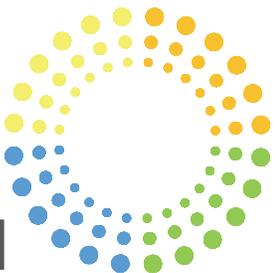


DIALOGUE FOR CLIMATE ACTION



Climate action starts with dialogue

Voluntary principles for catalyzing climate action through dialogue

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OUR COMMITMENT TO A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

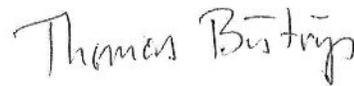
In keeping with the spirit of open dialogue, the principles set out below stem from an open, multi-round discussion undertaken between February and April 2016 in preparation for the Dialogue for Climate Action conference in Vienna in May 2016. We, the undersigned Partners, seek to promote successful outcomes in climate change policy through the private sector, civil society, and the public sector working together with equal voices in prioritizing issues and identifying solutions. Structured dialogues are one important way to achieve that objective. Successful dialogue combines leadership with a sustainable, structured, and inclusive process.

Through our commitment to these collaboratively drafted principles and a Community of Practice, we seek to improve the quality of these dialogues and thereby increase the ability of key stakeholders to play an active role in the design of policies and initiatives that tackle climate change. The principles will serve as good-practice guidelines to build upon and inform implementation. We are committed to contributing to building and maintaining an active Community of Practice that is focused on delivering and learning from these climate dialogues. We also agree to actively advocate for broader use of these principles by other actors.



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PRINCIPLES FOR DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE ACTION

The challenge posed by climate change demands collective action by governments, industries, and societies at large, both in terms of the threats it poses and the opportunities it presents. The private sector, with its significant financial resources and dedication to innovation, has a leading role to play in the urgent global effort to reduce the negative effects of climate change and create the healthy, thriving zero-carbon economy of the future. CEOs from industries ranging from textiles to technology companies have pledged to scale-up efforts and investment in climate action and over 1,000 global businesses are asking for a meaningful price on carbon. Private sector involvement can take many forms, from development of new technologies and financial instruments to participation in policy development. Maximizing the participation in this global endeavor requires a robust, structured dialogue for action on climate change. When governments establish inclusive dialogue with the private sector as well as international organizations, civil society, and communities, they can produce better integrated and more comprehensive strategies capable of addressing a crisis whose impacts extend from remote villages and islands to the planet as a whole.

The variety of climate change issues, country contexts, and business types points up the need for equally varied and inclusive engagements. Experience with producing development solutions through organized dialogue provides a ready-made foundation which can be reinforced by leveraging a set of principles as good practices.

The historic agreement reached in Paris at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) last December codifies the need for private sector involvement in transitioning the global economy toward a resilient, low-carbon future without compromising growth. Signatories must turn the principles of climate change mitigation and adaptation into action, and this cannot be achieved through government action alone.

To support countries as they undertake the formidable task of implementing the Paris Agreement, a group of public and private sector partners has come together to form a community of practice, starting with the development of a set of six principles to support the establishment and enhancement of climate dialogues at the global, regional, national, and local levels. Dialogues can help build trust, close knowledge gaps, catalyze action, and generate a sense of combined ownership of solutions. For the private sector, effective dialogues can increase quality and predictability of the business environment in a green economy. In emerging markets, they can provide a path to growth for small and medium enterprises and a means of moving people out of poverty.

Effective climate dialogue can produce a range of proposals and strategies, including: voluntary actions by the private sector and other key actors for adaptation and mitigation; legal and regulatory reforms (including removal of fossil fuel subsidies and pricing carbon) to accelerate innovation, incentivize public-private partnerships (PPPs), reward good behavior, and discourage bad behavior; access to finance for businesses large and small and for citizens; and strategies to encourage efficient management, strengthened governance, and behavioral change among businesses and consumers.

Dialogues are under way in the climate change space, and public-private dialogue is a proven tool with a long track record of success in developing countries. These principles when leveraged as good practices are focused on bringing the public and private sectors together into a single, common and well-structured platform to identify challenges and implement solutions in the climate change space.

SIX PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE ESTABLISHMENT OF EFFECTIVE DIALOGUES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

1. INCLUSION

Climate dialogues should bring together a wide variety of public, private, and civil society stakeholders able to integrate global challenges with regional environmental and economic needs. Private sector representation should span formal to informal and large to micro enterprises, giving them a voice in decisions that impact them directly. Inclusive dialogues will be needed at both national and sub-national levels, with effective coordination between them.

2. URGENCY

Climate change poses an immediate as well as long-term threat. Pacific islands and low-lying states confronting rising seas, glaciers disappearing, and city dwellers enveloped in health-endangering smog are but a few examples. Dialogues should be driven by the need for ambitious and urgent action prioritized based on country context and the most pressing local and regional challenges posed by climate change.

3. AWARENESS

To be informed of the multiple challenges of climate change, but also the range of solutions and possible actions, requires a drive for awareness within the climate dialogue process. This includes respectful attention to the varying opinions of stakeholders as well as knowledge-sharing and the building of a common understanding of issues and opportunities among stakeholder groups. Awareness-building is a continuous process that should occur at national and sub-national levels.

4. EFFICIENCY

Participation in dialogues, while inclusive, should be appropriate to the country context so as to encourage efficiency in decision-making. An effective governance framework coupled with a well-structured process will avoid gridlock and enable participants to identify, prioritize, and resolve issues through climate action. Leadership from government and the private sector should aim to convene and motivate diverse stakeholders to work together effectively toward solutions aimed at meeting ambitious targets.

5. TRANSPARENCY

To build trust, climate dialogues must be transparent in their agendas, discussions, and outcomes and must function in a consistent and predictable manner. Policies, goals, and timelines concerning data-sharing and confidentiality, online presence, and dialogue participants, governing structure, and process should be made public. The confidentiality of sensitive business-related data must be respected.

6. ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability in a dialogue helps build trust, confidence, and a sense of ownership. Inclusive dialogues should reach a common understanding of targets and results through a transparent process. To build accountability, dialogue recommendations must be fact-based and data-driven so that impacted parties can be confident they are based on a solid foundation. Results of recommendations should be trackable to accurately measure performance and achievements stemming from the dialogue.