



United Nations
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Organización
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
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Subject: Feedback to the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Ref: <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/invitation-to-provide-feedback-to-the-high-level-champions-on-how-to-improve-the-marrakech>

Submission by: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Q1. How would you define success of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership in terms of enhancing ambition in the next 5 years and beyond?

The High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership encapsulates two essential features that have contributed to their well-established track-record of achieved success: 'high-level' and 'partnership'. In the years to come, their continued success in terms of enhanced action will, from the perspective of UNESCO, be defined by several developments, notably:

- Reduced reluctance among eventually still-to-be-convinced top-decision makers to effectively address climate change and enhance their level of ambition;
- Mobilization of financial resources enabling fair and effective North-South collaboration for mitigation and adaptation, including through building back better investments;
- Stronger engagement and empowerment of the younger generation in decision and policy-making related to enhancing ambition and its effective delivery;
- Enhanced synergies among policy, decision and scientific assessment processes concerned with climate change and biodiversity, framed, as appropriate, by the overall 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
- More active participation of ordinary citizens for enhanced ambition at the individual, community, regional, national and international levels, spurred by more active sharing of solutions and positive projections of sustainable futures;
- Increased recognition of the essential contributions of education, science, culture, communication and information to build climate neutral, resilient and sustainable societies;
- Increased recognition of ocean and coastal zones in mitigation and adaptation action and ambition.

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 5 years and beyond?

UNESCO believes that the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership can play a crucial role towards the realization of the points listed under Q1 above. Including by:

- Initiating individual dialogues with top-decision makers on factors and bottle-necks making them reluctant to support and promote enhanced ambition;
- Advocating for, and show-casing existing socially sound, climate friendly, profitable business and investment opportunities for building back better (e.g. renewables, nature-based solutions);
- Actively supporting opportunities for indigenous communities, women, youth networks to take a more active role at the negotiation table;
- Engaging with counterparts within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, BBNJ, CBD and the IPBES;
- Underlining the importance of mobilizing all levels of society in support of climate action, and by empowering individual and local actions by highlighting solutions through media campaigns;
- Giving its voice to the importance of addressing the climate crises based on sound science, including relevant traditional knowledge, recognizing that the understanding of cultural diversity and values in relation to the climate crises are essential to achieving higher ambition, and that education and access to quality information are paramount to empowering the public at large.

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

There are several routes for enhancing collaboration. Many will be specific to national and regional circumstances, perspectives and existing participatory arrangements. In general terms, avenues that could be pursued by the High-Level Champions, in addition to those listed under Q2, include:

- Advocating that non-Party stakeholders' views and contributions are being reflected in NDCs and in Party negotiation positions. NDCs could possibly reflect the extent to which this actually is the case;
- Encouraging Parties, to include civil society representatives in their respective delegations, including representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Building a coalition of 'Friends of the High-Level Champions' including non-Party stakeholders.

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

The Marrakech Partnership is already well recognized for its effective contributions to building bridges among key stakeholder groups. To go even further, some options that might prove beneficial could include:

- Stronger recognition of gender equality as a driver for addressing the climate crises and for enhancing ambition;
- Focus on partnerships benefitting priority regions among those most vulnerable, such as SIDS, in order to ensure that higher ambition at the global aggregate level is 'high enough' to secure their resilience;
- Efforts to reach and engage individuals at the grass roots levels more directly in addition to through organized representative bodies, such as business networks and city networks.

Under the motto '*Changing Minds, Not the Climate*', UNESCO, in-line with its Strategy for Action on Climate Change, as endorsed by the UNESCO General Conference in 2017, is committed to enable Member States to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts through education, sciences, culture, information and communication, in line with their respective NDCs and in the overall context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDG 13, the upcoming UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030, preparation coordinated by the IOC) and SDG14.

UNESCO stands therefore ready to fully support the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership in its important work, including in relation to the above-mentioned points and suggestions to enhance ambition to address the climate crises.

UNESCO would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciation for the opportunity provided to submit feed-back to the High-Level Champions and to the Marrakech Partnership on their important work, and to wish them continued success in all their deliberations.