



Feedback from the French Water Partnership

How to improve the Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition?

The [French Water Partnership](#) (FWP) is the only platform for all the French water stakeholders, public and private, operating at international level. For more than 10 years, the FWP has been advocating to position water as a priority for sustainable development policies worldwide. The FWP also facilitates exchanges between the French and international water know-how.

The FWP's mission is also to showcase at a global level France's expertise and approach to water management. The French approach is a unique one: it actively involves multiple stakeholders and has continued to remain cutting-edge since it was introduced in France in the 1960s.

The FWP currently includes almost two hundred members from the water sector, including public and private stakeholders who reflect the nature of water management in France.

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

Since the COP 21, the MP (an initiative of the French Presidency) has made it possible to mobilise numerous non-state implementing projects addressing climate change issues (mitigation and adaptation). This dynamic was necessary to show that many solutions exist but they need to be scaled-up. While bearing in mind the limitations of the MP, efforts must be continued on new bases: namely essentially the promotion by non-state actors of what they would have done with or without COP, with or without MP. In other words, there have been very few additional actions launched for / within / thanks to the MP. A lot of valorisation of "business as usual", where actors valorise small scale actions with low impact, on the fringe of their main activities, with little to no systemic change.

To get out of this communication exercise, and to encourage a real acceleration of action, it is necessary to support and valorise new concrete projects, rather than continuing to focus on reports and events.

Furthermore, a remark that had been made to the MP by the NGOs was the lack of critical analysis of the proposals presented (in terms of seriousness, timetables, feasibility, technology transfer, etc.). This would presuppose that a dedicated team is mobilized to manage that portfolio (from UNFCCC or an associate body).

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?

"Water" has taken a long time to find a place in the Climate COPs, and it is still very precarious compared to energy, agriculture and forests. Climate change impacts on the water regime will be very diverse in terms of their nature (droughts, floods, invasion of coastal areas, typhoons, etc.) and location. These impacts have become increasingly evident in recent years and are likely to seriously affect achieving almost all SDGs. The MP needs to be reinvented in the light of the 2030 Agenda,

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which includes 20 targets on water (the 8 targets of the SDG 6 and the 12 targets of the SDG 1 Poverty, 2 Agriculture, 3 Health, 4 Education, 11 Cities and Natural Disasters, 12 Sustainable Production, 13 Climate, 14 Aquatic Life, 15 Ecosystems and 17 Partnerships).

It is therefore necessary to confirm once and for all that freshwater will be systematically addressed as standalone topic at all COPs to come, in order to work on the development of new actions (Water Content Group with its "Action pathway") and to be on this occasion a place for exchanges between water stakeholders, climate stakeholders and those responsible for the various activities likely to be threatened by changes in the water regime.

On the other hand, achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement can only be envisaged through a cross-cutting approach as advocated by the 2030 Agenda. It is therefore necessary for water to be included / addressed in other sessions. Today, the MP operates too much in silos.

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

Continuous work must be done to strengthen relations between States and non-State actors on the actions to be implemented. This is known to be difficult during COPs. This dynamic must therefore be organised throughout the year. The Water Content Group could highlight exemplary NDCs and NAPs in their integration of water and climate challenges, or suggest to States actions that are easily replicable in their own NDCs and NAPs.

b) How can the COP and the UNFCCC process be more effective in the collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders to further catalyze global climate action?

In a context of an ever denser calendar of international events (excluding the pandemic of course...), it would not be recommended to organize more meetings. The members of the French Water Partnership find increasingly difficult to participate in all physical and digital meetings organized by the UNFCCC (Marrakech Partnership, but also prep-COP in Bonn, Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, Standing Committee on Finance).

However, we are convinced that a more flexible and less time-consuming way should be found to strengthen collaboration between State Parties and non-state actors. One recommendation would be: an appeal by the UNFCCC Secretariat to its States Parties to declare themselves on a voluntary basis as "sponsor" of one or more themes. It would be a considerable asset for Water Content Group to have the support of some countries driving the sector, both as a spokesperson and as a contributor. A state leader, ideally surrounded by other interested states, could thus be in regular contact with the Water Content Group, relaying its messages, building coalitions of interested parties, calling for support and extension of actions of interest, etc.

It has been argued at recent COPs that adaptation should be given the same priority as mitigation. This has not yet been clearly translated into mechanisms for identifying and monitoring criteria and indicators of the most urgent projects that should be supported on a priority bases. This is a very important point in the field of water that would justify dedicated work between the adaptation committee and the MP, in collaboration between representatives of state and non-state actors. It is also an essential point for the review of the implementation of the Paris Agreement scheduled for 2023.

It should be noted that this is certainly a more sustainable formula than the one that has been promoted so far. Namely that the State hosting a COP and holding its presidency for one year should

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be the "sponsor" not of one but of all the themes and alliances of the Marrakech Partnership, dispersing financial resources and political support. France too has followed this path. Support for the themes and coalitions quickly dwindled and the commitment of all the actors involved significantly deteriorated.

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 stocktake of the Paris Agreement?

The existing platform (NAZCA: <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/>) should be revitalised and all state and non-state actors within and beyond the MP (e.g. those of Climate Chance) should be encouraged to share their achievements and projects implemented to assist decision-makers around the world in climate-related projects.

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

To facilitate the establishment of relations between project leaders and private donors, in connection with public donors. Accelerate the development of projects/incubation, and strengthen the link between the work of the MP and that of the States on their NDCs and NAPs.

Contact:

Alexandre ALIX,
Programme Officer "Water & Climate",
French Water Partnership
alexander.alix@partenariat-francais-eau.fr