

SUMMARY OF THE FEEDBACK RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE LETTER FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPIONS OF CLIMATE ACTION

I. BACKGROUND

1. To support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and as described in the work programme for 2020–2021,¹ the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action focuses on environmental, economic and social system transformation, thereby promoting higher ambition among all stakeholders to collectively strive for the 1.5 °C temperature goal and a climate-neutral and -resilient world.
2. At the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25),² Parties requested the High-Level Champions to explore how to improve the work under the Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition, taking into consideration feedback from Parties and non-Party stakeholders. In response to this request and building on the work programme, lessons learned and achievements over the past years, the High-Level Champions sent a letter to Parties and non-Party stakeholders on 27 March 2020 requesting feedback. Forty-two written inputs were received, including 7 from Parties and groups of Parties (representing more than 100 Parties), and the remainder from non-Party stakeholders.³ The High-Level Champions also convened various meetings to gain additional insight from both Parties and non-Party stakeholders.
3. This document summarizes the major themes across all inputs received. Efforts have been made to cluster the feedback based on the structure and questions outlined by the High-Level Champions in their letter. The inputs received and the information they contain will be used as a reference when developing and implementing a path for improving the Marrakech Partnership.

II. DEFINING SUCCESS

Q1. How would you define success of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership in terms of enhancing ambition in the next five years and beyond?

Overarching themes

- ❖ Bold ambition by all stakeholders, aligned with a 1.5 °C climate-resilient future, resulting in enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs)
- ❖ Rapid transition from ambition and commitments to transformational implementation and immediate delivery, contributing to a sustainable recovery

¹ See <https://unfccc.int/documents/228033>.

² Decision 1/CP.25, paras. 26–28.

³ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/invitation-to-provide-feedback-to-the-high-level-champions-on-how-to-improve-the-marrakech> to view the letter and inputs received.

- ❖ Exponential growth and the participation of stakeholders regionally, locally and sectorally, particularly in developing countries
- ❖ Resilience fully integrated
- ❖ The Marrakech Partnership becomes the go-to hub for collaboration and best practices between countries and non-Party stakeholders for ambition, action and implementation
- ❖ Progress of voluntary efforts globally is credibly tracked, and benefits showcased
- ❖ Strengthened and stabilized identity and organization of the Marrakech Partnership on the basis of co-ownership and inclusivity

4. Supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement by striving for the 1.5 °C temperature goal and a climate-resilient world should remain the focus of the work of the Marrakech Partnership. Non-Party stakeholder ambition and action should catalyse even stronger Party commitments in a continuous loop that ratchets up ambition for driving down emissions, building resilience and scaling up finance. It is therefore crucial to share technical information and know-how widely for building capacity and enabling quick-start implementation on the ground, across sectors and regions.
5. The successes, challenges and lessons learned gained through the work of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership over the past several years should be shared with Parties for them to consider the opportunities they can leverage. For example, the Race to Zero campaign and the Climate Action Pathways are existing tools for knowledge-sharing and can be continuously built on, creating a compelling narrative and collective road maps. Such tools can showcase the potential of bold and actionable commitments. It should be explored how they can support Parties, where the Marrakech Partnership and non-Party stakeholders act as important resources in developing their enhanced NDCs and long-term strategies.
6. Beyond driving ambitious commitments, there is a need for immediate and tangible implementation of these commitments. Long-term plans, but also short-term results aligned with these ambitious visions, are essential, as science calls for urgent progress. The success of the Marrakech Partnership should not just be about the number of commitments but should also include catalysing delivery on these commitments and systems transformation in the near term, demonstrating that it is critical to not only think big but also act with purpose to make visions a reality. As national governments and all stakeholders deal with the challenges of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the immediate actions taken will provide opportunities and options on how to put in place policies and measures that heal our communities and how to recover in a manner that is sustainable, climate-safe and just, thereby enabling achievement of both the Paris Agreement goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.
7. The scope of work of the Marrakech Partnership needs to be inclusive and truly global by rapidly scaling up the participation of stakeholders from sectors and regions that are under-represented,

in particular from developing and the most vulnerable countries, reaching beyond the climate bubble to bring in new perspectives. Stakeholders who have not been involved previously should understand the benefits of transformative action, with the respective challenges taken into account, so they feel empowered and part of the solution.

8. To ensure an inclusive approach, enabling environments should be provided for stakeholders, including youth and civil society, to contribute to ambitious climate action and actively participate in planning and decision-making. Support for bottom-up initiatives and local organizations should be strengthened to reach actors on the ground and those impacted most by climate change.
9. For the Marrakech Partnership to be as beneficial and relevant as possible to all countries, resilience needs to be addressed as strongly as mitigation issues to minimize the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable and those who have the least capacity. Resilience needs to be truly cross-cutting and fully integrated across all thematic areas. All stakeholders should incorporate it in their climate strategies and elaborate more clearly how they are working on this issue. They should explore how to make resilience more prominent and incentivize action in this area.
10. The Marrakech Partnership has a unique role of acting as an enabler and conduit between non-Party stakeholders and the UNFCCC process and national governments. This role should be expanded to drive a new level of enhanced collaboration with national governments on solutions and collective action. Through action-oriented dialogues providing a dynamic and agile space for implementation throughout the year, rapid learning, cooperation and diffusion of cutting-edge solutions with national governments can propel further ambition, and the Marrakech Partnership can become a partner for high ambition, which will also help provide coherence across the broad set of initiatives and voluntary efforts performed in order to effectively support the UNFCCC process, countries' ambition and the global stocktake.
11. To provide credibility and build trust, progress against voluntary commitments needs to be tracked and communicated regularly and effectively to target audiences. This will not only provide an atmosphere of accountability and transparency but also recognize success stories, allow stakeholders to learn what works, guide further action, demonstrate the benefits to local communities and truly understand global progress on the required transformation across various sectors.
12. The Marrakech Partnership should continue to be a community of stakeholders aligned with ambitious action, promoting active collaboration, inclusivity and co-ownership. This identity formed around the overarching goals needs to strengthen, streamline and clearly communicate the processes of engagement. The organizational structures to support this work should be stable in order to provide continuity, build momentum around transformational action and effectively support Parties and the UNFCCC process.

III. ADDING VALUE

Q2. How can the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership add the most value and complement existing efforts to drive ambition and transformation in the next five years and beyond?

Overarching themes

- ❖ Focus on a systems transformation agenda that facilitates an integrated approach and cross-fertilization across sectors
- ❖ Create communities of action and provide dynamic and agile space for continuous dialogue, capacity-building and technical exchange between countries and non-Party stakeholders
- ❖ Strengthen, promote and create synergies with existing initiatives that address gaps and are science-based, robust and transformational
- ❖ Design specific strategies to listen and help developing countries overcome barriers, and mobilize support to empower local initiatives and actors
- ❖ Use transformational pathways as an organizing tool for connecting stakeholders, fostering partnerships and engaging countries
- ❖ Promote a narrative of hope and success that is based on credible evidence showing the scale of transformation

13. The Marrakech Partnership should encourage systems transformation by empowering all actors to realize key tipping points and breakthroughs across sectors. A systems transformation mindset should be mainstreamed, and the myriad of actors required to drive the exponential change brought together around shared goals. The Climate Action Pathways should describe this systems approach and enable countries and non-Party stakeholders to understand what needs to be done and by whom to collectively realize a 1.5 °C climate-resilient future within their own regions and contexts. Efforts should be made to ensure an integrated approach and facilitate linkages across sectors, and to appropriately incorporate aspects of gender, youth and traditional knowledge.
14. A dynamic and agile space should be provided to allow for continuous dialogue and to nurture relationships between Parties, non-Party stakeholders and decision-makers at all levels for them to exchange ideas and allow for rapid deployment of collaborative solutions. Building on previous experience and, specifically, the Talanoa Dialogue, national governments should have an open invitation to engage with thematic groups and feel compelled to join forces with non-Party stakeholders to deliver outcomes on specific areas, and non-Party stakeholders should have the ability to help implement national plans.
15. The Marrakech Partnership should work with initiatives that are robust, science-based, transparent and aligned with achieving a 1.5 °C climate-resilient world. It is in a unique position to help initiatives where it is most needed and to strengthen synergies between them, rather than solely pushing for new announcements. Any new initiatives should address key gaps and have high

potential for transformation. The umbrella campaign Race to Zero is a successful example of this approach of encouraging ambitious initiatives and steering existing efforts towards a common goal, thereby avoiding duplication.

16. By helping address the needs of developing countries, the Marrakech Partnership can provide great value. Efforts should be made and tools developed to gather and listen to the challenges that developing countries face. Networks of initiatives, practitioners and experts should be established, or enhanced where they already exist, to develop tailored solutions and mobilize support for developing country stakeholders and to address the difficulties they face in taking climate action.
17. The Climate Action Pathways should be embedded as the key organizing principle for the Marrakech Partnership to connect stakeholders to a shared vision, foster partnerships and engage countries in their NDCs and the deep transformation that is required. To continue building on their successes, quick wins should be identified for each sector and the Pathways should be continually enhanced to reflect the current state of climate action. Capacity-building activities should be undertaken to facilitate the understanding of these Pathways and wide-scale usage.
18. The Marrakech Partnership should take stock of the breadth and depth of action and implementation globally, and determine the scale of transformation across all sectors. This narrative should be based on credible evidence and communicated widely to inspire even greater action and attract new actors to join the climate movement. The data behind the progress should be easily accessible to countries and local stakeholders through resources such as the Global Climate Action portal and the *Yearbook of Global Climate Action*.

IV. ENHANCING COLLABORATION

Q3. How can the High-Level Champions enhance collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders to further catalyse global climate action?

- a) How can Parties benefit from the action resulting from the Global Climate Action movement and how can this action best be reflected in the work of the High-Level Champions?*
- b) How can the COP and the UNFCCC process be more effective in the collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders to further catalyse global climate action?*
- c) How could the High-Level Champions through their work in accelerating action and ambition of non-Party stakeholders most effectively contribute to the global stock-take of the Paris Agreement?*

Overarching themes

- ❖ Use NDCs to identify actors, initiatives, best practices and solutions that countries can leverage to implement and update their plans – the Marrakech Partnership should become the reference point for ambition enhancement and implementation
- ❖ Provide a solutions space for continuous collaboration that Parties can use throughout the year and that can feed into the NDC process, identifying opportunities for joint planning and delivery of products
- ❖ Build connections with national government representatives, line ministries and implementers at the regional, national and local level, leveraging regional climate weeks
- ❖ Ensure dialogue between Parties and non-Party stakeholders is inclusive, transparent and based on mutual respect and trust, with common understandings identified

Conferences of the Parties

- ❖ Consider fewer but high-impact activities framed around a systems approach through ministerial round tables and multi-stakeholder dialogues that are results-oriented, address nexus situations and supports the implementation of countries' plans
- ❖ Provide initiatives and civil society visibility so Parties become aware of what they can offer
- ❖ Encourage Parties to designate focal points who can engage with non-Party stakeholders and at events
- ❖ Design an integrated venue to maximize interactions between national government representatives and other stakeholders

Global stocktake

- ❖ Provide proposals on how to make the global stocktake inclusive and participatory
- ❖ Facilitate dialogues in the lead-up to and during the global stocktake in which non-Party stakeholders can participate, on the basis of the success of the Talanoa Dialogue and its storytelling format
- ❖ Publish a global climate action stocktake report (a 'super yearbook') that summarizes the progress of non-Party stakeholders and the opportunities that Parties can pursue to enhance ambition and overcome barriers
- ❖ Share credible examples, evidence and impacts of systems transformation from non-Party stakeholders and ways they are implementing the goals of the Paris Agreement
- ❖ Encourage Parties and non-Party stakeholders to take forward global stocktake outcomes and collaborate on revised NDCs, including by incorporating lessons learned

19. National targets and plans, as described in NDCs and long-term strategies, should be used to define the priority areas of the Marrakech Partnership, and the appropriate actors and initiatives should be mapped and identified to link with national governments as they implement and update their plans. By doing so, countries can rely on the Marrakech Partnership as a solutions space to address their needs for enhanced ambition and action, and take advantage of the opportunities

that non-Party stakeholders can provide. It should be communicated widely how non-Party stakeholders are supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement and how the High-Level Champions are acting as enablers between relevant stakeholders.

20. By applying an inclusive approach of bringing together a range of actors across a broad range of sectors and regions, and being recognized by the UNFCCC process, the Marrakech Partnership is in a unique position to provide a credible and legitimate space for continuous collaboration that countries may wish to use to feed into their NDC process and culminate at each COP. Providing such a space would also enable the identification of opportunities for the joint planning and delivery of products.
21. Efforts should be made, where appropriate, to build connections between line ministries, national government representatives and stakeholders at the regional, national and local level to have technical exchanges on implementation and best practices that can help countries overcome barriers they face through participating in virtual dialogues and town halls, and integrating with existing forums. Regional climate weeks should be leveraged even further to deepen connections with relevant decision-makers and implementers. Regional climate weeks have provided opportunities to have meaningful dialogue with new stakeholders on the ground and to build regional momentum before COPs.
22. Building on the spirit of inclusivity and the Talanoa Dialogue, all discussions and collaborations between national governments and non-Party stakeholders should be transparent based on mutual respect, trust and empathy to identify areas of convergence and joint solutions in support of the UNFCCC process.

Conferences of the Parties

23. High-impact action-oriented outcomes should be delivered to complement the negotiation process. The focus should be on quality and impact, rather than quantity, when considering the number and type of action events convened during COPs. Activities framed around a systems approach, such as ministerial round tables, multi-stakeholder dialogues and workshops, should be results-oriented, address nexus areas and provide visibility of high-impact initiatives to address countries' needs. These activities should not take place in isolation and should build on the work of the Marrakech Partnership throughout the year and be embedded as part of a larger strategy to accelerate action.
24. Having fewer but targeted activities would help enable even more meaningful participation and Parties should be encouraged to designate climate action focal points who can appropriately engage with non-Party stakeholders in preparation for and during COPs. The design of the venue and dialogue areas should not distract from the negotiations but should enable interactions and informal exchanges between national governments and stakeholders.

Global stocktake

25. The High-Level Champions should provide proposals for Parties to consider ways to make the global stocktake inclusive and participatory. Owing to the successes of the Talanoa Dialogue and its storytelling format, dialogues should be convened in advance of and during COPs, where both Parties and non-Party stakeholders are brought together in constructive and meaningful exchange. They should be encouraged to follow up and take forward the outcomes and lessons learned and consider them in the development of NDCs.
26. Participation and delivery on high-ambition initiatives such as the Race to Zero campaign of the Climate Ambition Alliance should be scaled up to form the basis of a global climate action stocktake report (a 'super yearbook') that should be published in the lead-up to the global stocktake and that provides sound evidence of the progress by non-Party stakeholders globally, regionally and locally towards systems transformation, emphasizing the opportunities and options that Parties can use to enhance their ambition. Alongside the Climate Action Pathways and the Global Climate Action portal, these products should provide a comprehensive picture of the state of systems transformation and sectoral trends to support Parties in the global stocktake process and be communicated widely.

V. IMPROVING TOOLS

Q4. On the basis of experience so far, how can the Marrakech Partnership be improved for enhancing ambition, including through new and existing tools?⁴

Overarching themes

- ❖ Build on the tools and initiatives that have the most value, simplifying and streamlining where possible
- ❖ Use tools that help countries understand what is happening in their contexts and guide non-Party stakeholder action in support of countries' NDCs and long-term strategies
- ❖ Ensure tools are relevant and accessible for both developed and developing country stakeholders
- ❖ Continue to strengthen the tracking and credibility of the Global Climate Action portal
- ❖ Introduce climate action and implementation labs where Parties request support on a specific topic and curated sets of engagements are designed with initiatives, non-Party stakeholders and line ministries
- ❖ Organize a set of advisors and supporters to help promote narratives and to understand needs on the ground

⁴ An overview of the existing tools of the Marrakech Partnership can be found in the work programme for 2020–2021, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/228033>.

- ❖ Provide greater clarity on purpose, and design a predictable organizational structure that is sufficiently resourced, recognizes the efforts of stakeholders and does not hinder those efforts
- ❖ Develop a comprehensive communication strategy to enhance the promotion and understanding of the Marrakech Partnership and its tools

27. Tools and initiatives should be assessed and those that add the most value in delivering on the strategic objectives of the Marrakech Partnership should be developed further. Positive experience with specific tools such as the GCA High-Level Event, regional climate weeks, Climate Action Pathways, *Yearbook of Global Climate Action*, Global Climate Action portal, Talanoa Dialogue and more recently with the Race to Zero campaign of the Climate Ambition Alliance and the initiatives of the United Nations Climate Action Summit should be brought forward as part of a coherent and streamlined package.
28. Tools should be equally accessible to stakeholders in both developed and developing countries, be tailored to their need and provide visibility to countries on what is happening and how best to take action within their own context. The tools should guide non-Party stakeholders in accelerating action and support countries in the implementation of their NDCs and long-term strategies. Progress on the Climate Action Pathways should be tracked and the Global Climate Action portal should become the main window into the delivery on the ambition and commitments of non-Party stakeholders and for initiatives.
29. To strengthen collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders and promote sustained communities of action, climate action and implementation labs should be convened. Parties may wish to request support on a specific topic, and a curated set of engagements will be designed between relevant stakeholders and initiatives and national government representatives and line ministries where appropriate. To assist in regional outreach, a set of advisors and supporters (e.g. Friends of Champions, national focal points, regional and local stewards) should be organized to provide network resources that can help promote the narrative of systems of transformation, rapidly respond to the needs on the ground and feed the challenges back to the global level.
30. The Marrakech Partnership should have clear values and a purpose for driving transformative action. It should be supported by a predictable yet nimble organizational structure that is sufficiently resourced, leverages the strengths of stakeholders and accelerates efforts by assisting where it is most needed. An impactful communication and outreach strategy is needed that promotes the benefits of engaging with the Marrakech Partnership globally, amplifies success stories in the climate action space and produces common messaging in collaboration with communication experts in coalitions and initiatives.