



## **The COP22 Low-Emissions Solutions Conference**

**“Global Brainstorming on Practical Pathways to Low Emissions”**

**November 14-16, 2016, Blue Zone, Marrakech, Morocco**

### **Context of the Low-Emissions Solutions Conference**

The COP22 Low-Emissions Solutions Conference is a direct follow-up to key commitments in the Paris agreement. In the agreement, every country is responsible for producing a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the period to 2030 as well as a Low-Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) to 2050 (Article 4, paragraph 19). The Solutions Conference will assist nations in the technical preparations of their NDCs and LEDSs by bringing together technical experts, world-leading scientists and engineers, and sectors from business, academia, and civil society. The Solutions Conference will be aimed at problem solving, brainstorming, and global co-creation, without the pressures of inter-governmental negotiations or formal agreements. The goal will be to share knowledge, exchange information, identify bottlenecks, discuss best practices, and prioritize future research.

This is the first time in COP history that a large-scale technical-solutions conference is being organized for country delegations, placing innovative technological solutions at the heart of the meeting. The hope is that the Solutions Conference at COP22 will be the first of a series of similar annual events at future COPs.

### **Co-Organizers**

- The Government of Morocco, through the Ministry of Environment, will host the overall conference, provide space and logistics, and arrange official invitations and operations
- The UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the network of universities and research centers, which is led by the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary General, Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, will take the lead on organizing academic participation, in collaboration with other academic entities.

- The World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the network of the most influential companies in the world, which is chaired by Mr Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever, will take the lead in organizing the global business participation with other business organizations such as the International Chamber of Commerce, the World Economic Forum, and the UN Global Compact.
- The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), the network of cities, under its Secretary General, Mr. Gino Van Begin, will organize the participation of mayors of cities and presidents of regions in collaboration with other city organizations such as UCLG (United Cities and Local Government), R20, and C40.
- Preparing content for the Solutions Conference will also involve other partners including UN agencies, international organizations (ITU, WTO, UNIDO, UNEP, UNDP, IEA), industry associations (GSMA for ICT, for IPIECA oil and gas, etc.), the Global e-Sustainability initiative (GESI), and others.

### **Anticipated Outcomes of the Conference**

The main idea of this conference is to support a collaborative brainstorming and solutions-oriented mode to the Paris Agreement, with the following specific objectives:

- Strengthen the technical capacities of the 196 signatory governments of the UNFCCC to design and implement long-term low greenhouse-gas emissions development strategies as called for in the Paris Agreement (NDCs and LEDSs)
- Chart key technology pathways for decarbonized energy systems, based on public-private partnerships
- Create an intensive global dialogue among engineers and technology specialists on innovative solutions for a low-emissions future
- Enhance global exchange and partnerships for technology solutions between governments, businesses, academia, and civil society organizations.

### **Agenda**

The agenda will be built around the Low-Emission Development Strategies highlighting the following clusters:

- Design of NDCS and LEDs
- Cities and Energy Efficiency in Buildings
- Low-Emissions Transport
- Low-Emissions Power Generation and Distribution
- Public policies and regulations needed to support deep decarbonization of energy systems

### **Participants**

Around 600-800 participants are expected, including:

- Delegates from each of the 196 countries signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Each country should send a team of 2-3 technical experts with senior responsibility in the design of NDCS and LEDs.
- In addition to the country delegations, there will also be a high-level representation from the private sector including, but not limited to, the generation and distribution of energy, transport, construction, agriculture and land use, automotive, aviation, utilities, and ICT.
- Academic experts in energy systems, climate resilience, and related topics
- Cities and municipal leadership.
- Influential NGOs and other relevant sectors for the successful design and implementation of NDCS and LEDs.

### **Conference location**

On the same site of the COP22 inside the “Blue Zone.” The exhibition of innovative solutions will be in the “Innovation Village.”

### **Mobilization before the conference**

Before the conference, scientific and technical work will be conducted on the reconciliation of the ICT sector with climate action. Specifically, the following two projects are planned:

- Strengthening the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project (<http://deepdecarbonization.org/>) with an ICT dimension as a major axis of the solution to global warming
- Enrich the WBCSD’s LCTPi study (<http://www.wbcsd.org/>) with a 10<sup>th</sup> pillar dedicated to ICT (<http://lctpi.wbcsdservers.org/>)

The results of this scientific work will be presented at the conference, and therefore these elements are an integral part of the preparation.

In order to mobilize the academic community, all the Moroccan universities and schools of engineering, both public and private, should become members of SDSN, the largest network of universities working together on sustainable development.

Regions and cities are important for the implementation low emissions strategies. Through ICLEI, these actors will be important participating in the Solutions Conference.

In addition to the academics and cities, innovative companies will be mobilized. Their contributions will include active participation in the conference and the exhibition of innovative solutions.

### **Particular focus on the role of ICT**

The telecoms and ICT industries, according to GSMA, have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for other industries at a degree five times larger than the reduction in its own emissions. In this context, and at the Mobile World Congress 2016, the largest flagship event industry, GSMA, technology manufacturers, policy makers and telecom

operators announced industry mobilization for climate and around COP22. Three projects have come out of this collaboration:

1. Agreement in principle to augment the work conducted by SDSN in the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project (<http://deepdecarbonization.org>) that traces the technological trajectories of a decarbonized economy as well as the transformations necessary in each sector, but doesn't include the role of ICT.
2. Industry participation in the "COP22 Low Emissions Solutions Conference" to ensure that ICT is on the strategic agenda of the countries when they consider 2050 and climate change resilient economies. Participation can be through interventions, demos, and sponsorship.
3. Enrich the WBCSD's LCTPi study (<http://www.wbcsd.org/>) with a 10<sup>th</sup> pillar dedicated to ICT solutions for the climate (<http://lctpi.wbcsdservers.org/>). The advantage is that LCTPi already includes nine focus groups on vertical industries including biofuels, forestry, Carbon Capture and Storage, smart agriculture, forestry, energy efficiency in buildings, cement, renewable energy, low carbon freight in addition chemicals. Adding the ICT dimension will help strengthen the partnership and technology collaboration with other sectors.

### **Background on Co-Organizers**

SDSN's mission is to support practical solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at local, national and global levels. To achieve this mission, the SDSN has built a global network of universities, research centers and other institutions focusing on four areas: support international discussions on the SDGs; promote practical solutions for the SDGs; promote quality education and research collaboration for the SDGs; assist governments to better understand and meet the challenges of the SDGs.

The SDSN operates under the auspices of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. SDSN works closely with United Nations agencies, multilateral financial institutions, the private sector and civil society. Twelve Thematic Networks, involving experts from around the world, lead the technical work of SDSN. The Secretariat SDSN is hosted by Columbia University in New York.

The WBCSD was created in 1995 by the merger of the Business Council for Sustainable Development and the World Industry Council for the Environment. This was an initiative of the Swiss industrialist Stephan Schmidheiny, former CEO of Swiss Eternit Group, who was the principal advisor to Maurice Strong, Secretary General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, better known as the Rio Earth Summit (1992). The organization works on a range of topics relating to sustainable development, including development, energy and climate, the role of business in society, water, energy efficiency in buildings, and biodiversity.

Among its members there are large multinationals such as General Motors, DuPont, 3M, Deutsche Bank, Coca Cola, Sony, Caterpillar, BP, Royal Dutch Shell, Lafarge, British Telecom, AT&T, among many others. The WBCSD also has a regional network of 55 partner organizations.

ICLEI is an association founded in 1990 under the sponsorship of the UN Environment Programme. The association is responsible for implementing and supporting sustainable development projects in municipalities across the planet. Its purpose is to improve the overall ecological situation, by incrementally contributing local action for the environment. ICLEI gathers more than 1,000 local actors (towns, cities, municipalities, and municipal associations). By helping members make their cities and regions sustainable, low emission, resilient, eco-mobile, biologically diverse, efficient in resources and production, providing health and happiness within a green economy, and smart infrastructure, ICLEI impacts over 20% of the global urban population.