



Submission by Switzerland

31 July 2020

Race to Zero November Dialogues: Submission by Switzerland after the Exchange of the High- Level Champions with the Environmental Integrity Group

Switzerland greatly appreciated the availability of the High-Level Champions Gonzalo Muñoz and Nigel Topping for the recent exchange on 24 July 2020 with members of the Environmental Integrity Group EIG.

We attach the draft EIG statement that served as a basis for our exchange.

(The EIG statement is in a draft version because of the absence of a number of EIG member countries' delegates during their summer break. The draft statement does therefore not bind any EIG member countries.)

As promised during the exchange with the High-Level Champions, here are some further points/ideas:

- Climate negotiations do not only provide opportunities for State Parties to showcase their achievements; but this is also true for Non-State Actors.
- The November Dialogues will probably unite those Non-State Actors that are already very familiar with the setting of the negotiations and their side events.
 - ⇒ The November Dialogues should seek to extend this usual group of actors.
 - ⇒ Virtual meetings make it easier to bring somebody into a meeting: We suggest to ask lead actors for November Dialogues to each bring in a Non-State Actor that has so far not actively participated in the realm of climate negotiations. This is especially true, as discussed during the exchange with the High-Level Champions, for Non-State Actors from the Global South.
- Climate negotiations also generate strong media coverage and a wider awareness of the challenges we are all facing. For the moment, we cannot rely on this due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - ⇒ The November Dialogues must therefore have a strong focus on generating media attention both at the international and the national level.
 - ⇒ Where necessary, Non-State Actors should receive specific support to publicize their engagement and the goals they are pursuing in the November Dialogue they lead or in which they are participating.
 - ⇒ State Parties shall be encouraged to equally publicize their engagement and the goals pursued by the November Dialogues. To this end, it would be most welcome if there is also an opportunity for Ministers to engage in the realm of the November Dialogues.



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- We appreciate the reference of the High-Level Champions to the Talanoa Dialogue and its storytelling approach. The Talanoa Dialogue lends itself to promote mutual understanding and the sharing of successful climate action. Switzerland regretted that the Talanoa Dialogue was not continued after COP24.
- ⇒ We welcome the High-Level Champions to renew and reinvigorate the TD approach in the realm of the Work Programme for the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for 2020-2021.

- The Work Programme for the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for 2020-2021 is very ambitious and covers a vast conceptual range.

We welcome this very much.

- ⇒ At the same time, we think it remains crucial to translate the Work Programme for the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for 2020-2021 into concrete action, and to prioritize wherever possible.

In a similar vein, we very much appreciate where the Work Programme and the Partnership already have achieved this:

- Promoting the engagement of Non-State Actors:
 - ⇒ The role for State Parties to encourage Non-State Actors merits to be clarified. As State Party, we are delighted to see the active engagement of Non-State Actors in the Race to Zero. But State Parties' efforts to promote the engagement of Non-State Actors shall by no means be seen as a hindrance or interference.

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Draft

¹ EIG-Position, in particular regarding

Race to Zero November 2020 Dialogues – A Galvanising Moment

We would like to thank you, the High-Level Champions for Global Climate Action, for this opportunity for an exchange. The [EIG] greatly appreciates your availability.

We all know that we live in difficult times.

Multilateral negotiations have been postponed until further notice.

This is true not just in the realm of climate change negotiations, but overall.

We don't know how the pandemic will develop over the near- and medium-term future and to what extent the global community will be in a position to have it under control not just in 2020, but also in 2021.

Notwithstanding these global health challenges, the [EIG] member countries are committed to move ahead with strong climate actions.

Climate change does not take a time-out while we are grappling with the Coronavirus.

This is why we appreciate your engagement and your timely initiatives all the more:

It is most important that we demonstrate to our citizens and to the global community that we are not pausing our efforts.

We celebrate the COP decision to extend the Marrakech Partnership and the work of the Champions until 2025. We expect to see tangible action coming out of the Partnership in this new period, and the [EIG] is ready to engage.

The Race to Zero November 2020 Dialogues are a unique opportunity to communicate global efforts to fight climate change and adapt to it.

With the October negotiations in Bonn cancelled, the November 2020 Dialogues come at a crucial time. We greatly value your commitment.

If you allow, the [EIG] would like to take up a few points regarding the Race to Zero November 2020 Dialogues:

- *The November Dialogues are first of all targeted at actors outside of national governments, with the goal to have additional actors join the Climate Ambition Alliance.*
- *We continue to greatly appreciate your efforts and the efforts of current Climate Ambition Alliance members.*
- *Some of our countries have been approached by such actors to join in their proposed program for a specific Race to Zero Dialogue.*
- *If there is an opportunity, [EIG] member countries will be delighted to actively participate in Race to Zero Dialogues.*

The [EIG] would also like to recognize the importance of the work program of the High-level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for 2020–2021, to enhance ambition in climate action and local action.

Given the success of the virtual June Momentum events, the [EIG] would very much welcome if you foresee also opportunities for country Parties to engage as such in the realm of the November Dialogues.

2020 is an important year. In line with the Paris Agreement, Parties will present their new or adjusted NDCs and their long-term low-emission strategies.

- *We would very much welcome if the High-Level Champions found a way to highlight Parties' efforts in a similar way as with the Race to Zero Dialogues.*
- *Do you, or your countries as COP Presidencies, plan a similar series of events for Parties?*

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