



Climate Action Network International

Briefing: the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C SR1.5 at COP 24 and the Talanoa Dialogue

November 2018

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. www.climate-network.org

CAN calls on Parties

to welcome the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C report in a COP decision;
to fully consider the SR1.5 in the political section of the Talanoa Dialogue;
to reflect the findings of the IPCC report in a COP decision committing Parties to review and enhance their NDCs by 2020, thereby initiating the ratchet mechanism of the Paris Agreement.

Climate Action Network welcomes IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C and considers its findings a wake-up call with regards to:

- I) the quantification of climate risks and impacts at 1.5°C degrees and 2°C degrees of global warming relative to the preindustrial period,
- II) pathways consistent with the implementation of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

CAN emphasizes the findings of IPCC's Special Report on 1.5°C:

- Climate change is happening now. At the current ~1°C warming it is affecting people, ecosystems and livelihoods around the world.
- Every half degree of warming matters – 1.5°C is safer than 2°C (or more) for people and nature.
- We know what is needed to achieve 1.5°C:
 - Rapid and deep cuts of global greenhouse gas emissions in all economic sectors.
 - Carbon dioxide removal - some 1.5°C pathways with more stringent emissions cuts reduce the need for later removals. Forest and land use restoration are better than riskier, untested options.
- Current country pledges (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement are not sufficient – they take us to at least ~3°C.
- Limiting global warming to 1.5°C is possible but would require unprecedented transitions in all aspects of society.
- Limiting warming to 1.5°C can go hand-in-hand with achieving other world goals.

CAN recognizes with great concern that the Special Report on 1.5°C identifies impacts at current global warming and that at 1.5°C global temperature increase very severe impacts can be expected: e.g. for several global ecosystems like coral reefs and Arctic region, increased extreme weather events, increased coastal and river flooding, decreased crop yields, and for increased heat-related morbidity and mortality.

CAN's conclusion from the 1.5 SR is that the CAN position remains that global temperature increases must be limited to 1.5° C to minimize these risks.

But the world is not on track to meet the Paris Agreement targets - existing NDCs are far from ambitious enough and lead us to a world of 3-4°C of warming.

The Special Report on 1.5 C finds that "model pathways with no or limited overshoot of 1.5°C, global net anthropogenic CO₂ emissions decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 (40–60% interquartile range), reaching net zero around 2050 (2045–2055 interquartile range)". CAN demands a global emission reduction of more than 45% by 2030 so as to arriving at a higher probability (up to 90 %) of limiting warming to 1.5 °C.

The IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C input to the UNFCCC process

CAN welcomes the SR1.5-event under SBSTA 49 during which IPCC authors are to present major results of SR1.5 and recommends that the SBSTA Chairs of SBSTA compile a summary report on of the event to be forwarded to and to inform the Talanoa Dialogue. CAN also welcomes the IPCC to provide input on its Special Report on 1.5°C to the high-level segment of the Talanoa Dialogue.

CAN encourages Parties to fully consider the SR 1.5 in the Talanoa Dialogue, responding by:

- Recognizing the need to significantly step-up the level of ambition in current NDCs
- Committing to update NDCs by 2020 in line with SR 1.5 as the best available science

The outputs from the Talanoa Dialogue should contain an actionable, next steps recommendation from the Presidencies, laying out the practical next steps countries need to take on the national level to assess the areas, opportunities, and solutions for enhancing their NDCs. Likewise, the UNFCCC SB49 Session needs to provide enough space for countries, international organisations and other actors, to report back on the progress at the national level on enhancing their climate ambition. Additionally, the UNSG Summit in 2019 is a critical opportunity to further assess whether enough progress is being made collectively on the global level to ensure the 1.5°C target and would be a critical milestone for reporting on progress in the national review process.

After COP24, CAN recommends a more in-depth analysis of Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C by SBSTA and in the Second Periodical Review. An exchange on how to proceed could be prepared in Katowice.

In 2019 the Second Periodical Review will re-start its work. As during the First Periodical Review from 2013 to 2015 where over 70 experts, mostly from the IPCC, came together for a Structured Expert Dialogue (SED), during the Second Periodical Review it could be worth, analysing the IPCC SR1.5 in a similar format.