



Feedback to the High-Level Champions on how to improve the work under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for enhancing ambition

Regions4 highly appreciates and thanks the High-Level Champions for the opportunity to provide feedback on how to improve the work of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA). We are honoured to participate in the MPGCA since its inception and reiterate our support and willingness to engage further.

We believe the last 5 years have proven the MPGCA to be an effective framework for non-Party stakeholders (NPS) to show our key role in supporting Parties towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and welcome its continuation until 2025. We are now entering a new phase of the MPGCA and in order to improve the work under the Partnership for enhancing ambition we recommend to:

Increase recognition and support to subnational governments¹:

Along with their counterparts on the local level, subnational governments are crucial stakeholders for effective and ambitious climate action. Nevertheless, attention is mostly focused on climate action in cities and urban areas.

We believe that more recognition and support should be given to subnational governments as they confirm the conception of the territory as a continuum, provide the necessary support to small cities, towns, villages and rural areas, as well as ensure the necessary links between urban and rural areas. In this regard, subnational approaches can provide a scaling-up factor to local climate actions. Subnational approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation can accomplish structural changes that would not be possible at the city level, including avoiding carbon leakage. Greater technical and financial capacity and environmental know-how may exist at the subnational level than in individual municipalities. In this regard, subnational governments are an essential player in mainstreaming climate actions at the local level, while also taking rural and urban realities into account.

In addition, subnational governments constitute a key nexus between national and local governments, ensuring vertical integration, as well as the coordination and coherence of policies across different levels and sectors.

Advocate for vertical integration and multi-level governance:

Vertical integration allows two-way benefits: bottom-up where subnational and local initiatives influence national action, and top-down where enabling national frameworks empower subnational and local players. The NDC review and update process offers the opportunity for Parties to engage subnational and local governments in the design of NDCs through strengthened dialogue between national and subnational governments, for example through stakeholder consultations.

On the other hand, the planning, implementation, and evaluation of adaptation action constitute a multilevel governance challenge, which requires vertical and horizontal integration. It is now recognised that, to be effective, national climate policies must reflect local and subnational dimensions and the critical role of subnational authorities and local organisations in advancing implementation of adaptation.

¹ Subnational governments represent the first immediate level of government below the national and above the local. This level involves governments such as states, provinces, regions, domains, territories, lander, cantons, autonomous communities, oblasts, etc. depending on the country. Subnational governments are distinct from "local governments", which include all levels of government below the subnational, such as cities.



Balanced approach on mitigation and adaptation climate action:

Even if high levels of mitigation were to be achieved, the impacts of climate change still need adaptation measures. As we observe climate change occurring already and impacting territories worldwide, adaptation becomes an urgent necessity. Moreover, together with addressing the long-term implications arising from climate change, there is a need for short-term adaptation action to reduce overall vulnerability to climate change. However, as an OECD report finds, climate finance for mitigation makes up 73% of all finance, while climate finance for adaptation activities is 17%. This represents only one aspect of the imbalance between mitigation and adaptation efforts. A balanced approach between the two could mean, ensuring that adaptation aspects are streamlined in all thematic areas under the MPGCA, relevant communications and outcome documents, such as the Pathways, as well as reflected in initiatives coming from the High-Level Champions.

This could also ensure greater engagement of stakeholders from the global South, considering that these countries contributed the least to climate change but are the ones most vulnerable and affected by its impacts.

Facilitate the integration of agendas:

The Champions together with NPS and Parties should work on reinforcing synergies and finding common solutions for the climate change and biodiversity emergencies towards sustainable development that leaves no one behind. Achieving the goals of one agenda will not be possible without achieving the goals of the others.

Through our work in these three fields of action (climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable development), [Regions4](#) is ready to support the Champions and the MPGCA to pursue this effort.

Ensure inclusiveness:

As outlined in the work programme of the MPGCA, a more inclusive approach is envisioned for the future work of the Partnership, particularly including more stakeholders from the global South. We strongly agree on this approach and recommend holding more MPGCA meetings in the global South, as well as providing interpretation services at COPs, Regional Climate Weeks, and other events. [Regions4](#) and its South members are available to contribute to this objective.

Review the MPGCA stakeholder structure:

We recommend giving greater visibility to those NPS working under the Marrakech Partnership, such as those within the Collaboration Forum, and making more transparent the possibilities and steps needed to join the MPGCA.

In addition, we propose reviewing the need for and the operational efficiency of other actors, such as the Leadership Network.

Ensure diverse background of Champions

The High-Level Champions play a crucial role in encouraging further interaction and communication between Parties and NPS and facilitating higher climate ambition. We highly welcome that current High-Level Champions come from the NPS environment and we would like to see similar approaches in the future. In addition, we would like to recommend paying attention to gender balance when nominating future Champions.

We are confident that all MPGCA stakeholders, as well as the international community can draw valuable lessons learned from the past years, and together we will be able to strengthen the MPGCA to respond to the climate emergency and other crises we are facing.



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Sustainable Development

About [Regions4](#)

[Regions4](#) (formerly known as nrg4SD) is a global network that solely represents subnational governments before UN processes, European Union initiatives and global discussions in the fields of climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development. [Regions4](#) was established in 2002 at the World Summit in Johannesburg and currently represents more than 40 members from 20 countries in 4 continents. Through advocacy, cooperation and capacity building, [Regions4](#) empowers subnational governments to accelerate global action.

In the field of climate change [Regions4](#) is leading the [RegionsAdapt](#) initiative, a framework to raising political engagement, accelerating action, and promoting cooperation among subnational governments on climate adaptation and resilience.

For more information, visit: www.regions4.org