

Meeting Summary

The Role of Nonparty Stakeholders in International Climate Politics from COP24 to the UNSG Summit to 2020

13 December 2018

On December 13, 2018 at the Novotel Hotel in Katowice, Poland, Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions (www.climategroundswell.org) convened a meeting in the toward the end of COP24. This meeting took stock of the numerous events and developments over the previous days at COP24 and inform the next steps related to non-state actor climate action, particularly in 2019. Key objectives of this meeting included the following:

- Take stock of non-state and subnational climate action after COP24*
- Propose deliverables and shape of institutional roles for galvanizing non-state and subnational climate action in 2019 and 2020*
- Identify key priorities and next steps for early 2019*

This summary synthesizes the discussion from the perspective of the organizers.

Taking stock of COP24 - What is the range of likely possibilities?

Talanoa Dialogue. We can be proud of open and dynamic nature of the TD that unfolded across the year. Many parties worried about this at the opening, but the May session really changed their mind and made them more comfortable with non-Party stakeholders. This provides a mode of interaction to build on in future years. The outcome of the TD ended in a joint presidency [Call for Action](#) for higher ambition, which explicitly flags the 1.5 Report, NDC enhancement, UNSG summit. Many parties made references to these elements at the closing session. This push was registered but not fully endorsed by the COP in the closing text.

Global Climate Action. In 2018 the Global Climate Action team received a significant increase in staffing, though the future stability of this arrangement is not guaranteed. The Global Climate Action process in the UNFCCC (Marrakech Partnership) convened regional weeks over the past year, as well as [5 days of thematic events at COP24](#). The 2018 Yearbook of Climate Action took tracking work at step further than 2017 and provided a key input to the Talanoa Dialogue. [Next year the GCA team plans](#) regional climate weeks in Ghana, Brazil, and somewhere in Asia, and hopes to enhance the participation and effectiveness of these events.

Shaping non-state and subnational climate action for 2019 and 2020

UNSG Climate Summit 2019. The UN Secretary General's Summit is universally seen as the key moment to enhance ambition in 2019. The team organizing the summit is still forming and defining their strategy around this "acceleration moment," but has identified 6 key areas for transformative outcomes: Energy; Industry; Nature; Citizen local action; Finance; Resilience. Each area has key individuals and pairs of countries (developed and developing) working to achieve a critical outcome.

Global Climate Action towards 2020. The current language authorizing Global Climate Action in the UNFCCC (agreed at COP21 and then refined at COP22 in the Marrakech Partnership) expires in 2020. There is therefore a need for a new COP decision in 2019 or latest 2020 to continue the work, and an opportunity to reshape and improve its institutional form and operations. The chief value of the Global Climate Action work is to build interactions between parties and non-party stakeholders.

National-level non-state climate action, Alliances for Climate Action. Ultimately, ambition and implementation depend on the national level. Therefore the key question is how we use the global stage and the national stage in a way that reinforces each other. A major effort to build these connections is the Alliances for Climate Action, a joint initiative by many networks to build multi-stakeholder coalitions for climate action at the national level in key countries. Current alliances exist in the US, Japan, Mexico, and Argentina, and may spread to other key states in 2019. These networks require further support. While the ACAs represent a critical and intentional approach, [we also need similar interactions at scale in all countries](#). Everywhere, it was agreed that close attention to social justice and the just transition will be critical for success.

Looking ahead and next steps

Overarching framing questions for 2019-2020:

- How do we institutionalize the “Talanoa spirit?” How do we elevate talking about and delivering solutions/action in either the COP or other international settings in a regular way—with countries and non-state/subnational actors? How do we make this enduring, but not exhausting, and fresh but not made completely from scratch every time?
- How can non-state and subnational actors strengthen the connective tissue between the global, regional, and local—particularly with the SG Summit, regional climate weeks, and need to initiate NDC enhancement processes in 2019? Can these for example bring on more signatories to the [High Ambition Coalition statement](#) on enhancing ambition? On the other hand, how does something like the HAC statement translate to the national level?
- What is the role non-state and subnational actors can play in squaring the energy coming from momentum efforts like GCAS with the overhanging, dire ambition gap and emissions growth narrative? What are some “big ticket” wins or turning points we can strive for? What does this mean in terms of a major economies approach, or a balanced developed-developing/North-South approach? Can there be better coordination along these lines? How can data and analysis play a role?

Key questions going forward:

- What kinds of deliverables (including data and analysis) are needed from this community to demonstrate progress and enhance NDCs?
 - UNSG Summit?
 - National level?
- What are key countries and geographies that non-state and subnational actors should engage to keep pace with the Paris ambition mechanism? What would be ideal and what is practical?
- Between the GCAS organizers, the UNFCCC, ACAs, the SG Summit, and a revamped Global Climate Action agenda, how will institutional roles evolve in galvanizing non-state and subnational climate action?

Initial steps for early 2019:

1. Many groups stressed the importance of reaching out to Chile to support them to quickly appoint a strong High-level Champion
2. Data and Analysis stakeholders will continue to meet through the “CADMA” (Climate Action Data, Methods, and Analysis) group, with bi-monthly phone calls, to support the upkeep of the online Climate Action Portal (NAZCA) and the aggregation work and 2019 Yearbook. More thinking is required to understand how this work can be leveraged most effectively by, e.g., the Climate Summit 2019 and the Alliances for Climate Action
3. TSF has offered to provide convening for the UN Secretary-General’s Summit in April. A meeting around data and the future of global climate action could be scheduled around this as well.
4. GGCA will host a series of online discussions on the future of Global Climate Action in early 2019. We will aim to learn lessons from 2014 forward and help shape potential options for the post-2020 period. We will aim to host a workshop alongside the Bonn sessions (this year in June) to build support for an effective future Global Climate Action amongst Parties and non-Parties.

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.