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BRIEF

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MORE, FASTER, NOW: ENHANCED PRE-2020 ACTION

The next few years are critical in determining if long term goals are to be reached

Introduction

World leaders have agreed to keep global warming “well below 2°C”, with an aspirational goal of 1.5°C. In order to achieve this, large-scale climate action cannot wait until the Paris Agreement, with targets for 2025 and 2030, is implemented. The Paris Agreement sends the right long-term signals, but does not commit enough specific action in the next few critical years. In fact, countries’ current climate plans allow global emissions to increase until 2030 to a level 38% higher than allowable even under a very risky 2°C trajectory¹. Furthermore, from the IPCC AR5 report, we know that at current emissions levels the carbon budget for a strong likelihood (66%) of keeping warming below 1.5°C could be exhausted in as little as six years². With the current INDCs even the carbon budget for a 50% likelihood of keeping warming below 1.5°C will be exhausted by 2025³. If more is not done now, action under the Paris Agreement will be too little too late.

1. UNFCCC. 2016. Aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions: an update. FCCC/CP/2016/2. Available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/02.pdf>. Accessed 9 May 2016
2. CarbonBrief. 2014. Six years worth of current emissions would blow the carbon budget for 1.5 degrees. Available at <http://bit.ly/1RkZMzI>. Accessed 27 April 2016.
3. UNFCCC. 2016. Aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions: an update. FCCC/CP/2016/2. Available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/cop22/eng/02.pdf>. Accessed 9 May 2016

In light of this, it was decided in Paris that the work on enhancing action prior to 2020 (previously known as ADP Workstream 2) will continue. The UNFCCC session in May is the first opportunity for Parties to prove that they intend to turn promises and discussions into real emission reductions and development co-benefits. This should take place through:

- **Formally increasing the 2020 targets by developed countries and other Parties willing to and in a position to do so.**
- **Enhancing the provision of means of implementation, especially financial assistance and the available support.**
- **International cooperation to create additional mitigation and adaptation action.**

We believe governments can still change their plans if there is sufficient political will, and **demand that Parties at least express their intent to go beyond their existing targets with specific policy measures.** This could take the form of official statements or speeches if targets are not formally increased. Any increases or promises must however come with specific additional action, such as a resolve to strengthen existing targets for renewable energy, beyond any submitted pledge.

There is also a significant gap between what developed countries have pledged for climate finance (100 billion USD per year by 2020) and what has been delivered and this issue must be addressed. Delivery of this money is in many cases a prerequisite for increased targets and action from developing countries. In Paris Parties resolved to present a concrete roadmap for

delivery of the finance goal. **At SB44, WWF expects developed country Parties to be proactive about drafting this roadmap, and clarity from the Secretariat on who will lead the work.** The final result should be presented at COP22 at the latest.

More, faster, now: new and additional mitigation and adaptation action before 2020

Whether pre-2020 targets are formally increased or not, there remains great untapped potential for mitigation and adaptation action with significant co-benefits for poverty reduction and development in the pre-2020 period, in energy production and use, industrial processes, transport, cities and built environments, the forest and land sector, ecosystem services, food production, and more. The COP21 decisions established infrastructure to unleash this potential including through the high-level champions, the annual high-level events, and the technical examination processes for mitigation and adaptation. If these can be used to unlock additional multilateral cooperation and state/non-state collaboration they can drive transformational change. To this end the technical expert meetings (TEMs) need to be results-focused and to identify concrete next steps to overcoming barriers to implementation or to scale up specific, credible, and impactful transformational initiatives.

Barriers to finance, technology and capacity building will very likely be central to the new adaptation TEMs (TEM-A) as they have been in the mitigation TEMs (TEM-M). The workshop on adaptation finance

under the work programme on long-term climate finance (18 May) has many topical linkages to the TEM-A. Several of the same bodies are involved. To avoid duplication and create synergies a report on the outcomes should be made to the adaptation TEMs, as an input to the discussions on enhancing the implementation of adaptation action (24 May), and developing effective policy frameworks and institutional arrangements for adaptation planning and implementation (25 May).

In addition to mainstreaming finance and other support in the adaptation TEMs, possible TEMs topics include adaptation related to the cities and the built environment, learning from indigenous people's knowledge, ecosystem-based approaches, and sector-specific action such as on food and water. Next, looking at business opportunities for adaptation could help leverage action from non-state actors by creating a space and tapping the business community's knowledge and resources for adaptation action.

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The mitigation TEMs should look into **building globally transformative initiatives in specific sectors and technologies**, such as short lived climate pollutants, low carbon transportation, the complete phase out of incandescent light bulbs, and national policies on green quantitative easing and green procurement. Here too, unlocking support must be on the agenda. We also ask the SBI and SBSTA to improve the balance between focusing on opportunities in developed and developing countries.

WWF has supported the appointment of high-level champions to facilitate the implementation of existing and new voluntary efforts, initiatives, and coalitions. For them to turn opportunities identified in the technical processes into action, we need a clear plan for what happens outside of the TEMs. The champions should produce a scenario note for 2016 and 2017, in cooperation with the SBI and SBSTA Chairs, to be presented shortly after the May session. This should include plans and milestones for the TEMs, the champions' engagement with Parties and non-Party stakeholders, and, importantly, resource mobilization. We ask that adaptation be given special consideration and that the scenario note take into account the outcomes of the 18 May workshop on adaptation finance.

The note should also indicate plans for the first annual high-level event on enhanced action prior to 2020 at COP22. This event must be the culmination of the champions' efforts, an occasion for them, the Parties, and non-Party stakeholders to announce efforts, initiatives, and coalitions for mitigation and adaptation and share progress and lessons from previous commitments and initiatives.

Transformational initiatives such as the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, the Africa Initiative on Adaptation, the International Solar Alliance, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition illustrate the potential of collaboration to unlock enhanced action. New actions like these, for both mitigation and adaptation, should be launched at the COP22 high-level event.

However, WWF is deeply concerned that, in the absence of strong agreed criteria, false solutions may creep into the portfolio of initiatives. For the action agenda under the UNFCCC to build credibility and gain political influence, the projects and initiatives presented at technical meetings and highlighted at high-level events must provide real and significant emissions reductions and/or enhanced resilience. They must contain specific and measurable commitments and reporting plans, and clearly **demonstrate respect for human rights,**

environmental integrity, and food sovereignty, in line with the Paris Agreement and also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We therefore ask that the SBI and SBSTA initiate a process to develop such criteria, working with the champions, the UNFCCC Secretariat, and other relevant UNFCCC bodies.

Decision-making structures for pre-2020 action

In Bonn, Parties need to come to a joint understanding of the decision-making structures to deliver enhanced pre-2020 action, in terms of existing 2020 pledges and unlocking additional action for mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation. At present many bodies are involved. It is concerning that half a year has already been lost while there is uncertainty about the roles of different stakeholders.

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