

## **Strategy Meeting**

### **Long-Term Strategy 2018**

**Hotel Le Méridien N'Fis, Marrakech**

**18 November 2016**

On November 18, 2016, on the margins of COP22, Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Action ([www.climategroundswell.org](http://www.climategroundswell.org)), through the organisation of WRI, WWF, and NRDC, convened an informal dialogue with Parties, academic institutions, and experts engaged in various thematic areas to discuss ways to accelerate efforts by non-state actors. The purpose of this discussion was to reflect on where we want the global climate action agenda to be in 2018 and to consider the steps to be taken from now until then to realize that vision. This short summary synthesizes the discussion, carried out under Chatham House rules, from the perspective of GGCA.

#### **Key points:**

1. The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (GCA) puts efforts by non-state actors and multi-stakeholder initiatives on a new footing. A coordinated strategy from now through 2018 is required to make the most of the Marrakech Partnership as well as additional international activities
2. In 2018 we need a coherent flow of events to raise ambition by showcasing the results that have been delivered, highlighting the tremendous and rising ambition of non-state actors, and creating irresistible opportunities for countries to raise their ambition by drawing on these experiences
3. Building effective linkages between countries and non-state actors at every level is critical for realizing this strategy
4. The Champions, UNFCCC Secretariat, and coalitions and initiatives--that is, the whole community around GCA--must begin working together now to realize the 2018 opportunity

#### **Moving the GCA forward**

Global Climate Action has made extraordinary advances over the past two years. The task now is to sharpen its Theory of Change to 2018, the next major inflection point in climate action. In light of the US election and other geopolitical events, the GCA must guard against complacency and continue to accelerate action and raise ambition.

Participants discussed the potential rhythm and shape of the GCA over the long-term. Several key points on the timeline for climate action were suggested as common milestones:

- The short arc between 2018, 2020, and 2023 should guide our efforts and these points present opportunities to raise ambition for both sub-national and non-state actors and Parties
- 2018: collective reflection on the degree of climate action that has been mobilised, and the extent to which ambition can be raised
- 2030: Medium-term benchmark for current efforts. Are we aiming high enough now to be where we want to be in 2030?
- 2050: Planning for full decarbonization.

The GCA was commended as a strong political vehicle in a time of deep political uncertainty, providing checks and balances, as well as tangible support, to state actions. Grounding the GCA in its linkages and alignments with NDCs is crucial particularly for countries struggling to implement their commitments. At the same time, it was agreed that the GCA must ensure multi-sector engagement takes an appropriate form drawing in and collaborating with Ministries' efforts across thematic areas in order to remain fit for purpose. The UNFCCC process must provide a credible backbone for facilitating this multi-sectoral approach.

It was also suggested that climate action should be integrated into other fora relevant to non-state climate action (e.g. World Economic Forum, Pacific Alliance Platform, WHO, international conferences on energy, health, transport, etc.) to clearly communicate and support climate messages and activity. Such engagement from sub-national and non-state actors is a key driver of productive work on the GCA to 2018. Looking further ahead, the GCA must start integrating more closely with 2050 pathways across multiple sectors - transport, energy, health, land use, biodiversity.

The GCA's lack of focus on adaptation to date was highlighted during discussion. There is an unmet need to package sustainable development agendas together in a productive and mutually supportive format. Relatedly, the question of a just transition was raised, along with concerns that the climate community continues to broadly ignore justice questions, at its peril.

### **Role of Climate Champions**

Participants shared the sentiment that there has been a sharp learning curve regarding understanding the role of the Champions. Nevertheless, the current champions and COP22 have laid the building blocks for an integral role for sub-national and non-state climate action moving forward. Capitalizing on this progress and providing the structure and momentum to facilitate real action is now the task at hand. It was noted that the UNFCCC must understand sub-national and non-state actors must have the freedom to operate flexibly, and are not subordinate to Parties, negotiators or Ministers. In turn, the Ministers themselves must be pressed to give negotiators the mandate to move aggressively in the UNFCCC, and sub-national and non-state actors must have good information on expected policy commitments from governments to feed into their own decision-making.

It was agreed that the High Level Champions should remain key focal points for climate action and a few key challenges were identified:

1. Engaging the Secretariat and maintaining its accountability given the significantly expanded mandate it received from the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.
2. Coordination of all components of the GCA to ensure sub-national and non-state actor activities are streamlined in working towards the same goal.
3. Understanding the very limited capacity of the Champions and therefore strategically defining the specific, particular ways in which they can add value.

The 2017 Champions hail from very different parts of the world: making this work is crucial. Should they work together, or operate on two fronts? Finding the best way to support the Champions, while still affording them space and prerogative, is vital.

### **Priorities for 2018**

Participants discussed their visions for climate action in 2018, identifying a number of priorities for realizing it.

#### *Build a coherent flow of events with a clear division of labor*

The path to 2018 is peppered with a series of key moments and events. However, the flow and how they link together remain undefined. Participants emphasised that it will be important to develop a common calendar with a clear understanding of how different events serve different purposes and yet align to a common goal. A balance must be achieved across dialogues and events within and outside the UNFCCC process, recognising that each community will have a mix of their “own” events and as well as common ones shared with other parts of the GCA. A visualisation for 2018 showing the different work streams of sectors heading towards 2018 and interactions between them could help streamline efforts.

To help achieve this, it was suggested that the NSA process should ‘go on the offense’, pushing for a greater mandate from the Parties. For example, leaders from sub-national and non-state actors could be appointed as Ambassadors for the High Level Champions, to broaden legitimacy and authority into non-UNFCCC fora.

#### *Sectoral integration*

A risk was highlighted that the focus on process and procedure is diluting the substance of High-Level Event (HLE) at COP, suggesting a stronger sectoral involvement in organizing and planning the HLE would be desirable. Further sectoral integration could be achieved by coordinating input to refine NAZCA criteria and sharing workplans for engaging with Fiji, the new COP President. Sectoral integration should also involve coordinating political engagement at the Ministerial level. Clarity on who is responsible for making decisions and

who will approach them is crucial. Serious thought must be dedicated to prioritizing which Ministers are most consequential and how they can shape broader political ambition. One example would be to match Technical Expert Meetings with the Clean Energy Ministerial meetings. Similar thinking should be applied to the private sector.

### *Raising Ambition*

It was agreed that more detailed sectoral input on mitigation options and potential is needed for the 2018 1.5°C IPCC report, if it is to work as ambition raiser, and feed into the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue. Towards this end, participants agreed that initiatives falling under the GCA must be ambitious enough for 1.5°C or 2°C. It is not enough to simply showcase action; it must showcase *ambitious* action to spur more ambitious NDCs.

It was made clear during discussion that greater climate ambition requires evidence of subnational progress, to ground state decision-making. Critically, rather than looking to 2020 for evidence of success, there must be a big focus on demonstrating successes of existing NDCs. Without this evidence base, there is little incentive for countries to increase NDC ambition if they are not achieving their current ones. Participants agreed that the 2018 dialogues are an excellent opportunity to involve NSAs directly in the 2020 NDC design process. Countries must be provided with all available resources from sub-national and non-state actors and sectors explaining the options and policies at their disposal to raise ambition.

Sharing data and experiences across maturing initiatives will help build the necessary trend data by 2018. It was suggested that giving collaborative initiatives a dedicated space to do this ahead of COP could help take some pressure off Parties. The New York Climate Week and Climate Chance conference were noted as good opportunities for this. Data providers present also requested engagement from participants to help them accurately capture and provide the necessary data to help raise ambition.

Looking further ahead, participants agreed on the need for more 2050 visions and pathways to cement the GCA's place in ensuring and achieving ambitious, long-term NDC targets. This will require an effective communication plan that distinguishes narratives that celebrate successes from those identifying challenges and gaps in progress. It was also emphasised that the environmental justice narrative must be (not) used carefully in the interest of mobilizing the sectors able to contribute the necessary labour and capital.

A final challenge identified by participants was convening Ministers to discuss concrete solutions as COP remains more focused around making announcements of decisions already made. More engagement is needed with lower-level officials involved in making submissions and in developing countries additional capacity-building is needed - but this should come from other developing countries to be most effective. To maintain inclusivity, this

must balance involvement in small developing economies and moving the needle on large ones.

### Key events to track towards 2018:

Date	Event	Location
May 2017	UNFCCC Intersessional	Bonn
July 2017	G20 Summit	Germany
Nov 2017	COP23	Bonn
Jan 2018	WEF	Davos
Spring 2018	IFI Meetings	
May 2018	UNFCCC Intersessional	Bonn
June 2018 (TBC)	Non-state Actor Summit	California
Summer 2018	G20 Summit	Argentina
Sept 2018	UNGA; UNSG Event	New York
Nov 2018	COP24; Facilitative Dialogue	TBC

### Proposed short-term actions and parties responsible:

Action	Due Date	Parties Responsible
Solicit feedback from all stakeholders on COP22 Global Climate Action sequence	Dec 2016	GGCA, UNFCCC, COP22 team
Organize workplan for Yearbook of Climate Action 2017 with NAZCA data providers and analysts	Jan 2017	UNFCCC, data providers, GGCA
Exchange action plans from thematic area for 2017 and beyond	Jan 2017	Thematic facilitators, UNFCCC, COP22 and COP23 teams
With input from workplans, Champions propose priorities for 2017, discuss with thematic areas, create timeline for the year	Jan 2017	Thematic facilitators, UNFCCC, COP22 and COP23 teams, GGCA
WEF continue to convene 'Friends of Climate Action' calls	Ongoing	WEF

### **Who we are: Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions**

Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions is a series of dialogues that brings together organizations supporting climate action at all levels. Its objectives include:

1. Bringing the groundswell of climate actions from cities, regions, companies, and other groups to a higher level of scale and ambition;
2. Increasing efficient coordination among cooperative initiatives and sub- and non-state networks;
3. Improving analysis and understanding of “bottom up” climate actions;
4. Building a positive narrative of pragmatic, concrete action on climate change; and
5. Identifying opportunities for the groundswell of climate actions and the multilateral process to support and catalyze each other.

Since 2014, Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions has brought together city and regional networks, company networks, cooperative initiatives, governments, international organizations, and researchers to discuss and advance these objectives. By convening the community of actors that make up and support the groundswell of climate actions, we seek to realize the full potential of this extraordinary innovation in global governance.

[www.climategroundswell.org](http://www.climategroundswell.org)