

ECO



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Marhaba to our climate action talanoa!

The 2020 pledges and the NDCs submitted in 2015 were a step forward for global climate action. But they still leave us with two unresolved problems: a huge emissions gap, and a huge gap in climate preparedness that is hitting vulnerable communities the hardest. Looking further into the future, with the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030, Parties have recognized the enormous challenge the global community is facing: In the next three and half decades, we collectively have to improve the wellbeing of all people around the planet, while putting in place zero-carbon economies and societies that are more inclusive, and protect the vulnerable.

In Fijian culture, when problems cannot be resolved through traditional means, the community has an additional resort -- they organize a “talanoa”, a relaxed gathering open to anyone. It is intended to be as inclusive as possible, so that new solutions can be forged. Likewise, ECO recalls that in Morocco, the word “marhaba”, meaning “welcome” and “come in”, reflects openness and willingness to discuss and take the next step together.

Recognizing the role of our High-Level Champions from Morocco and Fiji, ECO wants to say “marhaba” to all Parties and non-state and sub-national actors to our planetary *talanoa*: the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action. This partnership builds on the movement that started in New York during the Climate Summit in 2014, and on the mobilization of governments and non-state actors through the Lima-Paris Action Agenda in 2015, and then in 2016 with Global Climate Action. The basic idea is simple: Cities, businesses, sub-national governments and civil society organizations are already working on solutions. Highlighting these solutions and forging new coalitions can help bring appropriate solutions to every corner of the world. This does not relieve Parties of their duty to respect their commitments and increase their ambition -- but it can make it easier by showing what is already happening and what could be possible.

The *marhaba talanoa* approach is alive in the Marrakech Partnership and reflected in the *Draft Work Programme* for 2017 and 2018 recently published by the High-level Climate Champions for Morocco and Fiji. It is organized around seven thematic areas: energy, transport, human settlements, industry, land use, water and

oceans. A number of Initiatives have already formed; ECO would highlight the *Adaptation of West African Coastal Areas* initiative, the *Food Security Climate Resilience Facility*, the *Science Based Targets* for businesses, the *Under 2 MOU* for sub-national governments, and the *Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance*, to name but a few.

For a long time, ECO has pointed out the need for clear criteria to ensure that false solutions are not being promoted and only those initiatives that deserve it get recognition. We have also called for reporting requirements to ensure initiatives actually deliver instead of starting with a nice announcement speech before slowly disappearing into the dark. Thus, it was pleasing to see that with the Draft Work Programme, the Champions are suggesting steps in this direction. Some basic criteria (relevance towards advancing the goals of the Paris Agreement, scale, quantifiable targets to assess progress over time, transparency, impact-orientation and capacity building) are being suggested and initiatives are to report on their progress through the Yearbook of Climate Action and the NAZCA portal.

But let’s be clear on something: is the Marrakech Partnership truly a globally-representative *talanoa*, with the best talents from all over the world? Not yet. More efforts are needed to recognize the energy, innovation and sense of urgency that is driving solutions in the developing countries. The *talanoa* of the Marrakech Partnership needs to grow. We need all Parties working together with non-state and sub-national actors from across the world at the table, ready to find new solutions.

For one immediate source of inspiration; ECO thinks that you might want to take a peak at the Interconnection conference happening right here in Bonn this coming weekend, where the question of how we can mobilize, support and recognize the current role and existing potential of non-state actors in the South will be discussed.

Many solutions are already out there, and we need to leverage them if we are to deliver our shared goals of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. *Marhaba* to our planetary *talanoa* - the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action!

Time is of the Essence on Transparency

Transparency, covered by Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, is crucial to make sure the Paris Agreement works. Without strong transparency provisions, how will we even know if we are on track to reaching the Agreement's objectives and if everyone is implementing what they pledged. Transparency is also really complicated. For anyone not aware of this, it became apparent in yesterday's contact group. A big part of the discussion is still focused on the conceptual elements of Article 13. But delegates, you only have until 2018 to finalize strong modalities, procedures, and guidelines, so it is time to really get to work on these.

The objective is to build a common, robust, and inclusive framework to enhance clarity and effectiveness. Sure, the agreement must account for different national circumstances, allow for flexibility where needed and reflect equity. But it also has to be strong enough to make all countries accountable for doing what they pledged.

The modalities, procedures and guidelines need to be robust enough to ensure we get the necessary level of detail on individual Parties' actions and the support they are providing or receiving. Delegates should also make sure we get information on *how* countries are implementing their commitments in a way that respects overarching principles reflected in the Agreement, including the integrity of ecosystems, human rights, food security, just transition, indigenous peoples' rights, gender equality, and intergenerational equality.

The modalities, procedures and guidelines should recognize and promote the role of civil society. Non-Party stakeholders can make a great contribution to the effectiveness and integrity of the transparency framework. ECO was happy to see that yesterday's sessions were open to observers, and this needs to be maintained. Negotiations about transparency conducted in a non-transparent manner would just be a bit weird...

The entire transparency framework needs to be completed by 2018. Time is of the essence here. ECO encourages Parties to maintain a good pace throughout 2017 and dedicate the necessary time to discuss, interact and agree on a common, robust, and inclusive framework, delivered on time, with all dimensions of the issue thoroughly considered and addressed.

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The one GAP we need

As every avid ECO reader will know, ECO hates gaps. For years, ECO has called on delegates to do all they can to close the adaptation gap, plug the finance gap and reduce the ambition gap as fast as possible. But this time around, there is an in-session workshop to support the development of a GAP - and ECO is all in favor.

That is because this GAP refers to the gender action plan and the UNFCCC urgently needs one. Women's rights should be central to every aspect of the UNFCCC negotiations - but they still are not.

While there will be no formal negotiation session on the gender agenda item at Bonn, there will be a 2-day workshop starting today, open to all Parties, UN organizations, observers and other stakeholders. The objective is to make progress on a gender action plan, mandated under the COP22 extension of the Lima Work Programme on Gender. The outcome will inform negotiations towards a decision at COP23.

Join the workshop and show support for women's rights today from 10.00 to 13.00 hrs and tomorrow from 15.00 to 18.00 hrs in Room Santiago de Chile.

Get to know the incoming COP23 Presidency

Take the following quiz to test your knowledge of the incoming Fiji-an Presidency and the Fiji Islands.

- How many islands make up the Fiji archipelago?
A. 110 B. 330 C. 660
- Fiji's NDC has a target of XX% electricity from renewables by 2030
A. 60% B. 80% C. 100%
- When will the Fiji Government formally assume the COP23 Presidency?
A. June 2017 B. November 2017 C. May 2017
- Which of these climate change impacts threaten the Fijian economy the most?
A. High temperatures leading to coral bleaching which in turn affects the tourism industry
B. Temperature rise leading to more frequent and severe cyclones, which devastate infrastructure and agriculture
C. Rising sea level and coastal erosion
- Who is the Executive Director of the *COP23 Secretariat*?
A. John Connor, Australian
B. Waisale Serevi, Fijian
C. Nicole Wilke, German

Answers: 1) B 2) C 3) B 4) B 5) A