

## Input from Parvati.org

Hello,

I am writing to you on behalf of Parvati.org, a non-profit organization and NGO accredited observer with the UNFCCC. I am hereby submitting input to the UNFCCC Secretariat, as per the attached memorandum.

Specifically regarding ANNEX III - QUESTIONS FOR STRUCTURING INPUTS TO THE MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL

CLIMATE ACTION

2. Thematic and cross-cutting areas

Q6. Considering each of the thematic areas, cross-cutting areas, SDGs and priorities outlined in the indicative work programme, should any specific high-impact topics that address the greatest needs of Parties be discussed?

Proposed Answer Q6:

The Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary (MAPS) is a high-impact topic that addresses the greatest needs of the Parties, and must be discussed.

MAPS is the world's largest protected area, encompassing the entire Arctic Ocean above the Arctic Circle. MAPS is an immediate and decisive response to the global crisis of the loss of Arctic sea ice.

The 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5C confirms the Arctic is already experiencing warming "two or three times higher" than the global annual average. A survey published in Environmental Research Letters reports Arctic ice is now melting into the ocean at the rate of 14,000 tons per second. Over 21,000 scientists from 184 countries have signed an open letter warning humanity that "soon it will be too late to shift course away from our failing trajectory, and time is running out."

Even though scientists have warned that Arctic oil is off limits in any scenario limiting global warming to 2C or less, multiple companies and nations are planning or executing oil and gas operations above the Arctic Circle. Commercial fishing vessels actively damage the Arctic Ocean seabed with trawls. Shipping routes are being planned and implemented through the Arctic Ocean. And military presence, with increasingly dangerous weaponry and exercises, is increasing in ways not seen since the Cold War.

Taking advantage of the Arctic Ocean in its current state of emergency breaks up the fragile ice that remains to us. In addition, large ships use heavy fuel oil, whose emissions contain particulate matter that darkens the ice and weakens its ability to reflect the sun's heat away from the planet. If spilled, heavy fuel oil is impossible to clean up because it sticks to anything it touches.

The simple truth is that the choice to exploit the vulnerable Arctic Ocean is not compatible with life. The situation in the Arctic Ocean is a global emergency whose effects have only begun. This is a humanitarian crisis that implicates our very survival.

The problem is massive. But there is a simple solution - the Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary (MAPS).

To realize MAPS, the international not-for-profit organization Parvati.org has taken the unprecedented step to create the MAPS Treaty as an addendum to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The MAPS Treaty updates UNCLOS to reflect the reality of climate change, which was not contemplated in 1982 when UNCLOS was concluded. The MAPS Treaty declares all ocean waters north of the Arctic Circle off limits to commercialization, militarization and industrialization. MAPS is declared with the signatures of 99 members of the UN or any of the states members of Specialized Agencies. Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi of Samoa, and Prime Minister Henry Puna of the Cook Islands, have already signed the MAPS Treaty.

The MAPS initiative supports almost every UN Sustainable Development Goal. In the broadest sense, MAPS helps accelerate the realization of them all, because MAPS protects the entire planet and everything on it.

MAPS fits naturally with the United Nations commitment to protect 10% of our oceans by 2020. Yet, even MAPS amounts to less than 3% of the world's oceans, and about 2% of the world's total surface area. As leading biologists ask us to protect 50% of the entire planet immediately to prevent mass extinction, we no longer have the luxury to work incrementally towards urgently needed protection. MAPS is a baseline necessity. Dame Dr. Jane Goodall, United Nations Messenger of Peace, says, "It is hugely important to establish this proposed sanctuary." Renowned oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle has suggested MAPS become a world heritage site, hailing it as "an idea whose time has come". MAPS is non-negotiable for a healthy world.

The Arctic Ocean is still one of the most pristine regions on Earth. In essence, it has always been an internationally protected area because of its year-round frozen seascape. It must always remain so. MAPS invites UN member states and all global citizens to exemplify the best of what makes us human: our ability to connect, collaborate and thrive. Unlike the mindset of the past which equated survival with domination, MAPS lights a path for nations of the world to set aside perceived regional differences, recognize the special role of the Arctic Ocean in preserving and nurturing life as we know it, and unite for the benefit of all.

7. The United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit in 2019:

The high-level champions and Marrakech Partnership stakeholders will proactively engage to prepare for the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit in 2019 and demonstrate their contribution to the Summit of a broad set of impactful initiatives, solutions and action.

Q13. How can the high-level champions and the Marrakech Partnership best contribute to the Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Summit?

Proposed Answer Q13:

The high-level champions and the Marrakech Partnership can best contribute to the Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Summit by championing the Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary (MAPS), and calling upon all UN member states to become signatories to the MAPS Treaty on an urgent basis to allow the effective entry into force by December, 2019 of this vital protection for the Arctic Ocean, its ecosystems, and all life.

Thank you for your consideration of our input.

Kind regards,

Karen Ho

---

Karen Ho > Team Lead - Outreach, Research and Relations

Parvati.org

signMAPS.org