

Open Dialogues on Climate Change



OPEN DIALOGUES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Guidelines for Organizers 2024

The document below serves as the official guidelines for organizers of the Open Dialogues on Climate Change in 2024. It outlines the mission, vision, values, and goals behind the project, as well as describes its proposed format and outcomes. It advises prospective organizers on ways of implementing the project on a national level and describes means of coordination and evaluation on the international level. It also includes an overview of the application process to host an Open Dialogue.

GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL ORGANIZERS 2024

What are the Open Dialogues on Climate Change?

The **Open Dialogues on Climate Change (ODCC)** is a global flagship project initiated by the Open Dialogues International Foundation, aimed at **promoting the art of dialogue between the leaders and the society in different countries around the world**. For 4 years now, the project has united various stakeholders including government and representatives of diverse communities (political parties, NGOs, scientists, companies, youth, civil society), through series of meetings where they are able to discuss a range of topics more or less directly related to climate change, exchange their ideas and come up with some specific action proposals.

The Dialogues take place in different countries, with the goal of **producing relevant political and social outcomes** both on the national and international levels. The idea is based on equality and its purpose is to allow a **truly open discussion of all social groups without hierarchy or any other limitations**. The project is supported by the civil society, NGOs, and social movements, especially the youth climate movement. This allows the initiative to be truly inclusive, driven by bottom-up movements and solutions.

The **2023 edition of the ODCC reached 24 teams in 20 countries across 4 continents:** Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America. 57 Open Dialogues happened between June and November 2023, discussing a wide range of topics, from climate education, through just transition, adaptation and resilience, agriculture and food, all the way to finance and policy. The COP28 in Dubai summarized ODCC 2023 with an official side event titled "Change through participation: Open Dialogues as a tool for effective climate action". You can learn more about the project here: <https://www.open-dialogues.org/open-dialogues-on-climate-change>

The Open Dialogues International Foundation

The Open Dialogues International Foundation (www.open-dialogues.org) is the initiator and institutional coordinator of the Open Dialogues on Climate Change project.

It is an international NGO registered in the Republic of Poland. It is dedicated to the values of dialogue, cooperation, sustainable development, democracy, and equality for all. Besides coordinating the Open Dialogues on Climate Change, the Foundation also coordinates the DialogueON project (monthly virtual dialogues on different social issues), organizes various educational activities and awareness-raising campaigns, supports grassroots initiatives, as well as engages in local, national, and global advocacy to represent the voices of marginalized groups.

OBJECTIVES OF THE OPEN DIALOGUES ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

1. Raising ecological awareness, promoting sustainable development and climate education.
2. Encouraging dialogue, as well as enhancing communication, diversity and participation of different stakeholder groups in decision-making, including by political engagement.
3. Fostering connections among persons, groups, and organizations working in the climate space.
4. Youth empowerment and capacity-building by providing opportunities for young leaders to contribute to the project.
5. Enhancing and promoting climate action on local and national levels through international cooperation and global engagement.
6. Achieving specific political and social outcomes which will contribute to ambition enhancement and working towards the goal of climate neutrality.
7. Promoting values of equality, public participation, climate justice and solidarity.

ODCC 2024 APPLICATION PROCESS

The national organizing teams will be selected based on a transparent application and selection process, carried out by the Open Dialogues International Foundation team, along with supporting volunteers. An application form will be opened for teams to express interest in participating in the 2024 edition of the project, containing relevant questions concerning the team's plans for their national ODCC events, their understanding of Open Dialogue, their ideas on ensuring equality, inclusivity, and representativeness of the Dialogues they organize, etc. The form will be filled by a contact person on behalf of the whole team. **It is NOT possible to apply for the Open Dialogues on Climate Change as an individual.**

The responses provided will be assessed by the selection team, and a decision will be made for each team to be either directly accepted, rejected, or asked for clarifications on some of the responses. A team that has been contacted for clarifications may only be accepted after providing such clarifications. The outcome of the application will be communicated to each candidate team within two weeks after the team submitted the application form. Decisions made by the Open Dialogues International Foundation in regards to the selection process will be final.

Every accepted organizing team will receive an official letter of approval along with various guiding documents, and will be assigned a personal mentor from the Open Dialogues International Foundation to guide the team through the project.

The 2024 application process shall consist of two rounds:

- The preliminary round held in February 2024 for already accepted organizing teams to express interest in continuing their participation in the project.
- The regular round held in March-April 2024 for new applicants to join the project.

The relevant application forms may be found on this website which is being regularly updated: <https://www.open-dialogues.org/organize-an-open-dialogue>.

FORMAT OF A NATIONAL OPEN DIALOGUE

The Dialogues may be held online, in-person, or in a hybrid mode. Each national team should choose the most appropriate format for their event that will ensure the highest possible level inclusivity regardless of access to transportation or technology. It is advised that the teams allow the discussions to last for a few days (more than just one day), in order to make sure that the outcomes and recommendations are well-thought-out.

You may either organize only one Open Dialogue in your country, or separate the implementation of the project into a few smaller events, each concentrating on one specific aspect of climate change that is important for your country or community.

The topics of the Open Dialogues are not prescribed, they should depend on the environmental, economic, and social situation of your home country, as well as the climate policies currently in place. You will be asked to propose the topics in your application and they will be verified in terms of relevance to the project.

Stakeholder groups represented

In order to make dialogues as productive as possible, you can include representatives of groups such as:

- Members of the national government (prime minister, minister of environmental protection),
- Representatives of local or regional authorities,
- Representatives of NGOs, social movements, and other civil society groups working in your country,
- Representatives of the business sector,
- Students, scientists and representatives of the academic community,
- Relevant industry experts,
- A wide representation of various groups of civil society, including women, youth, indigenous people, marginalized minorities, and the most vulnerable groups (in accordance with your national situation).

However, the final decision regarding which stakeholders groups will be selected to participate in the event is the responsibility of the organizing team in each country.

IMPLEMENTATION METHODOLOGY

Every Open Dialogue organizing team is responsible for inviting the relevant stakeholder groups and/or conducting the application process in which participants are chosen based on their experience and knowledge, in order to elevate the quality of the Dialogues, while also maintaining appropriate balance and providing sufficient space for those less knowledgeable. The topics of the discussions should be presented to participants in advance, so the speakers can prepare well for the event. **The organizing team must ensure that all social groups are well represented in the Dialogue and given equal opportunities.**

We suggest that the discussions have an open format (for example a moderated debate, interactive workshops, breakout groups discussion, etc.) where the voices of all stakeholder groups are equal, which means that representatives of each group should receive the chance to state their opinions. As the discussion develops, we encourage the Dialogue facilitators to focus increasingly on developing specific policy proposals and solution recommendations, and provide the participants with enough time to prepare them. Some good practices include preparing guiding questions for participants to answer, defining time limits for each speaker, and encouraging varied discussion modes (plenary discussion, breakout groups etc.). The organizers are encouraged to follow a problem-solution approach, moving from identified problems, through an imagination of a world/community without these problems, all the way to solution ideas. Any existing frameworks (such as Talanoa dialogue methodology, systems theory, etc.) can but do not have to be applied. **We invite you to be a bit creative and do all your best to create the best possible experience for your participants!**

Members of the organizing team will be responsible for archiving the whole process of the debate and **preparing a report** which will be used as an input to the international discussions. It is also the responsibility of the organizers to facilitate the process of passing any created policy recommendations to the people responsible for their review and implementation (that is the government, local authorities etc.).

Reporting

Submitting a report from every event will be mandatory for every national organizing team and will constitute a key requirement for the team to be included in the ODCC 2024 summary event at COP29.

Every team will be asked to submit a report from each event they organize within a **maximum of two weeks after the conclusion of the event**. After that, they will receive two more reminders, after which they will lose the right to present their project at the summary event.

All reports shall be emailed to: contact@open-dialogues.org.

The International Events

An international consultation event with all national teams could be organized in advance of COP29 to validate the ODIF position on climate change. Such a meeting would be held online and allow the coordination team to finalize the global report and/or position paper from the Open Dialogues on Climate Change 2024.

A summary event of the 2024 edition of the Open Dialogues on Climate Change will be held at the **United Nations Climate Change Conference COP29** in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November/December 2024, as appropriate. Selected representatives of the organizing teams will participate in this event to share their national ODCC stories and outcomes. The main aim of the event will be to showcase both the local/national and international dimensions of the project, as well as to discuss and reflect on the 2024 Dialogues and communicate certain key recommendations or insight to the global audience of the COP29.

The support provided by the Open Dialogues International Foundation

The support provided for each team will depend on its needs and specific plans, as well as national circumstances. Examples include social media promotion, access to premium Zoom license, substantive support in designing the content of your events, designing personalized graphics, or support in finding sponsors and partners. Each team will be assigned a mentor to guide them throughout the project. All teams will have the opportunity to participate in regular meetings with other national organizers and the international team to exchange experiences. They will also be provided with various educational and informative materials, such as a guide on finding sponsors, promotional support, as well as personal support and advice. Finally, all teams that successfully conduct and report on at least one dialogue event will be invited to our international summary events (details to be provided in due course). Selected teams representatives will have a chance to participate in the UN climate summit (UNFCCC COP) at the end of the year.

NOTE: At the moment, the Open Dialogues International Foundation DOES NOT provide funding support for the national teams by default. The international team supports national teams only indirectly in searching for funding, by providing letters of approval, recommendations, and educational resources, such as a guide on how to find sponsors. This may change in the course of the project and all updates will be communicated in due course.

IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR ODCC 2024

	Responsible	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Preliminary round of applications (existing teams)	ODIF											
Regular round of applications (new teams)	ODIF											
Selection process	ODIF											
First call with National Teams	Project Coordinators											
Implementation phase - National Events	National Teams											
National events report production	National Teams											
Global Report	Project Coordinators											
COP 29 - International Summary Event	ODIF											