

High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership: views of the Farmers Constituency

The Farmers' Constituency represents the many millions of farmers from all corners of the world, from smallholder farmers to large-scale farmers, those planting crops, raising livestock, practising silviculture and fisher folk.

Despite the challenges faced, especially by farmers in the Global South and smallholder farmers, our members are ambitious - they want to be, and are, part of the solution to climate change. Leadership by farmers is essential to success so farmers must be at the centre of discussions and action at all levels. Farmers' organisations and co-operatives have a key role as agents of influence and change *e.g.* in facilitating farmer engagement, co-ordination, direct involvement in development programmes *etc.*

Our constituency has not been engaged in the work of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership to date. However, as your 2020-2021 work programme includes an objective to broaden the participation of non-Party stakeholders (NPS), we welcome this opportunity to start our engagement in this process by submitting our views to support the Champions and to enhance ambition.

Our views

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? And 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?

- The COVID-19 has demonstrated that rapid-response and collective action with all actors playing their part is possible. It is imperative to leverage this momentum and accelerate the fight against climate change. The lessons learnt, both successes and failures, during this pandemic gives you the opportunity to drive calls for a sustainable recovery. A return to business-as-usual would constitute (collective) failure.
- Success should be defined in terms of both mitigation and enhancing resilience and adaptation.
- Countries holding the COP Presidency have a clear leadership role in not only driving ambition but also in ensuring a robust legacy of action and delivery.

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

- We see value in Champions' continual transparent engagement with Parties and non-Party stakeholders, nurturing trust and partnerships and in strengthening collaboration where gaps exist. Our Constituency stands ready to enhance the scope of the Partnership and support the work of the High-Level Champions.
- We have noted the membership of the Founders Group of the Climate Action Leadership Network and more recently the formation of the Friends of COP26. Farmers have a unique practical expertise, a combination of formal education, traditional knowledge, and experience from living and working on the land and with nature. Many are already drivers of

innovation and transformation. We urge Champions, the Marrakech Partnership and Parties to better utilise this expertise. Farming/rural leaders would add significant value to a range of processes through their experiences and insights. The involvement of farmers' organisations at all levels would enable farmers and their associations to contribute actively to sustainable agricultural development and deliver food security. For example, our bottom-up view has identified the need to re-structure supply chains from farms to markets as one of the most important lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- We think that Regional Climate Weeks could offer members of our constituency especially in the Global South who are constrained by both time and resources the opportunity to better engage in the UNFCCC process. We would welcome the development of strategies to help countries and stakeholders in the Global South to enable engagement in for example NDC development and in Marrakech Partnership activities and equip them with the capacity to scale up climate action.

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

- We very much welcome your commitment to tracking NPS progress, assessing impacts and publishing results and new work to greater transparency through e.g. Starting Line criteria, is a necessary step forward.
- We note that farming for the most part falls under your Land Use Climate Action Pathway with some aspects in the Resilience pathway. We would urge you to consider agriculture as much more than land use. It is an industry of micro, small and medium enterprises. How might your Land Use pathway or an alternative Pathway better reflect the socio-economic and multi-functional aspects of farmers businesses?
- The collaboration between the International Chamber of Commerce and the Exponential Roadmap Initiative with the UNFCCC for a new partnership to develop a global platform for SMEs may well be of interest to some farmers.

Farmers Constituency
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