



# Climate Action Network

*Facilitative Dialogue 2018:  
Spark greater climate ambition*

**April 2017**

*Climate Action Network International (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 1100 members in over 120 countries. [www.climatenetwork.org](http://www.climatenetwork.org)*

## **Introduction**

The facilitative dialogue in 2018 (FD2018) is mandated to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties towards the Paris Agreement's long-term goal in Article 4 and to inform the preparation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), the next round of which are due by 2020.<sup>1</sup>

Since current domestic climate pledges are fundamentally inadequate to remain on a global warming pathway of well below 2°C or 1.5°C as per the Paris Agreement's objectives,<sup>2</sup> the FD2018 represents a key opportunity for the international community to enhance global aggregate ambition so as not to foreclose the possibility to meet the 1.5°C pathway.

The facilitative dialogue is an opportunity to collectively look into options on how current NDCs can be revised and new ambition can be generated to strengthen individual Parties' contributions by 2020. It is also an opportunity to find ways for expediting implementation of NDCs while at the same time looking at meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, the facilitative dialogue is an opportunity to identify ways in which Parties could implement climate action in areas not covered by their NDC or surpass the ambition level outlined therein.

In this position, Climate Action Network outlines its expectations on the outcome and the modalities of the facilitative dialogue to inform ongoing consultations by the COP 22 and COP 23 Presidencies on this matter.

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<sup>1</sup> UNFCCC. "Adoption of the Paris Agreement". Decision 1/CP.21, paras. 20, 23, and 24.

<sup>2</sup> For example, as recognized by Parties in paragraph 17, 1/CP.21; as well as UNFCCC 2016: "Aggregate Effect of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions" (<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/02.pdf>); UNEP 2016: "The Emissions Gap Report 2016" ([http://uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/theme/13/Emissions\\_Gap\\_Report\\_2016.pdf](http://uneplive.unep.org/media/docs/theme/13/Emissions_Gap_Report_2016.pdf))

### **What should the facilitative dialogue in 2018 deliver?**

To strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty, it is necessary to acknowledge and identify, at the FD2018, the gap between the aggregate effect of ambition of current NDCs and required emission pathways consistent with keeping warming well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit warming to below 1.5°C.

In line with the above outlined mandate, governments need to take stock of the current status of implementation of NDCs and identify barriers that need to be addressed to enhance ambition beyond ambition currently contained in countries' INDCs. Hence, the FD2018 should specifically highlight potential opportunities where countries can increase their ambition. Importantly, the FD2018 should launch a process during 2018 to generate political momentum to scale up ambition and make enhanced commitments, including by submitting, before 2020, updated/enhanced NDCs for the immediate post-2020 period.

As part of the preparation for the FD2018, Parties should seek to provide clarity on the conditional aspect of their NDCs and the associated additional ambition that could be unlocked through greater means of implementation and cooperation. Another important task will be to look at the status of implementation, impact and effectiveness of ongoing and announced initiatives under the UNFCCC.

In summary the ultimate outcome of FD2018 should be that Parties recognize that collective ambition in current NDCs remains inadequate to pursue effort to limit warming to 1.5°C or 2°C, should enhance ambition and commitment from Parties to make new pledges and submit updated and/or new NDCs ahead of 2020, should be sufficiently ambitious to close the emission gap, and to identify what further work is needed to enable countries to enhance their ambition, especially in countries with lower capabilities.

### **The scope of the facilitative dialogue in 2018**

In previous discussions, some Parties have suggested that the facilitative dialogue mandate suggests that it is an exercise that is purely about mitigation ambition. CAN disagrees with this narrow interpretation of the scope. By necessity, the facilitative dialogue will need to encompass other issues.

Given that many NDCs contain conditional components, the facilitative dialogue will have to consider the means of implementation (MOI) necessary to unlock the additional ambition implied by those conditional components.

A possible venue to have a more holistic approach is to set the agenda for the finance ministerial in synchronization with the FD2018. It will be useful to consider financial instruments for NDC investment, private sector engagement in NDC implementation and public financial support for NDCs.

It will also be necessary to consider if other institutional arrangements under the

UNFCCC can support the FD2018 exercise, such as the technology mechanism and capacity building process.

The NAP review in 2018 and the adoption of the Paris rule-book at COP 24 in 2018 will provide important guidance on recognizing adaptation efforts, and reporting on adaptation impacts as well as support provided and received, that could provide valuable inputs to future NDC revisions and the adaptation component of the NDCs.

However, it must be stressed that we will not be able conclude that the FD2018 was successful if it does not result in increased mitigation targets.

### **The role of non-state actors in FD2018**

To sharpen the currently insufficient commitments, a decarbonization alliance of progressive non-state and sub-national actors can help develop fresh momentum for international climate policy. Further, the modalities of the FD2018 should be developed in such a way that relevant inputs from non-Party stakeholders, who are after all at the front-lines of implementation, can be adequately considered during the facilitative dialogue's examination of barriers to and opportunities for greater ambition. Action from non-state actors can contribute to the achievement of NDCs, and can also increase their level of ambition. The facilitative dialogue could also aim to identify best practices based on Parties' experiences in terms of consulting with their domestic civil society and sub-national entities when they developed their previous NDCs.

### **How FD2018 should be conducted**

In CAN's view, the facilitative dialogue should not be understood as a one-off event but should consist of a series of technical and regional political events, throughout 2018, that culminate in a high-level, political synthesis event at COP 24.

To better understand barriers to implementation at the national level, greater engagement with regional and national actors and stakeholders beyond the environment ministries should be fostered through the regional events. It will also enable sharing of success stories from the sub-national level and enable replication. Further, regional workshops could, where applicable, identify the specific support needs for NDC implementation, preparation of future NDCs, and enhancement of ambition beyond the current NDCs. We believe that regional workshops, rather than those with global scope, are more suitable to this task as they would bring together more homogenous groups of Parties than would be possible with global events, thus resulting in more productive and focussed exchanges.

The ministerial synthesis event at COP24 should be informed by synthesis reports from the regional workshops and technical events. The event should highlight successes from the regional level that have the potential to be replicated internationally and showcase technological innovation in key sectors. It should facilitate learning by sharing, particularly from front-runners, and focus on barriers being faced towards implementation and how they can be addressed, with particular emphasis on how greater international cooperation and support between Parties can help overcoming barriers and capturing opportunities. It could also give a platform to Parties that are already in a position to commit to increasing their near-term ambition beyond their

current NDC.

Further, the FD2018 should be informed by the IPCC's Special Report on 1.5°C and other available best science as well as on equity considerations.

### **Conclusions**

The facilitative dialogue should culminate in a set of COP decisions on revising current ambition, a commitment to set greater ambition in the next round of NDCs to be presented by 2020, and set up a process to address common barriers and capture common opportunities identified in the dialogue collectively.