



Note from the High-Level Champions

The adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP 21 in 2015 was a watershed moment when nations came together to address climate change. In doing so, they also recognized the significant role that non-Party stakeholders play to support these global efforts and created the role of the High-Level Champions to accelerate action in the pre-2020 period. At COP 22, the High-Level Champions launched the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action as a framework to strengthen collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders in pursuit of this mission. As the movement of global climate action continued to grow, there was a loud and clear message from the IPCC in 2018 of the increasing urgency to act. In response, the Champions made efforts for work under the Marrakech Partnership to focus on environmental, economic, and social systems transformation, promoting higher ambition from all stakeholders to collectively strive for the 1.5°C temperature limit and building a net zero, resilient world.¹

Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement and throughout the evolution of the Marrakech Partnership, there has been unprecedented growth of non-Party stakeholders taking ambitious action, as evidenced most recently through the significant increase and deepening of commitments and actions recorded on the Global Climate Action portal, including through the Race to Zero, Race to Resilience and the Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero, as well as wide-ranging endorsements of the Climate Action Pathways and eighteen sectors reaching the “Breakthrough Ambition” point of approximately 20 percent of key actors within the sector committing to achieve net zero by 2050 or earlier. This impressive growth demonstrates the willingness of cities, regions, businesses, investors, and civil society actors around the world to address the climate emergency and support the implementation of the Paris Agreement. However, we know that much more needs to be done.

In response to the mandate given to us by Parties at COP 25 to explore how to improve the work under the Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition and after a thorough process to gather feedback from Parties and non-Party stakeholders, we have developed a 5-year plan under a 10-year vision for this decisive decade of implementation. This plan aims to make the Marrakech Partnership fit-for-purpose and to enable the community to accelerate immediate action at the scale and pace required by the science, and in turn, facilitate higher ambition from all stakeholders. This not only takes forward the innovations that we have put in place over the past two years but, most importantly, builds on the strong foundations laid by our predecessors, Laurence Tubiana of France, Hakima El Haité from Morocco, H.E Inia Seruiratu from Fiji and Tomasz Chruszczow from Poland and the tireless efforts of coalitions and initiatives across the globe. As High-Level Champions, we continue to build on their legacies, innovating and adapting to promote systems transformation and to enhance the credibility and contribution of non-Party stakeholder action. We will also make concerted efforts to broaden and deepen engagement in all regions to connect and help stakeholders taking ambitious action, highlighting the solutions and opportunities most appropriate to their context.

¹ Work programme 2019-2020: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MPGCA_WorkProgramme_2019-2020.pdf



We would like to extend our deep appreciation for contributions and support throughout these past years and look forward to working with all of you to implement these plans. As our predecessors have emphasized, the Marrakech Partnership does not belong to us as High-Level Champions, but rather it belongs to all of those across the globe who are passionately engaged in efforts to fight climate change. We are fully committed to support this community in whatever ways possible and to start this decisive decade with a sense of urgency, ambition, and transformational action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gonzalo Muñoz".

Gonzalo Muñoz
High-Level Champion of the COP 25 Presidency
Chile

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nigel Topping".

Nigel Topping
High-Level Champion of the COP 26 Presidency
United Kingdom



IMPROVED MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION FOR ENHANCING AMBITION *2021 - 2025**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. At the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25), Parties requested the High-Level Champions to explore how to improve the work under the Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition, taking into consideration feedback from Parties and non-Party stakeholders (NPS). In response to this request and building on the work programme for 2020-2021, lessons learned and achievements over the past years, the High-Level Champions conducted an open process to gather written and oral feedback from Parties and NPS. Over the past two years, they have worked together with stakeholders to strengthen the collective work of the Marrakech Partnership and now present this plan for improving its impact in accelerating immediate action, enhancing ambition, and providing continuity for the period 2021-2025.
2. Based on their mandate from Parties, the High-Level Champions are one of the formal links between the UNFCCC process and immediate, near-term climate action from NPS. By guiding the work under the Marrakech Partnership, they play a unique role in encouraging NPS to accelerate immediate action and enhance ambition and in doing so support national governments in the implementation of their climate action plans.
3. To better leverage this role and implement their vision, the High-Level Champions intend to support the work of the Marrakech Partnership by organizing efforts around six key functions:
 - a. **Mobilizing and aligning NPS** towards credible, transparent, science-based goals that maximize ambition;
 - b. **Supporting NPS to drive systems transformation** around sector pathways with actionable short-medium- and long-term milestones that facilitate all stakeholders working collaboratively across sectors and value-chains towards a shared vision;
 - c. **Strengthening collaboration between national governments and NPS** by identifying opportunities where climate action from NPS helps to create the conditions for enhancing ambition and accelerating implementation;
 - d. **Broadening and deepening engagement globally**, with a particular focus on helping developing country stakeholders to identify opportunities and the solutions most appropriate for their context;
 - e. **Tracking progress and enhancing the transparency and credibility of NPS action** to build confidence and a shared understanding of the overall state of systems transformation and game-changing solutions to inform and accelerate action;
 - f. **Building a shared narrative** to collectively understand the overall direction of climate action and inspire further action.
4. A number of different tools employed across these different functions, applied in a dynamic and cross-cutting way, will help the Champions and the Marrakech Partnership to achieve their goals.
5. The High-Level Champions, in close collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat, have developed an enhanced architecture that aims to be even more effective in accelerating near-term action,



highlighting transformational solutions and opportunities to enhance ambition across all regions and enabling the climate action community to deliver at the scale and pace that is required in support of the intergovernmental process. The Champions have worked to ensure the Marrakech Partnership remains an open, inclusive, and participatory platform that invites the participation of coalitions, initiatives and organizations who are ambitious, action-oriented, transparent and guided by the latest science.

6. To promote continuity and a predictable rhythm each year, the work of the Marrakech Partnership will leverage the milestones of the UNFCCC process to mobilize and amplify progress and the evidence of enhanced action, while at the same time maintaining the agility to innovate and adapt when required to drive immediate, near-term action and ensure the delivery of concrete outcomes throughout the year. The work will be guided by key principles for collaboration and criteria for participation, as outlined below.



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I. MANDATE

1. At the twenty-first Conference of the Parties in Paris (COP 21), Parties welcomed the efforts of non-Party stakeholders (NPS) (businesses, cities, subnational regions, investors, and civil society) on mobilizing climate action and as a way of supporting national governments and accelerating pre-2020 action within the United Nations Climate Change process. Parties also decided to appoint two High-Level Champions to scale-up and introduce new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives, and coalitions for collaborative climate action.² Since 2015, there has been consistent growth in climate action globally, as reflected in the Global Climate Action Portal (a.k.a. NAZCA), and through work undertaken by the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, as summarized in the Yearbooks of Global Climate Action.³
2. As a result of the significant expansion of NPS climate action since COP 21, Parties at COP 25 acknowledged the important role of NPS in contributing towards progress in achieving the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the goals of the Paris Agreement, in particular by supporting Parties in reducing emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate.⁴ Parties also decided to continue appointing High-Level Champions⁵ until 2025, and specifically requested the Champions to explore how to improve the work under the Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition.⁶
3. This new five-year period comes at a time when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been clearer than ever on the need to take urgent action, and Parties are entering a crucial period for implementing their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans (NAPs) and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-LEDS). At the same time, there is significant growth in NPS ambition and action. Therefore, we are at an important moment for strengthening collaboration between Parties and NPS to further accelerate ambitious climate action and drive system transformations, in line with the latest science, to collectively pursue achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement.
4. Responding to the request from Parties at COP 25, building on past achievements and the foundations laid by previous Champions and acknowledging the importance of ensuring continuity, the High-Level Champions, taking into account input from stakeholders around the world and through consultation with Parties over the course of the unprecedented past two years, have worked together to strengthen and improve the collective work of the Marrakech Partnership and developed a plan for enhancing its impact for the period 2021-2025. This vision and plan are intended to underpin continuity of the work, and as a way to support future High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership in their efforts to further accelerate climate action in this decisive period for delivery and implementation.

² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2019_13a01E.pdf.

³ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/2020_Yearbook_final_0.pdf, page 2.

⁴ [Decision 1/CP.25](#), para. 26.

⁵ [Decision 1/CP.25](#), para. 121.

⁶ [Decision 1/CP.25](#), para. 28.



II. VISION

5. Over the course of 2020, the High-Level Champions conducted an open process to gather written and oral feedback from Parties and NPS on how to improve the Marrakech Partnership, as requested by Parties. The written feedback received was published on the UNFCCC website⁷ and a summary⁸ and reflections from the Champions on all feedback⁹ was released at the end of 2020. Based on this feedback, the High-Level Champions published a design in April 2020 to provide an overview of their vision and plans¹⁰. Overall, the Champions received a very positive response from Parties and NPS on the actions and innovations implemented over the last two years. In summary, the stakeholders' core asks of the Champions were to:
- Be bold and accelerate immediate action.** This is now the moment to move into implementation, to accelerate progress and work together to raise ambition for driving down emissions, building resilience and scaling up finance.
 - Innovate in collectively delivering solutions.** Support innovation and systems change, recognizing the need to pursue a rapid shift into a new phase of addressing the climate crisis during this decisive decade and the need to enhance our collective response to it.
 - Strengthen the bridge between Parties and NPS.** Help to create further and stronger linkages between the growing momentum and action and the enhancement and implementation of NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS.
 - Be inclusive and increase diversity.** Seek greater involvement and representation from developing countries in the work under the Marrakech Partnership, as well as an updated structure that empowers local actors from all regions, connecting them to each other and to the global effort.
 - Establish a sustained and coherent structure.** Promote continuity and a rhythm of solutions-oriented collaboration. There is a need for a more permanent and predictable architecture to support continuity of implementation and foster genuine and sustained collaboration.
 - Strengthen accountability and tracking.** Pursue mechanisms to promote confidence around the delivery of NPS commitments, thereby promoting a shared sense of progress, and facilitating meaningful contributions to assessments of overall delivery. Accountability for delivery on commitments will help to build more compelling narratives around opportunity and leadership.
6. Building on these key messages from Parties in the feedback process, the High-Level Champions have established a stronger but still-nimble architecture to help deliver a step change to address the climate crisis. In particular, work under the Marrakech Partnership has focused on enhancing immediate and concrete action that is aligned with science, with a view to globally halve emissions by 2030, and reach a net-zero, climate-resilient future by 2050 at the latest.

⁷ <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/invitation-to-provide-feedback-to-the-high-level-champions-on-how-to-improve-the-marrakech>

⁸ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/HLC-letter2020_feedback_summary.pdf

⁹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Reflections2020_MP_future.pdf

¹⁰ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Improving_MP_Design_April2021_0.pdf



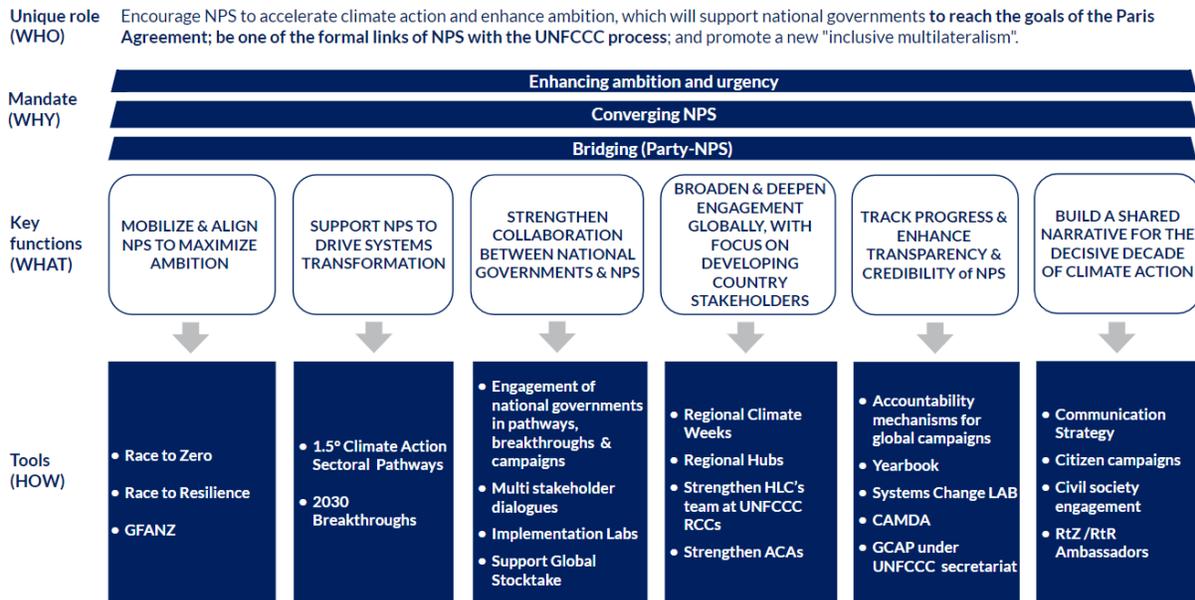
7. At a time when the UNFCCC process is shifting towards implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Champions have a vision for NPS to align their efforts in this crucial decade taking into account the sense of urgency to accelerate climate action in line with the science, promoting an all-of-society and systems transformation approach across every sector, guided by a spirit of radical collaboration, and strengthened support to Parties in implementing and enhancing national plans through a continuous spiral of action, or ‘ambition loop’. In doing so, the Champions are supporting the acceleration and highlighting the need for specific near-term actions in pursuit of the goals of the Paris Agreement and promoting a form of collaboration that includes all stakeholders, a new “inclusive multilateralism” as referenced by the United Nations Secretary-General.

III. UNIQUE ADDED VALUE, FUNCTIONS AND TOOLS

8. Based on the mandate by Parties, the High-Level Champions aim to provide a formal link between the UNFCCC process and immediate, near-term climate action from NPS. By guiding the work under the Marrakech Partnership, they play a unique role in encouraging NPS to accelerate immediate action and, consequently, enhance ambition and support national governments.
9. To leverage this role and implement their vision, the work of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership is to be organized around six key **functions**:
 - a. **Mobilizing and aligning NPS** towards credible, transparent, science-based goals that maximize ambition;
 - b. **Supporting NPS to drive systems transformation** around sector pathways with actionable short-medium- and long-term milestones that facilitate all stakeholders working collaboratively across sectors and value-chains toward a shared vision;
 - c. **Strengthening collaboration between national governments and NPS** by identifying opportunities where climate action from NPS encourages and/or helps to create the conditions for national governments to enhance ambition and accelerate implementation, facilitating the “ambition loop”;
 - d. **Broadening and deepening engagement globally**, with a particular focus on developing country stakeholders to encourage action, highlight opportunities and identify the solutions most appropriate for their context;
 - e. **Tracking progress and enhancing the transparency and credibility of NPS action** to build confidence and a shared understanding of the overall state of systems transformation and game-changing solutions to inform and accelerate action;
 - f. **Building a shared narrative** for the decisive decade of climate action to understand the overall direction of travel and inspire further action.
10. A number of different tools presented below will help the Champions and the Marrakech Partnership to deliver on their goals. These tools contribute in a dynamic and cross-cutting way to increase the impact of work under all six functions. For simplicity, they are presented under one of the functions, but the use of each tool can contribute in a cross-cutting way to deliver different functions (e.g. global campaigns help to enhance cooperation and convergence among NPS and also help to build a global narrative and understanding around commitments).

Figure 1: Unique role - functions and tools

UNIQUE ROLE - KEY FUNCTIONS & TOOLS



Function 1: Mobilizing and aligning NPS towards credible, transparent, science-based goals that maximize ambition.

Objective

11. To set ambitious goals aligned with the latest science to support the fulfilment of the Paris Agreement, to mobilize immediate action and ratchet ambition for mitigation, adaptation and resilience and finance, promote alignment among NPS under a shared umbrella, and enhance alignment on methodologies and accountability principles.

Tools

12. The following campaigns, which bring together leading initiatives from across the climate action landscape collectively covering mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and finance, will be continued and strengthened to promote convergence and mobilize NPS:

- a. **Race to Zero**¹¹: NPS commit to deliver net-zero emissions as soon as possible and by 2050 at the latest, have a clear plan taking immediate action towards halving emissions globally by 2030;
- b. **Race to Resilience**¹²: NPS commit to enhancing the resilience¹² of people across the world, with a shared goal of protecting 4 billion people from climate impacts by 2030, catalysing a step-change

¹¹ Race to Zero: <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/race-to-zero-campaign>.

¹² Race to Resilience: <https://racetozero.unfccc.int/race-to-resilience/>.



in global ambition and action to increase climate resilience, putting people and nature first in pursuit of a resilient world where all thrive in spite of climate shocks;

- c. **Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ)**¹³: as part of the Race to Zero, private finance institutions globally commit to take action and work together across different parts of the financial sector to accelerate the transition of the global economy and flow of capital to support achievement of a net-zero, climate-resilient future by 2050 at the latest, aligning their business models with the Paris Agreement, with clear plans and immediate near-term actions to shift financial flows to urgently needed climate solutions.

13. All three campaigns require transparent reporting on progress, which will continue to be strengthened and made more consistent and accessible as part of the plans related to Function 5.

Function 2: Supporting NPS to drive systems transformation around sector pathways with actionable short-, medium- and long-term milestones that facilitate all stakeholders working collaboratively across sectors and value-chains toward a shared vision.

Objective

14. The transition towards a resilient, zero-carbon world cannot be achieved by any one individual, entity or sector working alone. It can only be achieved at the necessary pace and scale through system-wide transformations. This requires far-reaching changes within sectors, as well as the pursuit of impactful synergies, alignment, and interlinkages across all areas and value-chains of the economy. This function aims to establish a shared vision across and between actors within each sectoral transition pathway, including collaboratively developed roadmaps and clear actionable interim milestones and goals, assisting all stakeholders to take an integrated approach towards an efficient, just and sustainable transition.

Tools

15. The Climate Action Pathways and the 2030 Breakthroughs will continue to be used as core tools to enhance alignment and to drive systems transformation in every sector of the global economy towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement:
 - a. The **Climate Action Pathways**¹⁴ set out short-, medium-, and long-term actions needed in each sector to contribute towards achieving a 1.5°C, climate-resilient future, and accelerating climate action in a way that contributes to a sustainable recovery as the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic. These Pathways were developed and will continue to be updated by the coalitions and initiatives of the Marrakech Partnership under the leadership of the High-Level Champions. The thematic (or 'sectoral') and prioritization of this work may be adjusted and refined over time to focus efforts during opportune moments and to recognise new interlinkages and emerging technologies and approaches. Strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration remains a priority, as

¹³ Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero: <https://racetozero.unfccc.int/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/GFANZ.pdf>.

¹⁴ Climate Action Pathways: https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/reporting-and-tracking/climate_action_pathways.



does ensuring that all stakeholder groups (businesses, cities, regions, investors, and civil society) are engaged across all areas and efforts.

- b. Derived from the Climate Action Pathways, the **2030 Breakthroughs**¹⁵ specify science-based sectoral tipping points to help catalyze action, by defining interim targets and adding specificity to the necessary scale and speed for delivery against the milestones and success factors embedded in these Pathways. History demonstrates that systems change is not linear, but rather tends to be exponential. In practical terms, this means that by the time about 20 percent of the sector’s market or value chain is moving, the rate of transition and growth accelerates, and the transformation becomes irreversible. Early in 2021, the High-Level Champions set out a series of ambitious sectoral targets oriented around “Breakthrough Ambition”, a point when approximately 20 percent of key actors within each sector commit to achieving net zero¹⁶ The High-Level Champions aim to work with all sectors to help them achieve this level of ambition well in advance of the consideration of the output of the global stocktake in 2023. For each sector a “Breakthrough Outcome” has also been set no later than 2030 to demonstrate exponential and irreversible transition to deliver on this ambition.

Function 3: Strengthening collaboration between national governments and NPS by identifying opportunities where climate action from NPS encourages and/or helps to create the conditions for national governments to enhance ambition and accelerate implementation, facilitating the “ambition loop”.

Objective

16. To foster a continuous and collaborative “ambition loop” where NPS and national government policies reinforce one another in pursuit of the goals of the Paris Agreement, the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership seek to identify transformational solutions and opportunities for NPS to support national governments in the implementation of NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS and also highlight policy options that could facilitate a further scaling-up of NPS climate action.

Tools

17. To enhance the collaboration between national governments and NPS, the following activities will be undertaken:
 - a. **Engagement with national governments** to accelerate transitions to a 1.5°C climate-resilient future, promoting climate action among NPS through the three global campaigns, the Climate Action Pathways and the 2030 Breakthroughs. The Climate Action Pathways and 2030 Breakthroughs provide high-impact suggestions and opportunities for implementation by policymakers and a blueprint on how they could best contribute to the transformation within

¹⁵ 2030 Breakthroughs: <https://racetozero.unfccc.int/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2030-Breakthroughs-Upgrading-Our-Systems-Together.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://unfccc.int/news/15-sectors-of-global-economy-shift-the-dial-on-climate> A challenge was set to have at least ten of these sectors in advance of COP 26 reach the “Breakthrough Ambition” point when approximately 20 percent of key actors within each sector commit to achieve net zero. At the time of writing, eighteen sectors have already achieved that goal.



and across sectors, respectively. In this context, the High-Level Champions will also support the UNFCCC constituted bodies and highlight these opportunities, as appropriate.

- b. **Multi-stakeholder dialogues:** This work includes providing advice, convening and participating in multi-stakeholder discussions, particularly where the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership can draw on international best practice and perspectives to suggest actions and solutions, with a particular emphasis on developing and the most vulnerable regions.¹⁷
- c. **Implementation Labs:** Spaces offering open and solutions-oriented exchanges between NPS and national government representatives at the regional level. These Labs help stakeholders to collaborate towards driving implementation and unlocking the transition in specific sectors by using the opportunities described in the Climate Action Pathways and 2030 Breakthroughs. The Labs frame collaboration around shared sectoral goals and a common purpose, additionally serving to gather feedback on how to adapt and refine the Pathways and the Breakthroughs through incorporating regional contexts and perspectives.
- d. **Supporting the global stocktake**¹⁸: The High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership plan to facilitate NPS inputs and engagement in the global stocktake in each of its main components, through reporting of the contribution of the Global Climate Action agenda. This includes exploring how best to enable coalitions, initiatives and non-Party stakeholders in developing countries and at the regional level to provide inputs and participate, as part of the efforts of the High-Level Champions to broaden and deepen engagement (see Function 4 for more detail).
 - i. **Component 1 - Information collection and preparation:** As part of their mandate, the High-Level Champions are strengthening the tracking and reporting mechanisms of NPS through a variety of tools (see Function 5 for more detail). They will aim to bring together key information, data and examples of leading NPS actions that are demonstrably contributing to sectoral transformations. They will also aim to provide an informed and evidence-based snapshot of enhanced action and the progress of the global campaigns, Climate Action Pathways, and the 2030 Breakthroughs, all of which will be reflected in the Yearbook of Global Climate Action. The High-Level Champions will also aim to support NPS data and analytics from communities at the global and regional levels and encourage them to work together to provide consolidated inputs into the global stocktake inputs portal¹⁹ on the UNFCCC website that are concise, yet also comprehensive and impactful.
 - ii. **Component 2 - Technical assessment:** During the technical dialogues, the Champions will stand ready to participate, provide prompt support and identify NPS who could help

¹⁷ Previous dialogues supported include the Placencia Ambition Forum by the Government of Belize and the Alliance of Small Island States, the Petersberg Climate Dialogue by the Government of Germany, the Climate Ambition Summit by the United Nations, United Kingdom and France, the Zero Carbon City International Forum by the Government of Japan and the P4G Summit by the Republic of Korea.

¹⁸ <https://unfccc.int/topics/global-stocktake>.

¹⁹ <https://unfccc.int/topics/global-stocktake/inputs>.



to facilitate understanding on current trends and forward-looking outlooks for particular sector(s) and appropriately represent a broad range of stakeholders at the global and regional levels.

- iii. **Component 3 - Consideration of outputs:** The Champions and the Marrakech Partnership will support Parties as required in the consideration of outputs and will encourage NPS to support national governments on the outcomes.

Function 4: Broadening and deepening engagement globally, with a particular focus on developing country stakeholders to encourage action, highlight opportunities and identify the solutions most appropriate for their context.

Objective

18. This function aims to ensure the scale and depth of engagement with, and cooperation among, stakeholders from all regions and sectors, in particular, those from under-represented regions, to bring a more balanced representation that promotes inclusivity and leverages existing networks and members of coalitions and initiatives to act as multipliers and catalysts for action. Efforts will be made to draw on diverse and innovative perspectives, including from youth and indigenous leaders who are experts in their fields and have in-depth knowledge of regional and local circumstances. This includes engaging with stakeholders in developing countries that may not have the tools and capacities to take ambitious action and highlighting the opportunities to enable them to rapidly, justly and sustainably transition according to their context.

Tools

19. This function will be implemented in the following ways:
 - a. **Regional hubs:** Networks will be established to enhance the diversity, inclusivity and meaningful representation of stakeholders from developing countries in the design and delivery of activities under the Marrakech Partnership, bringing them closer to the wider grassroots climate action community, ensuring that those voices are heard and reflected in global narratives and progress, and that they can be part of, and benefit from, global initiatives. In particular, these regional hubs will be used as a space for:
 - i. Connecting the wider community of NPS with others in their region;
 - ii. Facilitating Party and NPS collaboration;
 - iii. Creating a regional base for mobilizing participation in, and support for, climate action and associated activities and gathering regional inputs that can be fed into global conversations;
 - iv. Linking stakeholders with implementing bodies or programs;
 - v. Developing and disseminating regionally-relevant Pathways;
 - vi. Supporting Marrakech Partnership activities at Regional Climate Weeks.

Following the operating principles of the Marrakech Partnership, these hubs will align and cooperate with other existing efforts and initiatives, acting as catalysts for new synergies,



conveners of regional networks and addressing critical gaps to accelerate climate action when and where needed.

- b **Regional Climate Weeks**²⁰: As a unique platform that inspires climate action at the regional level and helps to build global momentum annually in the lead up to COPs, Regional Climate Weeks will continue to serve as key fora for the Champions and the Marrakech Partnership to broaden and deepen their engagement. Activities will continue to be focused on participating in and convening dialogues that further strengthen collaboration between NPS and national governments and help to catalyse concrete climate action and support for developing countries. The Implementation Labs described above will be convened during the Regional Climate Weeks, based on the demand and needs of the Parties in the regions. They will also be used as opportunities to bring new members into the global campaigns, and to refine the Pathways and 2030 Breakthroughs, taking into account the specific regional context. They will also be used as a means to explore and develop innovative approaches that could be replicated and/or complement climate action activities at other fora.

Function 5: Tracking progress and enhancing the transparency and credibility of NPS action to build confidence and a shared understanding of the overall state of systems transformation and game-changing solutions to inform and accelerate action.

Objective

20. The tracking of progress needs to be strengthened, not only to enhance credibility and drive accountability around the commitments made by NPS, but to also highlight and assess the overall state of systems transformation, breakthrough solutions and evidence of enhanced action, helping stakeholders, and consequently national governments, to accelerate action in pursuit of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Tools

21. This function will be delivered by the following means:
 - a. **Strengthening the accountability mechanisms of the global campaigns**: To ensure the robustness and credibility of commitments made and actions implemented by NPS under the global campaigns, the accountability mechanisms for the campaigns need to be strengthened, including, inter alia, enhanced application and screening processes, continuous efforts to refine criteria informed by the latest science and best practice through periodic reviews, specificity and clarity of concepts used to define goals and targets, and transparency in tracking and reporting processes.
 - b. **Yearbook of Global Climate Action**²¹: The annual Yearbook provides an important overview snapshot of climate action globally, highlighting key examples of climate action per thematic area. Since its first edition at COP 23, it has provided a synthesis of the key trends of global

²⁰ <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/regional-climate-weeks>.

²¹ Yearbook of Global Climate Action <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/reporting-and-tracking>.



climate action each year within and across sectors. Going forward, it will include tracking of progress from a systems transformation perspective along the Climate Action Pathways and toward the 2030 Breakthroughs and will look forward to key areas that can drive immediate and impactful action in the year(s) ahead. Information provided will be tailored to the needs of national governments and to contribute to the global stocktake, while also highlighting important developments for the general public, not least to encourage bold and courageous climate action.

- c. **Global Climate Action Portal (GCAP)**²²: The Champions and the Marrakech Partnership will continue to support the UNFCCC secretariat in strengthening the tracking capabilities of the GCAP, using metrics and other reliable methods to track the progress of systems transformation and provide an accurate picture of the progress and impact of voluntary commitments and actions of individual NPS and broader cooperative initiatives, including the initiatives launched at the United Nations 2019 Climate Action Summit. These metrics and indicators will consider various signs of progress, including:
 - i. **Ambition**: ability to make commitments and set targets that support and align with the goals of the Paris Agreement;
 - ii. **Robustness**: capacity to deliver on commitments and take action, including having appropriate plans and delivery in place;
 - iii. **Implementation**: performance towards a target or goal and their related actions and deliverables.
- d. **Engaging with Camda**²³ (Community of Climate Action Methodologies Data and Analysis created by a call from the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC in 2016): The Champions and the Marrakech Partnership will work closely with Camda to assess and communicate the impact of climate action and to record and track ambition and the progress made by NPS in the overall context of implementing the Paris Agreement. This engagement will be strengthened to enhance the development of a suite of methods to enable quantifiable tracking across the whole scope of climate action and provide the ability to apply locally-appropriate metrics to understand and measure the impact of adaptation and resilience action.

Function 6: Building a shared narrative for the decisive decade of climate action to understand the overall direction of travel and inspire further action.

Objective

22. As one of the most complex multi-faceted challenges of our time, tackling climate change requires a clear shared sense of what the problems are, what the range of available solutions is, and where and how different actors can contribute. A strong narrative helps all actors to align around a shared vision,

²² Global Climate Action Portal: <https://climateaction.unfccc.int>.

²³ Camda: <https://camda.global>.



understand what others are doing and how various efforts are progressing – all of which is critical to informing and inspiring action and impact.

23. In order to ensure continuity and coherence of action in this decisive decade, this function aims to build a shared overall narrative and key messages on climate action in collaboration with a broad array of stakeholders. This will allow common messaging to be amplified throughout stakeholder networks at key moments, in turn helping Parties and the general public to understand how NPS can collectively deliver credible and meaningful climate action and, in doing so, support national governments. Demonstrating progress of climate action and enhanced ambition will serve as inspiration for stakeholders and provide a common thread across the various activities of the Partnership.

Tools

24. This function will be delivered through various communication tools and outreach activities and will continue to be done in close collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat. A consistent and integrated communication strategy that recognizes the contributions from NPS and highlights and celebrates the progress made in executing the functions and tools outlined above, such as the global campaigns and the 2030 Breakthroughs. This is critical to embed a shared vision for this decade, and to reinforce the need for accelerated climate action in line with science and consistent with the High-Level Champions' mandate. To implement this communication strategy, the High-Level Champions will continue to build strategic partnerships to spread their voice and ones of NPS and strengthen the narrative with a diverse range of institutions, such as TED, other social media or more formal media. This work will also include promoting initiatives, like Count Us In²⁴ which encourages citizen climate action, as a way to promote ambitious action in line with the vision of the Partnership.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. Supporting groups of the Marrakech Partnership and High-Level Champions:

25. The High-Level Champions are appointed on behalf of the respective incumbent and incoming COP Presidencies and receive advice and guidance from the UNFCCC secretariat. Building on their mandate and experience during the last two years, the High-Level Champions have been enhancing the support from different stakeholders to drive ambitious climate action and are aiming to secure the following support for the continuity of the Marrakech Partnership during the period 2021-2025 for what they believe is needed to help and enable the community to deliver at the scale and pace that is required. Under the leadership of the High-Level Champions and in close collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat, the following groups undertake the work of the Marrakech Partnership:
 - a. Coordination group
 - i. This group will have the overall responsibility of translating the Champions' vision, taking into account views from the Marrakech Partnership, into a clear, high-impact strategy. Building on the long-term strategy for the period 2021-2025 in support of the Marrakech Partnership, they will have the responsibility of facilitating the delivery of the annual workplan and success

²⁴ Count Us In: <https://www.count-us-in.org/en-gb/>.



indicators as defined by the High-Level Champions. It will be composed of a fit-for-purpose "Climate Champions Team", working in close collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat, to enable the continuation and acceleration of the work until 2025 and in conjunction with Marrakech Partnership focal points and regional hubs that could be based at the Regional Collaboration Centres. All of them are part of a mix of actors across different institutions committed to work collaboratively under a spirit of shared values to support the work of the High-Level Champions as outlined in decision 1/CP.21.²⁵

b. Implementation working groups

- i. As established in the foundational document from 2016, the Marrakech Partnership was originally designed as a platform for stakeholders to organize themselves driving ambition and action across specific thematic areas. Building on recent years' experience and to ensure a system that is more effective in accelerating climate action across multiple regions and actors, the Marrakech Partnership will be structured around a series of "Implementation working groups" where coalitions, initiatives and organizations working with non-Party stakeholders are organized in the frame of the different functions described above. This will encourage the Marrakech Partnership stakeholders to work with an action-driven approach and allow the integration of institutions from developing regions and broad global coalitions with a strong focus on implementation that have not been fully engaged with the Marrakech Partnership so far.
- ii. For example, NPS integrated in a working group to deliver on systems transformation will join to implement the Climate Action Pathways and the 2030 Breakthroughs; partners and members of the global campaigns will converge in this working group to deliver on the net zero or 4 billion people-protected goals of the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience campaigns. Similarly, in order to significantly and continuously increase the representation of stakeholders from developing countries under the Marrakech Partnership, Regional Hubs that strengthen local and regional networks of non-Party stakeholders will be promoted and encouraged to accelerate climate action.
- iii. Although initial implementation working groups will be listed out, new additional groups can also be integrated as needed. This structure of ad hoc working groups should be flexible and dynamic, with new groups and sub-groups being created on a short-term and longer-term basis in accordance with need and interest, allowing for self-organization and adaptability to the evolving challenges and opportunities of accelerating climate action and enhancing ambition over the next five years.

B. Criteria for organizations and coalitions to join the Marrakech Partnership:

30. The Marrakech Partnership works in an inclusive and participatory manner. Coalitions, organizations or institutions working on climate action with non-Party stakeholders are invited to join and must be aligned with three basic criteria:

²⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/cop21/eng/10a01.pdf#page=2>, para. 123.



- a. **Ambition:** Align to drive high ambition aligned with a 1.5°C, resilient world;
- b. **Action-driven:** Commit to accelerating action above all else - driving action, increasing ambition and delivering impact is the core purpose of Marrakech Partnership's work;
- c. **Transparency:** Report progress and results reflecting how their organizations are accelerating climate action on a periodic basis in line with their institutional capacities.

C. Process to join the Marrakech Partnership:

31. Coalitions, initiatives and organizations willing to join the Marrakech Partnership should follow the process detailed below. This process is to be light and streamlined, based on existing due diligence processes with the integration of the additional criteria above and some key decision points:
 - a. Online form via ad-hoc requests or recommendations from other members;
 - b. Due diligence carried out by the UNFCCC secretariat with an assessment against criteria;
 - c. Written confirmation from coalitions, initiatives and organizations to abide by the guiding principles of the Marrakech Partnership and the specific working groups that they commit to actively collaborate within and to support the delivery of the annual workplan against the success indicators, according to their strengths, expertise and areas of greatest potential value and impact;
 - d. Induction and inclusion in relevant working groups and online collaboration platforms.

Note:

- a. Additional criteria and processes may be added to join a specific working group (e.g. a requirement to be a Race to Zero or Race to Resilience partner);
- b. Coalitions, initiatives and organizations are welcome to collaborate in any of the working groups based on their strengths, expertise and capacity;
- c. When requested and where possible, national governments will be provided with appropriate communication channels to collaborate with the supporting groups.
- d. The High-Level Champions are also interested in hearing from coalitions, initiatives and organizations from under-represented regions that aspire to take ambitious action and may not have the tools and capacities yet but are working to meet the criteria required to participate.
- e. To provide opportunities for bringing in fresh perspectives and sharing the workload and efforts across the community, focal points of the implementation working groups will be reviewed on a periodic basis with nominations of new or renewal of focal points to be confirmed with the groups.
- f. Additional operational details will be elaborated and integrated in the annual workplan.

D. Guiding principles that drive the work of the Marrakech Partnership and supporting groups:

32. The following principles will guide the work of the community of stakeholders under the Marrakech Partnership to collectively advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement:
 - a. **Commit to accelerating action above all else:** Recognizing driving action, increasing ambition and delivering impact is the core purpose of our work;
 - b. **Build on the significant progress to date:** Both inside and outside the community;



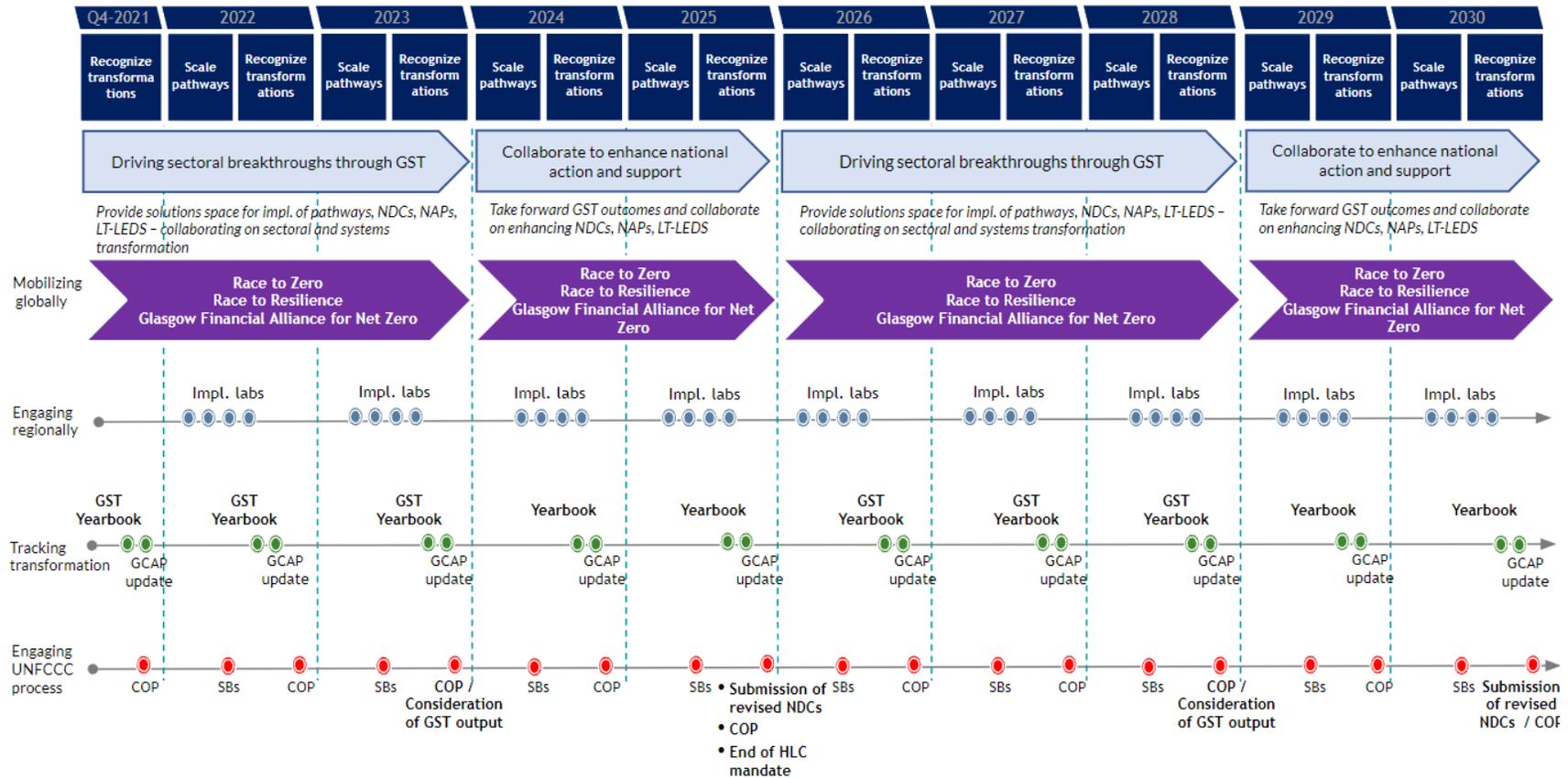
- c. **Be driven by science:** Uniting behind the science, which acts as an anchor for the work;
- d. **Celebrate unique strengths:** Making the most of support team capacity and partner expertise;
- e. **Be open and generous:** Working collaboratively, transparently and open to respectful challenges.

V. CYCLE AND RHYTHM OF ACTIVITIES

- 33. To respond to the request to improve the Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition and to support the UNFCCC process most effectively, the High-Level Champions will use the timelines of the global stocktake process to build and plan around. The years leading up to the consideration of the output of the global stocktake will be used to continuously converge NPS around the global campaigns, drive sectoral breakthroughs and provide spaces to develop solutions that can support implementation of NDCs, NAPs and LT-LEDS. The years following will be used to collaborate on the outcomes and help facilitate enhancement of action.
- 34. To promote continuity each year, the work of the Marrakech Partnership will be focused on scaling and enhancing the alignment on the Pathways and 2030 Breakthroughs and highlighting the game-changing solutions and evidence of transformation by tailoring the tools described above accordingly.
- 35. This cycle is to provide a predictable rhythm and continuity from one year to the next by leveraging the milestones of the UNFCCC process to mobilize around and amplify progress, while maintaining the agility to innovate and adapt when needed to drive immediate, near-term action and ensure concrete outcomes are delivered throughout the year.

Figure 2: Ambition rhythm through the global stocktake and 2030

AMBITION RHYTHM THROUGH GLOBAL STOCKTAKE AND 2030



*Unedited version