

# TRANSFORMATIVE STEP OF THE DAY

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**GeSI**  
GLOBAL e-SUSTAINABILITY  
INITIATIVE



# A call to recognize transformative low-carbon solutions at COP17

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## Transformative Step of the Day

At COP17 in Durban, the Transformative Step of the Day initiative will be launched in conjunction with the global climate negotiations to increase focus on transformative low-carbon solutions and how they can be supported in the process.

The purpose is to facilitate dialogue between policy-makers and solution providers on how transformative solutions can be promoted in the climate negotiations and beyond.

This will support the goal that transformative low-carbon solutions are recognized in relevant parts of the climate negotiations, and that initiatives accelerating their uptake are recognized.

Government leaders and solution sectors will present concrete examples of transformative low-carbon solutions from around the world directly to the negotiators in order to demonstrate the need to support their accelerated uptake.

### We urge the negotiators in Durban to:

- Support a shift from a “problem perspective” to a “solution perspective” and from “incremental improvements in existing systems” to “transformative solutions” that allow services to be provided in innovative ways.
- Stimulate increased dialogue under the UNFCCC umbrella between clusters of policy-makers, and solution sectors/providers, linking concrete initiatives to the climate negotiations.
- Recognize the importance of transformative solutions in driving a low-carbon society and facilitating sustainable growth in both developed and developing countries.
- Increase engagement and participation of stakeholders usually excluded from the negotiation process through increased transparency and connectivity.
- Build on and help to implement the Guadalajara ICT Declaration for Transformative Low-Carbon Solutions, launched at COP16 in Cancun.

### At COP17

On-site at COP17 in Durban, a multi-stakeholder coalition in cooperation with the UNFCCC Secretariat will launch the “Transformative Step of the Day” initiative on December 5 at 14:00, at the UNFCCC Virtual Press Center, as a way to increase focus on transformative low-carbon solutions during the negotiations. The initiative builds on the “Guadalajara ICT Declaration for Transformative Low-carbon Solutions”, which was launched during COP16 under the leadership of the Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) and the government of Mexico.

Delegations who have taken initiatives to support an accelerated uptake of transformative low-carbon solutions through proposals in the negotiations are encouraged to submit their initiatives. Delegations highlighting their best practices will be recognized for their efforts.

The initiative will be facilitated through a mobile application and a web-portal, which will be used to keep track of different initiatives in support of transformative low-carbon solutions. Delegations will have the opportunity to provide information about their initiatives through the mobile application and web-portal. Based on this input, participants at the conference and stakeholders from around the world will be able to vote on the initiatives they think deserve to be the Transformative Step of the Day.

The Transformative Step of the Day initiative will help improve transparency and increase interest in the negotiations by allowing stakeholders from around the world to follow, rate and comment on different initiatives in real-time. Clusters of companies and solution providers working to implement transformative low-carbon solutions will be able to comment on initiatives and express their views to policy-makers.

# Transformative Step of the Day Q&A

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## Q. What is the Transformative Step of the Day initiative?

A. An initiative which aims to increase focus on transformative low-carbon solutions and how they can be supported in the negotiation process. The initiative will be facilitated by a mobile app and web portal and live events to launch the initiative and announce the winning transformative step.

## Q. What is a transformative step and why is it important?

A. A transformative step can be a solution, activity or policy decision that supports transformative low-carbon solutions. These steps can help transform business models and/or allow countries to leapfrog past carbon emitting technologies, and will be officially presented at COP17. Transformative solutions often provide emissions reductions of 80% or more compared with business as usual and frequently depend on an underlying energy-efficient broadband infrastructure.

## Q. Who can participate in the Transformative Step of the Day?

A. All delegates on-site in Durban are encouraged to participate. The main focus will be on government initiatives but transformative steps taken by other stakeholders will also be recognized.

## Q. How can I participate?

A. Delegations, organizations and individuals at COP17 in Durban can submit their transformative steps through the mobile app or web-portal. Submissions will be accepted from December 5, 14:00 to December 8, 12:00 local Durban time. Even if you are not in Durban, interested parties can review the submissions and vote. Please visit [www.gesi.org](http://www.gesi.org) for more information.

## Q. Who can vote and how can I vote?

A. Anyone participating in or following COP17 can review the submissions and vote. Voting will be open between December 5, 14:00 and December 8, 12:00 local Durban time. Connect to the app or web-portal at [www.gesi.org](http://www.gesi.org).

## Q. When will the winning Transformative Step be announced?

A. The launch of the Transformative Step of the Day is on December 5, at 14.00 local Durban time. The daily winner will be announced December 6 – 8, at 14.00 local Durban time. More information to be available at [www.gesi.org](http://www.gesi.org).

### Examples include:



**e-commerce:** Farmers checking market prices and digital books being downloaded, online commerce allows for reductions in physical transport and supports dematerialisation.



**Sustainable lifestyles:** By providing information and transparency mobile applications can support more sustainable lifestyles where people are aware of their footprint and the positive and negative effect of different lifestyle.



**Virtual meetings and remote working:** Remote collaboration will significantly reduce carbon emissions caused by travel.



**Intelligent transport:** Solutions that optimize fuel, vehicle, traffic and commuting efficiency.



**Smart buildings:** By managing light and heat systems, resources consumption can be adapted to match demand in real-time. This also enables buildings to become net producers of renewable energy.



**Smart grids:** Connected electricity supply grids can be controlled so that energy is sent to industries and homes in the most efficient way, accelerating the uptake of renewable energy.

**COORDINATOR:**

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**COOPERATION PARTNERS:**

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Global Compact and International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

**SUPPORTERS:**

Open invitation to all interested. All supporters of the Guadalajara ICT declaration will be asked to support this initiative and other organizations interested in supporting should contact the coordinator.

For background and further information about the Guadalajara ICT Declaration, see  
<http://bit.ly/GuadalajaraDeclaration>

The web-platform and mobile app for Transformative Step of the Day are developed with the generous support of GeSI members Deutsche Telekom and Ericsson.

