Climate Chance Association

Develop and promote concrete action in the territories
Support joint positions by non-state actors
The COP21 conference marked an unprecedented turning point in the fight against climate change: a key stage in the collective commitment of states. It was also a time when the role of non-state actors was acknowledged through the Lima-Paris Action Agenda initiatives and the arrangements under the auspices of the Paris Agreement, particularly for the 2015-2020 period. Today, we find ourselves at the beginning of a new and equally important era, in which these principles must be put into practice, updated and assessed. Climate Change has the ambition to do this.

Climate Chance is an international organization entirely focused on multi-stakeholder dialogue with the aim of promoting climate action on the ground, through coalitions of non-state actors who have strongly committed to fight against climate change. In doing so, they are making a concrete and significant contribution to government plans to achieve their commitments by 2020 and beyond.

OVERVIEW OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Climate Chance Association brings together a range of individual personalities from different backgrounds who represent different groups recognized by the UNFCCC (LGMA, YOUNGO, ENGO, BINGO, RINGO, IPO, WOMEN & GENDER, FARMERS, TUNGO) and convinced of the importance of strengthening dialogue and encouraging common positions among these different groups.

For example, the founder members of the Climate Chance Association came together in January 2015 to draw up a common position for various non-state actors on a specific SDG on sustainable cities. They also presented a collective text to Ban Ki-Moon’s «Action Catalyst» Summit in September 2015. Some others helped to organize the «Climate and Territories» Summit in Lyon in July 2015.

THE GOALS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- **Promoting common positions among non-state actors**

From the first initiative launched at the Ecocity Summit in 2013 through to the «Climate and Territories» Summit in 2015, the founder members of «Climate Chance» have sought to bring together all non-state actors, while respecting their diversity, in order to bring out priorities and consensus proposals with the aim of strengthening concrete climate actions, in terms of both mitigation and adaptation.

The common messages from these actors, among them the main international networks, are directed at both states and international organizations and often carry more weight than the individual positions of each organization separately. In particular, the summit is the opportunity for an annual joint declaration to be drawn up collectively.

- **Supporting thematic coalitions**

Thematic coalitions supported by Climate Chance are formed by international non-state actors: each thematic coalition is driven by a network of local communities (regions, cities, etc.) and a network of other non-state actors (NGOs, companies, trade unions, etc.). These actors position themselves and work together to take concrete steps to move forward in the fight against climate change at local level and in different strategic sectors such as transport, energy, spatial planning, construction, education, water, etc. Each coalition is open to all non-state actors in the sector concerned who wish to join, always in the spirit of coming to a consensus as regards proposals to boost their capacity for action. They make a concrete contribution to the Global Climate Action Agenda.

- **Setting up an observatory of non-state climate action**

Putting action at the heart of climate solutions, the Climate Chance Association will produce regular updates on work undertaken by non-state actors. It will both provide a thematic overview of the action of non-state actors and gradually build an analytical framework, which will offer a clear overview of the progress made, the potential for emission reductions in each sector, the sticking points and new carbon accounting methodologies, etc.

- **Developing a portal for non-state climate action**

Sharing best practice is key to strengthening action. The annual summit, preceded by an international call for contributions and selection by a scientific committee of the most innovative and replicable initiatives, is a key part of the ambition to better disseminate and publicize best practice. The Climate Chance Association website aims to become a library of these initiatives, a centre for dissemination and contacts between operators. Almost one thousand examples of good practice from around the world have already been mapped and will soon be available for consultation.
The Climate Chance Summit each year is a unique event in terms of its international scale and ability to bring together non-state actors in their diversity in the run-up to UN climate conferences (COPs). At these Summits, progress made by thematic coalitions is assessed, best practice and the concrete activities undertaken by these actors to combat climate change are shared. The declaration which ends the summit details their priorities and proposals to strengthen the action.

**The Lyon Summit / 2015**

The Climate & Territories World Summit on 1st and 2nd July 2015 gathered together nearly 1,000 participants from more than 70 countries from across the entire spectrum of non-state actors. On this occasion, they announced their determination to contribute to the Action Agenda. Recalling the challenges of their commitments to combat climate change, they also stressed that the way to achieve mitigation and adaptation goals is via a territorial approach and mobilizing civil society.

During the Summit, a dozen thematic coalitions were set up and three founding documents were drawn up:

- A Summit declaration on the importance of a territorial approach in the fight against climate change and the inseparable link with development issues,
- Strong commitments from local authority networks on reducing GHG emissions in their territory in both the short and long term, as well as on the mobilization of their members,
- A series of specific proposals for COP21.

**Main results of the Lyon Summit**

- A presentation of over 300 examples of best practices at 75 workshops.
- The adoption of the 2016/2018 roadmaps for thematic coalitions, the creation of new themes.
- High-level discussions on funding issues, sustainable cities, access to energy in Africa or Habitat III.
- Focus on commitments, particularly by local authorities.
- Adoption of the Lyon Declaration.
- Participatory dialogue on the governance of the action agenda and on carbon pricing.

**The Nantes Summit / 2016**

The first Climate Chance Summit was an unquesionable success, with nearly 3,000 participants from 60 countries. A few months after the COP21 conference and the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the Nantes event has demonstrated a genuine desire for collective action by civil society representatives.

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**The Agadir Summit / 2017**

The second Climate Chance World Summit – the first to have international reach – welcomed 5,000 people representing 80 nationalities in Agadir, Morocco, from 11 to 13 September 2017. With more than 120 events, including 77 workshops, over the three days of the Summit, climate actors were able to discuss the progress of climate action, exchange views on good practice in mitigation and adaptation and develop synergies and convergence on common themes, especially access to funding, urban planning, migration flows, food security, etc.

In the presence of Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, teams from COP 22 and 23 and the Climate Champion, many high-level representatives of the community of non-State actors accepted the invitation to attend this international climate action agenda meeting.

**Some highlights**:

- A day dedicated to African elected representatives
- Launch of the Climate Chance Observatory, a tool to help assess the progress of climate action by non-State actors
- Confirmation by several African local authorities of their intention to subscribe to the Under2 MoU initiative.
- Focus on commitments, particularly by local authorities.
- Hosting the Collaborative Forum on the Global Action Agenda.

**Fighting against climate change in Africa together - Initiative launched in Agadir**

Echoing the “We are still in” initiative and with support from the major global networks of local authorities, local and regional African elected representatives reaffirmed that Africa’s specific challenges and needs can only be met collectively. They thus made a commitment to act on their territory and to mobilize their civil society, with the first review taking place at Africités in 2018 in Brazzaville.
Working through thematic coalitions enables non-state actors to be part of a sustainable, coherent and well-organised dynamic. This dynamic is directly related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, carrying out the Action Agenda and contributing to concrete initiatives and proposals that can be integrated into the Global Climate Action - GCA and help to reassess Nationally Determined Contributions – NDCs.

The Climate Chance Association aims to produce an annual «action reports», analysing the initiatives undertaken by non-state actors. By comparing existing reports and practical experiences in the various territories, an analytical grid is gradually built up to record progress made and the potential for reducing CO₂ emissions depending on the sectors, and to diagnose sticking points, to build a credible scenario of emissions reduction.

The 2016 Climate Chance World Summit was an event that strengthened thematic coalitions and validated their respective roadmaps for 2018. In Agadir, the coalitions worked on operational proposals developed at the various events (COP, Global Forums, Business Summit, etc.). Agadir also provided an opportunity to take stock of Action Agenda initiatives upstream of COP23. These coalitions are at different levels of maturity, different stages in the process of bringing together all the actors and different levels of internationalization... Their roadmaps are available on the association’s website http://www.climate-chance.org with an e-mail address to contact each one. The Climate Chance Association does not interfere with the work of the coalitions, their goals and recommendations. Its role is to reinforce them by mobilizing new actors and helping their proposals to reach a wider audience.

Each coalition has an action-oriented roadmap, with the aim of influencing the reassessment of voluntary commitments by states in 2018, an essential step to achieving the 2°C target set down in the Paris Agreement.

PREPARING FOR 2018

2018 has to be an opportunity, a few months before COP24, to develop and support proposals by non-state actors for reassessments of voluntary commitments by Parties. Indeed, this COP will focus on these national contributions, currently insufficient to achieve a 2°C limitation scenario, let alone a 1.5°C scenario, yet these are the goals of the Paris Agreement. This work and the analyses produced through the «Climate Chance» dynamic by thematic coalitions must enable proposals to be outlined so Parties can come to the COP24 Conference with stronger contributions.

This is hugely ambitious, but the climate risk does not leave any option other than this multi-stakeholder mobilization and the creation of new frameworks for dialogue between national governments and non-state actors.