

FEEDBACK TO THE HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPIONS ON THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

(July 2020)

As we look towards the post-2020 world, the implementation of the Paris Agreement has become even more critical to keep the world within a safe and resilient operating space that limits global warming to 1.5°C. Within the context of the current global health pandemic, the emerging economic crisis, and widening social disparities coupled with the increasing impacts of climate change, achieving the 1.5°C objective of the Paris Agreement will require inclusive and radical multi-stakeholder collaboration to support the implementation of strong mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) remains a strong supporter of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA) and its mission to strengthen collaboration between Party and Non-Party stakeholders towards greater climate action. WBCSD and its member companies support the swift implementation of the Paris Agreement, recognizing that this can be achieved at a much faster pace through collaboration among stakeholders and a common vision to accelerate climate action.

We welcome the opportunity to contribute our inputs in the submission below, towards improving the work program of the MPGCA for 2020 and beyond.

1. 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 MPGCA and the High-Level Champions objectives for the next 5 years and beyond remain to promote higher climate ambition of all stakeholders by:

- Strengthening interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders.
- Broadening participation in the Marrakech Partnership by non-Party stakeholders from all regions and sectors.
- Following up on and ensuring continuity and coherence of action between major milestones.
- Tracking progress impacts and results.

WBCSD believes that success in achieving these objectives will depend on how the Work Program and activities of the MPGCA can contribute to an overall reduction in global emissions and building resilience to the impacts of climate change. The work of the MPGCA and the High-Level Champions can only be defined as successful if it results in impactful contributions towards the transformation of systems and steering the world on track to achieve 1.5°C.

WBCSD believes the success of the MPGCA should not only focus on generating ambition through campaigns and commitments. **Success should be equally aligned with the tangible implementation of ambitious climate actions from all stakeholders including governments and non-government stakeholders.** This will demonstrate accountability and will ultimately drive the global economy towards net-zero emissions and building resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change.

WBCSD also believes that **for the MPGCA to be truly successful in the next decade, the scope of its activities, outputs and engagements must be truly global.** The MPGCA must develop and implement

an ambitious strategy to engage key players from all sectors and regions in the execution of the mandate to improve the MPGCA and in the implementation of its Work Program.

In previous feedback to the MPGCA, delivered in written submissions and during in-person meetings, WBCSD has supported the focus on broadening participation of Party and non-Party stakeholders from all regions and sectors, in particular enhancing engagement of participation of actors from under-represented regions and the global south. As we emerge from the current disruption of the COVID-19 Pandemic, it will be critical to draw on lessons and input from all areas of society to drive the world on track towards achieving 1.5°C.

2. 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?

As the key platform serving as the connective tissue between Parties and non-Parties, the MPGCA, under the leadership of the HLCs, must strive to work towards a common narrative and agreed pathways for ambitious climate action, that are endorsed by both governments and non-State actors.

The transition towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement places greater emphasis on action by all Parties and other non-State actors. **Action and accountability will increasingly be the benchmark by which the value and legitimacy of the UNFCCC process will be judged.** The High-Level Champions and the MPGCA are uniquely positioned to encourage **governments and non-State actors** to deliver concrete climate action against their climate pledges and commitment.

To ensure its success, we must move the MPGCA from being a platform predominantly occupied by non-party stakeholders and with limited engagement from governments. There is a strong need to strengthen the interaction between Parties and non-Parties stakeholders and the willingness to harness the collaborative experience demonstrated previous dialogues such as Talanoa Dialogues to catalyze action. **We believe that the increased engagement of Parties in the work of the MP-GCA will help enhance the role that the partnership can play in applying the much needed pressure on governments to act.** It will also demonstrate the amount of important working going on to support the achievement of the Paris Agreement objectives.

In this critical period for the Paris Agreement, when governments are also dealing with broader issues of COVID-19 response measure and economic recovery, it becomes much more imperative for the MPGCA to engage with all parts of society, particularly governments, to ensure that long term planning are filtered through a climate lens. Furthermore, the “action” focus of MPGCA also provides a natural bridge within the UNFCCC to SDG goals relating to health and wellbeing, decent work and economic growth, biodiversity, partnerships for the goals and others, which are now of even greater importance as the world seeks to build resilience out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lastly, the work of the MPGCA and the HLC should not be primarily focused on the organization of events (at COPs or regional climate weeks). It should focus instead on creating **communities of action**

throughout the year, with a steady drumbeat of engagements and activities to facilitate the generation of ambition and strategic focus on major moments in the climate calendar.

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

The core task of the High-Level Champions is to galvanize key stakeholders from all parts of society and to mobilize ambitious climate action to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement. While climate action has surged since Paris, it is difficult to say how much of this has been driven by the MPGCA or the Champions themselves, whose efforts and capacities have varied from year to year. Much of this catalyzing work has been done by other actors, including MPGCA partners. There is general agreement that the Champions role, with proper support and strategy, has the potential to deliver significant impact in 2020-2025.

To ensure that the work of the MPGCA is appropriately recognized by Parties, we believe **the High-Level Champions need to significantly amplify and elevate the work and efforts of the MPGCA** through their ambassadorial roles. They should position the MPGCA on the priorities of major global influencers such as the United Nations Secretary General, The Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC and the incoming COP Presidencies. **Elevating the MPGCA can help give it the much-needed visibility and endorsement to attract more engagement from governments.**

We believe the role of the High-Level Champions will require an active effort to showcase more concrete climate actions and tangible deliverables from key actors. The Regional Climate Weeks for example, convene a diverse range of actors from both the public and private sectors to demonstrate and showcase regional and local implementation of climate action. We consider these events **as important opportunities for regional stakeholders, including businesses, to engage with policymakers in regional-specific discussions aimed at accelerating climate ambition.** This is also an opportunity for business to engage with key regional policy and decision makers from relevant sectors (e.g. finance, transport, agriculture) to share experiences and solutions towards unlocking regional barriers that affect the implementation of local mitigation and adaptation solutions.

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

Over the years WBCSD has supported the MPGCA in the delivery of its mandate and has contributed in mobilizing the business community to support the work of the partnership. WBCSD welcomes and endorses the initiatives of the current High-Level Champions to mobilize large sectors of the global economy through large scale initiatives such as the Race to Zero campaign and revision of the Climate Action Pathways, while continuing to leverage exiting activities to enhance ambition from its partners and further stakeholders.

We believe that there are opportunities for the MPGCA to leverage these initiatives and tools to deliver the ultimate impact of emissions reductions and building resilience to climate change. For

example, **we believe that strategic communications of the MPGCA is key area where more resources are needed to deliver impact.** It appears that the MPGCA currently lacks the resources to continuously amplify the various tools and initiatives to support the work. Additionally, the MPGCA itself will require much more visibility if it is to be recognized as the global community for catalyzing ambitious climate action. The platform comprises many organizations that can provide vast communications support in positioning the work of the MPGCA within the climate ecosystem and beyond. The MPGCA should therefore coordinate with communications professionals across its partners and thematic groups, as well as broader the climate action community, to ensure that its tools and activities are always communicated to the right stakeholders.

As the MPGCA proceeds to revise important pathways documents and other tools of engagement, it will be **important to ensure that these tools account for geographic differences and remain relevant for both the developed and developing world.** This will require an extensive consultation and involvement of stakeholders from all parts of the world. The MPGCA may have to secure additional resources to support non state actors from developing countries to participate in GCA activities to ensure buy-in and greater endorsements to drive ambition.

About WBCSD

WBCSD is a global, CEO-led organization of over 200 leading businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world. We help make our member companies more successful and sustainable by focusing on the maximum positive impact for shareholders, the environment and societies.

Our member companies come from all business sectors and all major economies, representing a combined revenue of more than USD \$8.5 trillion and 19 million employees. Our global network of almost 70 national business councils gives our members unparalleled reach across the globe. WBCSD is uniquely positioned to work with member companies along and across value chains to deliver impactful business solutions to the most challenging sustainability issues.

Together, we are the leading voice of business for sustainability: united by our vision of a world where more than 9 billion people are all living well and within the boundaries of our planet, by 2050.

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