

# Memorandum

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CC: Action Agenda Team

From: Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions

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Re: Organization of Thematic Areas within the Global Climate Action Agenda

In the pre-2020 period, the role of cooperative initiatives for climate action is paramount to limit global warming to well below 2°C, and to drive toward the aim of limiting temperature increases to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. In the lead up to the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the governments of France and Peru, the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, and the Executive Office of the UN Secretary General built the connective tissue between collective actions on climate change as a mechanism to recognize and accelerate climate action. This program, the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA), was reinforced by the Paris conference, which encourages the continuation of existing and future initiatives.

The Global Climate Action Agenda should encourage continuity with the thematic areas within the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA), but make it more flexible by allowing initiatives to self-select into multiple thematic areas. This approach can recognize and support the existing “communities” of climate action while also creating new linkages and groupings that will support and accelerate climate action.

This memo presents key recommendations followed by three sections that outline the rationale and description for the grouping of actors and thematic areas, enhancing linkages across the groupings, and organizing the groupings with a Champion-enabled self-governance model.

## Key Recommendations

1. Thematic areas should be defined as they relate to the institutional arrangement of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA), the High-level Event, and the criteria for inclusion within the Action Agenda.
2. Initiatives should self-select into multiple themes. Instead of placing initiatives into 12 separate “buckets,” initiatives will be asked to inscribe themselves under a

- number of themes that they believe accurately reflect their work. Champions can propose that initiatives be listed under certain themes initially to facilitate the self-selection process.
3. Additionally, initiatives will be asked to list which actors comprise the initiative (e.g. cities, businesses, NGOs, states, international organizations, etc.). Many initiatives will of course have multiple types of actors.
  4. The thematic areas suggested herein are slightly adjusted LPAA thematic focus areas; yet, there is enough similarity so that the thematic areas can persist in perpetuity to maintain consistency. Other themes may be added.
  5. Some thematic areas and actor communities already benefit from strong internal coordination. Others will benefit from greater coordination, which the Champions can facilitate. In general, initiatives in a thematic area will be expected to organize themselves in whatever way is most effective for their context.
  6. Thematic areas should be offered the opportunity to redefine or further define their boundaries and their specific interpretations of the criteria for inclusion within the GCAA on a continual basis.

The remaining portion of this memo outlines the rationale and methods for the organization of sectors by 1) separating the actors from the thematic areas, and 2) encouraging initiatives to self-select multiple sets of actors and multiple themes.

## Sector Groupings

The LPAA established an initial 12 focus areas, which included both thematic areas (e.g. forests, renewables) and groups of actors (e.g. business, subnationals). Keeping close to the thematic areas will provide continuity and community identity over time. Yet, separating the actors from the themes can provide additional clarity. Initiatives should be allowed to self-select both the relevant actor and thematic categories. The tables below list the actor categories and a slightly modified version of the original themes within the LPAA (and the modifications to the original themes are italicized). There may also be additional thematic areas added at the discretion of the Action Agenda Champions – likely based on variations in the criteria of an Action Agenda initiative (See forthcoming memo on Criteria).

### Actors

<b>Nation states</b>	<b>Sub-national regions</b>	<b>Cities</b>
<b>Non-governmental organizations</b>	<b>Inter-governmental organizations</b>	<b>Businesses</b>
<b>Investors</b>	<b>Researchers</b>	

### Thematic areas

<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Forests</b>	<b>Transport</b>
<b>Renewable Energy</b>	<i>Energy Access</i>	<i>Energy Efficiency</i>

<b><i>Adaptation &amp; Resilience</i></b>	<b><i>Urban</i></b>	<b><i>Finance</i></b>
<b><i>Industry</i></b>	<b><i>Innovation</i></b>	<b><i>Buildings</i></b>
<b>Short-lived Climate Pollutants</b>	<b>(New) Emissions Reductions</b>	<b>(New) Carbon Pricing</b>
<b>(New) Champions' Initiatives</b>		

The 12 LPAA thematic areas, which are slightly modified for clarity including separating energy access and energy efficiency, will provide continuity from COP to COP. Keeping in line with the original themes will also allow for better self-governance within an institutional arrangement. The additional recommended thematic areas also provide clarity as well as cover what was once listed as a set of actors within the LPAA. Overall, the continuity and clarity will allow for communities to be developed within the formal process – the communities can then convene during workshops at the COP as well as at a regular rhythm of events.

Allowing initiatives to self-select thematic area(s) allows communities of action to emerge organically rather than forcing initiatives into a single category. The initiatives can self-select multiple thematic areas, so long as they meet the criteria for inclusion for each theme. The convening at the COP and regular rhythm of events will engage all of the sectors participating in an initiative within a particular thematic area regardless of whether the initiative is listed in multiple themes. This framework can work through the following method:

- The initiative would be listed within all thematic areas that are relevant and where they meet the criteria for inclusion;
- On the website, initiatives will be tagged with badges for each of the thematic areas and actor categories that apply to them. This will show the links within and between thematic areas as well as sets of actors, following the good practice on the NAZCA portal.
- The multiple selection process allows for flexibility and for enhancing the natural linkages – plus advancing potential linkages within initiatives that do not currently exist.

## **Transversal linkages**

Using the framework presented above for grouping initiatives by multiple sets of actors and thematic areas makes natural linkages more identifiable. This format will ease the ability of the Champions to showcase and strengthen the connective tissue across sectors. Moreover, the Champions could establish communication/action links between sectors where there is already convergence. The methodology for creating this framework, is recommended below:

- Use “tags” or “badges” as a way to identify links;
- A tag or badges will also allow analysis to be more easily performed about the best-practices in linkages across sectors/thematic areas and highlight which policy tools are being used.

- A Champion's report can showcase the linkages to highlight the interwoven nature of climate action; thus advancing and enhancing the policy and market signals needed for even greater action.
- The Champions can identify areas where linkages are possible or where potential exists and facilitate dialogue between initiatives and/or sectors in special sessions, perhaps at the COP.
- Events like the High Level Event at the COP need not focus on one of the original 12 LPAA themes, but can instead focus on clusters of initiatives that emerge around the various groupings cross-listed under key themes.

## **Self-governing Sectors/thematic Areas**

Sectors can maximize their impact, in terms of both direct and political effect, through self-selected groupings. These groupings can lead to communities as well as creating linkages across the sectors. The groupings for the sectors should be introduced by the Champions of the Action Agenda as a guide for initial convening and communication. After an initial convening, the Champions can introduce a feedback loop between the initiatives and the Action Agenda. This feedback loop should facilitate the evolution of the thematic areas and their criteria for inclusion.

Different areas of climate action will be organized in different ways. Some themes, like forests, renewable energy, or urban, have well-established structures that should be nurtured. Others, like innovation, have little organization. There is no "correct" level of organization that applies to all sectors. How much, and how, sectors should be organized will vary.

For this reason, and based on feedback from the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Alliances and Coalitions Forum in Rabat, Morocco as well as from previous workshop dialogues convened by Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions, it appears as though the initiatives prefer to be self-governed. That said, in some cases self-governance will not emerge naturally. In these situations, the Champions can help provide space for regular interactions amongst initiatives within key thematic areas. Therefore, the role of the Champions can be to guide the self-governance through continuous collaboration. The governance through collaboration concept would also highlight the role of the Champions as a conduit as described below:

- The Champions should become a conduit for conversations within the sectors, at the COP and at a regular rhythm of events that offer thematic areas an opportunity to self-determine their own definitions, criteria, and means for catalyzing climate action.
- Initially, the Champions could offer guidance on the criteria for each thematic area as a base line, such as the LPAA criteria with some adjustments; thereafter, initiatives could advocate for more strict criteria across all sectors or within their theme independently.
- A feature of the governance should be for the Champions to initiate a feedback loop that can help the governance evolve – a "light-touch" mechanism that supports and guides the sectors as they see best fit.

- Champions could establish a regular communication channel and/or feedback loop by requesting from each initiative that meets the baseline criteria to:
  - a. Nominate a representative to interface with the Champions, or;
  - b. Respond to a survey that requests feedback on goals, values, and criteria.
- The Champions should work to ensure there is space at/alongside COPs for the thematic areas and actors to gather and organize their efforts, and recognize and coordinate with external events co-located around the COP.