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Building a Movement on Open Government for Climate Action

The Sixth Global Gathering of The Access Initiative (TAI)

Location: 27 Rue de la Convention, Paris

Date: December 5-6, 2016

(Pre-event, Open Government Partnership Global Summit)

Vision, Themes, and Anticipated Outcomes

Background

Since its inception in 1999, the Access Initiative (TAI)—a global civil society network—has convened *Global Gatherings* of its members to 1) strategize and develop innovative responses to environmental governance problems, 2) build members' capacity to use new research platforms, and 3) coordinate more effectively to influence multilateral policy arenas. Previous Global Gatherings have amplified civil society demands during Rio +20 (2012) and built the capacity of advocates to use cutting-edge data platforms to monitor deforestation (2014). In 2016, TAI and WRI are teaming with Transparency International, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Open Government Partnership, Hivos, and the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) to host a Global Gathering on Open Government for Climate Action just prior to the Open Government Partnership's (OGP) global summit and after COP22, Marrakesh 2016. The outcomes from this event will support more robust engagement by civil society in national and subnational climate campaigns, inform future commitments in OGP member's National Action Plans, and identify legal, institutional, and political challenges that civil society coalitions can help address to support Paris Agreement implementation.

Overall purpose

The 2016 Global Gathering will bring together civil society from climate and open government communities to develop gender-responsive strategies and share learning on how the OGP platform can deliver transformative commitments on climate governance that can help catalyze implementation of the Paris Agreement while supporting human rights. A successful Gathering would accomplish three broad objectives:

1. Develop compelling and innovative ideas for ambitious commitments to transparent, participatory, and accountable climate policy implementation through National Action Plans in the OGP (considering which collective commitments have received support), and identify institutional, political, or capacity barriers to effective realization.
2. Provide skill-building, knowledge sharing, and new partnership opportunities to support all participants (OGP and non-OGP) to engage more substantively in the design and implementation monitoring of national climate policies.
3. Develop a stronger common understanding between climate and open government communities on when and where their goals and strategies intersect and where opportunities lie for future coalition-building to achieve shared goals.

Global Gathering participants will include experts on open government and open data, UNFCCC processes, climate finance, adaptation, and justice, as well as the institutions and politics at the national level. A wide range of countries will be represented, with an emphasis on the Global South. The Gathering will directly support the climate and sustainable development stream of workshops and events at the OGP summit, but will also support the full participation of representatives from several non-OGP countries throughout the event. For those new to the OGP, Global Gathering facilitators will share how and under what conditions OGP commitments have been most effective in creating change. The Gathering will also emphasize how decision-makers can be gender-responsive when implementing climate and sustainable development policy to ensure equity and protect human rights.

Key thematic Issue Areas that will be addressed include:

- **Coalition building**: Multistakeholder coalitions have proven effective in overcoming political barriers—how can the climate and open government communities work together effectively to meet their goals through the OGP and other platforms for Climate Action?
- **Inclusive and equitable climate policy and legislative development**: Many Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement were developed in short time frames and often without sufficient public engagement—how could a more open and inclusive process in implementation (policies, legislation) increase the likelihood of meeting targets and increasing ambition and what factors (political, institutional, legislative) are key to making this happen?
- **Leveraging open climate data**: How can open, accessible climate data (including emissions, finance, scenarios, vulnerability, and impacts) catalyze climate action—what data are already made available and do they match (in substance and format) what stakeholders need?
- **Ensuring open and accountable climate finance**: Both developed and developing countries have obligations to promote transparent climate finance delivery and its effectiveness is critical to reducing emissions, building resilience and achieving sustainable development objectives. What approaches can participants take back home to push for more transparent oversight and disclosure of climate finance streams?
- **Creating effective tools and tactics**: How can civic tech tools support civil society goals and how different users can engage and use them strategically?

All Global Gathering participants will have a voice in shaping the agenda, and the number of sessions on each topic will reflect their interests and expertise.

Anticipated Outcomes:

1. Groundwork laid for future collaborations between open government and climate advocates—either through international processes such as UNFCCC and OGP or through informal networks.
2. Participants leave with motivation and knowledge to advocate strongly for the creation of gender-responsive, open climate commitments in Government Action Plans in (2017) through the Open Government Partnership.
3. An assessment of the political and institutional roadblocks preventing open and inclusive climate decision-making and the development of movement-building solutions drawing from partnerships, research, and communications.
4. Improved participant knowledge on transparency initiatives, climate policy tracking tools and the involvement of non-state actors in national, regional and international spaces to increase the ambition of countries' climate commitments.