



Climate Action Network-International
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To: Mr. Carlos Fuller and Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow
Chairs of the SBSTA and the SBI - UNFCCC

Object: Input to the work on pre-2020 climate action in 2016

Dear Mr. Fuller and Mr. Chruszczow,

I am writing on behalf of the Climate Action Network (CAN), an umbrella of more than 950 organizations worldwide.

Firstly, I would like to welcome the COP21 decisions on “Enhanced action prior to 2020”, in particular the decisions to launch a technical examination of adaptation, and to appoint high-level champions to ensure the new and existing efforts on mitigation and adaptation are scaled up and strengthened. CAN also welcomes the appointment of Laurence Tubiana as the first high-level champion and looks forward to the appointment of the second champion by the President of COP22 as well as the first annual high-level event at COP22.

Secondly, I would like to make a few comments and suggestions on the work plan for pre-2020 climate action. Many of our members have been very active in the discussions under ADP Workstream 2, to ensure that it continues beyond COP21 as a permanent action agenda. **CAN proposes further work in the following five areas to facilitate enhanced action:**

1. Previous technical expert meetings (TEMs) have tended to focus on mitigation opportunities in developing countries, as has been pointed out by developing country delegates. This does not reflect developed countries’ historical responsibility, financial, technological, and institutional capacity, and mitigation potential. **CAN therefore asks the SBI and SBSTA to make efforts to improve the balance between focusing on opportunities in developed and developing countries.** While some developed countries may say it is political rather than technological, financial or capacity-related barriers which keep them from implementing ambitious climate action, we believe every developed country on earth has more to give and more to learn. The positive and solutions-oriented approach of the technical examination processes should also be helpful in overcoming political barriers, identifying effective measures, and building productive alliances.

2. The technical examination processes (TEP) of mitigation and adaptation under the UNFCCC have the potential to lead to concrete action on the ground. However, in previous TEMs on mitigation, barriers to finance and other means of implementation have been a recurring concern that has not received dedicated attention. **CAN therefore proposes a TEM specifically considering how finance and other means of implementation can be increased and delivered to unlock additional action.** This should include presentations on innovative solutions and project finance readiness and due diligence. TEM facilitators should raise and be prepared for these issues in all sectoral and technology-specific TEMs, but a focus on means of implementation is particularly important for the new adaptation TEP. Support for adaptation is not increasing in step with shortfalls in mitigation, and it is generally acknowledged that it is harder to raise funds for adaptation than mitigation. Progress on this will be essential for ultimate delivery on the Global Adaptation Goal that has been established under Article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement. We also propose future TEMs on building global transformation initiatives in specific areas, such as short lived climate pollutants, low carbon transportation, and the complete phase out of incandescent light bulbs, etc.

3. In general, there is a need for a **clear plan for what happens after the technical meetings**, how the new knowledge is taken up, and how ideas become tangible initiatives and actions on the ground. **CAN thus proposes that the high-level champions produce a scenario note for 2016, to be presented prior to the May session.** This should include plans and milestones for the TEMs, fundraising efforts, engagement with Parties and non-Party stakeholders, and, importantly, concrete plans to turn good ideas into action as well as plans to assist countries in overcoming means of implementation shortfalls.

The annual high-level events must be the culmination of the champions' efforts, based on ideas emerging from the TEMs. **CAN hopes the first annual high-level event at COP22 will be used as an occasion for the champions, Parties, and non-Party stakeholders to announce global mitigation and adaptation initiatives and share progress and lessons from previous commitments announced such as at COP21 and the UN Secretary-General's 2014 Climate Summit.** However, these must represent real solutions that contribute to scaled-up or additional action.

4. As a network, we are deeply concerned about false climate solutions. **For the action agenda under the UNFCCC to build credibility and gain political influence, the projects and initiatives presented in TEMs and highlighted at high-level events must provide real and significant emissions reductions and/or enhanced resilience.** Projects and initiatives must contain specific and measurable commitments and reporting plans. They also need to respect principles of human rights, environmental integrity, and food sovereignty. Such criteria should be enshrined in the technical processes, the work of the Champions, and the annual high-level event.

5. Lastly, decisions from Paris recognize the roles of non-Party stakeholders, and the positive roles these actors can play have continuously been highlighted in the ADP Workstream 2 discussions. The SBI has also earlier highlighted this importance (FCCC/SBI/2011/7 - SBI-34 conclusions 178). Since the start of the TEMs, however, observer participation has been limited. **These processes can benefit from more openness to observer participation e.g. by including more observers from civil society on panels and in Q & A sessions.** Non-Party stakeholders will be instrumental in overcoming finance and technology barriers, and have a natural place in these discussions, including as solutions providers and

in engagement with the champions. We feel the need to stress that these non-Party actors cannot be providers of false solutions, as described above.

Greater openness to observer participation can help continue the tradition of discussing and negotiating pre-2020 climate action in the “non-political, safe space” tradition of the now defunct ADP Workstream 2. CAN therefore hopes you and the Secretariat will support the participation of civil society representatives in the TEMs, inviting at least one representative of the different constituencies to give a presentation and to actively participate in the discussions.

I remain at your disposal for further information. Thank you in advance for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,



Wael Hmaidan
Director
Climate Action Network-International

cc. Megumi Endo, Observer Organization Liaison Officer, UNFCCC