

March 2019



Feedback from YOUNGO to High-level Champions on the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action Priorities and Focus Areas

YOUNGO is pleased to submit its views to the High-Level Champions for GCA Priorities and Focus Areas.

Counting on the delivery of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) at COP24, YOUNGO believes that strengthening communication and engagement between Party and non-Party stakeholders will be crucial in implementing the PAWP. You will find below our thoughts and recommendations which are based on decisions and reflections of the COP24 in Katowice. We hope you will find them useful in improving this process for the next years especially starting with the incoming high-level champion from Chile.

1. Priorities

As described in the indicative work programme for 2019 of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, the priorities for this year are:

- a) Strengthening interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders and promoting the integration of action, among all levels of government and sectors, with a view to catalyzing concrete action on high-impact issues, in particular, related to cross-cutting areas, and leveraging, inter alia, the collaborative experience of the Talanoa Dialogue process;
- b) Broadening the participation of non-Party stakeholders in the Marrakech Partnership in regions and sectors in order to ensure a more balanced representation and to realize a greater potential for action, in particular in developing countries;
- c) Providing follow-up, continuity, and coherence with and between major milestones. Engagement activities and milestones should not be viewed in isolation but build on one another;
- d) Communicating with the impact of the work of the Marrakech Partnership and developing coherent messages that are tailored and delivered to different audiences.
- Q1. Do the above priorities adequately reflect what needs to be done to accelerate pre-2020 action and support enhanced ambition, adaptation, resilience, and support? If not, how could they be refined? In the context of the priorities, could specific actions be taken to achieve the desired outcomes?
 - We believe the above priorities are coherent with requirements to accelerate pre-2020 action while noting that attention should be focused on communication with non-Party stakeholders. YOUNGO requests amplified youth voices globally on climate action. In the last few months, children and

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teenagers are making remarkable impacts across the world calling on more climate action, they have inspired a generation shift and this makes it trivial to have strategic communication of youth mobilization should be enhanced

• It is important to have more opportunities for experience sharing at national and subnational levels to further enhance local actions. The high-level champions are encouraged to work with academia and think tanks to promote policy engagement. If possible, have more focus on policy discussions at the SB sessions and COPs

Q2. How could interaction and communication between Parties and non-Party stakeholders be enhanced? How could the high-level champions contribute to that enhancement?

- In the light of the adoption of the Paris Agreement Work Programme, there is a heightened need for effective and constant communication between Party and non-Party stakeholders especially as regards NDCs and its implementation. high-level champions should facilitate and multiple avenues where Party and non-Party stakeholders can communicate especially at national levels where it is more effective. These meetings should respect representation of diversity, freedom of speech, and aim to inform parties on youth contributions and needs in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- To have formally appointed youth delegations for each country. The high-level champions could push this in particular alongside more formal dialogues with youth, especially in local governments. Local context should be emphasised as it is the youth who will be the future governments for their countries we encourage things like round table discussions and meetings with ministers. Having these youth groups officially guided by and endorsed by the high-level champions would be beneficial.
- Since the real policy changes to increase ambition happens before and after COP rather than during, the High-Level Champions could hold informal forums and discussions in regions to exchange their policies with other

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countries, as well as national and international NGOs and academia. Parties can share with other countries what kind of national policies have worked best for them. NGOs can help countries adapt to policies, taking into account national circumstances.

Q3. What obstacles and barriers do you face in taking enhanced action and engaging stakeholders?

- The lack of interest and support of parties in non-party stakeholders action, in particular, the youth. In many countries, there is a growing gap between general public engagement and expectations in terms of climate action and government ambitions. YOUNGO had to battle strong sometimes to be able to get the opportunity to get youths engagement at the high level of the processes, high-level champions should prioritize the primary inclusion of youth as core stakeholders.
- Stakeholders are not always keen to engage youth NGOs as there is a pre-filled judgement of lowered capacity and skills.
- A lack of funding, particularly for Global South youth participants. This means less Global South youth are able to attend sessions and the youth representation is disproportionate, unbalanced and unjust.
- A lack of visa support, particularly now that the UNFCCC has stopped issuing official visa support letters for intersessional meetings. Again, this leads to unbalanced and unfair youth representation as intersessional meetings tend to be in the Global North, where Global North representatives do not require visas to attend the meetings however Global South representatives do. This means that the Global North have much easier access and can attend these meetings with few issues, while the Global South must worry about even gaining access to the country on top of other issues such as funding.

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Q4. What could the high-level champions and the Marrakech Partnership do to increase Parties' access to relevant experts and resources?

- The digitalisation of knowledge creates great opportunities for knowledge sharing and access to resources. Databases and networks of experts and resources should be tailored for optimal access
- It will be great if the high-level champions could invite relevant think tanks and experts to give presentations on policies and on concrete measures that countries can take. In this way, they can ensure, that the meeting not only has a very political nature, but also very technical and discussing concrete policies
- Create an online platform or forum to allow shared access to relevant experts and resources.
- Use interesting and engaging methods to increase Parties' awareness of relevant experts and resources, for example encouraging civil society to perform actions and campaigns to promote legitimate science and the advice of experts.

Q5. How can non-Party stakeholders best support Parties and vice versa in the implementation of the Paris Agreement?

- Dialogue should be the cement of all stakeholders collaboration. The Talanoa Dialogue was a great initiative, trying to enhance climate ambition from both sides. Sector tailored support and events could contribute to enhance ambition and contribute to implement the Paris Agreement.
- Parties need to have a way where organizations and think tanks, local and foreign, can submit policy suggestions, Then they need money to review them nationally and see, what they can put into practice.
- By organising round tables with clear objectives and conducting regional meetings and events between the Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

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- Holding national, open and inclusive consultations between underrepresented youth groups and the negotiators, instead of leaving these closed off to only the most privileged youth groups.
- Creating a clear road map showing each what they can do in order to push full implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- Allow NDCs to be broken down to a more local context, perhaps to cities or regions which will make it easier for both Parties and non-Party stakeholders but particularly YOUNGO constituents to influence local targets.

2. Thematic and cross-cutting areas

The Marrakech Partnership is structured around seven thematic areas (energy, land use, human settlements, industry, transport, water, and oceans and coastal zones) with specific cross-cutting areas (finance, health, resilience, gender, education and decent work) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being focus areas for a particular year. As outlined in the indicative work programme, the focus in 2019 will be on finance and resilience, in addition to four specific SDGs.1 Efforts will also be made to engage with media and communication specialists and networks and to reach out to the constituted bodies, as appropriate, to facilitate greater collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, promoting integrated approaches to adaptation and mitigation and highlighting innovative technologies and capacity-building opportunities.

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?

• Education for climate change

As young people we wish to have more programmes for climate change education that includes **relevant** education, on topics that matter in our daily

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life, such as climate change, **livelihoods** and **reproductive health.** It is important that the new generation is very aware of climate change, hence, we want the UNFCCC to offer guidance to parties, how they can adapt their curricula or offer summer schools where children can get hands-on relevant education.

The Marrakech Partnership could open dialogue with curriculum managers in each country, to elicit commitments to review and strengthen climate change content in curricula, and to undertake teacher training in delivering climate change education. It may also encourage the development of a platform to share successful approaches and resources, or the wider promotion and use of such a platform where it exists.

• Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)

An effective approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation must support young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), as doing so is essential for adaptation while contributing to reducing the impact of future climate change.

Family planning is an already-in-demand, cost effective method of increasing communities' resilience to climate change impacts and meeting the health and development needs of people around the world, while also promoting social justice. At least 200 million women worldwide want to limit or space their births, but don't have access to modern family planning methods. UNFPA estimates that this unmet need for family planning is twice as great for young people. Lack of access to family planning and reproductive health services can have dire consequences. For young women ages 15 to 19 in low- and middle-income countries, complications from pregnancy are the leading cause of death. Unmet need for family planning will significantly increase as the world's largest generation of young people enters into their reproductive years. Gender sensitive policies (incorporating the particular needs and capacities of both women and men) are necessary to effectively mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Climate change disproportionately affects women, especially young women, as they must walk farther to collect water, work harder to produce crops from dry soil, and cope with drought, flooding and disease. At the same time, empowered women can be particularly strong agents for sustainable change in their communities.

The ability to access sexual and reproductive health information and services is a human right, acknowledged in SDG targets 3.7 (Health) and 5.6 (Gender

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Equality). Young people are particularly disadvantaged in access to SRHR, with information and services often restricted to married people, and first encountered after childbirth. Everyone, regardless of age or marital status, should have access to sexual and reproductive health services, which include access to safe, effective, affordable, and youth-friendly family planning services of their choice, including: contraception, pre-natal and postnatal care, obstetric care, safe and legal abortion services, and post-abortion care. Family planning empowers young people to make healthy choices for themselves and their families, as well as helps determine whether the world will have 8 or 12 billion people in 2100.

There is growing evidence that addressing SRHR solutions can increase resilience to climate change and slow population trends that exacerbate poverty and climate change impacts. There is no other area of intervention which so comprehensively affects every thematic area (energy, land use, human settlements, industry, transport, water, and oceans and coastal zones) and cross-cutting areas (finance, health, resilience, gender, education and decent work).

Governments have committed to delivering these services through a number of international agreements, including the 1994 Cairo Agenda on Population and Development, and the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action on Gender Equality. But these commitments have not been met with significant increase in resourcing nor improvement in access.

Through their focus on cross-cutting issues and the synergy between the SDGs and climate change response, the Marrakech Partnership has the opportunity to highlight the relevance of SRHR to climate change adaptation. We request that it embraces this opportunity.

• Multi-sector integrated development initiatives

Parties and funding agencies should foster multi-sectoral development initiatives which more effectively address the integrated challenges facing communities. These projects were showcased at a COP 24 Side Event, "Multi-sectoral initiatives for climate resilience, population & sustainable livelihoods in Africa." The lively audience reaction to this event demonstrated considerable enthusiasm among African delegates for such projects, and particularly for addressing the escalating issues of rapid population growth through effective, rights-based family planning interventions.

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The "PHE" (Population, Health and Environment) model of integrated development has proven to be particularly successful in exploiting synergies across sectors and motivating communities to drive their own change-management processes. This methodology has evolved over the past 15 years, with considerable success recorded in the Philippines, Nepal, Madagascar, Ethiopia and Uganda, among other countries.

These projects typically involve interventions addressing environmental protection and restoration, sustainable livelihood diversification including women's enterprises, WASH[1] practices, improved health services and perinatal care, family planning information and services, strengthening environmental and reproductive health tuition in schools, and shifting cultural norms around early marriage, FGM[2] and women's roles. They involve and empower existing community organisations and governance structures, avoiding winners and losers. In doing so, they build human capacity for community-led scale-up. Participatory methods are used in needs assessment, monitoring and setting future goals, while volunteers within the community model and mentor behaviour change. In particular, ecological understanding increases motivation for both environmental protection and family planning. Compared with single sector interventions, PHE typically increases women's participation in environmental management, and men's support for family planning. Enhanced food security, environmental health and human health all contribute to greater climate change adaptation.

A growing body of literature is supporting the effectiveness of PHE. Now is the time for scale-up, which requires greater political and financial support. The success of Ugandan projects such as HoPE-LVB (Health of People and the Environment in the Lake Victoria Basin) and CTPH (Conservation through Public Health, at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park) has won support of national and regional politicians, resulting in the inclusion of PHE into Uganda's Climate Change Policy, and the East Asian Community adopting a Regional PHE Strategy. However, for this support to translate into projects in communities, funding and training capacity must come from outside.

Despite project successes, funding has been difficult to obtain, due to the sector-specific (siloed) structure of funding and implementing agencies. In addition, the usually short-term nature of project funding has made it difficult to sustain projects long enough to reap the benefits and trigger spontaneous

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scale-up.

The Marrakech Partnership could assist, by highlighting the need for funding channels that support multi-sector interventions and sustained income streams. By facilitating dialogue between national and regional representatives, the experiences in East Africa could be communicated to other regions.

- As young people, we also wish to have more programmes for climate change education that includes relevant education, on livelihoods and reproductive health. It is important that the new generation is very aware of climate change, hence, we want the UNFCCC to offer ways, how nations can adapt their curricula or offer summer schools where children can learn about important subjects.
- Youth groups need more engagement on a national level, particularly with policy makers. A forum could be made available for youth to provide meaningful input into making policy.
- [1] Water, sanitation and hygiene
- [2] Female genital mutilation

OPERATIONAL APPROACH

3. Regional climate weeks

The high-level champions began their engagement in the regional climate weeks in 2018 and the lessons learned from their experience will be taken forward this year. The intention is to catalyze concrete climate action on the ground, in particular in developing countries, and to facilitate regionally relevant discussion and interaction among and between Parties and non-Party stakeholders. Although the list remains open, the following regions have been scheduled so far for climate weeks in 2019:

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- a) Africa (to take place in Accra, Ghana, from 18 to 22 March 2019);
- b) Latin America and the Caribbean (to take place in Salvador, Brazil, from 19 to 23 August 2019);
- c) Asia-Pacific (to take place in China or Bangkok, Thailand (TBC), from 2 to 6 September 2019).

Q7. Why do you attend the regional climate weeks and what would incentivize you to participate regularly?

- Climate weeks are so crucial because they bring global climate agenda closer home to the regions and help ensure implementation to some levels
- Our members feel more sense of ownership when it is in their region, we take it as ours and try to mobilize as much as we can to attend
- Regional climate weeks have made it possible for many youths especially those from the global south to be able to participate in such high-level UN Climate Change Forum
- It creates a great opportunity to meet and network with the party and non-party stakeholder and communicate on various mitigation, adaptation and capacity-building topics. It also enhances regional bonding which is crucial
- It is a new way to build momentum, excitement and engagement in climate change over the year at national and regional levels. For example, the registration for Africa Climate Week 2019 already exceeded expectations. The climate weeks can be a way to have greater impact at national and regional levels.

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- To network and represent the youth voice in climate change issues at the national and regional levels. To use this representation and networking to try to influence climate change in a continental space.
- The climate weeks have lots of different hands-on eco friendly activities that enables participants to learn and replicate ideas back in their communities.

Q8. Who would you like to meet at such events?

- Parties, representatives of all constituencies, NGOs, civil society, UN and UNFCCC representatives, experts, media, high-level champions, industries, private sector, local indigenous people native to that land,
- Young people leading the school strike and other global and regional environmental movements. It is essential to contact these movements and tap into the level of knowledge they have on climate change and climate action. More experienced YOUNGO members can act as a suitable interface for common knowledge on the will to know and the will to act for young people who are engaged but not necessarily knowledgeable on climate change. Young people could facilitate the collecting of proposals related to the climate strikes.

4. Technical examination processes on mitigation and adaptation

In accordance with decision 13/CP.23, the high-level champions will continue to support the technical expert meetings by, inter alia, recommending appropriate expert organizations, practitioners and other non-Party stakeholders from the Marrakech Partnership that can highlight case studies and solutions to enhance the technical discussion and exchange, including at the regional level, through the regional climate weeks. The policy options and opportunities identified at the meetings will inform the development of the relevant

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summaries for policymakers. The most recent summary for policymakers was published in October 2018.2

Q9. Are the messages and recommendations in the summaries for policymakers useful and clear? How could they be enhanced and made more effective?

• The recommendations were useful and clear. Diagrams, infographics, and more visual content could contribute to grasping policymakers' attention and raising their awareness.

5. Tracking and reporting voluntary action

The second edition of the Yearbook of Global Climate Action 20183 was released before COP 24 in November 2018 and aimed to synthesize the key messages and trends in relation to climate action from that year. To facilitate distribution and accessibility, it was published solely in electronic format on the UNFCCC website. Meanwhile, a revamped version of the NAZCA portal4 was launched in September 2018. The NAZCA portal should be further enhanced to provide a continuously evolving picture of the voluntary commitments, action, and progress of non-Party stakeholders and initiatives.

Q10. Is the Yearbook, as currently formatted and presented, a useful tool for Parties? Are the key messages clear and useful? How could it be improved?

• Case studies are useful, and industry action is well covered. Nevertheless, general public action, and climate justice actions should be better covered. The general design of the yearbook could be improved to make it more reader-friendly and attractive.

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Q11. What is your feedback on the revamped NAZCA portal? Is the information useful for Parties? What other types of information and features should be added? What do you need to promote NAZCA and help mobilize non-Party stakeholders and initiatives to register their actions?

• While we welcome the NAZCA platform as a rich repository of information and good par tices which could potentially inspire more action, YOUNGO believes NAZCA is a go-to platform recording commitments and major initiatives. However, it cannot replace the Global Climate Action (GCA) platform which serves as a standard platform for recording verified and concrete actions going on across the world.

6. Marrakech Partnership activities at COPs

Since COP 22 the high-level event on global climate action, complemented by a full programme of action events and roundtables, has been convened during sessions of the COP to highlight the progress made throughout the year, showcase transformational action and provide a space for dialogue between Party representatives and non-Party stakeholders. In addition, convening activities to take place during the regional climate weeks may help to distribute those activities and engagement with Parties throughout the year.

Q12. Are the high-level and action events and roundtables held at the COPs in their current format useful? How could they be made more impactful and accessible?

• YOUNGO appreciates the continuation of the current interactive format as it's complementing the negotiations and offers potential to strengthen and accelerate climate actions while breaking down silos. Especially for youth participants, such interactive and flexible formats offer an important space

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for meaningful youth participation. However, we see a lack in the follow-up process and therefore the continuation of certain discussions. Hence we suggest developing a clear strategy how the content of the activities feed into the negotiations to enhance the impact and how it will be publically available and how the next session builds upon the previous ones. Online participation should be possible by default and encouraged to ensure accessibility especially for underprivileged and youth to leave no one behind.

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?

• YOUNGO suggests a consultation with all relevant stakeholders prior to the Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Summit to gather relevant content and recommendations which then can be presented at the summit itself. Outcomes of previous events should be taken into consideration. Furthermore, we call upon the high-level champions and the Marrakech Partnership to ensure inclusive participation.

LOOKING AHEAD

8. Post-2020 outlook

Ramping up pre-2020 action remains a top priority and focus. In addition, as the mandate for the high-level champions ends in 2020, this may also be a good

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time to receive some initial views on the potential role of the high-level champions beyond 2020, reflecting on experience so far.

Q14. Is there a need to discuss the possibility of a post-2020 role for the high-level champions? How could the current champions facilitate such discussion?

• Though not formal engagement channels for non-Party and Party Stakeholders, the high-level champions will potential have a role mobilizing for more climate finance and facilitate tracking and monitoring plans among the stakeholders.

Q15. Could the high-level champions be more helpful in the implementation of the Paris Agreement beyond 2020?

• As described under Q14 YOUNGO values the efforts and achievements of the current high-level champion and therefore suggests that the mandate will be extended to a pre-2025 high-level champion to ensure the needed continuation of urgent needed climate action combined with an interactive and accessible multi-stakeholder approach.

Q16. What key functions of the high-level champions would be useful to take forward beyond 2020?

• To be able to meet the Paris Agreement post-2020, it will require the biggest mobilization of climate finance ever in history. This will require an additional or increased responsibility for high-level champions to mobilize governments, stakeholders and the private sector to commit the needed resources that will deliver the Paris Agreement Work Programme in a decade's time from 2020.

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