



# CITIES AND REGIONS TALANOA DIALOGUES



Driving multilevel  
climate action worldwide

Facilitated by



Special partners



**The Talanoa Dialogue launched at COP23 is designed to take stock of and strengthen climate action globally. The Cities and Regions Dialogues convene local, regional and national governments to drive multilevel climate action in a rapidly urbanizing world.**

**Only around  
60%  
of countries  
incorporate an urban  
dimension into  
their national plans,  
according to  
UN-Habitat figures.**

**Current commitments  
by local and regional  
governments have  
the potential to  
reduce emissions by  
5 to 15 gigatons  
by 2020 to 2030.\***

## **Why do we need the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues?**

Under the Paris Climate Agreement, nations submit national climate plans every five years. It is expected that these plans, known as Nationally Determined Contributions – or NDCs – become more ambitious over time and with each submission. Only one-third of NDCs are on track for implementation, and even if they were fully implemented, UN Environment projects global warming will be over three degrees Celsius by the end of the century. This brings us above the Paris target to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

To achieve this global target, NDCs need to be stronger and more ambitious.

At present, urban communities contribute up to 70 percent of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions globally. They are also among the most vulnerable hotspots for climate change impacts. This reality means that urban communities are at the center of how we achieve global climate targets.

It is critical that national, regional and local governments now jointly shape, align and implement climate policy at all levels to harness the potential of our urban world.

\*Figures based on emissions reductions targets reported to the carbonn Climate Registry and the aggregate impact of cities and towns committed to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.

## What are the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues?

The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues – a series of in-country climate consultations starting in 2018 – are designed to kick off a collaborative process involving all levels of government. They convene national, regional and local governments to take stock of, shape and strengthen NDCs. This process also engages other key climate actors within a given country.

These consultations are part of the Talanoa Dialogue launched at COP23, the 23rd United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2017. The Talanoa Dialogue serves as an initial stocktaking exercise in 2018 to prepare for future NDC submissions. Through the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, local and regional governments are engaging in stocktaking efforts and helping strengthen climate action at all levels, from global to local.

The word Talanoa itself refers a style of dialogue practiced in the Pacific, which fosters openness and inclusiveness. This is the spirit of the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, designed to help make climate action a more ambitious and collective global effort.

### The **Paris Agreement**

recognizes that local and regional governments play a critical role in global climate action. At COP23, local, regional and national governments called for more inclusive, coordinated climate action globally.

### The **Bonn-Fiji Commitment**

adopted by hundreds of local and regional leaders at COP23 played an instrumental role in designing the Talanoa Dialogue as an inclusive process.

The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, as part of the global Talanoa process, are a **bottom-up, proactive and immediate response** by local and regional governments to the global call for multistakeholder conversations on climate action worldwide.



# How do the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues work?

Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue events convene local and regional governments, host organizations and national ministries of climate, environment and urbanization, among others. The events are organized by local and regional governments and their networks.

At each dialogue, participants review the current NDC and map out how to strengthen climate action at all levels. What distinguishes these dialogues is that they examine the urban dimension of climate action and look at how multilevel governance – coordinated action across all levels of government – strengthens the NDCs.

The global Talanoa Dialogue is guided by three simple questions. Through the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, these questions are tailored to look at the urban and subnational dimensions of climate action.

## 1. WHERE ARE WE?

Participants review national commitments, the current national greenhouse gas emissions profile, the quantitative impact of interventions and subnational commitments and actions. They also look at whether sustainable urban development is adequately reflected in national climate policy.

## 2. WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

Participants identify possible links between climate action, the Sustainable Development Goals and national urban development policy. They consider how to strengthen NDCs by integrating commitments and actions by local and regional governments, as well as how local and regional governments can support implementation of current NDCs.

## 3. HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Participants look at how national, regional and local governments can work together to mobilize technical, financial and policy resources to deliver on and strengthen the NDCs. They explore potential models for collaboration across levels of government, through new or existing institutional mechanisms and structures.



## CITIES & REGIONS TALANOA DIALOGUES

INDONESIA | JAKARTA | 5 MARCH

The Indonesia Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue took place in Jakarta on 5 March 2018 bringing together city representatives from Jakarta, Tangerang City and Bekasi City as well as national representatives from a number of ministries, including the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and the Special Envoy for Climate Change.

The event was organized as part of Ambitious City Promises and Urban-LEDS II, projects that engage all levels of government to advance low emission development in urban areas around the world. This event is just one example of how Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues can build networks and relationships, strengthening multilevel climate action in countries around the world.

Ambitious City Promises is implemented by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The Seoul Metropolitan Government is a supporting partner.

Urban-LEDS II is funded by the European Commission and jointly implemented by ICLEI and UN-Habitat.

## What are the outcomes of Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues?

Throughout 2018, Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue events will take place around the world. As focal point of the LGMA – the Local and Regional Governments and Municipal Authorities – ICLEI will communicate the results to the UNFCCC, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Each Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue event will contribute to the broader Talanoa process and will feed into the climate negotiations at COP24.


This map represents an initial set of events that will multiply worldwide.





Each individual event lays the foundation for stronger relationships, active collaboration and more robust policy frameworks. By the end of each dialogue – or series of dialogues – taking place in any given country, the aim is that:

- Participants gain a solid understanding of current national climate policy and the state of climate action across the country.
- Participants see a path towards strengthening climate action at the local, regional and national levels.
- Linkages between climate and urban policy become clear and actionable.
- Participants see new opportunities for collaboration across all levels of government and recognize the value of multilevel governance.
- National policymakers are better able to recognize and reflect the realities and priorities of local and regional governments into national policy.
- Participants agree on next steps in the process, by setting up or agreeing to subsequent meetings and actions to be taken in preparation.



**“When we learn more 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**



## CITIES & REGIONS TALANOA DIALOGUES

**#Cities4Talanoa**  
**#Regions4Talanoa**

Facilitated by



Special partners



In collaboration with:



**United Nations**  
Climate Change Secretariat



**COP23 FIJI**  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE  
BONN 2017



## Get involved

Contact ICLEI at [talanoa@iclei.org](mailto:talanoa@iclei.org) and visit <http://www.cities-and-regions.org/talanoa/> for more information, including a full list of participating partners and events.