



SUMMARY OF THE INPUTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE LETTER FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPIONS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

I. BACKGROUND

1. In the lead-up to 2020, the High-Level Champions believe that this would be an opportune time to look back, review their work and take stock of where the climate action community has come from, where it needs to be beyond 2020 and how can the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action facilitate even greater action in the coming years, so that progress can be made towards a carbon-neutral, climate-resilient world and stay as close as possible to the 1.5 °C limit on global warming.
2. At the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the High-Level Champions informed Parties that they would be sending a letter encouraging Parties and non-Party stakeholders to provide their feedback on how the Marrakech Partnership could most effectively support pre-2020 action and what its future could be after 2020. On 29 January 2019, such a letter was sent. Forty inputs have been received, three of which came from Parties, one from a group of Parties and the remainder from non-Party stakeholders.¹
3. This document summarizes the major themes across all inputs received. Although some inputs did not address the questions directly, efforts have been made to cluster the feedback based on the structure and questions outlined by the High-Level Champions. All inputs received and the information they contain will be used as a reference when developing and implementing more specific plans and activities.

II. PRIORITIES AND FOCUS AREAS

A. Priorities

- Q1. Do the priorities outlined in the indicative work programme for 2019² 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?*

Q2. How could interaction and communication between Parties and non-Party stakeholders be enhanced? How could the High-Level Champions contribute to that enhancement?

¹ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/invitation-to-provide-feedback-to-the-high-level-champions-on-global-climate-action> to view the letter and inputs received.

² <https://unfccc.int/documents/187536>.



- Q3. What obstacles and barriers do you face in taking enhanced action and engaging stakeholders?*
- Q4. What could the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership do to increase Parties' access to relevant experts and resources?*
- Q5. How can non-Party stakeholders best support Parties and vice versa in the implementation of the Paris Agreement?*

Priorities

4. In general, the priorities outlined in the indicative work programme (of strengthening interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, broadening participation, providing follow-up on and continuity and coherence with and between major milestones and communicating with impact) reflect what is needed to urgently scale up and catalyse concrete action on high-impact issues for both mitigation and adaptation. However, tracking the progress and impact of initiatives and stakeholder action should also be a priority in order to identify best practices and lessons learned and provide the evidence and recognition of things moving forward. This will provide confidence to implement robust policies and measures with a longer-term perspective and inspire further action at all levels of government and across sectors.
5. These priorities should now be fleshed out with concrete steps and value-added activities that make effective use of resources, leveraging the strengths of the various actors and initiatives, including the High-Level Champions, other climate action leaders and the secretariat.
6. The activities of the Marrakech Partnership should be coherent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), COP Presidency initiatives and declarations, and other international and national processes (such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the New Urban Agenda and the Convention on Biological Diversity) to ensure an integrated approach across the environmental, economic and social dimensions of development.

Enhancing interaction

7. The High-Level Champions can share lessons on how to scale up and reinforce existing initiatives and bring forward solutions in line with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C to support Parties in fulfilling their commitments and developing and implementing their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).
8. Forums should be convened on specific topics and provide meaningful and substantive interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders at the local, national and regional level to understand the needs of Parties and the benefits that non-Party stakeholders can bring. The spirit and methodology of the Talanoa Dialogue should be used to encourage an open and collaborative dialogue. New voices that do not usually engage with the UNFCCC process should



be brought to the discussions to bring new perspectives, experience and solutions such as national government representatives across different ministries; underrepresented sectors of industry; sectoral-, regional- and local-level experts with experience in implementation; scientists; youth; academia; think tanks; parliamentarians; farmers; entrepreneurs; small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and private investors. Parties, thematic groups, think tanks, universities and other non-Party stakeholders could be requested to bring forward case studies on the effective modes of interaction they have encountered or used at the global, regional, national and/or local level that could be applied in this context.

9. Parties should express their needs and priorities for NDC implementation and non-Party stakeholders and initiatives should outline the specific issues they are addressing in each country, highlighting the opportunities to make the most progress. Connections could be made between Parties and non-Party stakeholders down to the local level to encourage collaboration, complement efforts, build capacities and accelerate the delivery of results.
10. Strategies should be developed and a concerted effort made to help developing countries and stakeholders in such regions by mobilizing support and resources to enable them to engage in Marrakech Partnership activities and equip them with the capacities to scale up climate action. The regional climate weeks are one set of tools that could help with this.
11. In order to nurture partnerships and solutions, holistic plans should be developed that involve continuous engagement throughout the year, instead of planning only for events. Parties should be involved in developing the appropriate strategy and planning and outlining their sectoral priorities. They should provide specific feedback on their experiences and lessons learned so far in implementing climate action and engaging with the Marrakech Partnership to help to shape these plans. Parties and non-Party stakeholders should be informed well in advance of the plans and the opportunities for engagement throughout the year. The High-Level Champions should remain visible and continue their work between events related to the UNFCCC process to drive change and keep the momentum going.
12. Parties should identify climate action and sectoral focal point(s) to engage with the Marrakech Partnership directly and the Marrakech Partnership could establish regional focal points to facilitate connections between Parties and non-Party stakeholders within specific regions.
13. The High-Level Champions can help Parties to rationalize, according to their needs, the wide range of non-Party stakeholder action and initiatives. They could develop a set of streamlined and concise information packages that maps initiatives and thematic groups, providing short descriptions and the contact information of thematic, sectoral and initiative leads. They could help innovative ideas and solutions to converge and facilitate access to the technical expertise and resources for the Parties and non-Party stakeholders that need it most, on the ground and tailored to their context.



14. Connections and linkages should be made with constituted bodies, observer constituencies and related UNFCCC initiatives (e.g. Action for Climate Empowerment, Koronivia Dialogue) with a view to them supporting each other's work where appropriate.
15. Building on existing tools, transparent communication channels and information technology (IT) facilities could be further developed to enhance collaboration and dialogue. There should be an exploration of ways in which the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) portal or other online platforms can be enhanced to make the work of the Marrakech Partnership more accessible and enable more direct connections and virtual discussions between Parties, non-Party stakeholders and initiatives.

Barriers

16. Barriers to enhancing action include:
 - a. Lack of awareness of the various initiatives and non-Party stakeholders and the benefits they can provide and lack of capacities to engage them;
 - b. Unavailability to developing countries and the most vulnerable, including at the local and regional level, of the resources, knowledge, capacities and long-term finance necessary to implement and take ownership of initiatives and scale them up;
 - c. Lack of knowledge of the specific needs of Parties and their national priorities for NDC implementation;
 - d. Lack of governance and institutional arrangements to collaborate between sectors and different levels of government within a country;
 - e. Unavailability of reliable data and information to drive decision-making and take impactful action, particularly in local, rural and indigenous communities;
 - f. Lack of an understandable and common narrative linking climate and sustainable development that can communicate the benefits of and opportunities for taking action that leaves no-one behind.
17. Barriers to engaging stakeholders and the Marrakech Partnership include:
 - a. Unavailability, particularly to stakeholders from developing countries, of resources to actively participate in events and activities;
 - b. Lack of access to Parties and national government representatives, non-negotiators, policymakers and other experts during and outside UNFCCC/Marrakech Partnership events;
 - c. The challenging nature of many events and processes with respect to knowing how to engage and devote resources, particularly if information is not shared in advance;
 - d. Language; English is the primary language of interaction for the Marrakech Partnership.

Collaboration of Parties and non-Party stakeholders to support implementation

18. Parties and non-Party stakeholders should work iteratively together to support each other in increasing ambition over time. Parties can implement an enabling policy environment integrated



with policies at the local and subnational levels and non-Party stakeholders can support Parties by delivering technology, innovation and action on the ground, creating a positive feedback loop.

19. Non-Party stakeholders can help to drive transformational and systemic change by collecting relevant data to drive decision-making, implementing ambitious climate plans at the local and regional level, raising awareness and capacity-building in local communities and developing innovative business models, technologies and solutions. This information should be proactively shared with Parties to support their national goals. Based on their experiences, non-Party stakeholders can highlight implementation challenges, what works and what does not and recommend policies to overcome such challenges.
20. Parties should have institutional mechanisms and multi-stakeholder platforms through which non-Party stakeholders can be continuously engaged in Parties' national planning processes across ministries. Parties could then express their needs to non-Party stakeholders, understand how the non-Party stakeholders in their countries can contribute in developing and implementing NDCs, track implementation on the ground and determine how to scale up the best practices and solutions that the non-Party stakeholders can bring.

B. Thematic and cross-cutting areas

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

21. A comprehensive and holistic approach should be used to address both climate change and the SDGs, driving urgent and high-impact action that limits warming to 1.5 °C, strengthens resilience and leaves no-one behind.
22. Issues that can support NDC development and implementation should be addressed in a cross-cutting manner through synergies and nexus across the thematic areas to avoid silos and enable transformational and systemic change and thinking. These should be considered through the lenses of finance, capacity-building, technology and policy and social drivers such as gender diversity, decent work, education, health and equity.



III. OPERATIONAL APPROACH

A. Regional climate weeks

- Q7. *Why do you attend the regional climate weeks and what would incentivize you to participate regularly?*
- Q8. *Who would you like to meet at such events?*

23. To complement the global approach, regional climate weeks and regional dialogues/technical expert meetings (TEMs) are very useful tools for mainstreaming climate and moving things forward at the national, regional and local level. They provide a platform for concrete discussions on common challenges, opportunities and solutions within the region and examining the necessary finance, technology, policy and capacity-building levers to scale up action. They allow Parties to share experiences and their progress in NDC development and implementation and non-Party stakeholders to demonstrate how collaboration can accelerate action and overcome barriers to build new partnerships. A regional climate week has the potential to be the main climate-related event taking place in a region.
24. Having access to a wide range of stakeholders, including ones who do not usually participate in the UNFCCC process would be beneficial, such as national policymakers involved in NDC development and implementation and across different ministries, subnational and city-level officials and decision makers, sectoral experts, regional and local associations and initiatives, local indigenous community members, think tanks, business representatives and entrepreneurs, innovators, the media, funding agencies, sectoral experts, climate change/sustainable development practitioners, global alliances and participants in other international processes. It would be useful for participants to share successful policies, measures and local solutions that could be replicated in other countries in the region and complement and scale up existing work and initiatives.
25. The regional climate weeks should be convened in a cost-effective manner by combining and bringing together existing events in the region, enabling a broad range of experts to attend at the same time. Dates, agendas and opportunities to engage and contribute should be communicated well in advance to enable wider participation. They should be designed and planned in partnership with regional and local stakeholders to maximize relevance and impact.
26. The outcomes and messages of the regional climate weeks should align with the thematic areas of the Marrakech Partnership and be brought forward into subsequent series of events and engagements (including those outside the UNFCCC process) taking place in the lead-up to and during sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), enabling those outcomes to be fed back into the regional climate weeks the following year to enable continuity.



B. Technical examination processes on mitigation and adaptation

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

27. Summaries for policymakers remain a useful tool. They could be improved further by being solutions-focused and containing even more targeted messages aligned with the Marrakech Partnership thematic areas and put in the context of long-term, transformational goals. The messages should be complemented with references to concrete and successful examples, tools and/or guidance for implementing any recommendations.
28. Further effort should be made to ensure that the key messages reach the appropriate policymakers and decision makers at the national level and the public at large. Including visual content and infographics could help the messages to resonate. Presenting the key messages at high-level events during a session of the COP should be continued and they should also be discussed during the thematic events. Having these messages feed into the regional climate weeks and regional TEMs and vice versa would also help.
29. The ways in which the summaries for policymakers complement other tracking and reporting tools (e.g. Yearbook of Climate Action, NAZCA) should be considered and elements of each should be merged where appropriate.

C. Tracking and reporting voluntary action

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

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?

30. Publishing, tracking and reporting on the progress of commitments and impact of actions is essential to take stock of where we are, recognize ambitious solutions and inspire new action.

Yearbook of Global Climate Action

31. The Yearbook is a valuable tool and should act as the go-to reference for climate action and implementation. It should be tailored to Parties' needs, highlighting trends and identifying the



initiatives across the thematic and cross-cutting areas of the Marrakech Partnership. It should also track progress over time against longer-term goals and indicators of the thematic areas and the real-economy, drawing attention to what works and what does not. The outcomes of the regional climate weeks and Marrakech Partnership events should be incorporated into the Yearbook.

32. A sustainable process should be developed where Parties and stakeholders are consulted well in advance and in a predictable, transparent manner throughout the development of the Yearbook to define the scope, content and data sources. To ease development time and resources, consideration could be given to having a specific focus each year (similar to the way in which subsets of SDGs are reviewed during the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development).
33. Ways to make the information even more accessible, attractive and reach stakeholders outside the traditional UNFCCC community should be considered, including through enhanced design, communication strategies and online and IT tools.

NAZCA

34. The NAZCA portal is much improved after its relaunch and marks a significant step in the right direction to provide a user-friendly overview of global climate action, highlighting gaps and priority areas. The interactive map and filtering are useful tools to view actions and linkages from the global and national to the local level and across sectors.
35. Further improvements should include:
 - a. Moving towards tracking progress, implementation and impact, instead of only commitments and pledges. This should include both qualitative and quantitative progress tracking, including how barriers to finance, capacity-building and technology have been overcome and links to more detailed information on the actions and initiatives;
 - b. Diversifying the types of action captured to include adaptation, resilience and finance. Effort should also be made to capture the action from developing countries, making use of national and regional data providers;
 - c. Features to highlight regional and country-specific trends to promote the exchange of best practices;
 - d. Providing clearer directions and mechanisms for non-Party stakeholders on how they can register their actions and initiatives and the criteria used. This should be complemented by outreach efforts, particularly in developing countries and at the local level and during the regional climate weeks;
 - e. A mechanism to identify overlaps between reported action by stakeholders would enable a more accurate aggregation of action and impact;
 - f. Automating data processing and sharing to enable more timely updates.



D. Marrakech Partnership activities at sessions of the Conference of the Parties

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

36. The COP activities are useful for showcasing the diversity of action and demonstrating the breadth of non-Party stakeholders supporting the UNFCCC process. The efforts to streamline and continuously enhance the impact of the events and round tables over the years are appreciated.

Design, content and participation

37. Overall, the focus of the events should be concrete and on the ground issues and transformational solutions. Topics to be discussed should be cross-cutting and drive systemic change, enabling cross-fertilization and the participation of experts from other thematic groups. The high-level events can be used as a platform to bring in new Party and non-Party stakeholder leaders to make new ambitious announcements, launch new initiatives, showcase disruptive solutions, report on the progress made on previous commitments and highlight what more needs to be done. The higher-profile and public-facing events should be complemented with smaller, intimate discussions between Party and non-Party stakeholder leaders, where possible.

38. Efforts should be made to continue to broaden the set of stakeholders (national government representatives, scientists, local producers, SMEs, entrepreneurs, indigenous leaders, youth, faith leaders, parliamentarians, etc.) participating in events to ensure gender diversity, including through remote participation.

39. The design, venue layout and number of events should be strategically planned to be high-impact and scheduled to avoid overlap with key negotiation sessions when possible to maximize the participation and interaction of all stakeholders, particularly national government representatives. Parties should be involved in the planning of the thematic events and round tables to ensure the relevance of the content to Parties' needs and increase their participation. The length and scheduling of events at COP 24 was a good step in this direction.

40. Efforts should continue to be made to make the events more interactive, including by using open spaces such as the Action Hub and building upon the Talanoa Dialogue format and methodology to enable more of an open dialogue between Parties and non-Party stakeholders. Providing a summary video and a wrap-up event allows for a collective sharing of reflections and the prospects for the following year.

41. The promotion and branding of the events should be enhanced even further to drive participation and to distinguish the events from regular side events.



42. A coherent narrative and set of key messages should weave through the various events and enable these messages to flow to the Parties and the COP. A structured process should be developed to disseminate and follow up on the outcomes and actions stemming from the events to feed them into the TEMs, regional climate weeks and other forums and vice versa to increase the events' impact and relevance.

E. The United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit 2019³

Q13. How can the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership best contribute to the Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Summit?

43. The High-Level Champions can facilitate meaningful engagement with non-Party stakeholders, help to shape the narrative and disseminate the key messages in the lead-up to the Climate Action Summit 2019. They can strengthen the links with the partnerships and initiatives that can support NDC implementation, sustainable development and raised ambition in line with the 1.5 °C goal.
44. As the transformative areas of the Summit are closely aligned with the thematic areas of the Marrakech Partnership, the High-Level Champions can highlight the most ambitious action, initiatives and stakeholders that have delivered results across the various sectors, regions and countries. They can feed in the best practices and knowledge gained by stakeholders of the Marrakech Partnership over the years and draw attention to gaps and challenges in implementation, including information from NAZCA, the Yearbook of Climate Action and the summaries for policymakers. Having the outcomes of the regional climate weeks feed into the Secretary-General's team has been useful.
45. The Marrakech Partnership can facilitate follow-up and continuity and support the achievement of the announcements made at the Summit at the global level down to the regional and local level. The outcomes of the Summit should be brought to COP 25 and to the high-level and other action events to demonstrate to Parties the desire and support for higher ambition.
46. Information should be shared with stakeholders in a timely manner on how they can best contribute and engage. Connections to the Summit team and the lead countries and coalitions of the transformative areas would be helpful.

³ See <http://www.un.org/en/climatechange/>.



IV. LOOKING AHEAD

A. Post-2020 outlook

- 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?*
- Q15. Could the High-Level Champions be more helpful in the implementation of the Paris Agreement beyond 2020?*
- Q16. What key functions of the High-Level Champions would be useful to take forward beyond 2020?*

47. By building on the work carried out so far, the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership can play an important role in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement by strengthening climate action, maintaining momentum and raising ambition post-2020.
48. The High-Level Champions should provide the leadership and inspiration to drive ambitious action based on the latest science, acting as the high-level enablers between Parties and non-Party stakeholders to strengthen their collaboration and deliver results on the ground and in the real economy. They should provide non-Party stakeholders with a cohesive framework to contribute to the UNFCCC process that is open, simple, flexible and enables bottom-up mobilization.
49. Going forward, the role of the High-Level Champions is to focus on where they would provide the most value and complement existing efforts in the climate action community. Specific activities could include:
- a. Identifying areas of high mitigation potential and adaptation needs where there are opportunities for greater cooperation;
 - b. Catalysing action around specific gaps in implementation by matching and mobilizing resources, responsibilities and expertise;
 - c. Strengthening cross-cutting areas, including coherence with the SDGs and other international processes;
 - d. Facilitating the exchange of best practices, technology innovation, capacity-building and collaboration opportunities to support action at all levels of government and across sectors;
 - e. Maintaining political momentum and continuously engaging with Party and non-Party stakeholders in a transparent and predictable manner to nurture trust, collaboration and partnerships;
 - f. Highlighting successful multi-stakeholder projects, initiatives and solutions that are scalable, have long-term perspectives and address Parties' needs in the development and implementation of their NDCs;
 - g. Identifying Party or non-Party stakeholders as potential initiative leaders;
 - h. Driving the accountability of stakeholders to produce results and initiatives to deliver on their intended benefits;



- i. Facilitating an approach for non-Party stakeholders to provide information and support the global stocktake.
50. The High-Level Champions could convene dialogues with Parties and non-Party stakeholders to discuss the post-2020 climate action context in order to gather feedback on the experiences, lessons learned and impact so far to help to shape the future direction.