



# CITIES AND REGIONS TALANOA DIALOGUES: LEVERAGING SUBNATIONAL ACTION TO RAISE CLIMATE AMBITION

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***For nations to reach their climate goals and deliver on the Paris Agreement, timing makes the difference.***

The *IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C*, released in October 2018, makes it clear that it is not only important to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the long run, but that this reduction must occur as quickly as possible. A summary of this report from the IPCC states: “Future climate-related risks depend on the rate, peak and duration of warming.” The summary also states that climate-related risks are “larger if global warming exceeds 1.5°C before returning to that level by 2100 than if global warming gradually stabilizes at 1.5°C, especially if the peak temperature is high.”

In other words, climate action is time-sensitive. Even if carbon emissions are reduced to pre-industrial levels, the longer that reduction takes, the greater the climate risks will be.

***If nations are to address time-sensitive climate risks and make their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) fit for the Paris Agreement in 2020, they will need to support both sustainable urban development and the wide array of climate actions and commitments undertaken by local and regional governments.***

Cities account for 70 percent of all energy-related greenhouse gas emissions worldwide, making them the natural focal point for policies designed to reduce national emissions contributions. Despite this, the UN-Habitat reports that as of 2016, 40 percent of current NDCs do not reference the urban dimension, and that the ambition of existing NDCs do not match national potential.

This represents an important policy gap for several reasons. First, many local and regional governments are already engaged in ambitious climate action efforts, and developing plans and actions on urban and territorial development which have an impact on many sectors, including transport, energy, buildings, waste and health. If those efforts are not considered in national policy, it is likely that national will develop parallel, disconnected reporting and adaptation plans. Second, not considering the local and regional commitments means that nations cannot accurately assess the ambition of their current and future new NDCs. Lastly, this disconnect means that national support may not be reaching to the communities where it would have the most impact.

**According to the 2018 aggregation report from the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), commitments from local and regional governments have the potential to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions by 17 gigatons by 2030.**

According to the report, *Data speak louder than words*, from ICLEI, C40, SDI, UN-Habitat and 100 Resilient Cities, **70 percent of all funding for local climate adaptation comes from local sources**. This suggests that there are still significant opportunities for national governments to support local governments in pursuing their climate ambitions. Given the already substantial impact of local commitments, this should be noted by policymakers looking to meet and expand climate ambitions on the national level.

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## **The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues bridge the gap between all levels of government.**

The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues initiative is a series of in-country climate consultations that connect national and subnational leaders. The goal of these consultations is to strengthen the urban-climate nexus by creating multilevel governance policies that leverage the strengths and assets available at every level of government.

In practice, the Cities and Region Talanoa Dialogues provide an opportunity for climate stakeholders within a nation to measure, shape and strengthen NDCs. This initiative is an immediate response from the urban world to the global Talanoa Dialogues, launched at COP23 by the Government of Fiji, and the Bonn-Fiji Commitment adopted at the Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders.

Facilitated by ICLEI with GCoM and UN-Habitat as special partners, this initiative, launched at the 9th World Urban Forum in February 2018, also builds upon Call for Vertical Integration of Local Authorities in national climate investment plans issued by the GCoM at the One Planet Summit last December.



Leaders at the closing plenary of the COP23 leaders summit

In short, the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues open channels for sharing resources, knowledge and responsibility across governments at all levels.

By creating this valuable connection, the dialogues are a powerful tool for nations looking to achieve—and raise—their climate action ambitions as quickly as possible.

**“When we learn about what is actually being delivered at the local level, we may find that our NDCs can be enhanced relatively easily. Because so much is already happening there that has not yet been accounted for.”**

H.E. Frank Bainimarama, COP23  
President and Prime Minister of Fiji

# Defining the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues

The word “Talanoa” itself refers to a style of dialogue practiced in Fiji and the Pacific, which fosters openness and inclusion. Although the hosts, formats and objectives of different Talanoa Dialogues may vary, this spirit is a fundamental part of the process. The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues are organized around three essential questions:

## 1. WHERE ARE WE?

Participants review national and subnational commitments and actions. The core of this dialogue is to review the current NDC and provide an up-to-date overview of how much progress has been achieved by all levels of government. Participants then examine whether sustainable urban development is adequately reflected in national climate policy, and consider recent highlights and obstacles in their climate adaptation efforts. Climate action, targets and commitments by local and regional governments are provided by relevant global platforms such as the carbonn Climate Registry.

## 2. WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

Participants identify their possible link to climate action, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national urban development policy. They considered how to strengthen NDCs by integrating commitments and actions by subnational governments, as well as how inter-sectoral collaboration and coordination could support the implementation of NDCs. Participants are encouraged to involve stakeholders from beyond the traditional authorities, including: development banks, youth organizations, universities, private investors, development agencies and corporations, international organizations and network associations.

## 3. HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Participants explore how national and subnational governments and climate stakeholders can work together to mobilize technical and financial resources, and develop enabling policies to deliver on and strengthen the NDCs. They propose potential models for collaboration across different levels and functions of government, for example through new institutional mechanisms or structures. ICLEI collects answers developed at each dialogue, and, in our role as focal point of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency, we use these outcomes to advance our advocacy efforts. Further, ICLEI synthesizes these submissions into an input into the global Talanoa Dialogues organized by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This way, the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues feed into international negotiations.



Participants at a Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue event in Norway

## How the Talanoa Dialogue fits into the Paris Agreement

At COP21, a decision was made to convene a Facilitative Dialogue among Parties (national governments) in 2018 to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties on the goals of the Paris Agreement, and to inform the preparation of NDCs. Building on this mandate, it was decided to have this dialogue be known as the Talanoa Dialogue, to begin in January 2018 and culminate at COP24.

Although originally designed as a one-time event, many partners—including those from the Bonn-Fiji Commitment—advocated for a more inclusive approach. With this, the Talanoa Dialogue expanded into a year-round process that gives any local and regional government the opportunity to provide input into the process.

These year-round inputs have been carried forward to the negotiations at COP24, where the Paris Agreement Work Programme—which defines implementation rules for the Paris Agreement on market and non-market mechanisms, mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, finance, technology, capacity building, global stocktake, transparency and compliance—will be informed by the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues and the inputs of all participating partners.

***As of November 2018, local and regional governments, networks and partners have participated in 60 events in 40 countries.***

***UN-Habitat reports that as of November 2017, indicate only 68 percent of NDCs have some vision of urban context.***

## **What the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues have achieved**

### **MAINSTREAMING MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE**

The preamble of the Paris Agreement introduces the concept of multilevel climate action by recognizing the importance of engaging all levels of government. The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues have developed this engagement by enabling year-round discussion of the NDCs in cities and regions around the world. This has allowed for a more thorough and responsive assessment of climate ambitions and realities beyond a single event like COP24.

***“As long as we continue these dialogues, I believe we have hope for addressing this urgent global challenge of climate change.”***

Oswar M. Mungkasa, Deputy Governor,  
Jakarta, Indonesia

The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues have played an important role in demonstrating the value of inclusive policy making, as was intended by the global Talanoa. **By opening the lines of communication between groups that have traditionally worked in parallel, subnational and national governments have discovered untapped resources for achieving their climate ambitions.**

Additionally, the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues have captured inputs from an extremely broad group of stakeholders. Through this mechanism, groups who are not traditionally in the climate action ‘spotlight’ have been able to contribute to the international climate negotiations. This not only represents a just inclusion of peoples around the globe, but highlights untapped opportunities for climate action while contributing to the advancement of multilevel governance in the manner set out by the Paris Agreement.



Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue at Resilient Cities 2018 in Bonn, Germany

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS

As the focal point of the LGMA Constituency, ICLEI aggregates the outcomes of the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues into submissions to the Talanoa Dialogues organized by the UNFCCC. These submissions are a means for climate negotiators to assess the experiences, resources and commitments of climate stakeholders across the globe.

Through this process, the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues provide a channel of communication that directly links the experiences of local and regional governments to the international climate negotiation process, making the negotiation process much more inclusive.

**To date, more than 50 submissions from the LGMA have been submitted to the global Talanoa process. These submissions collect and convey the collective voices of hundreds of cities and regions across the globe.**



Participants at the Lomé Talanoa Dialogue in Togo

## Understanding Non-Party Stakeholders and the LGMA Constituency

Agenda 21, adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, introduced nine Major Groups of society as essential partners of the implementation of global agreements. Local authorities are recognized as one of these nine groups and in the UNFCCC context, they are gathered under the LGMA Constituency. The LGMA Constituency is one of the three groups that have been engaging in the UNFCCC process since COP1 in 1995. As of 2017, more than 20 organizations are involved in the LGMA Constituency and ICLEI has acted as the LGMA focal point since its inception.

Through the LGMA Constituency, local and regional governments contribute in the UNFCCC negotiations by sharing their views on various negotiation topics. They provide written or oral interventions, nominate representatives to technical workshops, participate at the UNFCCC negotiation meetings as observers, engage in the consultations of the Presidencies and convene specific events at the official meetings. This has played an instrumental role in the adoption of specific COP decisions related to local and regional governments in 2010 and 2013, followed by historic recognition of the importance of engagement of all levels of governments enshrined in the Paris Agreement and recognition of cities and other subnational governments as a dedicated group within Non-Party Stakeholders of the UNFCCC process.

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS: EXAMPLE OF AN INPUT TO THE TALANOAO DIALOGUE

What follows is an excerpt of a submission from ICLEI to the global Talanoa process. This particular submission carries forward lessons and key points as determined by local and regional leaders at the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues. This is not a full sample, nor is it the only submission by ICLEI and partners to the global Talanoa Dialogue, but it provides insight into one of the outcomes of the Talanoa process.

Opportunities to further scale up action and means to address barriers that can enable even further action by non-Party stakeholders based on the actions you have taken to implement your commitments.

### ***Policy levers***

#### **NEW MECHANISMS FOR SUBNATIONAL INPUT**

The Philippine Climate Change Commission (CCC) is working towards developing a quality assurance checklist to outline necessary elements that need to be part of a Local Climate Change Action Plan. Currently, there is no mechanism in place for local governments to submit their climate action plans to the national government. In Indonesia there was the suggestion to disaggregate national emission reduction targets according to sectors, so that sector-specific strategies can be developed both at the national and subnational levels. In Europe, the Committee of the Regions is advocating for recognition of Locally Determined Contributions within NDCs.

#### **CITIES AND REGIONS LEADING CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2050**

In Torres Vedras, Portugal cities and regions were informed about the expectation to take the lead in the efforts towards mid-century carbon neutrality. This is why the Portuguese national government is currently working on actions to enable cities to be the trigger of local collaborative processes. Numerous announcements via the Global Climate Action Summit supported these efforts as well.

#### **SHARING COMMON GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Sessions such as in Seoul and Johannesburg highlighted that climate action plans and relevant implementation measures should be institutionalised by national law and practices.



## ***Lessons learned based on the experience and progress so far***

Local/regional governments or their networks and partners engaged through the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency to the UNFCCC convened 53 sessions in 37 countries.

60% of national dialogues took place in the Global South, African nations hosted highest (8) sessions and Urban October witnessed the highest number (11) of sessions. More than 75% of all sessions engaged other stakeholders as well.

National/federal governments of Austria, India, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Tanzania, Indonesia engaged as co-partners.

In addition, S. Africa, Finland and Republic of Korea invited cities and regions at their national Talanoas. Cities and regions were actively engaged in regional Talanoas of EU and Pacific (CAPP) and UNFCCC Regional Climate weeks in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America.

Collaboration among LGMA Constituency, global partners and UNFCCC Secretariat and Presidencies proved to be a successful model.

Numerous sessions underlined the desire to continue the Talanoa momentum in the years ahead.

Outcomes at COP24 in Katowice either through necessary frameworks embedded in the Paris Agreement Work Programme or through initiatives for the continuation of such processes may provide significant contributions to support second NDCs by 2020 and preparing for global stocktaking.

**The 2018 submission highlighted numerous examples of ambitious local climate action, and show how the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues are giving shape to the Paris Agreement's call for multilevel governance.**



MoU signing ceremony in Quito, Ecuador

## BUILDING FRAMEWORKS FOR MULTILEVEL CLIMATE ACTION

**“International policies and national policies are necessary for sectors like energy and infrastructure, but at the end of the day these need to be implemented at the local and regional levels to provide benefits to people.”**

Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

**“We have to do the utmost possible to bring a sense of urgency into the negotiation room. This is possible if we follow the guidance of the Talanoa Dialogue and make our work transparent, trustful and aimed at building consensus.”**

Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven, Director General, Global issues, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

In many instances, the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues have directly led to mechanisms designed to better position national and subnational governments to achieve—and raise—their climate ambitions. In Quito, Ecuador, for example, a Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that established the GCoM in Ecuador to serve as the coordination mechanism for the cities and climate change strategy.

## ***Building frameworks in practice: São Paulo, Brazil***

Maintaining its leading role in national climate policies, the State of São Paulo took initiative to organize, in partnership with third sector institutions, the first Talanoa Dialogue in Brazil. The São Paulo Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue on 7 June 2018.

The dialogue brought together public, private, academic and civil society actors to share experiences and discuss challenges and opportunities facing the state in developing its strategy to cope with climate change.

This São Paulo initiative on the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue is an important landmark in efforts to consolidate the role of subnational governments and the third sector in achieving the goals of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement. The São Paulo Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue sets the beginning of the process at the national level in Brazil. Together with the efforts of the Climate Change Brazilian Forum, the event aims at the systemic construction and revision of the Brazilian NDC as well as increasing its ambition to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. The dialogue is important for all actors to understand the efforts needed to achieve these goals.

The São Paulo Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue is expected to have repercussions throughout the country, formenting other dialogues promoted by states and municipalities, with the active participation of academia, private sector and civil society.

**“India has always participated in all global climate dialogues, but has acted locally. Hence, we consider cities, and states as important part of our commitment. The spirit of these dialogues, and especially the Talanoa Dialogue, gives us the opportunity to be inclusive and friendly, and to learn from each other.”**

Mr. A K Mehta (Additional Secretary), Ministry of Environment,  
Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

# Lessons learned from Talanoa in 2018

## LOCAL LEADERS ARE TAKING AMBITIOUS CLIMATE ACTION, BUT THEIR WORK IS NOT FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE NDCS.

The Bonn-Fiji Commitment, which sparked the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, highlighted the potential impact of local governments to take meaningful climate action. According to the GCoM 2018 aggregation report, subnational commitments could result in a reduction of 17 gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (GtCO<sub>2</sub>e) by 2030.

This achievement, documented at the very beginning of the Talanoa process, has only been reinforced by the commitments and knowledge that surfaced through the dialogues. Examples such as these demonstrate growing political will among local governments to adapt to climate change.

Despite the scale of local climate ambitions, they are not always fully incorporated into the NDC implementation process. In many NDCs, there is no explicit mention of the role subnational governments play in achieving national climate goals. This is the case even though many cities are the ones with the legal responsibility to provide electricity distribution, waste management and other public services which have direct climate impacts.

The European Committee of the Regions called for NDCs to include an aggregation of Regionally and Locally Determined Contributions (RLDCs) to formally acknowledge and count the commitments and achievements of cities and regions in reducing GHG emissions. Pursuing integrated, sustainable urban and territorial development as part of low emission, resilient development would be further enhanced through the RLDCs, which help identify concrete opportunities for greater climate ambition.

Similarly, during a Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue, the National Government of Togo learned that the City of Tsévié is developing a Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan as part of its engagement in the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa. Shortly after the dialogue, the Togolese agency for rural electrification and renewable energy made a commitment to work with Tsévié and others cities on their action planning as a joint initiation with the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Finance.

As these examples illustrate, national governments are increasingly recognizing the potential of subnational input to climate action, and the Talanoa Dialogues are opening the door for greater collaboration.

## ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT ARE SEEING THE VALUE OF ENHANCED MULTILEVEL COLLABORATION, BUT THE COLLABORATION IS NOT YET SYSTEMATIC.

Throughout the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, it was consistently noted by both subnational and national leaders that all levels of government need to collaborate on climate activities.

### **A collaborative approach to planning, implementation, reporting and financing is viewed as a helpful alternative to attempting climate action in parallel.**

In some cases, Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue participants indicated that their commitment to collaboration extended well beyond climate. Delegates in Lusaka, Zambia for example, said they were willing to align their climate action strategies with other national goals.

As remarks such as these accumulated over the course of 2018, many nations began to develop frameworks and precedents for systematizing their collaboration with subnational actors. South Africa, Finland and the Republic of Korea invited local and regional governments to their national Talanoa Dialogues. Japan and Finland, while signing a Memorandum of Cooperation on environmental preservation, invited the mayor of Yokohama to share lessons from her experience working with the city's sustainability programs.

Further, many countries that participate in the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues have demonstrated good models of multilevel action and broad stakeholder engagement. In Japan, for example, there exists the Japan Climate Initiative, which as of October 2018 comprised 158 different subnational actors, from major corporations to city governments. Japanese actors have also found ways to directly include multi-stakeholder components into various initiatives, and have reaped considerable climate benefits as a result.

Examples like this, which can be seen everywhere from Indonesia to Mexico, highlight the growing political will to build systematic multilevel action across the globe. And yet, such examples also illustrate how much work there is to be done. The Talanoa process has revealed many of the communication and policy gaps that exist worldwide. In order to address these gaps, inclusive policy creation systems will have to be formalized at every level of government.

While the International Finance Corporation estimates that while there is about \$22.3 trillion (IFC 2016) in “climate-smart investment potential” worldwide, McKinsey (2018) reports that only \$3 trillion is actually being invested. The issue behind this, as published by the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) in 2018, is that there is a shortage of investment “opportunities.”

## MULTILEVEL DIALOGUES ARE NECESSARY TO CREATE AN ENABLING FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT.

A synthesis report on the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues in Africa found that actors from all sectors agree that: “in order to maximise access to finance, all tiers of government, the private sector and civil society need to pool their knowledge” of available financing strategies and technical expertise.

Importantly, this does not suggest that more actors necessarily need to provide funding opportunities at this time. This is because there is already a serious gap between how much money is available—and how many opportunities there are—for profitable sustainability investments, and how much money is making it to local projects.

This shortage of investment opportunities can be traced, in many cases, to issues related to local capacity. Barriers such as lack of contract preparation experience, lack of technical knowledge and staff and even simply awareness of funding opportunities all represent major barriers for many cities and regions.

Because these issues are largely matters of capacity, however, national governments can do much to create an enabling environment for climate finance even if they cannot directly absorb the costs of climate adaptation.

**National governments can create an enabling environment for climate finance, by outlining the mandates and responsibilities of different tiers of government, establishing enabling legislation and building the capacity of municipal authorities to use the financing mechanisms that are already available.**

Local and regional governments can also organize themselves in order to better understand the international climate finance architecture and existing funding opportunities. We have already seen preliminary suggestions on how they can do this. For example, at the Lome Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue, a key suggestion that emerged was the creation of a local government focal point that could collaborate with the national government. This focal point could then circulate and advertise national and international funding opportunities to Togolese cities.

International organizations have also shown that they have a role to play in developing

both the vertical integration between governments and in developing the capacity of local governments to take advantage of financial opportunities. Programs such as the Transformative Actions Program (TAP), developed by ICLEI and partners, and the Global Climate City Challenge, developed by GCoM and the European Investment Bank (EIB), show how external climate action support can simultaneously drive projects while building a systematic framework for local governments to continue their work.

## **THERE IS A NEED FOR INTEGRATED REPORTING SYSTEMS AND DATA-DRIVEN COLLABORATION.**

The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues highlighted that at present, national and subnational governments often develop parallel, disconnected climate action and reporting systems. This means that in many cases, subnational climate commitments, actions and risk assessments are not factored into national planning. This disconnect makes it difficult for nations to plan and set targets that accurately reflect what a nation can achieve.

As nations prepare to submit revised, more ambitious NDCs in 2020, it is critical that both national and subnational governments are equipped with robust data. This need has been demonstrated almost everywhere, but was well highlighted by a Dialogue held in Balikpapan, Indonesia. There, participants acknowledged that achieving Indonesia's NDC would require coordinated effort from all regions, and further acknowledged that existing reporting and climate adaptation efforts were not unified.

In response to these challenges, the participants of the Balikpapan Dialogue discussed possible action plans, including the creation of working groups to lead multisectoral development and various strategies to get emissions information from the private sector. Participants also agreed that there must be better communication between cities, provinces, and the national government. Expanding the popularity of the national SRN (national registry system) for tracking the country's emissions was offered as a possible approach.

Just as critically, the dialogues show that the information gap extends beyond the local-national connection. While Balikpapan reported with the cCR framework many of its neighbors, who are also engaged in climate adaptation, did not. National governments need an accurate and up-to-date picture of climate action and climate risks at the subnational level, and receiving information in many different formats can cause delays and confusion when it comes to developing national policies.

**“We need more dialogues like this so that as cities we can learn from each other and interact with national government directly on how we can implement its policies.”**

Dr. Maulid Suleiman Madeni, City Council Director of Arusha City, Tanzania

## Recommendations going forward

The Paris Agreement gives local governments the legitimacy, responsibility and mandate to take action to tackle climate change. In support of this, the Talanoa process has offered insight into the needs and capacities of all levels of government across the world. It has revealed gaps in knowledge and capacity, as well as opportunities to build on and enhance the efforts of subnational governments.

Making use of these insights requires systematic changes at every level of government to make multilevel governance standard practice. Governments need to continue to work hard to reap the benefits of an inclusive policy-making process, and institutionalize this process to secure its advantages for future administrations.

To make most of the Talanoa process, and to strengthen the horizontal and vertical inclusivity of the world's future climate action, ICLEI recommends the following:

### EMPHASIZE NON-PARTY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE UNFCCC.

It is essential that national actors carry inputs from the subnational level to the global climate negotiations. National leaders need to greatly increase the ambitions of their NDCs to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees. Doing so will require an accurate understanding resources, context and opportunities at the local and regional levels. An NDC that well reflects the real situation of all levels of subnational governments will be much more attainable and targeted than one that does not, and the Talanoa Dialogues have already demonstrated that the best path to achieving this is to consult with subnational governments directly.

Such consultation can take a variety of forms, including:

- Working with cities and regions on the climate policy creation process
- Consulting cities and regions to identify climate action policies that are already working, and which can be scaled up with a view to strengthening the urban, regional and territorial dimensions of NDCs.
- Building capacity of local and regional leaders on the needs and requirements of UNFCCC engagement, and then collecting their input
- Developing opportunities for national and local level staff to network and collaborate
- Consulting cities to identify challenges around the implementation of NDCs and preparations for the submission of second NDCs by 2020

## GOVERNMENTS AT EVERY LEVEL NEED TO DEVELOP HORIZONTAL INTEGRATION FOR SUCCESSFUL CLIMATE ACTION.

In addition to connecting local inputs and engagement to the UNFCCC, both subnational and national governments have a responsibility to increase their horizontal integration. The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues have found that not only are there frequent communication gaps between levels of government, but that departmental boundaries at the same level government can often present challenges to cohesive climate action. Although it would seem intuitive that ministers of urban planning, ministers of finance, and ministers of environment work together, this is often not the case.

National governments can facilitate this kind of local collaboration both through encouraging it directly and by making it a necessary component of local-national interaction. National governments can, for example:

- Encourage local governments to hold Talanoa-style dialogues in their jurisdictions.
- Include a wide cross-section of professionals whenever local governments are consulted, thereby systematizing their involvement in the local-national climate discussions.
- Incorporate horizontal collaboration as a necessary element when developing funding opportunities for projects.

Local governments, meanwhile, have a responsibility to systematize horizontal integration, both within their own jurisdiction and by taking the lead on collaborative projects with neighboring regions. Even without national input, local coalitions can provide a strong front for climate negotiation and create a transformative pool of possible resources.

## LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEADERS MUST DEVELOP SYSTEMATIC COMMUNICATION PLANS.

The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues offer a useful template for leaders seeking to collaborate on future projects, but adoption of this specific format is not critical. What matters more than format is that local and national governments establish regular, organized methods of communication that can organize the resources, circumstances, opportunities and challenges surrounding effective climate action.

Institutionalizing this is important because the process must be able to endure beyond any single administration. This will allow a state and its constituent regions to reap the benefits of inclusive policy-making even as political needs shift. A convenient entry-point for systematizing collaboration is to decide on an integrated data reporting platform that will be used by both national and subnational actors. If technical staff from every level of government are able to access the same information, then collaborative planning becomes much simpler.



Participants at the Indonesia Talanoa Dialogue in Jakarta

**CITIES AND REGIONS ENGAGED IN A TOTAL OF 60 TALANOA EVENTS IN 40 COUNTRIES**

**52 OFFICIAL CITIES AND REGIONS TALANOA DIALOGUES WERE HELD IN 37 COUNTRIES**

**> 60% OF NATIONAL DIALOGUES TOOK PLACE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH**

**> 75% OF ALL SESSIONS ENGAGED NON-GOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS**

**100% OF SESSIONS GATHERED ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENTS**

**8 SESSIONS HOSTED IN AFRICAN NATIONS, THE HIGHEST OF ANY REGION**

**NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS OF AUSTRIA, INDIA, JAPAN, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, TANZANIA, INDONESIA ENGAGED AS CO-PARTNERS**

**SOUTH AFRICA, FINLAND AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA INVITED CITIES AND REGIONS TO THEIR NATIONAL TALANOAS**

A selection of outcomes of the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues



Planning excerpt of Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue in Denver, USA

## ORGANIZING A TALANOA DIALOGUE

If you are interested in organizing Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue, the text above may be useful for organizing it.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION		
National Government representatives:		Local and Regional Government representatives:
GUIDING QUESTIONS	FOCUS	SPECIFIC ISSUES
WHERE ARE WE?	<b>IMPLEMENT</b> Plans and actions under the current Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) or other relevant policies and legislations	<p>Is sustainable urbanization adequately included in the current NDCs?</p> <p>How can local and regional governments help national governments (including ministries of climate change and urbanization) to seize the potential of sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development in the implementation of NDCs?</p>
WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?	<b>RAISE</b> Ambitions of current and future NDCs	<p>How can we raise national ambition through enhanced multilevel governance?</p> <p>What are the options to integrate commitments and actions of local and regional governments in to current and future NDCs ?</p>
HOW DO WE GET THERE?	<b>DEVELOP</b> Road ahead for immediate, mid-term, long-term transformation	What measures and changes are needed?
BEFORE		
Were <b>local and regional governments</b> aware of their national NDCs? Have they already developed inventories-actions-commitments? Were they reported at carbonn Climate Registry or other national, supra-national, global platforms?		
Were <b>national governments</b> aware of information from their local and regional governments?		

The guiding questions and specific issues represent the topics for the assembled participants to discuss. The “before” and “after” sections provide benchmarks for the event.

		Other stakeholders:
<b>ASSESSMENT / PROPOSED ACTIONS</b>		<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
<p>1. Does the current NDC refer to national urban policy or does it have any specific references to urban sectors like buildings, transport/mobility, waste, demand-side energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable consumption or production, procurement, biodiversity (e.g: reality check with UN-Habitat document)?</p> <p>2. If yes, are these consulted with the respective local and regional governments?</p> <p>3. If not, is there any room to integrate existing plans, actions or commitments of local and regional governments into the current NDCs (e.g. captured at carbonn Climate Registry or GCoM Commitment or others as appropriate), as well as those developed by other ministries responsible on urbanization</p>		<p>Link to Party NDC at <a href="http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/Pages/Home.aspx">http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/Pages/Home.aspx</a></p>
<p>1. How can national commitments integrate existing and future commitments (e.g. captured at carbonn Climate Registry or GCoM Commitment or others) of local and regional governments into current and future NDCs?</p> <p>2. How can national governments enhance the ability of local and regional governments to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience through their multilevel engagement in NDCs or National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)?</p>		<p>Links of participating cities and regions at the carbonn Climate Registry (<a href="http://www.carbonn.org">www.carbonn.org</a>) or other national, supra-national or global sources of local and regional climate action information</p>
<p>How can national governments collaborate with local and regional governments to mobilize appropriate capacity building, technical, financial resources and policy/legal framework to realize solutions addressed in delivering and raising ambition; in 2018, towards 2020, towards 2050?</p>		
<b>AFTER</b>		
<p>Are <b>local and regional governments</b> inspired by any of the plans from national governments? How are they planning to connect their plans to existing actions/targets in the NDC?</p>		
<p>How are <b>national governments</b> planning to revise NDC with information from and engagement with local and regional governments?</p>		

# Local and national governments must establish reporting and data-management standards

According to the 2017 carbonn Climate Registry (cCR) report, an analysis of the data voluntarily reported to the cCR reporting platform for subnational governments:

“A key part of effective multilevel governance also involves tracking developments, namely by using Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems that integrate climate action and reporting at and across all levels. We call this integrated MRV. Integrated MRV means that national and subnational governments work together, coordinating reporting methodologies and sharing data to build a holistic picture of mitigation and adaptation efforts at all levels. This allows for better analysis of current opportunities and challenges, and can help governments define critical action areas.”

Using integrated MRV systems, such as the cCR, helps national and subnational governments coordinate their climate action and allocate resources where they are most needed. This is because all actors are able to make comparable assessments about the same set of data, and co-create objectives to meet the goals implied by that data. The overall aggregability of MRV is also important, since it allows for more accurate global stocktaking than would otherwise be possible.

Integrated MRV reduces parallel work, increases inefficient resource allocation and allows nations to set their NDCs and model their overall emissions trajectory with confidence.

GCoM has developed new, harmonized standards for subnational climate reporting, which facilitates integrated MRV. This framework is designed to be consistent with national government reporting requirements and the UNFCCC, and adjustable to local circumstances. They build on the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC) developed ICLEI, WRI and C40.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS NEED TO DEVELOP CLIMATE NEUTRALITY PLANS TO SUPPORT NATIONAL GOALS.

All efforts that will contribute to the NDCs and overall climate progress will, at some point, draw upon local resources and local deployment. This means that local governments have the responsibility to create robust climate action plans that handle both their greenhouse gas emissions targets and plans for climate adaptation. This responsibility, as outlined in the preamble of the Paris Agreement, must be taken seriously. Even if a city does not have the resources to commit to ambitious climate action, demonstrating sound planning and promising ideal scenarios is a key step to building both financial and technical relationships.

## GOALS FOR CLIMATE NEUTRALITY PLANS

### GOAL 1: GO LOW-TO-NO

Achieve low or net-zero emissions through 100 percent renewable energy and other strategies, beginning in government operations and infrastructure with the aim to scale up to the community scale.

### GOAL 2: DIVEST

Divest from fossil fuels and unsustainable practices, freeing up resources for sustainable investments.

### GOAL 3: INVEST

Invest in ambitious mitigation and adaptation actions, actively implementing sustainable public procurement and other strategies not always considered in climate planning.

### GOAL 4: OFFSET

Offset any emissions that cannot be further reduced or avoided, ideally through UN recognized mechanisms such as purchasing credits and donation to funds which support integrated, sustainable urban and territorial development. These offsetting opportunities may also be local and voluntary.

## The organization of the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues has been made possible by:

### LEAD HOST CITIES / REGIONS:

- Accra
- Balikpapan City
- Bogor City
- Bogor Regency
- Bonn
- City of Tshwane
- Dodoma
- Drammen
- Edmonton
- Guadalajara
- Hanoi
- Ichihara
- Itabashi
- Jakarta
- Johannesburg
- Lome
- Lusaka
- Manila
- Mexico City
- Monrovia
- Montreal
- Nagoya
- New Delhi
- Quito
- Seoul Metropolitan Government
- State of California
- State of Sao Paulo
- Tokyo Metropolitan Government
- Torres Vedras City Council
- Tshwane
- Windhoek

### LEAD PARTNERS:

- Association of the Indonesia Municipalities (APEKSI)
- C40
- Climate Alliance
- Climate Chance Association
- Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA)
- Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- FRACTAL partners
- Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
- India Ministry of Environment
- The Committee of the Regions

### PARTNERS:

- 6th Global Biodiversity Summit of Local & Subnational Governments (CBDS)
- Assembly of Regions and Districts of Côte d'Ivoire (ARDCI)
- Association of Ecuadorian Municipalities (AME)
- CitiesIPCC
- Climate Observatory
- Climate Heritage Network
- EESC
- EU
- EU DG Climate
- EUROCITIES
- Fijian Government
- Finnish Government
- Government of Austria
- Greenpeace
- J-CLP
- KS Norway
- Korean Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Environment Japan
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan
- National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
- Norway Ministry of Climate and Environment
- nrg4sd
- Portuguese DG Territorio
- R20
- RFSC
- South Africa Department of Environmental Affairs
- Tanzania Ministry of Environment
- The Alliance Center
- UCLG
- UFZ
- UITP
- UNFCCC - Marrakesh Partnership
- UN-Habitat
- United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA)
- WUF9 Secretariat
- WWF Brasil

# Submissions to the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue worldwide

The map below shows where Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues have been held worldwide. The highlights showcase submissions to the global Talanoa process.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Global Climate Action Summit (GCAS), which was a major mobilization of local actors, combined with Talanoa events like the one held in Denver, Colorado, highlight the political will for state and regional actors to climate action.

## QUITO, ECUADOR

A Memorandum of Understanding established the GCoM as a coordinating body for city-level climate action of Ecuador after a successful Talanoa event in Quito.

A light gray world map serves as the background. Teal circular dots are placed on the map to indicate locations of Talanoa Dialogues. There are several dots in Europe, one in Japan, several in East and Southeast Asia, one in India, several in Africa, and one in Australia. The dots are of varying sizes and are semi-transparent.

## COMMITTEE OF REGIONS, EUROPE

In Europe, the Committee of the Regions is advocating for the recognition of Locally Determined Contributions within NDCs.

## JAPAN

Four Talanoa events and the 158-member strong Japan Climate Initiative highlight the local commitment to vertical and horizontal cooperation.

## TALANOA DIALOGUES IN AFRICA

ICLEI Africa releases *Talanoa Dialogues in Africa*, which highlights key contributions from the Talanoa events held across Africa and demonstrates clear advancement towards multilevel action.



## CITIES & REGIONS TALANOA DIALOGUES

#Cities4Talanoa  
#Regions4Talanoa  
[citiesandregions.org/talanoa](http://citiesandregions.org/talanoa)

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