

CITIES AND REGIONS TALANOA DIALOGUES India & Bangladesh



Driving multilevel
climate action worldwide

Facilitated by



Special partners



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.*

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.

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.

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 multi-stakeholder 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.



Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change
Government of India



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Key Lessons from India Talanoa Dialogue

Role of Cities in Global Climate Change

Participants at the event unanimously agreed that the delivery of India's climate targets relies on effective planning at the national level with full engagement of local and subnational governments. It was highlighted that India has submitted ambitious NDC targets and now it is time for the cities to gear up and start working towards address the climate challenges. Sub-national governments in India are already implementing ambitious climate actions and it is very important that there is enhanced peer to peer exchange and learning amongst them to scale-up these successful initiatives.



"Talanoa is about the spirit of camaraderie and we feel the spirit of friendliness here. I believe when these dialogues are held in India, they should be captured and presented as our country has great stories. We are also a nation which treats nature as God. Sustainability is a part of our culture."

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

Accessing Finance

Accessing finance was acknowledged by participants as one of the key barriers for effective implementation of climate change interventions at sub-national level. In order to maximise access to finance there is a need for the central government and non-state actors to find innovative solutions and alternative ways of financing climate initiatives. The central government and other technical support agencies need to support sub-national governments in accessing global climate finance and at the same time help them develop innovative financial mechanisms like municipal bonds, Public Private Partnership (PPP) models etc.

Vertical Integration

Though participants were aware that India's NDC was developed and ratified, however, they highlighted the fact that a majority of stakeholders at the sub-national level are still unaware of the details of the commitments and targets. Participants highlighted that all levels of government as well as other relevant stakeholders should be involved in developing a roadmap for NDC implementation and any future revision of NDCs. The ongoing process of revising the State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs) can be utilised to include and involve local, regional and provincial governments as active stakeholders, both in the revision process and in the proposed implementation process. Further, sub-national governments should make efforts to mainstream climate actions into regular planning instruments so that efforts are channelized to adequately address today's climate change impacts and mitigate future impacts.

"Dialogues and conferences like these, have helped city representatives like me to get the right exposure to this issue, while also providing a platform to share our experiences."

– Mrs. Nanda Jichkar
Hon'ble Mayor, Nagpur Municipal Corporation, India &
Member ICLEI South Asia Regional Executive Committee



Training and Capacity Building

One of the primary intervention mentioned during the discussion was the need to strengthen the capacity of coordinating bodies/entities which have the mandate to convene and reach out to all organisations working in the field of climate change. Participants agreed that vertical and horizontal communication and coordination between multiple stakeholders such as government departments, sub-national government agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), private sector entities, financial institutions etc. would help in identifying training and capacity building gaps. These stakeholder can then effectively work together to develop context based interventions and solutions to tackle training and capacity building gaps at local level. In this awareness creation and support from Central Government was considered a crucial step.



"Non-state actors are an important part of the 3 tier federal structure and they should be participating in all negotiating process and perhaps dialogues like Talanoa Dialogue is a good process of making them inclusive."

– Mr. Atul Bagai
Country Head, UNEP India

India's Nationally Determined Contributions - Highlights

Submitted on: 02 October 2015 | Ratification on: 02 October 2016

Components: Includes Sustainable Lifestyles, Cleaner Economic Development, Reduce Emission intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Increase the Share of Non Fossil Fuel Based Electricity, Enhancing Carbon Sink (Forests), Adaptation, Mobilizing Finance, Technology Transfer and Capacity Building

Sub-national Governments in Indian NDCs

As per the 2017 report by UN-Habitat titled 'Sustainable Urbanization in the Paris Agreement', the Indian NDC is classified as a Cluster A NDC i.e. an NDC with urban mentioned within text headers and classified as containing strong urban content. The Indian NDC acknowledges the role of States and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in achieving its climate commitments. The NDC document showcases various ongoing sustainable urbanization initiatives such as Smart Cities Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), 'Swachh Bharat Mission etc. which also have a direct as well as an indirect link to climate change mitigation and adaptation.



"India, while being a minimal contributor to climate change as evidenced by per capita & cumulative emissions and consumption patterns, is willing to work with fellow nations in tackling the challenge of climate change."

– Dr. J R Bhatt
Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
Government of India



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BANGLADESH | DHAKA | 18 NOVEMBER 2018

Key Lessons from Bangladesh Talanoa Dialogue

Building Awareness

Though some cities like Barisal, Singra, and Dhaka are signatories to The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, majority of local government administrations are un-aware of the country's NDC policies. Participating stakeholders acknowledged that there is a need for enhanced coordination among all ministries and city governments in order to create awareness on NDCs and to facilitate integration of climate action programmes into local urban planning process.

"All municipalities should and can take action to address climate change. For example – if all municipalities in Bangladesh change their conventional street lights to solar powered or LED streetlights, dual benefits will accrue."

– Md. Zannatul Ferdous
Hon'ble Mayor, Singra Municipality, Bangladesh



Innovative Finance

During the discussion, the need for exploring innovative climate finance mechanisms, emerged as a priority. Participants emphasized the need to transition from conventional grants to more robust financial mechanisms for implementing climate initiatives, involving multiple stakeholders, especially the private sector. The benefits of incentive based financing and the importance of Public Private Partnership (PPP) were also discussed.



"We can achieve the targets of our NDC, we do not need grants, but we need technology and private sector investment to do that."

– Mr. Taibur Rahman
Deputy Chief, Bangladesh Planning Commission

Capacity Building

Participants opined that building technical capacity is key to raising national climate ambition and one of the key recommendations emerging from the discussion was to facilitate knowledge sharing workshops at the local government levels. It was also suggested that NGOs and technical institutions could be involved in development of local climate actions which are also in consonance with NDC targets.

"Future work on climate change will depend largely on consensus building among global leaders."

– Md. Ziaul Haque
Director, Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Bangladesh



Bangladesh's Nationally Determined Contributions - Highlights

Submitted on: 25 September 2015 | Ratification on: 21 September 2016

- The NDC builds on several existing strategies and is based on the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

Mitigation targets

- An unconditional commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 5% from Business As Usual (BAU) levels by 2030 in the power, transport and industry sectors, based on existing resources.
- A conditional 15% reduction in GHG emissions from BAU levels by 2030 in the power, transport, and industry sectors, subject to appropriate international support in the form of finance, investment, technology development and transfer, and capacity building.

Adaptation component

- Bangladesh has put forward plans to enhance adaptive capacities and livelihood options for its 160 million people. Bangladesh has a long-term vision for adaptation with a strong focus on mitigation actions as well. The government has identified food security; health protection; comprehensive management of disasters; control over salinity intrusion, flood and river bank erosion; protective infrastructure; and enhancement of urban resilience among others for near term actions.

An Implementation roadmap has been developed for the time period of 2016-2025, with particular focus on the period up to 2020.



"Citizens at the grass root level feel the impact of climate change on their everyday life and building resilience of communities is very important for our lives, health and livelihood."

– Dr. Nurul Quadir
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of Bangladesh



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India Talanoa Dialogue



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Get involved

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

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