

Global Stocktake and Talanoa Dialogue at COP23

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Climate Negotiations

The opening of the COP23 in Bonn, Germany was a riveting moment rich with [art and ceremony](#). A parade of young children with signs walked through the gathering hall chanting “save the world”. It was a confronting sight and brought the high stakes into the room. The COP presidency was transferred from Morocco to Fiji with a Fijian ceremony. After the ceremony the COP President Frank Bainimarama, the Fijian Prime Minister, spoke about how it is our job as leaders to respond to the suffering with all that we can, with the Bula spirit. He said this is our moment of truth ... we are all in the same canoe. Then Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC welcomed all affirming the world was ready to tackle climate change action illustrated by 169 countries ratifying the Paris Agreement in record time. She spoke about how the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted at the [Earth Summit in Rio](#) 25 five years ago. It was also at the Earth Summit that the international community began to formally grapple with the dynamics of economic development and environmental degradation and forge the possibility of sustainable development. This conversation remains ever present in development of the Facilitative Dialogue and the Global Stocktake in 2017.

Facilitative Dialogue

The Facilitative Dialogue is from Article 14 of the Paris Agreement and requires the CMA to periodically take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement to assess collective progress in achieving its long-term goals in relation to the Global Stocktake.

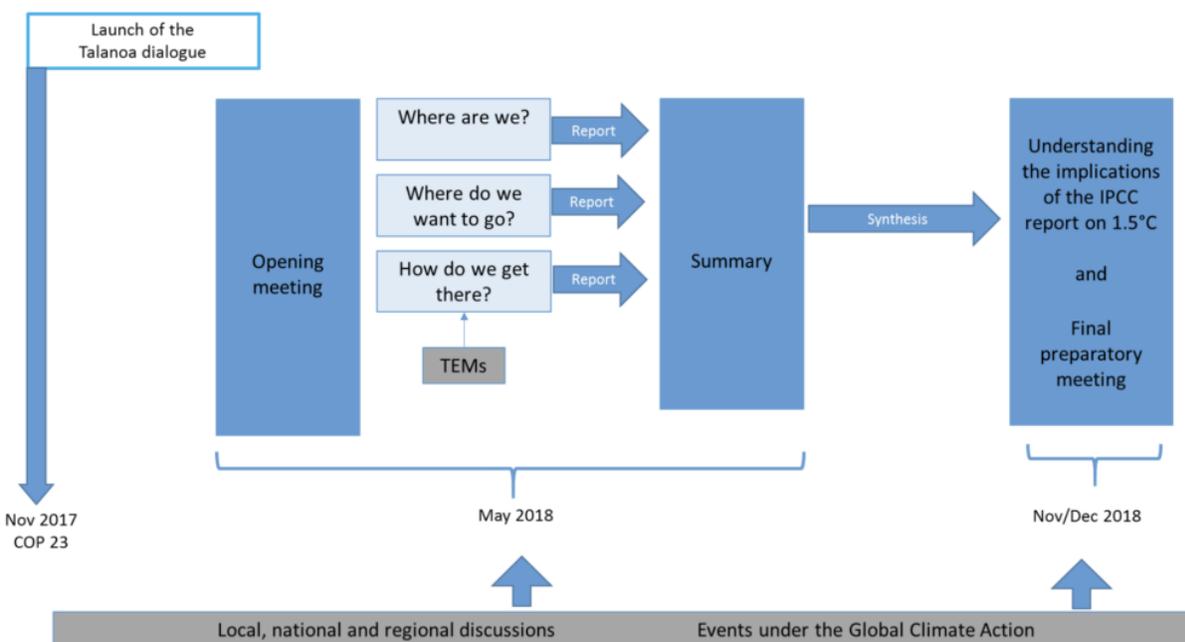
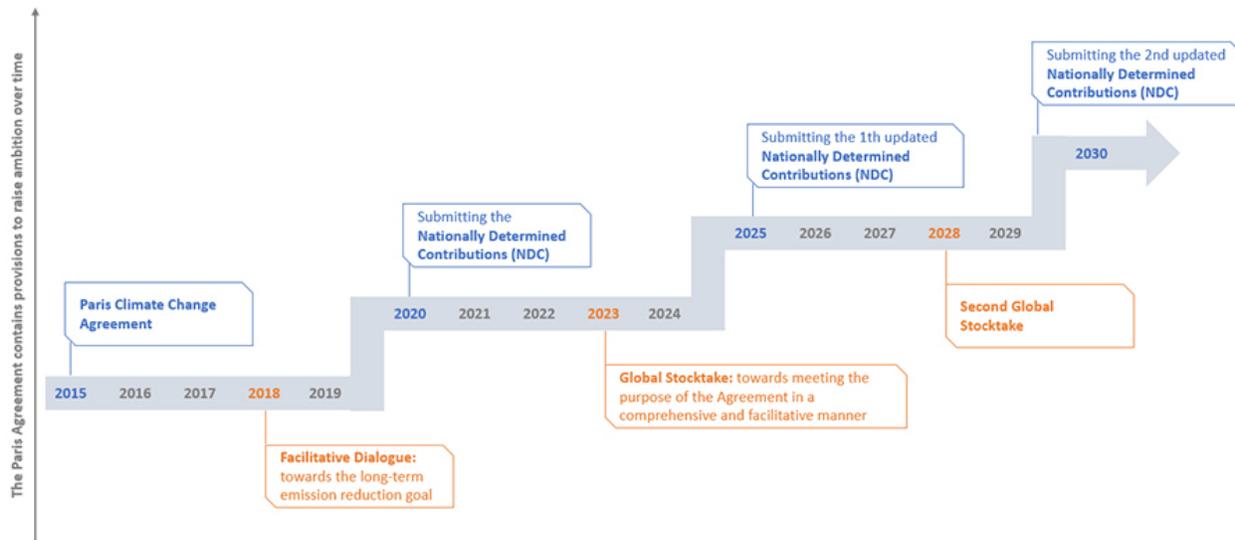


Figure showing the “preparatory phase” of the Talanoa dialogue. Source: UNFCCC



Source: United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change

Source: UNFCCC

Global Stocktake

The Global Stocktake is a mechanism for increasing climate action ambition by collectively reviewing efforts and progress with member parties every five years. Article 14 of the Paris Agreement lays out the parameters of the Global Stocktake which shall consider mitigation, adaptation, and the means of implementation and support and be carried out in a comprehensive and facilitative manner. Discussions at COP23 emphasized the commitment of the Paris Agreement to carry this out in light of equity and the best available science.

The major focus of COP23 in regards to the Global Stocktake, as laid out in the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) Agenda Item 6, was the development and discussion of the modalities and input that would be used. The [two primary objectives of this process](#) include the identification of the sources of input for the Global Stocktake and the development of the modalities of the Global Stocktake, so this year's COP was certainly on track toward achieving both of these goals. These building blocks were discussed over approximately 9 hours of informal consultations, and the resultant [informal note](#) by the co-facilitators included approximately six pages containing the major themes and points raised by the parties. This includes possible headings and subheadings for the building blocks and some of the issues, options, concepts and views that have been presented by specific parties throughout the various sessions. In preparation parties and stakeholders will prepare relevant inputs to inform the dialogue at the intermediary session in May 2018 and COP24 in November 2018. This is where advocacy groups can participate in shaping the process.

Equity

One of the major components of this year's discussion of the [Global Stocktake regarded the concept of equity](#) and what it meant within the process. Views presented on equity varied, and

negotiating blocks had different conceptions of the word and how to enact it. Speaking on behalf of the G77 and China, the Philippines said equity is a crosscutting element that must be considered in various aspects of the GST process including during the information gathering stage for mitigation, provision of adaptation support, financing and technology, and assessing the contributions of developed countries in relation to their commitments. Speaking on behalf of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Solomon Islands had a different view. They said equity refers to how LDCs would be protected and helped by developed countries. Ghana expressed a similar view on behalf of the Africa Group which held that equity entailed the rights of developing countries to poverty eradication and sustainable development. Additionally, the Arab Group, represented by Saudi Arabia, expressed equity as linked to sustainable development and response measures that do not impose an undue burden on any particular party or group of parties. In the end, there was no final decision reached on the definition of equity, simply an acknowledgement that full consideration will be given to this issue and how it relates to the process, themes, and outcomes of the GST in a cross-cutting manner. The overarching sentiment of these discussions is that it is crucial for climate change action to be linked with sustainable development for developing countries. At COP23 the Gender Action Plan was passed, which acknowledges that women are disproportionately impacted by climate change and prioritizes the participation of women in climate change action. This step acknowledges the need for equity at a social level as well and contributes to the process of enacting equity between countries by working on both its micro and macro aspects.

The Global Stocktake and Talanoa Dialogue are central to the success of the Paris Agreement. The Global Stocktake and Talanoa Dialogue are designed to ratchet up ambition around climate change action. That action must be guided by the best science. At the opening ceremony an [IPCC](#) representative spoke about the progress of the [special report](#) invited by the COP on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. As mentioned by the [Informal Note by the Presidencies of COP 22 and COP 23](#), the special report will serve to inform the Talanoa Dialogue. Scientists from all over the world have so far reviewed over 3,000 articles and will be done by October next year in time for the Facilitative Dialogue in 2018.

The IPCC sixth assessment report ([AR6](#)) will be [finished by 2022](#) in time for the first Global Stocktake in 2023. Strong science plus the wise experience of youth, women, indigenous leaders, non-state actors, and city managers gathered in the Talanoa spirit of storytelling will make for strong foundational inputs for the first Talanoa Dialogue in 2018 leading up to the first Global Stocktake in 2023.