



MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

The Marrakech call is loud and clear: **nothing can stop global climate action**. The momentum for the adoption of the Paris Agreement was enabled by Parties and non-Parties stakeholders taking action to address climate change and undertaking to progressively enhance the ambition of this action. Almost all Parties communicated INDCs, and coalitions of thousands of cities, regions, companies and investors from across the world announced voluntary commitments to support the implementation of the ambitious climate action.

At the same time, there is universal recognition that if we are to realise the goals of the Paris Agreement, **we must all go further and faster in delivering climate action before 2020**, enabled by adequate flows of finance, technology and capacity building. We are currently lagging behind, but together with all hands on deck we can **bridge the 14-17 Gt emissions gap and ensure adequate adaptation** to the current and expected impacts of climate change. Such pre-2020 action must be delivered in a manner that supports the long term global transformation required by the Paris Agreement. We can reach the turning point in global emissions and strengthen resilience **through scaling up support and investment in climate solutions**. With this investment we can reap the benefits of climate action in the decades to come, and keep the sustainable development goals within reach.

There is also growing momentum among voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions for climate action to increase the support provided to governments in implementing their NDCs and in helping to deliver on SDGs. **Information on the progress made in 2016 has been made available in an updated version of the UNFCCC’s NAZCA platform<sup>1</sup>** and is reflected in the Summary for Policymakers<sup>2</sup> arising from the technical examination processes.

The momentum created in the lead up to Paris among public and private entities in mobilizing financial resources for climate action continues to grow. These entities have a key role to play in assisting governments to **translate NDCs into investment-ready vehicles** as well as to **scale up investment in infrastructure** that delivers a range of benefits, including ones for addressing climate change in cities and communities. Such a large scale mobilization is necessary: global investments in infrastructure needs to increase from USD 3.4 trillion per year today to USD 6 trillion per year on average during the next 15 years. The incremental up-front investment cost of zero-GHG and climate-resilient infrastructure adds 5% of the total investment needed, but is necessary to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth<sup>3</sup>.

In our term as High-Level Champions we have seen the determination of all to accelerate the pace of implementation and have been humbled by the opportunity **to give a voice to those driving forward with ambitious action**. Those stakeholders, both Party and non-Party, have called for greater coherence and clarity so that all those involved in the implementation of climate action can collaborate effectively.

As the first High-Level Champions we are responding to this call by launching, the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action. It is designed to provide a strong foundation for how the UNFCCC process will catalyse and support climate action by Parties and non-Party stakeholders in the period from 2017-2020, giving effect to the existing arrangements as agreed by Parties at COP 21 in Paris. The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action does not and cannot belong to us as High-Level Champions, rather it belongs to all of those across the globe who are passionately engaged in efforts to fight climate change and ensure a better, more resilient and more equitable lifestyle for our fellow citizens of the world.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://climateaction.unfccc.int>  
<sup>2</sup> Available at <http://climateaction2020.unfccc.int/spm/introduction/>  
<sup>3</sup> Available at <http://newclimateeconomy.report>



## A COMMON VISION FOR ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION

There is universal recognition of the urgent need to deliver climate action at an accelerated pace and at an enhanced scale across all sectors of the economy and society in the pre-2020 period. Only then can we achieve the purpose and goals of the Paris Agreement, through the implementation of NDCs and the scaling up of finance, technology and capacity building support and investment. It is for this reason that decision 1/CP.21 recognized the commitments from all actors, including those launched through the Lima–Paris Action Agenda, as well as the urgent need to scale up the global response to climate change and support greater ambition from governments, including in the period 2016–2020.

Closing the 14-17 Gt emissions gap between current levels of ambition and those that will enable the goals of the Paris Agreement to be achieved before 2020 requires an inclusive, ‘all-hands-on-deck’ approach. The same is required to bridge the adaptation gap between current levels of adaptation action and the levels of resilience required to meet the global goal on adaptation as reflected in the Paris Agreement. There is also a crucial need for governments to work in partnership with other financial actors, development banks as well as private finance institutions to mobilize finance at the scale required to transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient global economy.

In combination the aims of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs provide targets for guiding national plans, which will guide decision of actors across all sectors of the economy and society. Finally, our collective success in pursuing climate action (SDG 13) will significantly determine whether the other sustainable development goals (SDGs)<sup>4</sup> can be achieved.

The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action is complementary and in no way a substitute for negotiations among Parties, which must now be accelerated to bring the provisions of the Paris Agreement into effect. Cooperative climate action among Parties and non-Party stakeholders through the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action aims to support implementation of more climate action now, consistent with the achievement of the NDCs, and to foster greater ambition over time on mitigation, adaptation, and the delivery of finance, technology and capacity building to developing countries. The tracking of progress in the delivery of commitments by non-Party stakeholders and voluntary initiatives can build the confidence required to increase ambition over time, and will help identify gaps and where there is a need for improvement.

## ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION TOGETHER

The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action gives effect to the agreed outcomes in Paris by providing a structured and coherent framework that can help accelerate the scale and pace of climate action among Parties and non-Party stakeholders in all parts of the world. The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action will enable and facilitate the:

- Convening of Party and non-Party stakeholders on an ongoing basis to enhance collaboration and catalyze the scaling up of efforts to collectively identify and address barriers to enhanced implementation, including through the technical examination processes on pre-2020 climate action and multi stakeholder high-level dialogues;
- Showcasing of successes and providing a platform for new initiatives and greater ambition through events, including those held in conjunction with sessions of UNFCCC bodies as well as other relevant forums, culminating in the annual High-level Event on Climate Action to be held in conjunction with each session of the COP;

<sup>4</sup> Available at <<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>>



- Tracking of progress, through NAZCA, achieved by those actors and initiatives, aligned towards the achievement of the purpose and goals of the Paris Agreement, and supporting the delivery of NDCs and the SDGs;
- Reporting of achievements and options to enhance action to the COP.

Delivering these functions requires the active collaboration of all stakeholders, UNFCCC institutions and the United Nations system. To this end the appointed High-Level Champions will work closely with the COP President, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary.

In order to provide a consistent and structured approach to facilitating climate action from 2017-2020 and for tracking actions registered in NAZCA, work will be organised in a thematic approach as illustrated in Figure 1. Mobilizing further action within each of these themes will require the identification of specific priorities to be addressed by the community of actors. Should future High-Level Champions identify the need for additional themes these can be added to this framework.

Figure 1: Multi-stakeholder engagement: proposed thematic approach

Themes						
Natural systems			Sustainable infrastructure			
Land-use	Oceans and coastal zones	Water	Human settlements	Transport	Energy	Industry
Actors	<b><u>Policy makers</u></b> <i>National Governments</i> <i>Local and subnational governments</i> <i>Regulators</i>					
	<b><u>Finance and investment</u></b> <i>National and international public finance institutions</i> <i>Investors</i> <i>Asset owners</i> <i>Investment and fund managers</i> <i>Financial markets</i> <i>Corporations</i> <i>International finance organisations and initiatives</i>					
	<b><u>Technology and innovation and capacity-building</u></b> <i>Technology developers</i> <i>National and international organisations</i> <i>Technology initiatives and partnerships</i> <i>Research institutions</i>					
	<b><u>Activity implementers</u></b> <i>Public and private project and infrastructure developers</i> <i>Business</i> <i>Local and municipal service providers</i> <i>Farmers and natural resource management associations</i>					
	<b><u>Civil society</u></b> <i>Communities, citizens and consumers</i> <i>Non-governmental organisations</i> <i>Trade unions and labour organization</i> <i>Faith based organisations</i> <i>Indigenous peoples</i>					

In progressing action in all of the above thematic areas consideration will be given to gender, education, health and decent work.



### **Participation in the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action**

The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action supports voluntary collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, financial institutions, cities and other subnational authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples, as well as coalitions and voluntary initiatives, as set out in the Paris decision. The High-Level Champions will work with interested Parties to actively facilitate greater participation from non-Party stakeholders, including voluntary initiatives, in developing countries. In order to participate, non-Party stakeholders agree to have their commitments to the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action recorded on NAZCA and to provide information regularly on the status of implementation of those actions and progress towards the goals they have set.

NAZCA will maintain an inclusive approach to showcasing climate action around the world, guided by criteria which non-Party stakeholders and initiatives are encouraged to demonstrate:

- *Relevance*: advance the goals of the Paris Agreement;
- *Scale*: should be or projected to be of sufficient size to have an impact on mitigation and/or adaptation;
- *Specific*: have clear, quantifiable outcomes with defined targets and milestones that allow one to assess progress over time;
- *Transparency in progress*: report progress and results on a periodic basis (e.g. annually);
- *Impact/results-oriented*: need to be focused on concrete, real-world action delivering mitigation outcomes, increased resilience, reduced vulnerability and/or mobilizing finance. Initiatives solely focused on calls to action, information sharing would not meet the criteria to be included in the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action;
- *Ownership/capacity*: the action/initiative is controlled/driven by entity/entities with the overall responsibility to deliver results, including mobilizing the necessary capacity and resources.

### **Catalysing action and showcasing success**

The High-Level Champions have the responsibility of convening and facilitating an active dialogue between Parties and non-Party stakeholders. Greater coherence in the overall delivery of climate action can be achieved by creating a more focused rhythm of events before, during as well as after the COP and by better utilizing the existing processes that have been established within the UNFCCC.

A phased approach will be taken throughout each year, culminating in a high level engagement among decision makers during the sessions of the COP. Starting from COP 22, the outcomes of all climate action events will identify specific priorities, proposals and actions that need to be addressed to scale up climate action. These would be advanced in the technical examination processes on mitigation and adaptation (TEPs) in the year ahead. The High-Level Champions can catalyse climate action by setting out challenges that require solutions for non-Party stakeholders and voluntary initiatives to address, providing a platform during the COP for the most successful solutions to be announced.

The TEPs should draw not only on the in-session Technical Experts Meetings (TEMs) but also on the outcomes of relevant regional and thematic meetings outside of the formal sessions of the UNFCCC. Such events, with connections to the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, can enable greater participation from experts, practitioners and implementers. These



meetings would be held in conjunction with existing events wherever possible. Furthermore, in light of paragraph 121 c) of the Paris decision, the High-Level Champions consider that the in-session TEMs must be significantly more narrow in their focus to address highly specific policy options. The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action should enable a greater connection and coherence between individual TEMs and ongoing regional activities to support and accelerate implementation.

The UNFCCC Executive Secretary may wish to align the events of the existing UNFCCC bodies and institutions, such as the Technology Executive Committee, Climate Technology Centre and Network, the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Committee and Least Developed Country Expert Group with the relevant regional and thematic meetings above. The TEMs held during the formal sessions of the UNFCCC bodies will be focused on international collaboration and dialogue among Parties and non-Party stakeholders. The UNFCCC secretariat's Regional Collaboration Centres can be used to facilitate both participation of relevant stakeholders and management of follow-up actions.

The High-Level Champions, supported by the secretariat and relevant international and regional organisations, will work throughout the year following each session of the COP with interested Parties and key stakeholders to remove barriers, scale up support and strengthen collaboration on implementation.

The outcomes of thematic and regional meetings will be reported by the High-Level Champions to the COP through a Yearbook of Global Climate Action. The High-Level Champions may make further recommendations as appropriate, through the Summary for Policymakers, which should provide clear policy options for consideration by ministers.

### **Thematic priorities identified in Marrakech**

The thematic dialogues<sup>5</sup> held in Marrakech have highlighted to the High-Level Champions the indicative priority focus areas for action that will be advanced in 2017. These will be summarised in a draft Priority Areas Action Tracker to be published on the UNFCCC website at the end of COP 22. This draft Priority Areas Action Tracker will form the basis of a planning session with the constituted bodies and relevant expert organizations in early 2017. Each year, the action plan will continue to evolve as progress is made, and as new challenges and opportunities arise. Parties and non-Party stakeholders are invited to identify additional thematic priorities at any time, as well as to propose ways forward and solutions to address these priorities.

### **Tracking and reporting progress**

NAZCA provides the official platform for tracking climate action by non-Party stakeholders and voluntary initiatives; many of which are supported by Parties. It also provides the entry point for information on the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.

In order to provide greater transparency and tracking of progress, NAZCA will continue to be updated in collaboration with relevant data custodians and analysts so that the collective progress and impact of climate actions and initiatives can be reported and showcased in a user-friendly fashion. Tracking progress will support Parties and non-Party stakeholders in identifying gaps and areas where greater effort is required, consistent with the objective of promoting more geographically and thematically diverse initiatives. The High-Level

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<sup>5</sup> Available at <[http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9954.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9954.php)>



Champions will draw upon this information when undertaking their roles and in making recommendations for high level engagement.

### **The role of the High-Level Champions**

The High-Level Champions engage with Parties and non-Party stakeholders to strengthening pre-2020 action, recognizing what has been achieved and what needs to be done by the UNFCCC and the wider United Nations system in order to facilitate the continued delivery and strengthening of climate action. The High-Level Champions will support the implementation of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action by advocating for action within the multilateral process to unlock further ambition. The High-Level Champions will actively encourage participation from cities, regions, companies and investors that have not yet made commitments to take ambitious climate action, as well as facilitate greater participation from non-Party stakeholders in developing countries. The High-Level Champions will engage with all stakeholders and voluntary initiatives to increase their ambition, transparency and alignment with the objective of the Convention, aims of the Paris Agreement and SDGs, and will promote best practices and voluntary initiatives that have the greatest impact. Ensuring enhanced implementation will also require the High-Level Champions to facilitate access to support for climate action undertaken by Parties and non-Party stakeholders from relevant institutions such as bilateral or multilateral agencies.

As noted previously, the High-Level Champions will also provide guidance to the UNFCCC on the TEMs to assist in aligning them with the specific policy options and barriers being identified through the operation of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.

### **Supporting the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action**

Ensuring collaboration among Parties, the United Nations system, the UNFCCC institutions and the full array of non-Party stakeholders will be conducted through the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, who retains the responsibility and authority for mobilizing coherent support for the operation of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, including the support for the High-Level Champions.

As agreed in Paris, adequate support is required for the High-Level Champions in the delivery and organization of their work. The UNFCCC secretariat has responded, and will continue to do so, subject to the availability of financial resources, by providing a small operational support unit to assist the efforts of the High-Level Champions throughout the year. This small unit will need to:

- Facilitate the coherent engagement of the all thematic and actor networks within the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action;
- Collaborate with relevant organization of the thematic dialogues and the High-level Event on Climate Action;
- Coordinate a wide range of data providers, initiatives and coalitions in maintaining and updating NAZCA.

To support the full implementation of the mandates of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, the UNFCCC secretariat would need to further enhance its support through supplementary and non-traditional funding sources and will strengthen partnerships with a range of existing organisations. Longer term support arrangements would be subject to consideration among Parties in the context of the UNFCCC budget for the 2018-2019 biennium.



Given the interlinkages between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the role of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as a global convener of all sectors of society, will be critical. This role is primarily to engage key stakeholders to increase the pace and scale of climate action, to ensure linkages with and contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to further mobilizing the United Nations system to maximize its contribution. The UNFCCC secretariat, with guidance by the High-Level Champions, will continue to collaborate with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General in mobilising the United Nations system to accelerate climate action.

## **OUTLOOK TO 2020**

Party and non-Party stakeholders have emphasized the need for a coherent process to support greater ambition in the period from 2017-2020 in accordance with the Paris decision. In the lead up to COP 24 a step wise approach will be facilitated with a focus on the delivery of results. Figure 2 provides a non-exhaustive list of some of the key milestones within the annual cycle of the work of the High-Level Champions.

**Figure 2: Annual engagement cycle**

