

Open Dialogues on Climate Change



OPEN DIALOGUES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Guidelines for Organisers 2023

The document below serves as the official guidelines for organisers of the Open Dialogues on Climate Change in 2023. It outlines the mission, vision, values and goals behind the project, as well as describes its proposed format and outcomes. It advises prospective organisers 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 COUNTRY ORGANISERS

Climate change is real and it is an emergency. For 28 years members of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change have negotiated on our common future during the conferences of the Parties, but we have noticed that there is an insufficient level of social dialogue between the government and society in different countries around the world in between these COPs. We must join all our efforts to change it and finally give everyone a chance to have their say! Now is the time to act and save our Planet Earth together! It is for this reason why 3 years ago we started organising Open Dialogues on Climate Change in different countries around the world.

The project involves a **series of meetings of various stakeholders** including both the government and the representatives of diverse communities (political parties, NGOs, scientists, youth, civil society), 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 political proposals. The Dialogue takes place in different countries and regions, with a goal of producing relevant political and social outcomes on the national, regional, and international levels. The idea is based on equality, its purpose is to allow **a truly open discussion of all social groups** without hierarchy or any other limitations.

The project is led 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 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 organises 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 marginalised groups.

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE OPEN DIALOGUES

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. Youth empowerment and capacity-building by providing opportunities for young leaders to contribute to the project.
4. Achieving specific political and social outcomes which will contribute to ambition enhancement and working towards the goal of climate neutrality.
5. Promoting values of equality, public participation, climate justice and solidarity.

2. FORMAT OF A NATIONAL OPEN DIALOGUE

It is advised that the Dialogues be held online, otherwise they may be organised in-person or in a hybrid mode to ensure inclusivity regardless of access to transportation or technology. The discussions should last for a few days in order to make sure that outcomes of the debates are well-thought-out. Moreover, you may either organise only one Open Dialogue in your country or separate it into a few smaller events, each concentrating on one specific aspect of climate change policy. The topics of the Open dialogues are not prescribed, they should depend on the environmental situation of your home country i.e. in Poland we still generate over 80% of electricity from fossil fuels and we are responsible for 1.5% of total global emissions per year, so the Polish open dialogues should probably include the topic of strategy of decarbonization of Poland. 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 in your country,
- Representatives of NGOs acting in your country,
- Representatives of the business sector,
- Students, scientists and representatives of the academic community,
- A wide representation of various groups of civil society, including women, youth, indigenous people and the most vulnerable groups,
- Experts in fields which are covered in the debates.

However, it is the decision of the organising team in each country which stakeholders they will select.

3. IMPLEMENTATION METHODOLOGY

Every Open Dialogue organising 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 talks. The topics of the discussions should be presented to participants in advance, so the speakers can prepare well for the event. **The organising team must ensure that all social groups are well represented in the Dialogue and given equal opportunities.**

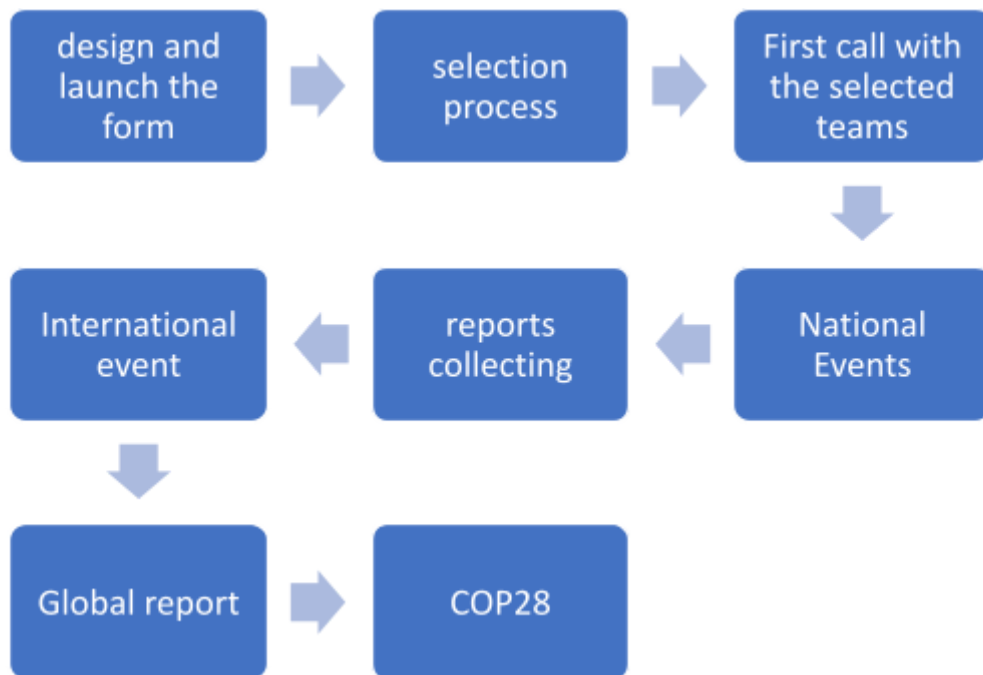
We suggest that the discussions have the format of an open, moderated debate, where the voices of all stakeholder groups are equal, which means that representatives of each group should receive the chance to state their opinions. The Dialogue should begin with general discussion, during which ideas and demands from different groups will be exchanged. After that, we encourage the moderators to focus more and more on developing specific policy proposals, and provide the participants with enough time to prepare them. Some good examples of handling the debates include preparing some guiding questions for participants to answer, defining time limits for each speaker, and encouraging varied discussion modes (plenary discussion, breakout groups etc.). The organisers 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 organising 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, as well as national policy recommendations. It is also the responsibility of the organisers 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.).

The International Event

An international event could be organised in advance of COP28 to validate the ODIF position paper on climate change. The meeting will probably be held online and allow the coordination team to present the global report and position paper from the Open Dialogues. The report should include the declaration outcomes, difficulties which happened during the organisation and your evaluation. We plan to connect all reports into one big declaration which will not only unify the format of future Open Dialogues, but also serve as a manifestation of young people's demands and ideas. We hope that such a declaration will generate a strong international impact on the society and media, as well as on the participants of the COP28.

4. IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS



5. IMPLEMENTATION CALENDAR

	Responsible	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Selection process	Project Coordination											
First call with Nationals Teams												
National events	National Teams											
National events report production	National Teams											
International event	Project coordination											
Global Report	Project Coordination											
COP 28	Project Coordination											