

2018 Facilitative Dialogue: A Springboard for Climate Action

Memo to support consultations on the design of the FD2018 during the Bonn Climate Change Conference, May 2017¹

The collective ambition of current nationally determined contributions (NDCs) will result in emissions levels in 2025 and 2030 higher than those consistent with a likely chance of limiting warming to well below 2°C or 1.5°C.² The next few years are therefore absolutely crucial to closing the gap between where we are currently heading (an increase of 2.7-3.7°C) and where we need to be to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

By 2020, Parties are invited to either communicate a new NDC,³ or re-communicate or update their existing NDC.⁴ The facilitative dialogue in 2018 (FD2018)⁵ provides a vital opportunity to provide the information, conditions and political signals necessary to empower Parties to enhance their ambition by 2020. It is a key process for identifying and putting in motion the many opportunities for climate action that will also deliver on a broad set of objectives for sustainable development and prosperity.

The FD2018 will take place within a much broader set of activities, both within and outside the UNFCCC, collectively aimed at supporting an accelerated transition towards decarbonized and climate-resilient economies and societies. These activities will work in parallel to the FD2018, but can provide important inputs and ensure continued momentum throughout the year. They include:

- High-level Political Forum under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) focusing on reviewing SDG6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG15 (Life on Land) in July 2018.
- A Global Climate Action Summit for climate leaders at all levels;
- Release of the IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways (IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C) in September 2018;
- Finance ministerial to consider means of implementation and efforts to align financial flows with the goals of the Paris Agreement at COP24;
- Completion of the “Paris Rulebook” – establishing important guidance for key processes and mechanisms under the Paris Agreement including guidance on information provided in and features of NDCs, accounting for NDCs, and reporting and review under the framework for transparency for action and support at COP24; and

¹ This memo was prepared by the Friends of FD2018, a group of civil society organisations including the World Resources Institute, WWF, Climate Action Network, Greenpeace, The Nature Conservancy, IDDRI, Stockholm Environment Institute, E3G, Blavatnik School of Government Oxford University, International Institute for Environment and Development, German Watch, Center for International Environmental Law, Track O, Climate Reality, Climate Equity Reference Project and C40.

² The UNEP Emission Gap Report 2016. See: <https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/bitstreams/47049/retrieve>

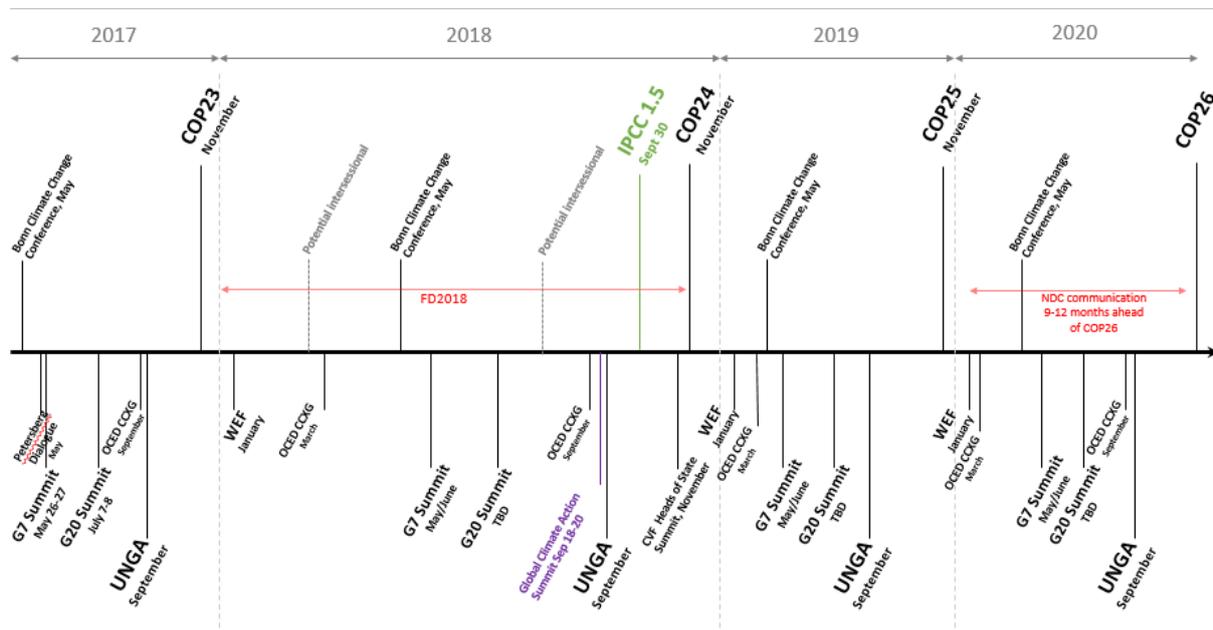
³ Decision 1/CP.21, Adoption of the Paris Agreement, FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1 (29 January 2016), para 23, applicable to Parties whose NDC contains a time frame up to 2025

⁴ Decision 1/CP.21, Adoption of the Paris Agreement, FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1 (29 January 2016), para 24, applicable to Parties whose NDC contains a time frame up to 2030

⁵ Decision 1/CP.21, Adoption of the Paris Agreement, FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1 (29 January 2016), para 20.

- Sequence of Marrakech Partnership events throughout the year, including the Global Climate Action high-level event at COP24.

Other multilateral fora and heads of state platforms, including the UN General Assembly, G7/20, World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings, etc. can also be complementary and linked to the FD2018 process.



The Role of FD2018 in Enhancing Climate Action

The FD2018 provides the opportunity for the global community to take stock in advance of 2020 and reflect on the adequacy of existing efforts, identify additional opportunities that may not have been available or apparent for the initial round of NDCs, inform and motivate the revision and enhancement of new and updated NDCs by 2020.

The FD2018 should deliver a clear signal of political intent to enhance the level of ambition of current NDCs by 2020, in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of decision 1/CP.21. To achieve this purpose, the FD2018 should provide the opportunity to:

- Assess the **latest scientific information** based on the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C, as well as other sources
- Assess the **adequacy of collective efforts** as communicated in NDCs
- Assess the **collective progress already made**, including the efforts of non-state actors
- **Identify lessons learned** from the first round of NDC preparation and communication
- **Identify specific opportunities to enhance ambition and accelerate implementation**, including sectoral, high-mitigation potential, and/or regional opportunities.
- **Recognize frontrunners** to ensure those countries that have already stepped up to enhance the ambition of their NDCs or commit to do so ahead of 2020 are “named and famed” along with those that have demonstrated significant progress in implementation that will result in overachieving existing targets.
- **Align NDCs with long-term planning** to ensure that additional mitigation opportunities are identified and acted on, that lock-in is avoided, and that climate actions align with and help

drive development objectives and priorities (long-term strategies that have been submitted by the time of the FD2018 could provide a general context).⁶

Based on the outputs of the FD2018, it is expected that Parties would undertake the necessary domestic technical and policy work during 2019 to enhance their NDCs in advance of COP 26 in 2020. Accordingly, the FD2018 process should provide a platform for all countries to explain how they intend to receive and act on the information provided through the FD2018 process, recognizing that final decisions of how this is reflected in new or updated NDCs is nationally determined.

Enhanced ambition by 2020:

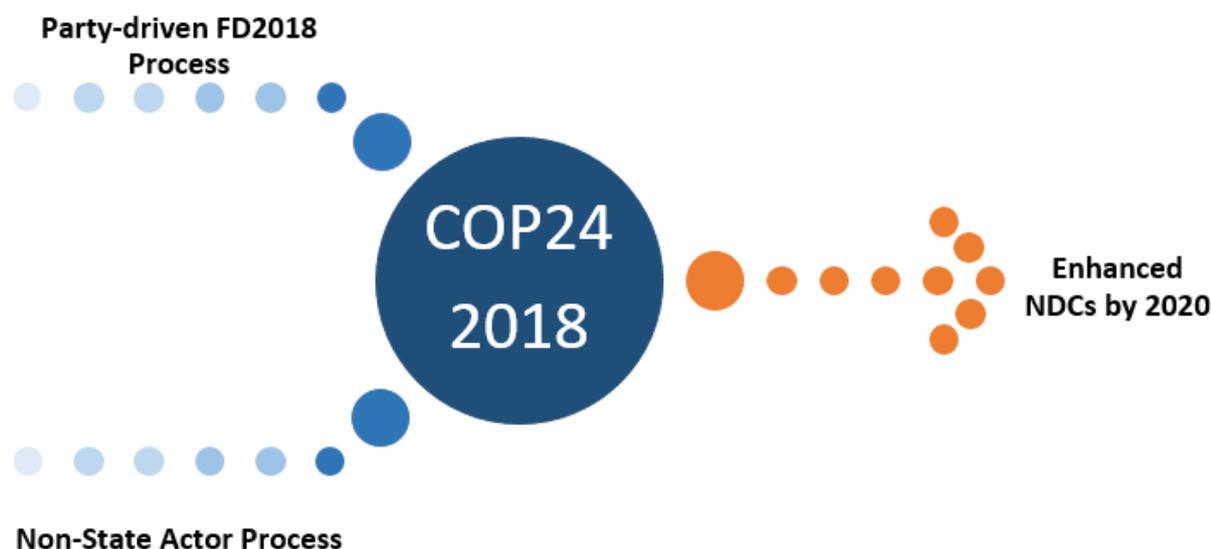
During the FD2018, Parties would be invited to signal their intent or the efforts already made to enhance ambition beyond their current NDCs. These include, but are not limited to:

- Announcements of plans to revise and increase the ambition of NDC targets - individually and/or collectively;
- Expansion of scope and coverage of an NDC target (e.g. additional gases covered or geographical expansion);
- Introduction of new targets (e.g. renewable energy or forestry targets);
- Introduction of new actions or policies (e.g. at sectoral level); and
- Commitment to ensure that implementation of current NDCs and design of future NDCs aligns with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

Designing an Effective and Useful FD2018

Modalities of the FD2018

The FD2018 should not be understood as one moment or event, but rather a process that builds over the course of 2018 to reach a culminating political moment at COP24. It should also be synergistic with and incorporate information generated by other events and activities over the course of 2018 and ensure opportunities to bring together sectoral ministries, including finance and planning, to facilitate the alignment of climate action with broader economic and social objectives.

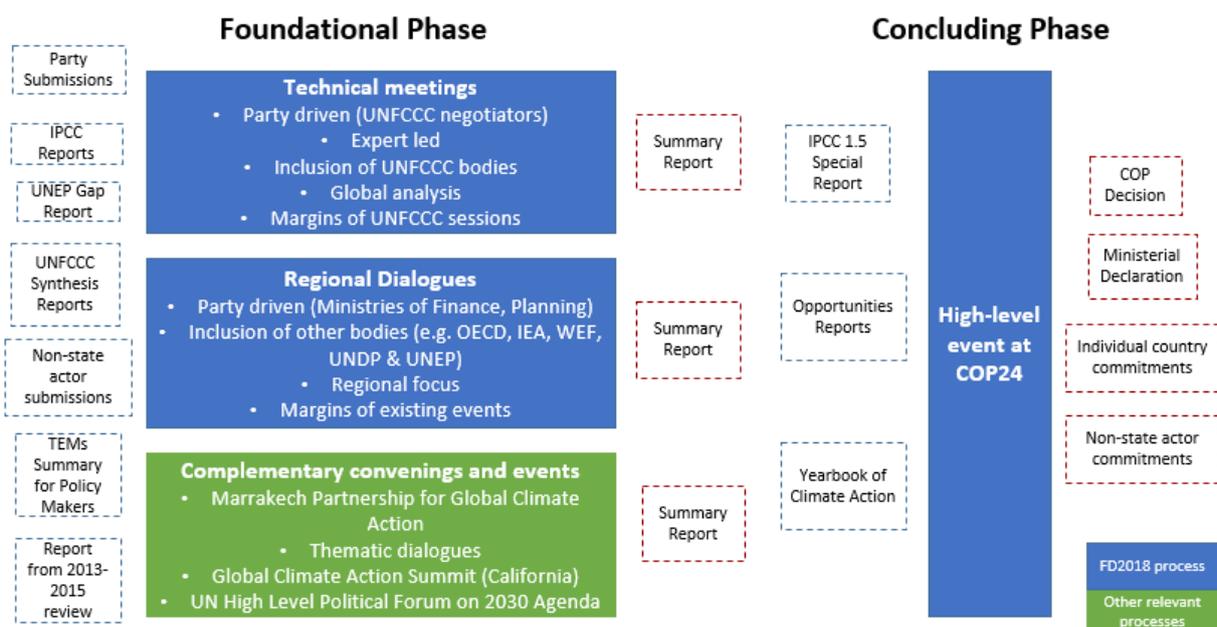


⁶ Recognizing the expectation that Parties formulate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies by 2020 pursuant to Article 4.19.

Guided by comprehensive consultations with the Parties as well as non-Party stakeholders, the Moroccan and Fijian Presidencies could aim to finish the design of the FD2018 by COP23. A clear vision and roadmap could therefore be shared with all stakeholders to ensure a transparent and inclusive process for 2018.

To maximize the effectiveness of the FD2018, the roadmap should incorporate two distinct phases: a foundational phase, consisting of technical meetings and regional dialogues and a concluding phase, consisting of a high-level event at COP24 (aligned with or in place of the high-level segment). The elements of each of these phases should be designed to answer four core questions:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we need to be?
3. How do we get there?
4. What do we intend to do next?



Foundational Phase

- Technical meetings and inputs to:
 - identify where early progress has already been made;
 - identify concrete opportunities for additional action based on trends in the real economy and technological shifts and breakthroughs, new actions and opportunities from non-state actors, best practices, and development benefits; and
 - assess the needs, barriers, ambition gaps and identify ways to address them.
- Regional dialogues to:
 - identify additional opportunities at the regional level and foster greater collaboration for implementation;
 - bring together not only those responsible for climate change, but also those from other sectoral ministries, including finance and planning, to facilitate the alignment of climate action with broader economic and social objectives; and

- provide opportunities for Parties and non-state actors to announce progress on existing or new collective, individual and cooperative efforts.
- Complementary events and processes:
 - Through the Marrakech Partnership, showcase growing results and highlighting the rising ambition of state and non-state actors, non-state actor events throughout 2018 can highlight successes that support existing NDCs and jumpstart opportunities for non-state and subnational actors to become more involved in the NDC preparation and implementation process moving forward.
 - UN High Level Political Forum on 2030 Agenda to demonstrate and engage around linkages between climate action and sustainable development objectives.
 - Multilateral events and venues (e.g. World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings).

Concluding Phase

- High-level event at COP24 that:
 - Sends a clear political signal of commitment to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement;
 - Highlights opportunities for enhanced collective action and cooperation among state and non-state actors at the global, regional and sub-national levels
 - Provides a platform to highlight those countries that are on track to overachieve their targets and/or have made early strides in revising their NDCs
 - Provides space for leaders to make early announcements of their NDC revision.

Outputs of the FD2018

Key outputs should be generated from both phases to provide clear signals of political will and guide the revision of NDCs ahead of 2020. This could include:

- Summary reports of the technical meetings and regional dialogues, including identification of key barriers and challenges as well as best practice and opportunities for collective action with a view to inform the revision of NDCs by 2020.
- Collective declaration for enhanced ambition by 2020:
 - Recognizing the need to increase the collective ambition of NDCs by 2020.
 - Welcoming new and ambitious actions or announcements by Parties and non-state actors.
 - Noting specific opportunities for enhancing collective ambition by 2020.
 - Acknowledging the contribution of non-state actors to delivering on current NDCs and setting enabling conditions through new ambitious climate action to enhance NDCs.
 - Urging Parties to enhance the level of ambition of their current NDC by 2020.
- COP decision:
 - Encouraging Parties to ensure the outputs of the FD2018 are communicated to domestic policymakers.
 - Inviting Parties to communicate new or updated NDCs well in advance of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties.

Inputs to the FD2018

Inputs will be required to guide each phase of the FD2018. Outputs from the foundational phase (namely summary reports), will be able to serve as inputs to the concluding phase. Efforts must be

made to ensure inputs are concise, technically robust and include information capable of aggregation.

The purpose of such information is to specify where are we and where we need to be, confidence that implementation of the current targets is possible and clarity on the specific opportunities for further action ahead of 2020.

Potential inputs could include:

- IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C, along with other IPCC reports.
- Information communicated by Parties through their national reports.
- Updated synthesis report from the UNFCCC Secretariat on the aggregate effect of the NDCs, including an analysis of their clarity, transparency and understandability.
- The report of the Structured Expert Dialogue on the 2013 – 2015 review of the Convention’s long-term goal and progress towards it.
- The lessons and outputs of the Technical Examination Meetings (TEMs), including the summary for policy-makers and the results of the assessment scheduled in 2017 that will review the effectiveness of TEMs.
- Submissions from Parties, accredited observers, non-party stakeholders (including sub-national, business and research institutes) and international entities such as the World Bank, GCF, FAO, IEA, ICAO, Ozone Secretariat and others to:
 - Identify progress made towards implementation.
 - Opportunities for additional mitigation action.
 - Recommendations for improving future NDCs.
- Outputs from the Marrakesh Partnership, including:
 - Yearbook of Climate Action summarising and compiling the state of action by non-state actors and multi-stakeholder initiatives to identify the extent to which it is helping specific countries implement NDCs and the extent to which further actions and collaboration between states and non-state actors can unlock even greater ambition.
 - Thematic dialogues to identify trends in the real economy, early wins for key sectors, opportunities and the role of domestic targets and policies in unlocking those opportunities as well as how best to tackle barriers and leverage opportunities through cooperative initiatives between state and non-state actors.

Scope of the FD2018

Paragraph 20 of decision 1.CP/21 focuses the FD2018 on an assessment of mitigation progress. Specifically, an assessment against Article 4.1 of the Paris Agreement, which aims to:

- reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, while recognizing that peaking will take longer in developing countries;
- undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science;
- achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions sources and removals in the second half of the century;
- on the basis of equity; and
- in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

Fulfilling this purpose will require technical consideration of collective progress towards current

mitigation targets, adequacy of current targets, non-state action and emissions scenarios based on trends and projections.

However, it is critical to recognize that adaptation is a core component of the vast majority of NDCs and reflects the priority of most countries, while many NDCs also included information related to means of implementation (finance, technology transfer and capacity building). These will need to be addressed in some fashion in the course of developing a process for 2018. For instance, the high-level event during COP24 could provide a space for countries to incorporate adaptation and means of implementation into their plans to enhance ambition by 2020. Important processes related to adaptation and means of implementation will take place during 2018 that could inform such plans. These include:

- National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) review expected prior to COP24⁷;
- The IPCC 1.5°C special report will also feature the adaptation implications of global warming;
- Finance ministerial at COP24 to consider means of implementation and efforts to align financial flows with the goals of the Paris Agreement; and
- Adoption of the Paris rule book at COP24 in 2018 will provide important guidance on recognizing adaptation efforts, reporting on adaptation impacts as well as support provided and received that could provide valuable inputs to future NDC revisions.

⁷ By decision 4/CP.21, paragraph 12(b), the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) is requested to assess progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs in May 2018, with a view to making recommendations thereon to the Conference of the Parties (COP), as appropriate