

The Talanoa Dialogue on Climate Ambition organized throughout 2018 in the context of the UN Climate Negotiations offers a significant opportunity for indigenous peoples' and civil society organizations to frame climate ambition in the context of human rights – including the rights of indigenous peoples, gender equality, the promotion of food security and a just transition, protecting ecosystems integrity, and public participation in decision-making.

This note provides detailed information on the Talanoa Dialogue process, identifies the different opportunities for stakeholders to provide input into the process, and offers guidance regarding how information about the importance of integrating rights to climate action can be incorporated as part of this process.

What: At the COP-21, the Parties decided to convene a facilitative dialogue in 2018 as an opportunity to raise the ambition of climate action by taking stock of progress towards the objectives of the Paris Agreement and by informing future national commitments.

The Fijian presidency, who led the COP-23, is in charge of the facilitation of the preparatory phase of the Dialogue (up to the end of November 2018) and has decided to rely on the Pacific tradition of "Talanoa" to foster consensus by relying on sharing stories and mutual listening while avoiding more contentious negotiations. Fiji also committed to conduct the dialogue in an inclusive and transparent manner.

Why: Given its participatory process and its focus on framing our understanding of climate ambition, the Talanoa Dialogue can be a particularly useful process to promote a collective understanding that rights are critical to effective climate action and to climate ambition.

The timing of the Dialogue could also contribute to facilitating the inclusion of rights in the implementation guidelines for the Paris Agreement, which will be finalized in December 2018 and will determine the extent to which the implementation of the Paris Agreement promotes human rights – including the rights of indigenous peoples, gender equality, the promotion of food security and a just transition, protecting ecosystems integrity, and ensuring public participation in decision-making.

How: Ensuring that inputs are submitted in line with the Talanoa methodology designed for the Dialogue will increase significantly the chances that these perspectives will be taken into consideration and reflected in the reports and events resulting from the Dialogue. Thus inputs should ideally emphasize real-world stories, good practices, or the positive experiences learned through challenges; highlight how the integration of human rights and associated principles contribute to enhance future climate ambition; and put forward clear, concise, and actionable inputs. The three guiding questions to structure the dialogue are: (1) where are we now? (2) where do we want to be? And (3) how do we get there?

While inputs can be submitted to the dedicated web portal until the end of the year, contributions uploaded prior to the April 2 deadline are most likely to influence the narrative emerging from the Dialogue.

Finally, inputs provided by civil society organizations should seek to reflect the understanding that climate ambition does not only relate to mitigation actions in individual countries but also include adaptation and loss and damage actions and that means of implementation (financial and technological support and capacity building) are keys to ambition.

The Talanoa Dialogue: a Facilitative Dialogue to Raise Ambition in 2018 and to Inform the Design of Future Nationally Determined Contributions

At the 2015 Paris Conference (COP-21), the Parties to the UNFCCC decided to convene a Facilitative Dialogue in 2018 as an opportunity to raise the ambition of climate action. The Parties set two objectives for the 2018 Dialogue:

- to take stock of collective progress towards the long-term goal of the Paris Agreement; and
- to inform the preparation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to be submitted by all parties in 2020.

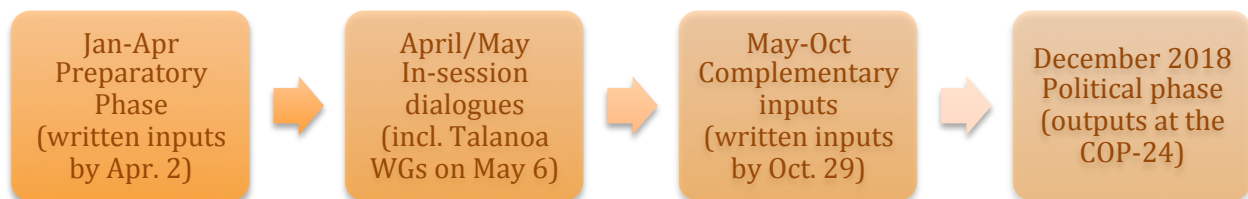
This Dialogue is facilitated jointly by the Fijian COP-23 presidency and by the Polish COP-24 presidency. Fiji has proposed to hold the Dialogue on the basis of Pacific tradition of “Talanoa” – an approach used by Pacific islanders to arrive at decisions through consensus, building empathy on the basis of sharing stories rather than through adversarial negotiations between groups. Fiji has also stressed that the process should be inclusive, participatory, and transparent and that inputs provided must aim at promoting constructive and respectful discussions without finger pointing and blame. The Talanoa Dialogue is structured along three guiding questions:

- Where are we?
- Where do we want to go?
- How do we get there?

Additionally, the presidencies have encouraged Parties and non-Party stakeholders to cooperate in convening local, national, regional, or global events in support of the Dialogue.

A staged approach with multiple entry points for civil society

The Talanoa Dialogue was initially launched in January 2018 and will conclude during the COP-24 in December 2018. It is structured on the basis of a staged approach offering multiple opportunities for Parties and stakeholders to provide input.



January – April: Preparatory Phase of the Talanoa Dialogue

During the first part of the preparatory phase, Parties and non-state actors have the opportunity to provide written inputs to the Dialogue through an online platform (video input will also be accepted): <https://talanoadialogue.com/>

Anyone with relevant information can contribute to this phase of the Dialogue (observer status to the UNFCCC is not a prerequisite). Contributors submitting written input have to identify which guiding question(s) their contribution addresses. All inputs provided are available to the public on the basis of this indication. The Fijian presidency has however indicated that it would reject submissions that do not respect the Talanoa approach, for instance those considered as seeking to name, shame, and blame specific actors.

A report will be prepared by the Fijian presidency in April based on all the information provided prior to the April 2 Deadline.

The presidency has emphasized that, due to the high number of submissions expected, information would be most likely to be taken into consideration if it addresses specifically one or more of the guiding questions and if it is submitted in a manner that is clear, concise, and actionable. Joint submissions from coalitions are also encouraged and research data or reports should ideally be referred to in submissions, but not submitted in their entirety.

April/May: Sessions of the UNFCCC bodies with In-session Dialogues

The second stage of the dialogue will take place during the climate negotiations held in Bonn from April 30th to May 10th. These events will include an opening during a plenary meeting to introduce the methodology, followed by a series of 6 parallel dialogues on Sunday May 6th and concluding with a closing meeting in plenary setting.

The dialogues will seek to promote in-depth discussions through the Talanoa approach. Each of the six Working Groups will be constituted with 30 States, 5 Non-state stakeholders' representatives and one Fijian facilitator. The Working Groups will meet for three successive sessions to address separately each of the guiding questions. Each participant will be offered the opportunity to share one *positive* and one *challenging* story to address each of these questions. The modalities for the selection of the non-state representatives remain to be determined.

The presidency has specifically invited the participants to these dialogues to be ready to address the following issues:

- Expectations about the Dialogue;
- Views on concrete progress made since the Paris Agreement entered into force;
- Efforts in relation to action and support, as appropriate, in the pre-2020 period;
- Initiatives to enhance cooperation on climate change;
- Key transformational solutions in line with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement;
- Efforts to address climate change, vision for the future, and means to achieve these, including any action that could be taken within the UNFCCC.



On the basis of these parallel discussions, the Fijian presidency will prepare a report to be shared during the second week of the negotiations. The two presidencies will then present an overview

of the inputs discussed during the Talanoa Dialogue in a closing meeting held in a plenary setting during the negotiation session.

May – October: Preparatory Phase of the Talanoa Dialogue (ctd)

The preparatory phase of the Talanoa Dialogue will continue until October 29th with the opportunity for Parties and Stakeholders to provide additional inputs via the online portal. It should be noted however that this second phase of the Dialogue will be dominated by two key events.

First, the [Global Climate Action Summit](#) will take place in San Francisco on September 12-14th with a strong focus on the role played by non-state actors (first and foremost businesses and local/regional governments) in combating climate change. Secondly, on October 7th the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will release its [Special Report](#) dedicated to “the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways”.

The Fijian presidency will prepare another report prior to the COP-24 based on the additional inputs to be released prior to the COP-24. Given the prominence of these two events, we expect that civil society’s inputs are less likely to be reflected meaningfully during this third stage of the process.

December 2018: Political Phase of the Dialogue

The Talanoa Dialogue will conclude with a political phase to be organized during the COP-24, held from December 3 to 14 in Katowice, Poland. This political phase will bring together high-level representatives from the Parties to address the two issues on the agenda of the Talanoa Dialogue: taking stock of collective progress and informing the preparation of future NDCs.

The modalities for this phase are not defined at this stage but there has not been any reference to a role for non-state actors during this ultimate stage of the Dialogue. It is also worth noting that Poland will assume the presidency of the COP at this stage and will thus have a greater say during this phase of the Talanoa Dialogue (officially, both presidencies will be jointly in charge of this final stage). The upcoming Polish presidency has already made clear that ambition was not their priority for the COP and their approach to the Talanoa Dialogue is expected to differ significantly from that of Fiji.

Providing Input to the Talanoa Dialogue on Rights-based Climate Action

The modalities for the first three stages of the Talanoa Dialogue are more inclusive than the usual UNFCCC process and provide a real opportunity for civil society to participate meaningfully in the Dialogue. The guiding questions selected by the Fijian presidency also provide an opportunity to reframe climate action and climate ambition in a wider context not limited to a quantitative assessment of the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases but that also includes the realization of rights – including the rights of indigenous peoples, gender equality, the promotion of food security and a just transition, protecting ecosystems integrity, and ensuring public participation in decision-making.

As the specific nature of the policy outcomes of the Dialogue remain unclear at this stage, the Dialogue’s main added value for the promotion of rights-based climate action relates to the opportunity to reframe the linkages between human rights and climate ambition and to build

understanding among climate negotiators and other stakeholders on the importance of integrating rights in climate policies.

In this context, it is also important to contribute to the understanding that climate ambition includes not only mitigation actions, but also adaptation and loss and damage activities and policies and to stress that means of implementation are keys to achieving the collective objectives of the Paris Agreement.

To increase the chances for inputs to be taken into consideration, organizations working to promote rights should consider the following:

- **Working with partners to submit collective contributions**
- **Putting forward clear, concise, and actionable inputs that directly address one or more of the guiding questions**
- **Respecting the Talanoa methodology and emphasizing real-world testimonies, good practices, or positive experiences learned from challenges**
- **Considering providing input ahead of the April 2nd deadline as the capacity to frame the narrative emerging from the Dialogue might be more limited afterwards**
- **Seeking to address in particular the third guiding question, highlighting how the integration of rights can contribute to enhance future climate ambition.**

This methodology differs from that of typical human rights-related reports focused on cases of human rights violations, the identification of actors responsible, and specific policy proposals to remedy to these violations. Respecting the methodology put forward by the Fijian presidency is however critical to ensure that inputs are not rejected or ignored.

More information on the Talanoa Dialogue can be found here:

Talanoa Dialogue – Everything You Need to Know (COP-23 presidency webpage)

<https://cop23.com.fj/talanoa-dialogue/>

High-Level Champions' letter to non-Party stakeholders: Invitation to provide input to the Talanoa Dialogue

https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/9fc76f74-a749-4eec-9a06-5907e013dbc9/downloads/1c79cps38_40785.pdf

Approach to organizing the Talanoa Dialogue in the first half of 2018

https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/9fc76f74-a749-4eec-9a06-5907e013dbc9/downloads/1c6ng599a_875385.pdf

Outline of the Talanoa Dialogue Process

https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/9fc76f74-a749-4eec-9a06-5907e013dbc9/downloads/1c6ng41bj_279497.pdf