

Open letter

The future of Global Climate Action in the UNFCCC

December 2, 2019

H.E. Minister Carolina Schmidt
President of COP25
Ministry of Environment
San Martin 73, Santiago, Chile

Dear Minister Schmidt,

United behind the science, we write to express our strong support for COP25 as a “time for action.” We also note that one legacy of Santiago could be to lay the groundwork for continuing the role of cities, states and regions, businesses, investors, civil society, and others to work alongside Parties to deliver the goals of the Paris Agreement in the years to come. We offer you our full backing to secure an outcome at COP25 that ensures a continuing focus on Global Climate Action in the UNFCCC after 2020.

Climate action by cities, states and regions, business, investors, civil society, and others has become a key part of global and national responses to climate change. According to 2018 UNFCCC Yearbook of Climate Action:

- 1 in 5 people in the world now live in the approximately 10,000 cities and regions taking action
- Over 6,000 businesses whose annual revenue is greater than the combined GDP of the US and China have committed to climate action
- Existing multi-stakeholder initiatives through which Parties and non-Party actors work together, if they continue to scale up, could lower emissions by one third by 2030

At COP21 and COP22, Parties created a link between the UNFCCC process and climate action by non-party actors, but the mandate for its core elements expires at the end of 2020. The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action was created to give increased visibility and momentum to climate action and to link it to Parties. Today these activities include the work of the High-level Champions, the Global Climate Action (NAZCA) portal, the Yearbook of Climate Action, Climate Action events at COPs, and the Regional Climate Weeks.

After 2020, there is an opportunity to update existing institutional arrangements to maximize the contributions of non-Parties to climate action, working alongside Parties to deliver the goals of the Paris Agreement. Core areas of focus for institutional arrangements on Global Climate Action in the UNFCCC could include highlighting opportunities for countries to formulate, implement, and (over)achieve their NDCs, and using the breadth and legitimacy of the UNFCCC process to track climate action globally to make it both credible and inclusive.

At COP25, it is important to signal the continuation of the UNFCCC’s engagement with, and support for, the broader world of global climate action. To keep the impressive momentum has been built so far, Parties should ensure arrangements for Global Climate Action in the UNFCCC after 2020 are ready to be implemented by COP26.

Again, we salute your Presidency’s focus on climate action at COP25 and pledge our commitment to help make it a success. It is indeed “time for action” at COP25 and beyond.

Sincerely,

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