



## FEEDBACK REPORT:

### CITIES & REGIONS - TALANOA DIALOGUE

ACCRA, GHANA, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018

#### Introduction

A **Cities and regions Talanoa Dialogue**<sup>1</sup> event, organized by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (Africa and World Secretariat) in cooperation with UCLG Africa and funded through the Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa<sup>2</sup>, took place **in Accra, Ghana on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2018**. The event brought together 26 stakeholders from local government assemblies, relevant national government ministries and sector agencies as well as civil society organisations.

This report highlights key discussion points, outcomes and specific next steps that arose from the half-day event.

#### Context

At present, **urban communities contribute up to 70 percent of 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 jointly shape, align and implement climate policy at all levels.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cities-and-regions.org/>

<sup>2</sup> [Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa](#)





The concept of the **Talanoa Dialogue** was framed during the 23rd United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2017 (COP23) and serves as **an initial stocktaking exercise in 2018 to prepare for future NDCs submissions**. They 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.

As part of this wider global exercise, ICLEI is facilitating the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues with partners, through which cities, regions and their networks are inviting national governments to the table in around 40 countries to drive forward multilevel climate action worldwide.

## Format

The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue is guided by three simple questions, 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.

## Discussion Points and Action

Following an introduction of the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue to participants and a solidarity message via video recording from Gino van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI, discussions opened with an **overview of Ghana's NDCs** as presented by the country's Energy Commission. **Key points include:**





- In all, 20 mitigation and 11 adaptation programme of actions in 7 priority economic sectors are being proposed for implementation in the 10- year period (2020-2030). The implementation of the actions are expected to help attain low carbon climate resilience through effective adaptation and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction.
- Ghana’s emission reduction goal is to unconditionally lower its GHG emissions by 15 percent relative to a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario emission of 73.95MtCO<sub>2</sub>e 2 by 2030.
- An additional 30 percent emission reduction is attainable on condition that external support is made available to Ghana to cover the full cost of implementing the mitigation action (finance, technology transfer, capacity building). With this external support, a total emission reduction of 45% below the BUA emission levels can be achieved by 2030.
- The country’s NDCs will be updated every five years.
- The identified priority areas are: sustainable land use including food security, climate proof infrastructure, equitable social development, sustainable mass transportation, sustainable energy security, sustainable forest management; and alternative urban waste management.
- Hydro, wind and solar projects has been identified as energy options and a Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system is being investigated.
- In the 10-year period, Ghana will require USD 22.6 billion in investment from domestic and international, public and private sources to achieve NDC targets. USD 6.3 billion is expected to be mobilized from domestic sources whereas the USD 16.3 billion will have to be sourced from international investment.
- The sources for this provisional budget are diverse: domestic budget, corporate social responsibility, donors funding.

**The full INDC can be found here:**

[http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/PublishedDocuments/Ghana%20First/GH\\_INDC\\_2392015.pdf](http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/PublishedDocuments/Ghana%20First/GH_INDC_2392015.pdf)

The table below captures discussions held around the three Talanoa Dialogue questions:



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Question	Discussion Points
Where are we?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on NDC targets and ambitions was met with some surprise from Local Governments (LGs), some of whom were hearing about the country’s NDCs in the context of the global climate processes for the first time. Both local and national government participants agreed that there was little to no consultation between the various tiers of government on how the development of the NDCs has taken place up to this point. Current local level activities are not currently fully captured at national level but can greatly impact the achievement of NDC targets.</li> <li>• Policy wise, LGs make input into the medium to long-term national development framework spearheaded by the National Development Planning Commission through a broader stakeholder consultation, and they also have mandates to localise the development plans according to their local specificities. However, in implementing policies and development activities coordination between the levels of governments is often missing.</li> <li>• LGs learnt about the possibilities of accessing the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through a designated unit in charge of natural resources and climate change under the Ministry of Finance, aimed specifically at climate related projects at the local and sub-national level. There is also the District Development Fund (DDF) that District Assemblies could tap into, however LGs need training on developing robust climate project proposals.</li> <li>• It became apparent that much stronger communication systems need to be established not just vertically between the different tiers of government, but also horizontally between the different units within the same level of government.</li> <li>• LGs raised concerns around non-compliant industry activities particularly slaughter houses and the general burning of waste.</li> <li>• LGs further raised concerns that national scale climate activities are being undertaken in cities, towns and regions without consultation of the respective LGs in which such projects are established. This is causing a number of issues, including the failure of the project as local context, -ownership and -expertise are not being considered.</li> <li>• The actions of some NGOs were also brought into question: particularly community based projects that are established/implemented without consultation or approval from any tier of government.</li> </ul>





**Where do we want to go?**

- Local and national governments trained in- and to sensitise the general public to understand climate issues in relation to the overall development agenda and create awareness of the key processes, leading to transparency and accountability. This understanding should then be channelled into development and climate policies and action plans.
- LGs to be capacitated to develop robust proposals in order to attract financial investment from public, private and external sources.
- Ministry of Finance to coordinate and keep records for the flow of international donor funding that goes to the various government levels and sectors for climate actions.
- National and LGs to work together during reviews and updates of NDCs and to strengthen the local dimensions of the NDCs given the unique opportunities that LGs provide.
- National and LGs communicate and collaborate on all climate activities particularly during implementation.
- Within LGs, the District Chief Executives (DCEs) who are appointed by the president should work closely with the Assembly Members who are elected by their constituents.
- A number of registries are developed:
  - on NGOs; including regulatory guidelines and a monitoring and review system,
  - religious organisations as entities to promote and preserve climate related projects as well as
  - funding opportunities for LGs.
- Additionally a national database of projects is established to feed local climate related activities to national level and track proportion of mitigation/adaptation achieved in relation to NDC targets.



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How do we get there?

Specific activities identified which would assist in bridging the gap and encourage further collaboration include:

**for Local Governments**

- Undertake mapping exercise of industries within their jurisdiction – to feed into national database and assist in identifying mitigation and monitoring opportunities.
- Mainstream climate related activities into municipal development plans and strategies – ensure budget and resources are allocated to these activities.
- Religious organisations could be leveraged as key institutions to garner support and ownership from the public for local climate projects and activities.

**for National Government**

- Develop national climate plans and activities in consultation with LGs, these should include commitment mechanisms to guarantee outcomes.
- Coordinate support from NGOs and Civil Society Organisations through the Ministry of Social Welfare under which these organisations gain their mandates to operate
- A two year NDC sensibilization programme is currently being developed under the Ministry of Environment.
- Develop a consultative programme/pathway for moving forward.
- Investigate and scale-up of successful local projects.
- Provide bridging finance to support localised projects and start-ups.
- Communicate reports and decision making activities with LGs as soon as they are finalised.



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### Specific outcomes and next steps

The National Association of Local Authorities of Ghana (NALAG) expressed their interest to undertake further Talanoa Dialogues in the near future, with the intention of including a much wider scope of stakeholders and relevant actors. ICLEI Africa committed to assist them with this undertaken as and where possible.

This Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogue in Accra offered the opportunity for LG to learn for the first time about potential funding mechanisms through the Ministry of Finance. The next NALAG meeting should explore and engaging the Ministry of Finance to present to LGs such financial mechanisms at their disposal and the processes to tap into them. This forms part of a bigger commitment of the local government association to spearhead the scaling up of successful local climate initiatives.

Awareness created around international and regional initiatives for local governments such as the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) as the Africa regional chapter of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) aiming to build local capacities to address climate change. NALAG indicated their strong support of the initiative and commitment to coordinate with the Help Desk of CoM SSA in Accra for the benefit of their members.

The Environmental Protection Agency, A sector agency of the Ministry of Environment which is the focal point for the development of the NDCs agreed to establish a consultative programme, with open dialogue between all tiers of government to feed into further iterations of the NDC.



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