



The
Access
Initiative

OPEN GOVERNMENT FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Global Gathering of The Access
Initiative Network Outcomes Report

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INTRODUCTION

Every two years, [The Access Initiative](#) (TAI) network gathers diverse organizations and advocates to share knowledge, strategize and strengthen the community of practice on environmental democracy (transparency, public participation and accountability in environmental decision-making). The 2016 TAI Global Gathering was held in Paris, France just prior to the [Open Government Partnership](#) (OGP) Summit in December. This 5th Global Gathering included 118 participants from 48 countries under the theme “*Building a Movement on Open Government for Climate Action.*” The event was sponsored by the World Resources Institute (WRI) along with the Open Government Partnership Support Unit, Transparency International (TI), Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Aspiration Technology and Hivos.

The overall goal of the 2016 Global Gathering was to catalyze greater collaboration between the open government community, familiar with rights based approaches to governance, and those with technical expertise on climate policy, in order to strengthen national and regional networks for more fair, accountable, and ambitious climate action. Under this goal, there were 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.



The organizers sought to meet these objectives by providing a space for cross-disciplinary strategizing and collaboration on how to build enabling environments at the country-level that support transparent, inclusive and accountable implementation of UNFCCC obligations while fully leveraging the opportunities provided by the OGP. The framework for the event was an agenda that every single participant had an opportunity to help shape. Organizers surveyed event participants to assess whether they agreed with proposed themes and the types of issues and outcomes they saw as critical to address and achieve. The ideas generated by this iterative engagement created the agenda content—thereby ensuring inclusion and ownership across a range of skills and experiences. The agreed-upon themes for the event were:

- **Multistakeholder coalition-building**—bridging communities to find common interests and complementary strengths.
- **Inclusive and equitable climate policy and legislative development**—strategies and tactics to overcome political and institutional barriers to create more open and inclusive processes to drive timely implementation of current climate commitments and increased ambition in future cycles.
- **Leveraging open climate data:** How open, accessible climate data (including emissions, finance, scenarios, vulnerability, and impacts) can help catalyze climate action and which data are the highest priority and hardest to find in different countries.
- **Ensuring open and accountable climate finance:** What skills, tools, and regulations and help civil society be more effectively engaged in oversight of climate finance?
- **Creating effective tools and tactics:** How can civic tech tools support civil society goals and how different users can engage and use them strategically?

The Global Gathering was structured to provide space for interactive skill shares, small group’s discussions, and an action planning session. The first day focused on identifying common areas of interest, understanding of language and context, building a foundation for sharing between two diverse communities and discussing desired outcomes. Participants also had the chance to discuss points of contention and possible disagreement. Day two included a skill share, and demonstration of tools for effective monitoring and advocacy including regional groupings. Collaborative action planning was a highlight of this final day including developing messages to take to the OGP Summit.

Specific areas of focus included opportunities for engagement around open data, climate accountability and monitoring the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Another key area of focus was the need for increased transparency of climate finance and shifting investments to the needs of the most affected, and addressing differentiated impact based on gender, poverty and vulnerability. Sessions were also held to discuss new advocacy strategies for climate protection including in cities, through climate litigation, and parliamentary advocacy.

At the end of the Gathering, participants created over a dozen concrete proposals for action on themes such as climate finance accountability, litigation, open data climate, strengthening networks, and building the capacity of civil society to more effectively monitor climate relevant commitments. The timing of the Gathering enabled the momentum and ideas to flow into the OGP summit, including obtaining commitments from governments and civil society to create an Open Climate Working Group in the OGP.

KEY RESULTS

This report summarizes the key takeaways from Global Gathering Sessions:

Civil Society Monitoring of Climate Change Commitments

This session included a discussion on tools already in existence that assist civil society in monitoring climate change commitments and policy implementation. Participants discussed steps to demand transparency in the implementation of climate commitments and determined that sector-level monitoring priorities in each country will vary depending on the country's emissions profile. Existing tools for monitoring were defined as “soft” and “hard” and included: [Global Forest Watch](#); [Budget Transparency Initiative](#); Surveys; Corruption Risk Assessments; [Climate Analytics](#); [Info Amazonia](#); [China Air Quality Apps](#); and [Smart Citizen apps](#).

Conclusion: One major takeaway was that civil society needs to connect transparency and accountability platforms (such as those listed above) to UNFCCC processes. OGP is an important platform but does not have universal membership. OGP shadow reports and the [Independent Reporting Mechanism](#) measure progress in implementation of open government commitments and may be supportive of UNFCCC obligations towards greater transparency. Participants identified the following challenges: unavailability of different types of data for tracking (e.g. coal fired power plants, energy balance data); a need to develop capacity of civil society to demand release of information to enable monitoring; a state of play of climate datasets and their openness at the national level; and defining methodologies for tracking climate policy implementation. The group concluded that power mapping exercises can build capacity to monitor implementation, and that more support is needed to integrate data from online tools into the tracking and monitoring systems within the UNFCCC. Governments also need to use civil society data and buy into a transparency agenda on climate.

Making Climate Decision-making More Inclusive—A Focus on the African Continent

The session discussed several key priorities and challenges for improving participation of the public in Africa in climate change decision-making, including to: 1) Expand multi-stakeholders involvement (from multiple levels through mapping and identifying champions in government and communities; 2) ensure participation is a right to strengthen the voices of the people and; 3) equip/enhance the capacity of citizens and civil society to effectively engage and influence the process (demand transparency, inclusiveness and accountability).

Conclusion: Significant work has to be done to improve the policy framework and legislative framework for transparency and accountability in many countries in Africa and raise the profile of climate change as a priority at the national level.



Monitoring of NDC to Have Improved Outcomes

Participants discussed their involvement in NDC creation and their assessment of the process with specific recommendations for improvement. Many participants noted that their national process for NDC preparation was rushed with no formal procedure for monitoring. On the other hand, Transparency International, which includes several national chapters, indicated that they were able to access and influence multiple NDCs to include climate finance commitments. Participants noted that few governments shared details on how they engaged the public in their national process, as this was not required. Other challenges identified included: 1) difficulties in obtaining quality data and documentation to monitor NDC implementation; 2) the wide spectrum of topical expertise required to engage effectively, and; 3) the lack of subnational governments included in some countries' national processes, particularly given their importance for GHG reductions and resilience. There was an expressed demand for implementation guidance. Civil society needs to compare ambition between countries on a policy level and assess what is the ambition gap (nationally and regionally). Where national processes were closed, some participants suggested setting up parallel processes to champion ambition with a proper inclusive dialogue. GEF will be providing funding to support a [transparent implementation process of NDC's](#) and civil society should be able to participate.

Conclusion: Civil society's role will include pressuring governments to release data relevant to NDC implementation, as well as possibly shadow reporting¹ on NDC preparation. Civil society at the national level need space and access to help determine and assess levels of ambition, based on non-conditional and conditional targets. Accountability mechanisms within this framework also need to be galvanized, e.g. Parliaments, commissions relevant to climate. Finally, there is a need to support more capacity building and standardization of reporting. Dashboards to compare countries implementation will be critical.

1 Shadow reporting refers to independent monitoring to corroborate or critique official government accounts

Climate Finance Accountability: Lessons from the Field

This session defined climate finance accountability as covering how climate change finance decisions are made, that financial flows following those decisions, and recourse for when they do not. It was noted that for national level accountability some key lessons have been learnt, such as: 1) community engagement and participation are important to achieve greater accountability and ensure that beneficiaries are not shortchanged; 2) civil society's analysis of use of climate finance can strengthen systems for accountability and increase the ability of civil society to act as watchdogs; 3) accreditation of national agencies should be dependent on effectiveness in implementation; and 4) ex-ante and ex-post analysis of climate finance interventions need to be undertaken to assess effectiveness and impact.

Conclusion: Challenges include: 1) underutilized access to information laws where they have been implemented; 2) the lack of a definition of climate finance at the international level hampers effective accountability measurement; 3) institutional coordination and oversight by the legislature, and improved donor audit systems are needed for greater accountability; 4) not implementing budget by results can be an effective tool to improve accountability.

Climate Change Finance, Policies and Open Data in Asia

This session discussed priorities on climate finance and priority national policies including the need for development of regional standards on climate change. Participants noted a number of challenges in Asia including: 1) lack of policies to increase access to renewable energy; 2) lack of focus on inequity; 3) lack of political will in some countries to take climate change seriously even after natural disasters; 4) lack of policy and legislation in specific countries to drive change (e.g. legislation and policy in India relevant to climate change despite large emission targets).

Participants expressed concerns about the changing geo-political nature of the region; the closing of civic space for civil society; funder priorities to only focus on China and India and the lack of cross country learning opportunities. There has been a move to open up data and there are success stories in China, India and Japan. Difficulties exist across the region including Kyrgyzstan, Laos and in Cambodia which have not agreed to open government principles. It was noted that Indonesia and Korea are members of the OGP.



Conclusion: Platforms for learning and collaboration are needed in the region. Only some countries are part of OGP which may restrict the utility of this forum. There is great potential in action with the private sector in the region and a need to focus the narrative on open data rather than rights (which is often politically contentious). Independent climate finance monitoring and accountability networks in Asia need support and development.

Climate Finance for All

Participants discussed the importance of the effective use of climate finance for stakeholder-identified priorities and creating country ownership especially for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The balance between mitigation and adaptation spending is crucial to determine at the country level. Indicators of progress in climate finance accountability (from public and private sources) could include: 1) use of finance efficiently, 2) engagement of stakeholders including women and, 3) distribution of finance. Climate change laws can reduce the uncertainty for finance. Recipient government agencies must have convening power across government including (for example): planning, finance, local government, agriculture, and environment. Clear procedures for distribution of funds and requesting funds is critical. Contracts for use of funding must be transparent including determination and review of projects.

Conclusion: Climate finance decision-making should be inclusive with gender balance taken into account. Three key takeaways from the session were 1) appropriate use of climate finance depends on a participatory approach that includes outreach to different ministries (inter-ministerial committees), 2) the importance of institutionalization of knowledge to ensure outcomes at the right level, and ownership of process especially on finance, and 3) importance of the creation of climate champions including women, youth and CSOs.

Litigation on Climate

Participants discussed existing climate litigation and the possibility of such under the Paris Agreement. The discussion distinguished between challenging administrative actions, direct court cases on climate change and including the issue of climate in cases on land use, rights, energy, etc. For instance, recent climate litigation in the US which has its basis in constitutional doctrine cases rather than [US administrative action](#). Cases discussed included those in the Netherlands, Pakistan, the US, and Belize. Also mentioned was the possibility of using concepts like atmospheric trust, administrative assessment of climate change and/or use of cases on EIAs. While judges are starting to be more aware of climate change nationally, judicial capacity building is still a major area of work in some countries. There was discussion of how NDCs could be useful in climate litigation and / or the language of the Paris Agreement including use of human rights principles.

Conclusion: The discussion concluded that donors should fund a litigation preparedness group that trains lawyers in key countries where a potential climate case could be successfully brought to court. The strategy would focus on determining the issue, plaintiffs, litigants, venue, and opportunity for scaling to other countries.

Mechanisms to Increase Transparency and Public Participation in Climate Change Decision-making

A range of mechanisms were identified that could be used to increase transparency and public participation including National Climate Change law, transparency laws, implementation of the law through government climate bodies, national budget, strategies; and environmental laws. Within the definition of transparency, participants included requirements to report data; mandating proactive disclosure; demanding release of information and enforcement of the right to information through administrative means including tribunals (e.g. Chile). There is a need for these rights to be enforceable; using tools like referendums available at local or national levels (e.g. Belize); and demanding government takes into account civil society's views through participation in climate change councils and national bodies.

Conclusion: Civil society should prioritize advocacy on:

- Creating mandates for climate information release by type;
- Connecting climate policy more directly to development priorities;
- Establishing coordination mechanisms for co-creation of regulations with responsible agencies;
- Advocacy on improved requirements for participation; and
- Use of online tool for information sharing, petition-making, disseminating the results of participation.



Subnational Public Participation in Latin America

Participants outlined many problems with public participation for climate action. It was noted that there was:

- A lack of information about climate change policies, either because they do not exist or they are not made public;
- Difficulties in involving local communities in international processes (OGP, EITI, etc.);
- Lack of political will and leadership changes in governments which cause the end of a policy or process;
- Poor response rate to public information requests;
- Contradictory policies (for example, incentives to extractive industries and climate change policies) including other policy priorities: education, poverty, etc.; and
- Responsibility of subnational states is limited because of national plans.

Structural problems also affect public participation including: 1) extreme poverty and vulnerability as a priority in communities and some areas of the countries, 2) corruption, 3) lack of awareness about climate change among population, and 4) remote areas with scarce presence of the State.

Conclusion: The increased inclusion of subnational governments in UNFCCC processes and through networks like C40 and the Compact of Mayors is helping to advance climate ambition, but should be joined up with national level processes as well. CSOs also need to ensure their involvement in sectoral areas including infrastructure and energy policies, within an interdisciplinary approach. Engaging vulnerable populations to voice their climate change concerns is an ongoing challenge but one that subnational planners should take forth in the context of urban resilience.

Connecting Civil Society and Governments with Design and Technology

Participants talked about how to ensure technology tools speak to their key audience and discussed the role of ‘user personas’ for understanding who to communicate with, what to say, how, and what tech to use to say it. Participants talked through an example of a government user as a group that works on climate change and finance issues. The key parts of a persona were discussed including: 1) Their age/seniority of their position; 2) their role and issue area; 3) their responsibilities; 4) the technology that they use; 5) level of internet access—to what extent do they experience disruptions; 6) Social Media/communication modes.

Conclusion: There are often multiple actors who could be the focus of messaging. CSOs need to consider who their audience is for a particular advocacy position/ communication strategy and think about the most impactful way to present their data on a certain topic to different types of user.

Subnational and NGO Actions on Climate Change through the OGP

The session discussed how to get the OGP national action plans to benefit or include actions by cities on climate using a SWOT analysis. No cities have included climate change or air quality commitments in the current OGP sub-national pilot program although there has been interest indicated by Edinburgh and Austin. Most cities are starting to develop climate focused plans many which focus on resilience as opposed to mitigation.

Conclusion: There is a need to monitor action plans and this space to see if innovation on climate at a city level can come through OGP as the current program is only a pilot. Meanwhile focusing on connecting other more robust initiatives with the OGP should be the priority.

Environmental Defenders

Participants identified emerging practices to protect environmental defenders and discussed the importance of rights to prior and informed consent, mechanisms to reduce conflict, and accountability procedures that have been effective. They shared their thoughts on a set of questions developed to assess whether national practice to protect environmental defenders exists. When examining emerging practices to protect environmental defenders in Brazil, Guatemala, Peru, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago, participants indicated that most of them were only aware of actions taken by civil society to support protection of defenders rather than any actions by government. Potential good practices included:

- Funding projects for specific countries e.g. Honduras, Kenya;
- Legal advice centers;
- Creation of local networks;
- Sharing of petitions for action;
- Public meetings and awareness raising;
- Recognition of environmental defenders' role as HR defenders;
- Organization of workshops with donors to make sure they understand rules of FPIC;
- Communications campaign (social media) to support particular environmental defenders who are being threatened; and
- International volunteers accompanying environmental defenders.

Conclusion: Participants proposed changes to the list of indicators including: 1) review of police laws that allow action against defenders; 2) actions by companies to prevent threats to environmental defenders; 3) a balance between an assessment of laws and processes that protect/support corporate interests as well as those that address corporate interests; 4) indicators relevant to civil society action; 5) indicators that address surveillance legislation (for example, data from mobile phone); 6) laws restricting financial access, making it hard to register as an NGO; 7) international conventions and laws that affect environmental defenders protections, e.g. Aarhus convention (specific clause to prevent harassment), and; 8) general criminal law against violence and harassment.

Human Rights Approaches to Climate Change

Participants discussed the cross cutting nature of human rights and climate change both in terms of agendas and sectors (e.g. link between biodiversity and human rights or Energy decision-making and human rights). The climate change and human rights communities need to engage to support the making of better policies and implementation. Climate Justice is a term that is not well defined in the UNFCCC processes and human rights language is limited in the Paris Agreement.

Conclusion: There continues to be a need to focus on strengthening climate justice including proactively funding indigenous groups through REDD+; reinforcing reporting and complaints mechanisms; coordination between human rights and climate groups to ensure the agenda resonates between both communities.

Making Renewable Energy Work for Communities

Participants discussed the underlying problems with scaling renewables and making them work for communities is that there is top-down decision making that is often undemocratic. Rural communities are not given a say and the concerns of women are not sufficiently taken into account. There continues to be closed decision-making processes at the level of international finance, national energy budgets, and regulatory enforcement. This includes:

- Limited international finance being channeled in the direction to pro-poor energy access (e.g. CDM/GCF investments in big hydro);
- A recent Hivos study shows that only 3% of global climate finance being allocated to improve energy access;
- Lack of transparency in national energy budgets (budget of the state electricity companies) and on how decisions are being made;
- Need more decentralised policies so that local authorities are making decisions in relation to renewable energy locally;
- Corrupt practices in the utility sector in many countries, often connected to state owned companies; and
- Difference between what powers the regulator has and whether it uses those powers in practice.



Conclusion: Civil society needs to 1) strategize on how OGP action plans can help promote transparency around energy investments + decision making; 2) work to create enabling environment for off-grid solutions CSOs, government, private sector; 3) support gender-responsive budgeting which allows you to track where money is going to be allocated; 4) analyze donor financing in order to assess if it has pro-poor impacts; 5) get communities involved in the management of electricity services; 6) open up procurement, monitoring of procurement by independent oversight bodies or “Public protector” (as in South Africa); 7) showcase good practices that full renewable energy access is possible. Participants recognised the huge need for legal reform including 1) ensuring through national budgets and global climate funds that a minimum % of public energy financing goes to off-grid solutions; 2) legal frameworks that allow for public participation in the energy sector policy and regulatory processes; 3) regulatory framework to address issues about how renewable energy tariffs affects communities; 5) resolving tenure issues – lack of clarity and rights for communities including capacity building on how to negotiate compensation and possibly royalties. Energy is a political issue, not only a technical one thus the need to make people aware to make informed choices.

Gender and Climate

Participants discussed successes and challenges in promoting gender at the COP22 and examples of good practice. There are multiple target areas, such as: 1) ensuring the voice of women is heard from grassroots to national level and international policy decision-making spaces; 2) supporting GCF implementation and follow up on gender impacts/policies; building collaboration between climate activists and gender-oriented CSOs. There are some key issue areas including the EU submission into the gender action plan at the next COP, workshops on gender mainstreaming and access to information, public participation and access to justice.

Conclusion: To ensure gender sensitive policies are implemented there is a need to focus on: 1) policy and financing for implementation; 2) integrating gender considerations similar to environmental impacts; 3) network creation to broad government understanding; 4) building political will for gender mainstreaming; 5) improving access rights for women including access to information for women; and 6) requirements to ensure women are not left behind that will reach these communities.

Climate Change Legislation Making Commitments Stick

Participants were challenged to discuss the question how does civil society make the most out of existing climate change laws? There were various opinions raised about the need for comprehensive climate laws vs. the inclusion of climate considerations in sector relevant laws. No consensus was agreed despite the sharing of different experiences in Mexico, Burkina Faso and Sri Lanka, Panama, Peru and Argentina. Participants reflected on the benefits of bringing International law into domestic frameworks and how it aids in accountability, and ensuring private sector involvement.

Conclusion: A legal framework for climate change can help in implementation and collaboration, however it needs to be flexible to take into account changes in NDCs, and the need to provide a framework for civil society participation and accountability. Priorities moving forward are to increase awareness of the Paris Agreement and how domestic policies translate into meeting commitments under these international agreements. Targets should include

strengthening the National Action Plan and assessing periodic progress, develop CSO monitoring tools, advocating for climate legislation that provide links to the SDG framework.

Open Data and Climate Change Data Community

Participants discussed the disconnect between the climate change community and the open government community (which do overlap to an extent). They noted that the focus for community building should be on concrete tools, projects and advocacy to bridge this gap (e.g. addressing specific data needs and projects). Climate change advocates need to recognize the advantages of using data to drive choice, as open climate data could help assess implementation. A huge gap is the lack of identification of data needs on climate and connecting demand and supply. A healthy balance between mitigation and adaptation data is needed as well as investment in visualization of data so people can understand it.

Conclusion: Priority actions include: 1) creating roundtables in different countries to connect government data providers with data users; 2) building an overview of which climate relevant data is disclosed by governments by conducting a meta data overview/open data census; 3) identifying arenas and events where greater collaboration could occur between these communities; 4) support for producing compelling narratives and communication tools; 5) exploring how to better leverage subnational and non-state actors; 6) use of the OGP Open Climate Working Group as a lever for exchanges including through climate advocates in OGP countries joining their National Action Planning process and pushing for commitments.

Building Open Government Momentum

Participants discussed alternative ways of CSOs to influence governmental policies, legislation and social conflicts. It was noted that in many countries there are still only a relatively small number of national NGOs involved in OGP. Others noted that the partnership has more limited engagement with parliaments or judiciary. It was also noted that while governments might make a large amount of data open, the quality (validity, representativeness etc.) is not always well structured to inform the public. There is also concern of where financial support is coming from and it was noted that NGOs have very limited resources: the time, energy and money they spend on participating in the OGP procedures can prevent them from using other tools of influencing governmental policies.

Conclusion: CSOs need to find the right platform for open climate action including: 1) public interest litigation in priority cases (such as climate litigation) or on behalf of local communities; 2) lobbying for better laws and regulations; 3) outreach to the judiciary e.g. common trainings; e) Engaging sustainable development councils, parliamentary commissions, and/or ombudsmen; 5) National and international level networking including with Media work, and community media.

Strategic Focus for Climate and Open Government Communities

The session discussed priorities of climate and open government communities including leveraging the OGP platform to strengthen MRV provisions of the Paris Agreement; making climate finance more efficient in disbursement [Global North] and transparent in use [Global South]; Leveraging advances and progress in data journalism, civic tech, data visualization, mobile services penetration to engage more people.



Conclusion: A focus for joint action could be to mainstream people of influence, especially religious leader to drive the OGP/Climate agenda and encourage and pressure governments to use legislation to drive NDCs, SDGs and Paris Agreement.

Making the Most Out of Open Climate Data

This session assessed participant knowledge of use cases of civil society taking advantage of data access to better advocate for policy change. Open data has been utilized in campaigns against the subsidization of coal; how energy is used, locations ideal for solar; There are many gaps (e.g. shipping data to track oil tankers, water quality data, [run off data](#) e.g. fertilizer use also in some countries you still need to pay for meteorological data). There are a number of programs that are focusing on changing this dynamic including:

- **Smart Citizen - Citizen Science Platform:** “Open source technology for citizens political participation in smarter cities” <https://smartcitizen.me>
- **Green Fab Lab Barcelona (<http://greenfablab.org>)** “The Green Fab Lab works towards the creation of a self-sufficient habitat and research Centre. It has laboratories for the production of energy, food and things, and develops projects and academic programmers in association with leading research centers around the world.”

Conclusion: The discussion focused on meteorological, energy, water quality and air quality data. Lots of interesting initiatives but more access to data is needed.

Discussion of a Proposed Open Climate Working Group in the OGP

The group discussed innovative ideas for climate commitments that will result into transformative actions to implement climate action and the possible mandate of the working group. It was noted that there were a number of expectations for this Group including:

- Monitoring commitments;
- Indicators to monitor the level of commitment;
- Commitments to support democratization sustainable energy access;
- Data needs for working group; and
- Interlinkages with UNFCCC;

Conclusion: There are a number of challenges in the creation of this working group including linking UNFCCC processes and OGP, ensuring joined up approaches at the national level between climate and open government and ensuring interministerial coordination to deal with the 2 issues. There is a need to target climate people to feed into the OGP climate work. The Working Group should ensure its work includes webinars, peer exchanges, capacity building and learning.

Strategies to Work with OGP in the Different Countries

Participants discussed a number of problems faced working on open government issues. These include:

- Communication and contact to key persons rather institutions;
- Logistical, geographical and language barriers, in both central and regional level, for OGP;
- Public information policies that are not proactive, nor accessible friendly and have insufficient data; and
- Lack of long term policy continuity, which brings a lot of uncertainty and caused sometimes by the low visibility of policies.

Conclusion: Possible solutions include: 1) generate innovative formats to get OGP commitments known within public sector and civil society; 2) increase ownership of the OGP mechanism in the civil society of each country to encourage institutionalization; and 3) develop a civil society open platform that allows the creation of synergies between thematic groups; 4) ensure diverse representation in NAP process; 5) ensure open data policies apply to climate; 6) periodic public consultations for policy making and OGP agenda setting; 7) link SDGs, NCDs, OGP; and 8) investment in benchmarks and indicators should be shown as a long term cost-benefit relation, which is going to imply less costs in the future and greater accountability and transparency.

Collective Action Commitments

Participants discussed a set of collective actions around specific themes, including climate change and sustainable development, to which OGP is encouraging governments and civil society to offer to contribute to progress on one or more of the collective actions. These contributions would be specific actions that would be taken and/or sharing of tools and resources that are outside of national action plans but could ultimately drive more ambitious NAPs.

Participants shared potential contributions that their organizations could make to the collective actions related to climate change and sustainable development:

1. TRANSPARENCY AND OPEN CONTRACTS IN NATURAL RESOURCES SECTOR

- (TI Peru) Contribution on openness on mining contracts (Brazil) and to help address land trafficking. TI could bring its experience from its current work on these issues;
- (Oxfam USA) corporate disclosure of contracts, create a user-friendly index to set standard for a common standard on the corporate side; and
- (Vizzuality) Reduce emission to improving supply chains to climate impact.

2. INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL AND SUBNATIONAL STRATEGIES

- (Pakistan) Three-tiered capacity building to enable villages to elect representatives and participate in planning processes, creating space for community residents to prioritize development needs and social mobilization and other community empowerment activities;
- (TI Peru) Can give inputs to national or local governments to engage people in planning processes; and
- (Women in Europe for a Common Future) facilitate participation in NDC development, gender sensitive NAMA's (e.g. Georgia), input (national and subnational) to follow up at Lima GAP.

3. TRACKING CLIMATE-RELEVANT POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

- (Pakistan) data portal and doing training for journalists and organizing multistakeholder dialogues and builds capacity of legislatures. Coalition makes this work even more effective as the government cannot pick favorites or isolate groups;
- (Vizzuality) regularly publishes updated data and create rankings;
- (WECF) Develop indicators related to SDGs, linking CP implementation tracking to HPLF and create gender-sensitive monitoring tools;
- (TI Peru) Will help ministry of environment develop its transparency portals; and
- (IBP) build the capacity of CSOs to use budget information to monitor the implementation of climate-related projects/activities/programs on the ground and use findings to contribute to evaluation and formal oversight processes. To do this IBP will draw on the expertise and tools it has developed for CSO capacity building on budget engagement.

4. HARNESSING THE DATA REVOLUTION

- (Coalition in Pakistan) Setting up a web portal of data on climate change-related across sectors (water, food, and so on) to support advocacy on sector advocacy. Provides technical info to help fund proposed work;
- (Vizzuality) looking to create data tools to allow people and organizations in and across countries to share knowledge and experience. Database on company good practice; data on how to prepare for climate change (Partnership for Resilience Preparedness); and
- (Oxfam USA) track climate change finance and development finance separately so are trying to integrate them and better understand.

Make contributions to the collective actions on the website as specific as possible and identify specific tools and resources that could be shared. The timeframe for this round is the coming year, but hope that some will feed into the development of 2017 NAP.

The Politics of Data

The participants reviewed the different kinds of data they use on a regular basis, such as: key performance indicators, environmental impact assessments, public health data, land use information, tree cover and forest loss data, geospatial data on environmental pollution, and energy market data. They discussed the diversity of data and its history and reviewed a case study of satellite and drone imagery as data. This imagery related to visualization of land use violations with drones: engaging local indigenous communities in thinking about the meaning of the ‘top-down’ view from drone images. There was a discussion of different datasets that need to be connected to build alerting systems: concessions data, supply chain data, contracting data, forest service information systems. Depending on the data that is available, and the specific ways it is structured - different strategies are needed to respond to climate issues.

Conclusion: There is a need to shape data systems to enable the kinds of action we want. Data needs to be responsible data addressing issues of privacy, algorithmic governance and representation in data. Using imagery for advocacy must continue to be our focus that is how do we connect the big picture view from data, with the powerful role of small-scale images?



OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

The Global Gathering adopted follow up actions agreed on by participants as described in the table below:

ACTIVITY/PROJECT	GOAL	NEXT STEP	POINT PERSON
Build awareness for Principle 10 in Latin America and Caribbean (P10LAC)	More participation in the P10LAC process	Information campaign to raise the ambition of the convention	Tomas Severino
Open Climate data census	Provide information on key climate datasets per country	Meeting to draft proposal (concept note)	Pierre Chrrzanowski
Research publication on national climate governance priorities and entry points by spring, 2017	Influence national and subnational decision-making and donor strategies	Research and collaboration then writing	Jesse Worker
Sharing OGP experience to new OGP countries	to expand OGP	Establishing networking of OGP countries	Hening Marlistya Citraningrum
Open Climate Working Group in OGP	Ambitious open gov climate commitments that are implemented	First meeting in early 2017	Jesse Worker
Un-silo gender and climate	Gender equality	Explore the possibilities within the network	Elizabeth Moses
Global intervention on energy	To ensure clean and inclusive energy nationally	Early 2017 meeting to define strategy	Davida Wood; Eco Matser
Strengthening climate finance accountability in developing countries	civil society capacity (empowerment) and strengthened to track climate budgets and revenue	Early 2017 meeting	Sandra Guzman
Research on open climate data use cases in 5 developing countries	Climate open data charter package	tell us why your country should be included in study	Carole Excell

ACTIVITY/PROJECT	GOAL	NEXT STEP	POINT PERSON
Climate litigation	3-5 new cases in new countries	Create steering group, crowdfunding site	Andrew Jackson
Climate Change open data platform for Saint Lucia	Create a platform for civil society access to sharing data for adaptation decisions	CSO consultation; develop data collection mechanism; promote CC platform	Joanna Rosemond
CSO group on regional P10 agreement in Africa	Collaborative platform on PP10	informal meeting at OGP summit	Augustine Njamshi
Protecting environmental defenders	Share experiences and best practices between NGO networks on how to deal to threats to members	Set up skype call (TAI, TI, Hivos, and more)	Thomas Vink
Priming parliamentarians and universities for climate action in Africa	leveraging parliamentarians and universities for ambitious climate action in Africa	Set up skype call	Stanley Ijeoma
Get governments in forested countries to sign up to collective commitment #8	More OGP commitments related to forest transparency	Get governments with forest commitments to sign up; engage TAI to work with their governments on commitment	Jessica Webb
Push for and monitor climate commitments under the OGP	Improve climate transparency and integrity through the OGP	Invite interested persons/ organizations; fundraising	Brice Boehmer

More information about these groups and leadership can be found at www.accessinitiative.org.

TAI is utilizing the outcomes of the Global Gathering to consolidate its strategy on climate governance and how our international, national research, analysis and multi-stakeholder engagement can enhance implementation, scale up actions and support climate action within the next 4 years.

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ABOUT THE ACCESS INITIATIVE

The Access Initiative is the largest civil society network in the world dedicated to ensuring that citizens have the right and ability to influence decisions about the natural resources that sustain their communities.



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