



LETTER TO PARTIES FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPIONS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

Distinguished representatives of Parties and groups of Parties,

Let us start by wishing you all a happy and prosperous New Year 2019. After a very successful COP 24, a fruitful Talanoa Dialogue and the adoption of the Katowice climate package, as well as a number of ministerial declarations, the implementation of the Paris Agreement towards achieving its global goals is the next necessary step. Many political leaders and other stakeholders have already been calling 2019 the year of climate action, and the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit in September 2019 will be a milestone event on the path to global low-emission development. The high-level champions, the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action¹ and all other stakeholders have promised to proactively engage in and contribute to the success of the Summit. It is now time to act at all levels of government and to incorporate all stakeholders' initiatives into global climate action.

It is now three years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement and the start of the first tenure of the high-level champions, and two years since the launch of the Marrakech Partnership. As we approach 2020, it is an opportune time to look back, to review the work of the high-level champions and to take stock of where we have come from, where we need to be beyond 2020 and how we can facilitate even greater action in the coming years, so that we can progress towards a carbon-neutral, resilient world and stay as close as possible to the 1.5 °C limit on global warming.

The adoption of the Katowice climate package at COP 24 has laid a strong foundation for ramping up implementation and action. Over the next two years it is critical that Parties and non-Party stakeholders have the tools, capacities, means and solutions to strengthen their nationally determined contributions. Ambition of action, adaptation, and support provided to and by stakeholders are needed at all levels of government through a diverse range of projects.

The mission² of the Marrakech Partnership is to strengthen collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders to allow greater mitigation and adaptation action to be implemented in the pre-2020 period and beyond. Such action is to be guided by the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and undertaken in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In this context, the work of the high-level champions has focused on bridging the gap between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, mobilizing stakeholders at all levels of government and across sectors and having them bring forward concrete solutions in support of urgent action. A summary of achievements and outcomes in 2018 can be found in annex I. It was a pleasure to present this

¹ See

https://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/marrakech_partnership_for_global_climate_action.pdf.

² See https://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/gca_approach.pdf.



summary alongside a draft vision of next steps during the meetings that H.E. Inia Seruiratu, the Fijian high-level champion, and I had during COP 24.

As you may recall, Parties kindly agreed to have some questions on the Marrakech Partnership sent to them for consideration with a view to providing us with their advice and views. We would appreciate hearing from you now on how the Marrakech Partnership can most effectively support pre-2020 action and what its future could be after 2020. We would welcome your responses to the specific questions provided in annex III.

On the initiative of the high-level champions from Fiji and Poland, an indicative work programme of the Marrakech Partnership for 2019 has been established on the basis of consultations with Parties and non-Party stakeholders in the lead-up to and at COP 24. The work programme, contained in annex II, is considered a living document and may be adjusted on the basis of reflections on and analysis of COP 24, the foreseen and requested advice from Parties, the outcomes of strategy sessions and other meetings planned for 2019, and the views of the incoming high-level champion from Chile, whose nomination is pending. Kindly note the inclusion of cross-cutting issues such as finance, resilience, and expansion of media and communication engagement.

We would be most grateful if you could submit your inputs to the secretariat by **15 February 2019**. Parties should submit their views via the UNFCCC submission portal at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>; any observer organizations (United Nations System entities, admitted intergovernmental organizations, and admitted non-governmental organizations) wishing to do so should also submit their views to the UNFCCC submission portal; and any other non-Party stakeholders wishing to do so should email their views to globalclimateaction@unfccc.int. The secretariat will post the views received on the dedicated page of the UNFCCC website.³

We would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. Furthermore, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your engagement over the last few years and to reiterate our commitment to supporting Parties and non-Party stakeholders and facilitating their cooperation in order to accelerate climate action towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

(Signed by)

Mr. Tomasz Chruszczow
High-level champion
Special Envoy for Climate Change, Ministry of Environment of Poland

³ <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership-for-global-climate-action>.



ANNEX I - SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTCOMES IN 2018

Regional Climate Weeks

Regional Climate Weeks were used by the Champions to have regionally-relevant discussions, with the ambition of increasing climate action and getting more stakeholders from the region involved. In 2018, the Champions and Marrakech Partnership (MP) stakeholders participated in three regional Climate Weeks:

- Africa: Nairobi, Kenya in April;
- Asia-Pacific: Singapore in July; and
- Latin America and the Caribbean, Montevideo: Uruguay in August

The Champions and the MP stakeholders convened various events and technical meetings including:

- High level event on Transport;
- Workshop on data to drive energy transition in cities;
- Workshop on Adaptation and Climate-Resilient Initiatives in Coastal Zones
- Workshop on Sustainable production and consumption - Accelerating Renewable Energy Use in Energy Intensive Industries; and
- Workshop on Adaptation measures that help advance NDC commitments in Latin America

The Champions also engaged in capacity building activities on how to engage in the Marrakech Partnership and held bilateral meetings and connected key stakeholders with each other.

Feedback from non-Party stakeholders (NPS) include the following:

- The Climate Weeks were useful, as different regions have different needs, opportunities and constraints
- The Climate Weeks provide a good opportunity to connect with regional partners
- Climate Weeks were useful to make progress and work between formal UNFCCC sessions

Talanoa Dialogue

The Champions supported and encouraged the participation of NPS, facilitated the selection of participants in accordance with criteria defined by the Presidencies to ensure gender, regional and sectoral balance. Throughout the year, the Champions provided guidance to ensure the participation of NPS in the Talanoa process was effective, including on how to tell impactful stories, make effective submissions to the platform and encouraging national governments and non-Party stakeholders to convene regional Talanoas.

Yearbook of Climate Action 2018

The Yearbook of Climate Action, published on the 20 November, highlights trends and provides information regarding the state of climate action. The Yearbook was developed through a range of inputs, including:

- Technical Examination Process (TEP)
- Submissions to the Talanoa Dialogue platform



- Global Climate Action web page and NAZCA portal
- Data/analytical reports from MP stakeholders

Key messages from the Yearbook include:

- Global Climate Action is helping to close the gap in action to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement
- Climate action is growing globally
- Climate action is re-shaping the financial sector to help transition to a net-zero carbon and resilient society
- Global Climate Action is becoming more transparent and measurable
- The outputs of cooperative climate initiatives are increasingly being delivered in low- or middle-income countries

Non-State Actors Zone for Climate Action portal (NAZCA)

The NAZCA portal¹ was revamped on 14 September at the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco. The portal shows evidence of the momentum in Global Climate Action through a new map-based interface, easy identifies the locations of engaged stakeholders.

The total numbers of stakeholders increased by ~ 60% and commitments by approximately ~ 40%. There was clear growth in regional participation with the number of stakeholders in Asia-Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean increasing by ~30%, 20% and 20 % respectively.



The new map interface of the NAZCA portal identifies Non-Party Stakeholders engaged in Climate Action by country location

Technical Examination Process (TEP)

Following up on the mandate of decision 13/CP.23 the Champions consulted the Technology Executive Committee and Climate Technology Centre & Network, and identified the following topics for the TEP on mitigation for the years 2018 to 2020:

- 2018: Industry: implementation of circular economies and industrial waste reuse and prevention solutions
- 2019: Energy: off-grid and decentralized energy solutions for smart energy and water use in the agrifood chain
- 2020: Human settlements: sustainable low-emission housing and building solutions

¹ <http://climateaction.unfccc.int/>.



Key messages in the Summary for Policy Makers² after the TEP in 2018 include the following:

- Technical innovation needs to work together with innovative business models and financing mechanisms within the right policy framework
 - Innovation has an important contribution to adaptation and the transformational changes needed in material and energy efficiency
 - Innovative business models already being implemented need to be expanded and supported by the right policy framework.
 - Public finance can provide the right conditions for private finance to reach the scale needed by, for example, reducing investment risk.
 - National governments can scale mitigation action by introducing a mix of policy instruments to support circular economy strategies and technologies
 - Integrating gender into adaptation planning must be consultative and ensure equal access to resources
- There are opportunities for integration at all levels
 - New business cases can be identified by involving a range of stakeholders and looking beyond traditional sector boundaries.
 - Involving local communities and vulnerable groups into planning on adaptation and technology transfer enhances understanding and tailoring to local conditions and increases buy in. Accompanying technology transfer with capacity building is important for sustainable solutions and wider social benefits.
 - Implementing a circular economy increases material and energy efficiency and reduces health, social and environmental impacts. Consumer engagement is crucial for behavioral changes.
 - Nature based solutions and eco-system based adaptation are built upon existing natural systems, which can protect human and natural systems and bring both adaptation and mitigation benefits
- Data and information are required to implement action
 - Data on climate change impacts and the options for responding are not widely available to investors, leading to decisions that are not optimal for the long term.
 - To scale up the implementation of the circular economy and waste-to-energy solutions, knowledge on waste quantities and characterization need to be improved, including metrics on technology transfer.
 - The scientific community has a wealth of information that needs to be shared in a way that can be easily understood and acted upon quickly.
 - Use of digitization and real time tracking can optimize material flows in value chains

Communications and collaboration tools

To facilitate and enhance communication with and between Parties and NPS, the following initiatives were taken forward:

- An on-line platform for registered MP stakeholders to share information and work together

² <http://unfccc.int/resource/climateaction2020/spm/introduction/index.html>.



- Periodic newsletters to inform the climate action community of the latest news and developments from the Champions³
- Mobilizing Parties' participation in MP planning meetings and events⁴

The participation of Parties in MP meetings were well received by NPS and provided an opportunity to work together toward collective goals.

³ A total of 11 newsletters were sent over 2018. One can subscribe to receive the newsletter here: <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership-for-global-climate-action>.

⁴ A notification to the regional groups of Parties were sent in the lead up to each of the meetings and events with specific individual invites for appropriate speaking opportunities. Participation in these activities included representatives from the following Parties: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, Fiji, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Saint Lucia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).



ANNEX II – INDICATIVE MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2019 ¹

1. This work programme highlights an indicative set of priorities of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for 2019 based on the work of the High-Level Champions² so far and the collaborative experience of the Talanoa Dialogue process. The aim of this document is to ensure continuity with the activities carried out in 2018 and to provide an initial framework to enable a prompt start to work and discussions in 2019. The work programme will be adjusted in accordance with reflections on and analysis of the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), including the Global Climate Action events, as well as the Polish initiative of various declarations, the views of the incoming COP 25 High-Level Champion and the strategy sessions planned for 2019.
2. The mission of the Marrakech Partnership is to strengthen collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders to allow greater mitigation and adaptation action as well as action on means of implementation to be implemented in the pre-2020 period and beyond. Such action is to be guided by the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and undertaken in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.³
3. The Marrakech Partnership will build on achievements in previous years and focus on the following priorities in 2019:
 - a) Strengthening **interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders** and promoting integration of action, among all levels of government and sectors, with a view to catalysing 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 greater potential for action, in particular in developing countries;
 - c) Providing **follow-up on and continuity and coherence** with and between major milestones. Engagement activities and milestones during the year should not be viewed in isolation but build on one another;

¹ See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MPGCA_work_programme_2019.pdf.

² In accordance with decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 121–123.

³ In line with the approach to the Marrakech Partnership; see https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/gca_approach.pdf.



- d) **Communicating with impact** the work of the Marrakech Partnership and developing coherent messages that are tailored and delivered to different audiences over the year.

Operational approach

4. To accomplish the above priorities, the following tools and mechanisms will be leveraged and enhanced:

- a) Regional Climate Weeks:

Building on the experience of 2018, the Marrakech Partnership will be involved in the Regional Climate Weeks to further catalyse concrete climate action on the ground, in particular in developing countries, opportunities will be explored for facilitating regionally relevant discussion and interaction among and between Parties and non-Party stakeholders at the Regional Climate Weeks, which are planned so far for the following regions in 2019:

- Africa (to take place in Accra, Ghana, from 18 to 22 March 2019);
- Asia-Pacific;
- Latin America and the Caribbean.

- b) The 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 that could 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 summaries for policymakers referred to in decision 13/CP.23, paragraph 10.

- c) Constituted bodies of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement:

The High-Level Champions will reach out to the constituted bodies, as appropriate, with the aim of facilitating greater collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, complementing and streamlining stakeholder engagement, gathering relevant expertise, capacity and technology, and promoting integrated approaches to adaptation, mitigation and engagement.



d) The United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit 2019:⁴

The High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership stakeholders will proactively engage to prepare for the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit in 2019 and demonstrate the activities as the contribution to the Summit of a broad set of impactful initiatives, solutions and action.

e) The tracking and reporting of voluntary action:

The *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2019* will synthesize the key messages from and trends in climate action during the year. The UNFCCC secretariat will enhance the NAZCA portal in order to provide a continuously evolving picture of the voluntary commitments, action and progress of non-Party stakeholders and initiatives.

f) Expansion of climate action media and communication:

Media specialists and networks will be engaged to assist the efforts to build and raise awareness and facilitate wider participation of various stakeholders. This will also include strengthening communication tools, such as revamping the Global Climate Action website, to increase the visibility and understanding of the work of the Marrakech Partnership.

g) Further strengthen cross-cutting areas:

Further strengthen linkages to action on the Sustainable Development agenda, finance and resilience, in particular by engaging with key stakeholders and organizations in these areas.

⁴ See <http://www.un.org/en/climatechange/>.



Appendix
Topics and milestones relevant to the Marrakech Partnership

1. Previously agreed topics and focus areas:

The following topics and focus areas have been previously identified and will be used as a basis for refining and harmonizing the substantive issues to be addressed under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action in 2019:

- The topics for the Technical Examination Processes on mitigation and adaptation, respectively:
- Off-grid and decentralized energy solutions for smart energy and water use in the agrifood chain;
- Adaptation finance;
The focus areas of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):
- SDG 6: clean water;
- SDG 7: affordable and clean energy;
- SDG 14: life below water;
- SDG 15: life on land.

2. Key moments in 2019:

The table below provides an indicative overview of key moments 2019 (dates and locations subject to change) that may be directly or indirectly linked to the climate change agenda.

Table with 3 columns: Moments, Date, Location. Rows include World Economic Forum, Africa Climate Week, UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4), One Planet Summit, World Bank/International Monetary Fund spring meetings, Fiftieth sessions of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies, G20 Summit, and Asia-Pacific Climate Week.

5 See http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/notifications/application/pdf/notification_tep_mitigation_topics_2018_20.pdf.

6 See https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/technical-examination-process-on-adaptation-tep-a.

7 See https://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/gca_approach.pdf.



Marrakech Partnership



High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	July	New York, United States
Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week	August	To be determined
G7 Summit	25–27 August	Biarritz, France
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate	September	
United Nations Secretary-General’s Climate Summit	23 September	New York, United States
High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	September	New York, United States
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Climate Change and Land	To be determined	
Twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties	11–22 November	To be determined



ANNEX III - QUESTIONS FOR STRUCTURING INPUTS TO THE MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

PRIORITIES AND FOCUS AREAS

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 integration of action, among all levels of government and sectors, with a view to catalysing 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 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 impact** 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?*

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

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?



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 on 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?

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 catalyse 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:

- 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?

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

¹ SDG 6: clean water; SDG 7: affordable and clean energy; SDG 14: life below water; and SDG 15: life on land.



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 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?

5. Tracking and reporting voluntary action

The second edition of the *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2018*³ 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?

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?

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 round tables, 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

² See <http://unfccc.int/resource/climateaction2020/spm/introduction/index.html>.

³ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GCA_Yearbook2018.pdf.

⁴ <http://climateaction.unfccc.int/>.



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 round tables held at the COPs in their current format useful? How could they be made more impactful and accessible?

7. The United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit in 2019:⁵

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?

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 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?

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?

⁵ See <http://www.un.org/en/climatechange/>.