

19 February 2018

Suggested approach to organizing the Talanoa Dialogue in the first half of 2018

The Talanoa Dialogue was launched at COP 23 in Bonn. This Dialogue is a global conversation about efforts to combat climate change in which Parties and non-Party stakeholders are invited to get actively engaged and interact around the following questions:

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

The preparatory phase will take place from January to December 2018 in accordance with the approach welcomed by the COP and included in annex II to decision 1/CP.23 – Fiji Momentum for Implementation.

The objective of this note is to share the latest thoughts from the Presidencies on how the Dialogue would be conducted in the first half of 2018. Additional information, including for the second half of the year, will be made available in due course.

1. January to April

In the period from January to April, the Presidencies would like to encourage Parties and non-Party stakeholders to cooperate in convening local, national, regional or global events in support of the Talanoa Dialogue. It is suggested, for example, that they organize discussions around the three questions identified above and that they inform the Presidencies and the UNFCCC secretariat of any such event in advance so that information can be made available on the Talanoa Dialogue Online Platform.

Further, the Presidencies encourage Parties and non-Party stakeholders to get engaged in the Talanoa Dialogue through the submission of inputs. Such inputs could include relevant studies or point of views in the form of documents, presentations or videos. All inputs should be sent through the Talanoa Dialogue Online Platform, which provides information on the process for submission. In considering submitting an input, the Presidencies' request Parties and non-Party stakeholders to consider:

- Whether the input in question is relevant and to which of the three questions;
- What would be the objective of the input in the context of a multilateral dialogue; and
- Whether to join efforts in submitting inputs.

The deadline for the submission of inputs is 2 April 2018. Any input received later to that deadline will still appear on the Talanoa Dialogue Online Platform, but will not be part of the materials that the secretariat will produce in time for the April/May session.

2. April/May sessions

2.1 Overview

At the April/May sessions, work under the Talanoa Dialogue will explore the three questions of the Dialogue, informed by inputs from various actors and institutions, including from the Technical Examination Process and the Global Climate Action agenda.

The May sessions will be the first opportunity for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to interact and engage in a Dialogue which is constructive, facilitative, transparent and, above all, solutions oriented.

This suggested approach for the April/May sessions has been developed having in mind time and space limitations, in particular to ensure that the meetings of the Dialogue do not take place at the expense of other priorities.

The proposed arrangements are as follows:

- An **opening meeting** in plenary setting where the Presidencies will brief Parties and non-Party stakeholders on the overview of inputs received.
- An **in-depth discussion of the three questions** of the Dialogue, following the tradition of Talanoa (see below). This discussion will take place on Sunday, 6 May 2018.
- A **Report back meeting**, to be held the following week, where the facilitators will report back on the discussions undertaken under each question, and where Parties and non-Party stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide feedback.
- A **closing meeting** in plenary setting, where the Presidencies will provide an overview of the entire discussions held.

The opening and closing meetings will be conducted in accordance with established UNFCCC procedures and practice of plenary meetings.

In addition, it is expected that during the May sessions, Parties and non-Party stakeholders will organize events and discussions as part of the Talanoa Dialogue. The Presidencies, with support from the secretariat, will provide an overview of such events.

2.2 Inputs

The Talanoa Dialogue will be conducted with a sound basis of inputs submitted by Parties and non-Party stakeholders through the Talanoa Dialogue Online Platform. In addition, the Presidencies will make available the following documents:

- A copy of the synthesis report on the aggregate effect of INDCs, which was prepared by the secretariat in response to a mandate by the COP;
- An overview of inputs to the Talanoa Dialogue by Parties and non-Party stakeholders, with the objective of: simplifying the wealth of information received; make participants aware of inputs received.

2.3 In-depth discussion through Talanoa

As noted above, an in-depth consideration of the three questions of the Talanoa Dialogue will be held on Sunday, 6 May 2018. These discussions will proceed following the tradition of Talanoa espousing inclusive, participatory and transparent Dialogue. The purpose of these discussions will be to share stories, build empathy and trust.

To this end:

- Talanoa groups will be set up and will work in parallel to address each of the three questions at a time; in other words, each Talanoa group will meet three times during the day.
- The questions will be taken up in sequence, so that all parallel Talanoa groups will consider the same question at the same time: Where are we? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?
- Each question will be considered for about 2.5 hrs., with breaks in between. A detailed schedule will be made available in due course.
- Each Talanoa group will consist of about 35 participants: 30 Party representatives and 5 non-Party stakeholder representatives. Additional details on how to participate in any of the Talanoa groups will be communicated in due course.
- Each Talanoa group will be moderated by a national from Fiji with the experience and knowledge on the Talanoa tradition.
- During the discussions, participants will be invited to share their stories which relate to the question being considered. They will have an opportunity to share one positive and one challenging story if they so wish. Given time constraints, stories and interventions will need to be clear and concise.
- The main messages from the discussions in the Talanoa groups will be highlighted at the Report back session where participants will have an opportunity to provide feedback.
- These messages will be made available on the Talanoa Dialogue Online Platform.

2.4 Documentation

Following the April/May sessions, a formal summary of the procedure and substance of the Talanoa Dialogue during the April/May sessions will be made available.

In addition, a synthesis of information and insights of the preparatory phase will be prepared by the Presidencies to provide a foundation for the political phase. This document will be made available close to COP 24.

2.5 Expectations about participation

The Talanoa Dialogue will be a space for open, constructive and respectful discussions devoid of finger pointing and blame. It will be an opportunity to consider the substance of the three questions of the Dialogue and share views on the key messages that should be highlighted as part of the preparatory phase.

The Presidencies encourage everyone to reflect on how this process can proceed so as to deliver on the mandate and, above all, promote enhanced ambition.

Parties and non-Party stakeholders are advised to be ready to contribute with concrete ideas on:

- Expectations about the Dialogue;
- Views on concrete progress made since entering into force of the Paris Agreement;
- 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 temperature goal of the Paris Agreement; and
- Efforts to address climate change, vision for the future and means to achieve these, including any action that could be taken within the UNFCCC.

It is important for all actors to consider that the preparatory phase should facilitate and ease the work of high level representatives, including ministers, at the political phase. There is an opportunity to, through the Talanoa Dialogue, send a positive and strong political signal to the international community to increase efforts in order to pursue of the objectives of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. The Presidencies invite everyone to reflect on the actions which the UNFCCC process and its bodies may take to promote ambition and help Parties and non-Party stakeholders achieve their climate objectives and long term vision, and share these ideas during the preparatory phase.

3. Preliminary information on the Talanoa Dialogue between April/May and December

The preparatory phase is expected to run throughout the year and until COP 24. Additional information on the conduct of the preparatory phase will be provided after the April/May sessions. The Presidencies further encourage Parties and non-Party stakeholders to continue to cooperate in convening local, national, regional or global events in support of the Talanoa Dialogue. A second deadline for inputs has been set for 29 October 2018. Any input received later to that deadline will still appear on the Platform, but will not be part of the materials that the secretariat produce in time for COP 24.