



Summary Report

The Climate Action 2016 multi-stakeholder summit took place on 5-6 May in Washington D.C. The summit brought together over 700 leaders from government, business, finance, civil society, philanthropy, international institutions, as well as scientific and academic communities, to inject further momentum and coherence into the evolving multi-stakeholder climate action process in advance of COP22 in Marrakesh.

Climate Action 2016 was co-hosted by: **Ban Ki-moon**, Secretary-General of the United Nations; **Jim Yong Kim**, President of the World Bank Group; **Michael Bloomberg**, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change; Founding Partner, Compact of Mayors; **Naoko Ishii**, CEO, Global Environment Facility; **Judith Rodin**, President, The Rockefeller Foundation; **Peter Bakker**, CEO, World Business Council for Sustainable Development; **Nigel Topping**, CEO, We Mean Business; **Wallace Loh**, President, University of Maryland.

Climate Action 2016 was supported by 10 partners: [European Investment Bank](#), [Inter-American Development Bank](#), [Sustainable Energy for All](#), [United Nations Foundation](#), [World Resources Institute](#), [The Smithsonian Institution](#), [International Bar Association](#), [The Global Brain](#), [Iberdrola](#), [The Stanley Foundation](#).

Specifically, Climate Action 2016 demonstrated that:

1. **Multi-stakeholder climate action continues to mature – now extending to joint strategic and operational coordination and increasing coherence across a wide range of international institutions and networks.** In this case, 9 organizations – United Nations, World Bank Group, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Compact of Mayors, Rockefeller Foundation, Global Environment Facility, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, We Mean Business, and the University of Maryland – joined forces as co-hosts in the preparation and execution of the summit.
2. **There are core action areas significant to the climate equation, which have successfully mobilized constituencies which should continue to operate coherently and consistently across all relevant platforms.** Drawing on the action areas that came out of the 2014 Climate Summit and COP21 in Paris, the six tracks highlighted at Climate Action 2016 included: cities, transport, land use, energy, resilience, and analysis and tools.

3. **Climate action coalitions continue to thicken, including by bringing in significant new constituencies.** There were several key examples of this at Climate Action 2016. First, the international legal community joined in a new way, with the 80,000 strong International Bar Association leading the way on issues ranging from risk management and due diligence to protecting human rights and pursuing “climate change justice” in the course of climate action. Second, a range of academic and research institutions agreed on the need not only for cooperation on climate science, but also on providing analysis, data, and tools to help policy makers in the public and private spheres make more informed, responsive, transparent and timely decisions. Third, Climate Action 2016 sowed the seeds for a new coalition of CEOs, millennials and generation Z, to determine how they will collaborate to deliver on climate action.
4. **Climate action enjoys many synergies with other Sustainable Development Goals,** and many partners reiterated that the only way forward is to ensure consistent and increasingly interlinked processes, policies and efforts across the SDG and climate action space. While the majority of climate action takes place outside the formal intergovernmental climate process, there is a strong desire for the UNFCCC to continue to open space for multi-stakeholder climate action within the formal process.
5. **The United States is committed to and capable of delivering on its climate commitments.** Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy asserted that the U.S. will deliver on its promises beyond the Obama Administration. Businesses want clean energy because an unstable climate will cause instability in the business community. Accordingly, the U.S. has reduced more carbon than anyone in the world and will continue to do so at the same pace. While the Clean Power Plan may be sending a signal, it is also seamlessly aligned with market demands. When enshrined in rules, innovation will spur as a result. This message was echoed by Shaun Donovan, Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, who emphasized the importance of a global collective action on resilience, as well as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, who outlined the specific ways in which the U.S. is prioritizing climate-smart land use to deliver on its commitments.

Key Takeaways from the Six Core Areas

1. **Cities**

Cities are at the front lines of both climate change and climate action and that action is essential when it comes to keeping the global temperature from rising 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Mayors are closest to the democratic process in their communities and as a result have the power to deliver a low-carbon future. Cities are already taking bold steps to support strong national commitments and reduce their individual carbon footprints through innovative planning for mitigation and adaptation. With strong support and increased power, cities can break down barriers to action and take greater stronger local action.

At Climate Action 2016, international leaders shared their support for local leaders and their ground-up approach to climate change:

- “Now growing numbers [of cities] are joining the Compact of Mayors which now covers around 500 cities around the world, covering more than 400 million people [and] this is quite encouraging.” –UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
- “Cities are where the solutions are... but if you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it.” –UN Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change Michael Bloomberg
- “We’re here to deliver on Paris and we’ve joined the Compact of Mayors to measure our commitments.” –Mayor Anne Hidalgo, Paris, France
- “The things that we can do as mayors, national governments cannot do... There is no country too small to matter, there is no city too small to have an influence and there is no city too poor not to be able to afford a climate change agenda.” –Mayor Shpend Ahmeti, Pristina, Kosovo

CA2016 demonstrated that every level of government must be engaged to ensure the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Local actors must be present on the international stage because mayors are already taking climate action. It is clear that global leaders cannot have a national initiative, or succeed in achieving their national targets, without involving local leaders.

2. Transport

Transport represents 23% of global energy-related CO₂ emissions. With demand for mobility increasing exponentially, especially in developing countries, transport is the fastest growing source of GHG emissions. The discussions at the transport track of Climate Action 2016 focused on a holistic vision for transport - Sustainable Mobility for All - which is not only about decarbonizing transport but also about making it accessible to all, improving its efficiency, ensuring its safety and reducing its environmental footprint.

Key takeaways include:

- The Summit discussed concrete ideas that can have immediate impact. These included tighter fuel standards, fossil fuel subsidy reform and carbon pricing, as well as more efficient and safer mobility solutions that deliver greater access through better public transport systems.
- A consensus emerged around the need for a global vision and narrative for transport and mobility, supported by clear goals and targets, global coalitions, bold actions and a common tracking framework.
- Specific proposals were tabled to implement this vision through a program of action, that remains to be defined but will include carbon pricing and dedicated concessional financing for sustainable mobility.

Mobility is at the heart of everything we do – education, jobs, health, trade, social and cultural engagements. If current trends in high-carbon transport and related investments continue, the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) could be derailed.

The World Bank, as convener of the Transport track of Climate Action 2016, will continue working with the Paris Process on Mobility and Climate (PPMC, which includes SloCaT and MCB) and the World Resources Institute, co-organizers of the transport day preceding the summit, and with other key partners, including the UN Secretary General’s High Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport and the International Transport Forum, on the road to Marrakesh and sustainable mobility for all. The Sustainable Mobility for All vision and framework will be further refined and socialized in the coming months.

3. Resilience

The objective of the Building Resilience workstream was to feature commitments to building resilience by public, private, civil society and philanthropic actors. Reshaping the global development landscape with a resilience “lens” will both prepare us for future climate change challenges and enable more effective development interventions today. Resilience rests on the ability to take a holistic, systems approach to development, recognizing the interdependency of solutions among sectors. Resilience thus provides a framing for transitioning from sectoral or “siloes” interventions to cross-sectoral solutions that are mutually reinforcing.

The key takeaways included:

- We need aggressive mitigation to prevent risks getting out of hand, but we equally need to invest in resilience to manage the rising risks we already face today. Ambitious climate action means investing in greenhouse gas mitigation and in building climate resilience.
- Resilience cuts across all global commitments, from the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement to the Sendai Framework and the upcoming discussions at the World Humanitarian Summit. Investing in resilience will enable us to fulfill these many ambitious objectives at once. In the absence of a holistic, resilience approach we risk pursuing sectoral interventions that result in competition and trade-offs instead of synergistic efforts fulfilling our comprehensive development needs.
- Resilience means working together. Bold action requires the involvement of all actors, across scales. This will strengthen the fabric of society, enable effective cooperation of communities, private sector, local and national governments and ensure that we reach and empower the most vulnerable to address the daunting challenges posed by climate change.
- Resilience requires transparency on risk. We should put a price on risk, just like we need to put a price on carbon, and develop effective policies, plans and financial instruments to build resilience at scale.

Several global initiatives - including African Risk Capacity, Global Resilience Partnership, Insurance Development Forum, Partners for Resilience, 100 Resilient Cities represented in this

session - are already committed to building resilience, and have reaffirmed their commitments to scale up, and achieve results by Marrakesh and beyond. The UN Secretary General's "A2R" resilience initiative may serve as a unifying platform of UN agencies, member states and non-state actors to strengthen capacities globally in anticipating risks, enhancing local capacity to act on those warnings, increasing financing and insurance coverage, and reshaping the development agenda with a resilience lens.

4. Climate-Smart Land Use

Recognizing that land use is the source of a quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions, and that the terrestrial biosphere absorbs about 30% of man-made emissions, ambitious action on climate-smart land use is critical to reaching the 1.5 degree goal set forth in the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, climate-smart land use presents an opportunity for advancing the triple-win of sustainable food production, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation.

At Climate Action 2016, leaders from the public and private sector addressed one major overarching question -- how do we scale up climate-smart land use pre- and post-2020 to ensure that our collective goals stay within reach? Some key takeaways and future directions were identified:

- A critical need is better land-use planning at all jurisdictional levels. This will help identify and prioritize opportunities for different forms of climate-smart land use: climate-smart agriculture; forest protection and the promotion of deforestation-free supply chains; and forest and landscape restoration.
- Climate-smart land use plans should incorporate the need to strengthen landscape leaders and champions; build widespread policy awareness and support for integrated landscape management by highlighting the opportunities to achieve synergies among key policy goals; and invest in landscape initiatives at scale.
- Significant resources need to be mobilized for climate-smart land use, much of which will have to come from the private sector. This will require an efficient packaging of demands into investable projects, supported by innovative financing mechanisms.
- With new commitments and targets established by countries and businesses to reduce emissions, reduce or stop deforestation, and increase restoration, there is a growing need for more timely, more accurate and more comprehensive monitoring of progress, as well as stronger capacity to track achievements at multiple scales. Several tools are available to facilitate more effective monitoring and reporting.

COP21 marked a culmination of pledges, commitments and coalition building around the climate smart land-use agenda. In order to act on and operationalize these, the importance and role of land use needs to be amplified in the context of global development discourse. Governments, business and civil society must come together and focus on creating the necessary enabling environment for accelerated action.

5. Energy

The energy plenary and closed-door roundtable were created in order to have a candid and open dialogue around the critical needs and challenges that governments, businesses and investors – in both developed and emerging economies – must address in scaling up investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy to transition to a clean, thriving and just global economy.

The closed-door energy roundtable sought to explore ways to overcome barriers, boost the investment climate and scale up action through enhanced collaboration between all stakeholders involved in delivering the energy transition.

- Success breeds success. To facilitate investment, we need to share success stories of good and innovative business models and pilot projects that have succeeded at scale. By demonstrating the business case for energy efficiency and switching to renewables in developed and developing markets - and to create more efficient ways to enable investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries.
- Regulatory frameworks, inadequate incentives and capacity building at all levels of governance were highlighted as some of the critical challenges to delivering the energy transition. In the finance piece, the main challenges underscored were structured debt and refinancing. We need to find ways to accelerate the transfer of funds to clean energy projects, get governments to remove barriers and enhance public and private finance.
- Adopting an integrated systems-based approach will be critical in securing clean, affordable energy for the 1.1 billion people who still have little or no access. Synergies between energy and other sustainable development goals, ranging from health and education to gender equality or economic growth need to be explored to maximize impact and avoid duplication of efforts as we move forward.

Strong emphasis was placed on the need to carry out an analysis of impact to make sure that resources allocated can achieve the greatest impact. A suggestion was made for Sustainable Energy for All as an enabling platform to initially focus on a few “pilot” countries that can be used in further stages to provide inspiration and replicate success.

There was a clear desire from the participants of the energy roundtable to continue the discussion and convene, again - with a larger group of key stakeholders - at the Business & Climate Summit in London on June 28th and 29th. Sustainable Energy for All is pulling together a wrap-up document from the Climate Action 2016 roundtable and will design and host the second energy roundtable for London. To help connect the dots, we will attempt to include as many of the energy 'leads' from other summits and conferences as possible in the next roundtable. The second roundtable will seek to identify clear action steps the group [or participants within the group] can take to drive action and scale delivery of clean, affordable energy. We envision continuing the conversation - and stepping up the action steps - in further roundtables at events such as Climate Week NYC and COP22.

6. Analysis & Tools

The workstream of Analysis and Tools to Support Decision-Making is critical to the success of multi-stakeholder climate implementation, and the Paris Agreement has prompted a renewed focus on analytical systems within and across governments and other stakeholders. With global leaders' support for climate action coming out of Paris, we are well poised to tighten the feedback loops between scientific analysis, innovation and policy decisions of all stakeholders to accelerate progress toward our global goal. Multiple massive leaps can and must be made in all sectors in the next few years. The “Action through Knowledge” plenary session addressed the question of how best to now advance analytics and innovation to accelerate climate action, yielding the following key messages:

- Creating, tightening, and accelerating feedback loops between research institutions and policymakers and among research institutions globally and at all levels of governance will be paramount in advancing knowledge, building capacity, and delivering the outcomes necessary for accelerating climate action through all implementation tracks.
- Multi-institution, cross-national collaborations will require new forms and formats of data – such as open and big data – to build research capacity for all countries and accelerate climate action at scale.
- Partnerships between government, research, finance and the private sector are critical to delivering the goals set by INDCs and other national policies, which in turn will depend on cutting-edge research, innovation, and deployment of new technologies.
- To maximize impact and mobilize action through education, engagement of the broader public is also critical, bringing the best research to a broad audience in a comprehensible manner.

Media Coverage

Climate Action 2016 received significant media coverage, both in the United States and internationally. The official press release can be found on the [summit website](#), and a collection of media coverage lives on the [summit blog](#). Most prominently, Brady Dennis of the Washington Post conducted an interview with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and published an article entitled [“Why outgoing U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon was willing to bet big on a climate change deal.”](#)

On social media, the #ClimateAction discussion trended throughout Washington, DC, and the event hashtag saw significant global reach, with nearly 47 million individuals reached and over 240 million impressions over the last three days. Some of the top influencers who have joined the #ClimateAction discussion include World Bank President Dr. Jim Kim, UN Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of Paris Anne Hidalgo, COP21 President Ségolène Royal, and more. The UN Foundation created a series of [downloadable quote graphics](#) to capture some of the most powerful statements from *Climate Action 2016*.

Moving Forward

Given the scale of the climate challenge, the number of actors and the diversity of platforms, the strategic cooperation and collaboration of climate implementation must be strengthened. The gains made from *Climate Action 2016* must be absorbed, built upon and utilized in other platforms in order to achieve increasing amplification throughout 2016 and beyond, and ensure maximum impact on the ground and through the UNFCCC process, including at COP22 in Marrakesh in November 2016.

A number of other opportunities present themselves to enable progress on the climate action agenda. These include the upcoming meeting in Morocco on June 23-24, the Business and Climate Summit on June 28-29 in London, as well as a high-level summit to be held in China this fall, announced by the UN Secretary-General at *Climate Action 2016*. One of the key priorities of the event in China will be to diversify the range of actors and build new multi-stakeholder coalitions in the climate action space, particularly from the Global South.

Finally, while there will be several transitions in leadership in various governments and international organizations this year, the coalition of institutions and actors engaged in climate action will continue to advance and evolve at an accelerated pace. The faster this movement develops, the more lives and money will be saved, and our planet safeguarded for future generations.