

*Gateway to Encourage, Measure, Report, Verify and Account for:
Non-Party Contributions*

Submitted by:

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With 197 Parties, the UNFCCC enjoys near universal membership amongst nations. The Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016. As of July 2017, 195 nations have signed the Agreement, 153 nations have ratified, and 147 Parties have submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The ultimate objective of both the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system and to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change. In practical terms, a 2-degree Celsius limit is targeted with an agreed aspiration for 1.5 degrees.

While critically important, there are concerns a well-functioning UNFCCC and widely ratified Paris Agreement alone are insufficient to achieve climate global stabilization. The UNFCCC tends to move at the pace of the slowest and with collective ambition settling around that of the lowest. Even one of the most optimistic studies indicates that existing NDCs will result in a median warming of 2.6–3.1 degrees Celsius by 2100¹. Thus, broader participation and greater ambition is urgently required!

In the context of Decision 1/CP.21, Paragraphs 117 and 118 but contemplated to extend beyond 2020, this submission requests a COP agenda item to consider a new ‘gateway’ to encourage, measure, report, verify and account for greater ambition from corporate entities, investors, regions, states/provinces, cities and civil society organizations. Such voluntary Non-Party Contributions (NPCs) should complement and inspire further ambition by the Parties that is measurable, reportable and verifiable in a manner that is transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate.

For example, 90 “carbon major” corporate entities are responsible for 63 % (914 GtCO₂e) of cumulative worldwide emissions of industrial CO₂ and methane between 1751 and 2010—50 investor-owned, 31 state-owned, and 9 nation-state producers of oil, natural gas, coal, and cement from as early as 1854-2010. Half of these emissions have occurred since 1986.² Much of these emissions are emitted transnationally complicating accurate reporting under the current frameworks.

¹ [Paris Agreement climate proposals need a boost to keep warming well below 2 °C](#)

² [Tracing anthropogenic carbon dioxide and methane emissions to fossil fuel and cement producers, 1854–2010](#)

Conversely, many corporations are leading the way with ambitious emissions reductions. The ‘We Mean Business Coalition’ includes over 773 leading corporations and investors transitioning away from carbon at various ambition levels, with specific public commitments.³ At COP-21 in Paris, over 400 companies had already made these pledges, and 16 major corporations as part of the ‘B-Team’ pledged to become ‘Net-Zero by 2050’, and called for similar leadership from nation states.⁴ Complementing these actions, many states, provinces and cities are ambitiously implementing policies⁵ to reduce GHG emissions and increase removals. Led by the European Union Emissions Trading System, regulated carbon markets are expanding across the globe annually with almost 40 national and 20 sub-national in existence.⁶

While many of these efforts may have been “registered” via the UNFCCC’s voluntary NAZCA Platform,⁷ in most cases, the carbon measurement and reporting for corporate carbon neutrality and/or carbon footprints are neither consistent with, nor fully accounted for by, the UNFCCC and its internationally accepted *IPCC Good Practice Guidance and Guidelines* (IPCC GPGs). This complicates global stock-takes and often leads to ‘hot air’ – as has been demonstrated in the forestry sector by those applying substandard methods for projects and jurisdictions rather than the globally accepted methodologies under the *UNFCCC REDD+ mechanism*⁸.

Using the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for financial statements as an example, unless all contributions are reported using the same GHG accounting standards, it is impossible to correctly evaluate and aggregate actions from nations, regions, states, provinces, cities, companies, individuals, etc. Thus, seeking to scale up global ambition while accurately and effectively contributing to the objectives of the Paris Agreement by applying the relevant carbon estimation as outlined by the IPCC GPGs, the Parties should consider how to encourage Non-Party Contributions (NPCs) on a voluntary basis whereby:

1. **Contributions:** Non-Party Actors could voluntarily express their ambition by determining their contributions to reduce GHG emissions, increase removals along with providing financial and technological contributions.
2. **Methods:** To ensure common carbon estimation and accounting standards, emissions reductions or removals should be reported using the relevant sectoral guidance and guidelines from the IPCC and relevant UNFCCC decisions.

³ [We Mean Business Coalition](#)

⁴ [B-Team "Net-Zero by 2050"](#)

⁵ e.g. [America's Pledge on Climate](#)

⁶ [Carbon Pricing Watch 2016](#)

⁷ <http://climateaction.unfccc.int/>

⁸ [UNFCCC REDD+ Mechanism, http://redd.unfccc.int/](#).

3. **Environmental Integrity:** NPCs should be aggregated and included within National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, National Accounting Systems and reflected in the NDCs of all those countries within which they operate. Double counting must be avoided.
4. **Consistency:** Methodologies and data building NPCs as reflected in the NDCs should be consistent with existing national reporting documents such as National Communications, Biennial Update Reports and National Greenhouse Gas inventories
5. **Review:** NPCs should be subject to independent review (at cost) regarding the reporting of emissions reductions and removals, along with finance, technology and capacity, where relevant.
6. **Reporting:** NPCs should prepare Biennial NPC Reports corresponding to the reporting cycles of Parties.
7. **Gateway:** The UNFCCC should establish a “Gateway” to encourage, measure, report, verify and transparently account for qualifying contributions – moving beyond the simple registration process and inconsistent technical evaluation under the *NAZCA Platform*. Consistent with Decision 1/CP.21, such a Gateway should be linked to the Paris Agreement. A voluntary meeting could be organized annually to share best practices and report on progress related to NPCs.

In this context and under a newly created agenda item, the 23rd Conference of the Parties should invite the Subsidiary Bodies to jointly convene a contact group, open to observers, to consider and report back with recommendations on this matter at the 24th Conference of the Parties.