition and action and post-2020 ambition and action to reach the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and prevent the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

In all discussions, on climate ambition and action, Parties should build on the COP24 outcomes: 1/CP.24 clearly recognises the urgent need for enhanced ambition and the need to scale-up the provision of finance, technology and capacity building support by developed country in a predictable manner, to enable enhanced action.

Parties need to build on and use the outcomes from the Talanoa Dialogue in their deliberations on enhanced pre-2020 action, and in developing and communicating their new NDCs by 2020.

Current NDCs are nowhere near to reach the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and do not

incorporate the full potential of climate action and available technologies. Ambition should be raised by reflecting this reality and by identifying policies that further support decarbonization within relevant sectors, in particular in the energy sector.

Success in achieving transformational change requires attention to social justice and equity as well as governance structures strong enough to support the interdependency between climate change, sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

2019 is a key year to building on the Talanoa Dialogues, initiate, organize and convene national dialogues that inform the preparation of NDCs realizing the additional mitigation potential and resilience for the 2020 plans guided by the long-term vision of the Paris goals.

Such national dialogues need to be undertaken in an inclusive and participatory manner, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, sub-national authorities, local and indigenous communities as well as spiritual communities.

Costa Rica is a recent example of how such national processes can be led and how the path towards a zero carbon future can be designed using tools such as incentives, policies, and achieving transformational change in a range of sectors such as the transportation sector. The plan also lays out the roadmap towards job creation and sustainable growth clearly stating that the goals can only be achieved through the involvement of all parts of society.

Parties should lay out the next concrete steps in their respective national NDC enhancement process and clearly spell out the process for enhancing their NDC by 2020, including timelines, ways of engagement, sectors and targets for review. As part of this process developed countries need to make concrete financial commitments for supporting the NDC enhancement process in developing countries.

The UNFCCC SB50 Session will be an important milestone for taking stock of the review process so far and to further mandate the UNFCCC Secretariat to produce a synthesis report on the aggregate effect of the revised nationally determined contributions by October 2020 .

The Climate Summit to be convened by the UN Secretary-General in September 2019 is a critical opportunity to accelerate action and further enhance global ambition in reducing emissions and strengthening resilience and an opportunity to announce the concrete steps taken by Parties to initiate the national review processes and/or enhance their NDC.

We are encouraged by governments that have already announced their intention to step up their climate ambition and enhance their NDC such as Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Costa Rica, Ukraine, Canada, Barbados and Jamaica.

2. Means of Implementation: Facilitating the steady implementation of the PA

While it was noted by the Standing Committee on Finance that more finance was flowing from developed countries to developing countries, progress on finance still remains fragile. Developing countries need enhanced and adequate financial support to increase their climate ambition. Support for adaptation remains considerably low and there is a general recognition that more work is needed to better understand the needs of developing countries. 2019 is an opportunity for countries to make significant progress on climate finance.

When discussing the need to scale up financial resources and to commit to achieving the USD100BN target, developed countries should demonstrate how they intend to ensure a balance between

adaptation and mitigation support. Following the adoption of new accounting rules at COP24, developed countries must commit to applying the highest standards of reporting. This includes reporting the grant-equivalent amounts of all instruments used and explaining how they will ensure climate finance is new and additional. We look forward to the upcoming meeting of the Standing Committee of Finance and its preparatory work for the 2020 Biennial Assessment. Particularly the information relevant to Article 2, paragraph 1 (c) of the Paris Agreement and the first report on the determination of the needs of developing countries related to the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement are key products for countries to consider in the future. The upcoming work of the SCF must therefore include inputs from developing countries and least developed countries as well as observer organizations.

The Japan/Brazil meeting also represents an opportunity to set expectations for the first replenishment of the Green Climate Fund. Negotiators must highlight the importance of a successful replenishment in 2019 while the Board continues its work on the improvement of the governance of the fund. Ensuring a successful replenishment is key to building trust and unlocking greater progress in 2019.

Negotiators must also discuss the need to ensure financial stability for the Adaptation Fund now that it serves the Paris Agreement. Countries that haven't provided finance to the fund must consider doing so.

When discussing Article 2.1.c, negotiators must come prepared to demonstrate how they intend to make progress in 2019 to ensure increasing levels of climate finance flows of the overall financial flows. Negotiators could discuss the alignment of climate finance with investments needs and plans that are associated to NDCs and national adaptation plans as suggested by the Standing Committee of Finance.

Lastly, one issue that is currently not on the agenda for the Brazil-Japan Dialogue, but that needs to be addressed urgently in 2019 as part of the Warsaw International Review, is the need to enhance action and support and have a full-fledged discussion on the availability of finance to address loss and damage beyond adaptation.

3. Finalizing robust implementation guidelines for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

CAN supports and encourages the finalization of rules and guidelines under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, but opposes any compromise which would set up mechanisms that result in an overall *increase* in emissions. To this end, it is essential that article 6 mechanisms respect and enforce the principles of supplementarity, transparency, and environmental integrity. The latter requiring those emission reductions are real, additional, permanent, verifiable, and not double-counted. The role of market mechanisms must be to lead to an increase in ambition from participating countries and must deliver overall mitigation in global emissions. Participation in article 6 cannot come as a substitute for domestic action in line with a 1.5C° trajectory. To this end, CAN calls on countries to:

1. Adopt accounting rules which prevent all forms of double counting by requiring the application of corresponding adjustments for all transferred units,
2. Ban the use of Kyoto Protocol units for meeting NDC targets,

3. Adopt rules to prevent adverse social, environmental, and Human Rights related impacts, including by establishing a grievance process governed by an independent body, and
4. Deliver on the objective of “overall mitigation in global emission”, as called for under article 6.4, by adopting a partial cancellation rate for each credit;

The final hours of COP24 came with a significant deterioration of the article 6 draft-text which saw some key elements and safeguards being deleted. Therefore, Article 6 negotiations should restart on the basis of a set of consolidated texts which reflect the concerns and views of all Parties, particularly on the questions of corresponding adjustments, overall mitigation in global emissions, and share of proceeds. We encourage Parties to engage in substantive discussions as soon as possible.

While many key issues remain to be resolved, the first discussions at SBSTA50 should focus on finding common ground on the questions of how to prevent double counting and the transition of the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms. Without an agreement on these topics, Parties will be unable to agree on rules and guidelines for article 6. Therefore, these topics should be a priority.

Furthermore, paragraph 77(d) of the decision on the Transparency Framework should serve as the basis for further negotiations on accounting rules under articles 6. This provision clearly States that Parties must report “an emissions balance [...] adjusted on the basis of corresponding adjustments”¹, consistent with decisions under article 6. The rules established under article 6 to ensure transparent tracking and logging of units should be compatible with the information reported in the structured summaries under the Transparency framework. To properly guard against double counting of emission reductions, transparency rules under article 6 should include publicly accessible tracking of credits both inside and outside of UNFCCC mechanisms (e.g. under the ICAO, CORSIA).

¹UNFCCC (2018): Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp24_auv_transparency.pdf