



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPIONS AND THE MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

*Progress of the work of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership from **January 2024 to May 2024** regarding the Marrakech Partnership Work Programme for 2024**

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Launched by the High-Level Champions at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22), the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action provides a framework that aims to enhance and accelerate global climate action among Parties and non-Party stakeholders (NPS). Its mission, which is to strengthen collaboration between governments and key stakeholders (international and regional initiatives and coalitions of cities, regions, businesses, investors, and civil society), focuses on immediate climate action that supports the implementation of the Paris Agreement and helps Parties to achieve and surpass their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans (NAPs) and long-term low emission development strategies. These actions are to be guided by the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and undertaken in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Improved Marrakech Partnership 2021-2025

At COP 26, Parties acknowledged the important role of NPS and welcomed the **improved Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for enhancing ambition** as part of the Glasgow Climate Pact.¹ The five-year plan of the improved Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition outlines the vision,

¹ Decision [1/CP.26](#), paragraphs 55 and 56.

* *Unedited version*

mandate, core functions and tools, and updated structures intended to increase the scale and impact of the Marrakech Partnership work through 2025.

High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership Work Programme for 2024

The [Work Programme for 2024](#) was developed on the basis of the above five-year plan and is informed by past work of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership, growing momentum in recent years, and the UAE consensus and climate action outcomes of COP 28.² It reflects the shared vision of the High-Level Champions, the emerging priorities of the COP 29 Presidency, and discussions and feedback from the Marrakech Partnership over the first part of the year.

The Work Programme states that its *“progress and achievements of this work programme will be reported twice throughout 2024. One will be published by the subsidiary sessions of the UNFCCC, containing the mid-term progress, and the second version will be published by COP 29, which will present the achievements of the year.”*

² See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Summary_GCA_COP28.pdf.

Progress of the 2024 Work Programme for the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership

This section explains the mid-term progress of the 2024 Work Programme from January 2024 to May 2024, which have been delivered under the strategic approach of the 2024 Work Programme with the focus of three substantial priorities (just energy transition, nature, equitable finance), and with respect to the principles of equality and inclusion.

A Mobilize NPS to maximize ambition

- 1) The High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership have continued to **engage NPS climate action through their global campaigns** – Race to Zero and Race to Resilience.
- 2) **Race to Zero** rallies NPS to take rigorous and immediate action to reduce emissions and transition to a net-zero, resilient future. Through 26 partners, over 14,000 NPS from companies, financial institutions, cities, states, regions and others across 146 countries are contributing to halving global emissions by 2030 through the Race to Zero. This includes:
 - a) Over 10,000 businesses, half of which are now small and medium enterprises (SMEs), representing a significant portion of the global GDP, and over 1,200 cities, states, and regions, collectively comprising 12.5% of the global population, and 1,200 universities and colleges.
 - b) Over 600 financial Institutions, according to the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) report released at COP 28, with over 460 having set interim targets and over 250 committed to publishing transition plans.
 - c) Race to Zero now includes NPS from 30 new countries, covering 146 countries. Asia-Pacific was the fastest growing region in the campaign in 2023 with 518 new members. The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region experienced a 104% growth from 2022, including a significant rise in SMEs, reaching 131 members.
- 3) Using data from CDP, the 2023 Progress Report published at COP 28 demonstrated a positive increase in implementation across all '5Ps' of the Race to Zero criteria (Pledge, Plan, Proceed, Publish, Persuade) and evidence of impact on the real economy:
 - a) The campaign showed progress across sectors, with an increase in the number of stakeholders setting and reporting on net zero targets and transition plans.
 - b) From 2022 to 2023, the number of large companies in Race to Zero with net zero targets for 2050 or earlier grew by 74%, while 97% of participating universities and colleges have now set net zero targets.
 - c) Cities involved in the campaign are 1.5 times more likely to have long-term net zero targets than those not participating.
 - d) There has been a notable rise in the number of entities with transition plans: 59% more large companies reported having such plans, and 84% of cities reported having a climate action plan, compared to 78% in 2022.

- a) Transparency has improved, with a 1.5-fold increase in large companies reporting to CDP and a growing number (51%) of health care members publishing progress through Health Care Without Harm.
 - b) There is early evidence of Race to Zero members outperforming their non-member counterparts with, for example, cities in the campaign being 1.5 times more likely to report a long-term net zero target than those not part of Race to Zero.
 - c) InfluenceMap's 2023 assessment of 164 Race to Zero companies also found 15% were aligned with the Paris Agreement, compared to only 5% of 500 companies overall, indicating Race to Zero's positive leadership despite room for further improvement.
- 4) Since the beginning of 2024, Race to Zero has welcomed the Net-Zero Export Credit Agency as a new partner as well as new Accelerators across regions: the [Kadin Net Zero Hub](#), an initiative by the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and the first African Accelerator, [SUCCA Africa](#), which will support businesses in West Africa with their transition to net-zero.
- 5) The campaign has also been supporting partners with accelerating delivery through their members, including by:
- a) Working with experts to facilitate knowledge sessions on key topics to accelerate implementation, such as increasing the machine readability of climate data; the link between systems transformations and net-zero actions.
 - b) Supporting the independent Expert Peer Review Group (EPRG) to provide support sessions to Partners to help address key challenges and barriers.
 - c) Under the leadership of the EPRG and an independent working group chaired by experts from the University of Oxford, running a global consultation on the role that professional service providers can play to advance net-zero action through engaging on serviced emissions.
 - d) Convening the global net-zero policy community to advance the pivot from voluntary action to regulation, expanding membership to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from over 14 countries.
 - e) Ongoing country-level dialogues to discuss responsible policy engagement, including in Brazil.
- 6) **Race to Resilience** is designed to increase the resilience of four billion people living in vulnerable communities by 2030, through catalyzing a step-change in global action on adaptation and resilience. To date, 34 partner initiatives and 647 members have laid out commitments and plans which are set to enhance the resilience of 3.17 billion people, with action already underway boosting the resilience of 1.87 billion people across 164 countries on every continent.
- a) At COP 28, partners reported remarkable finance mobilization efforts amounting to USD 39.44 billion for the implementation of their pledges.
 - b) Several partners are also working to protect, restore and better manage natural systems with 59.8 million hectares pledged and 5.48 million hectares covered by existing plans.
 - c) A total of 62% of partners prioritize women and girls as key stakeholders for implementation.
 - d) The campaign has now 86 cities and 78 signatory regions through Cities Race to Resilience and Regions Adapt.

- 7) In recent months, the campaign has welcomed eight partners: Climate Centre for Cities, Green Africa Youth Organization, Resilient Watersheds, Ignite Power, EHAB and the International Transformational Resilience Coalition.
- 8) New solution stories spotlighted the leadership of NPS delivering local adaptation actions, for example:
 - a) Partner Daraja’s award-winning early warning tool, an innovation benefiting a million people in Kenya and Tanzania.
 - b) Scale for Resilience’s innovative green finance initiative, which boosts climate resilience in Jamaica.
 - c) Initiative 20x20 supporting actions to reverse degraded land with sustainable farming practices, in Suriname, Belize and Brazil.
- 9) Campaign partners also shared Race to Resilience metrics insights to inform the UAE Global Resilience Framework.

B Drive systems transformations

2030 Climate Solutions

- 10) In order to drive the systems transformation needed to stay within the 1.5 degree limit, i.e. transition to a net zero, climate resilient, nature positive and just economy, the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership launched the 2030 Climate Solutions at COP 28 as a contribution to the first global stocktake (GST). This comprehensive climate action roadmap aims to accelerate climate action by laying out specific real economy and on-the-ground solutions by 2030. The 2030 Climate Solutions bring together the existing frameworks and tools of the Champions and the Marrakech Partnership including the Climate Action Pathways, 2030 Breakthroughs, Breakthrough Agenda, Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda and Race to Zero and Race to Resilience campaigns.
- 11) To ensure that the implementation of the 2030 Climate Solution is effective, inclusive, participatory and accountable, there is a need for stronger outreach across geographies to clearly identify regionally relevant dimensions as well as key stakeholders that are leading on specific targets at a regional level. Therefore, in the first half of 2024, the Marrakech Partnership, in close collaboration with the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centers and the regional teams of the High-Level Champions, has started to conduct a systematic regional consultation process with the aim of identifying priority solutions, key regional stakeholders leading on accelerating and delivering action, and progress in each region towards the 2030 targets for mitigation and adaptation.

Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda

- 12) The Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA) which lays out specific, near-term, high impact actions and solutions to increase adaptive capacity and long-term resilience is proving a useful tool to drive multi-stakeholder collaboration. It is well suited to inform and support Parties efforts in achieving the targets in the recently adopted UAE Global Resilience Framework at COP 28. The SAA has focused on:

- a) Cross-sector and public-private collaboration to advance adaptation and resilience planning, finance mobilization and access, and implementation (e.g. public-private call for collaboration to mobilize adaptation finance).
- b) Elevating the narrative, contributions, and needs of NPS and vulnerable populations in global policy discussions to enhance ambition on adaptation and resilience (e.g. submission by SAA and Race to Resilience to the UAE-Belém work programme in collaboration with a partner organization).
- c) Highlighting the need for an inclusive and systemic approach to adaptation and resilience which integrates actions by all actors including businesses (e.g. promoting an agenda that considers the interconnectedness of economies, the environment, and society producing a white paper on Business action for Adaptation and Resilience).
- d) Consolidating and connecting national governments-NPS efforts on adaptation and resilience, creating a link and continuity of thematic initiatives related to adaptation and resilience (e.g. integrating COP 28 outcomes including the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), Food systems call to action, Urban water resilience working group in the SAA).

2030 Breakthroughs

- 13) Businesses, cities and regions, and other NPS are taking action to decarbonize major global sectors through the 2030 Breakthroughs. While progress in heavy emitting sectors is not yet enough, there is momentum in every sector, from zero carbon steel to green hydrogen, shipping and aviation among others, with major producers and buyers of these products making commitments and investments and working together to synchronize efforts and move the market faster. Over 90 companies have set early demand signals for breakthrough technologies worth USD 16 billion in annual clean demand in 2030, through the First Movers Coalition.

Energy

- 14) During the fourteenth Session of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Assembly, 32 utilities and power companies serving 350 million customers, unveiled their roadmap and action plan to accelerate the shift to net-zero emissions before 2050 through the Global Utilities for Net Zero Alliance. This will support Parties efforts to triple renewables and accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels with key partners such as IRENA, the High-Level Champions, Coordinador Eléctrico Nacional (Chile's Independent System Operator), the Global Renewables Alliance, Green Grids Initiative and the International Electrotechnical Commission.

Transport

- 15) Marrakech Partnership stakeholders from the Transport thematic group prepared NDC templates for rail, public transport, and active travel. Partnerships are now being explored to monitor and track transport's contribution to the doubling Energy Efficiency goal. Informal transport systems are being incorporated into the broader framework through the creation of an informal transport focused dimension to the Zero Emission Vehicle International Assistance Taskforce, facilitating the just transition of public transport and freight in global south countries.
- 16) The High-Level Champions and NPS have built a 'coalition of the willing' with actors across the supply chain from green hydrogen producers, bunker supplies, ports and shipowners who are actively

advocating for policy that incentivises the early uptake of green hydrogen to ensure green hydrogen projects are bankable.

Industry

17) Over 40 forward-looking organizations have already come together to make a commitment to procuring, specifying or stocking 100% net zero steel by 2050 and 38 organizations and businesses joined Concrete Zero, the buyers club for green cement. The first meeting of the Cement Breakthrough took place in March 2024, providing an opportunity to bring countries and businesses together to sharpen the priority actions which the Cement Breakthrough will achieve by the end of the year.

Human settlements

18) Action in the Built Environment was advanced significantly by the first Building & Climate Global Forum held in Paris. This forum saw the launch of the Declaration de Chaillot and Buildings Breakthrough Priority Actions. Moreover, the High-Level Champions supported the launch of the [UAE Built Environment Blueprint](#) paper in Dubai. In addition, a letter by the Champions was sent to the CHAMP endorsing countries, with specific recommendations for implementing CHAMP ahead of COP 29. The Champions will convene and participate in a multilevel partnership dialogue highlighting the case of CHAMP, during the 60th session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 60) in Bonn in June.

Nature

19) Over 300 businesses and financial institutions are committing to nature-focused targets, disclosures, and investments through the Nature Positive for Climate Action campaign spearheaded by the High-Level Champions last year, helping to bring business, finance and other NPS efforts to lead action at the nexus of climate and nature. This leadership is helping to show where and how the action at the nexus of climate and nature can be integrated into for example NDCs and national policies.

Oceans and coastal zones

20) The Ocean Breakthroughs are gaining momentum across NPS and Parties, with increasing references to the framework and its targets. Partners are convening on the side-lines of the Pre-UNOC 2025 meeting in Costa Rica to develop a strategy toward the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP 16 and UNFCCC COP 29 and COP 30 as well as finalize the tracking and reporting tools.

21) The Mangrove Breakthrough had its first Council meeting on 1 May and the Finance, Policy and Pipeline Task Forces are now in operation.

Food Systems

22) Over 200 NPS, including farmers, cities, businesses, financial institutions, civil society and philanthropies are taking action to transform food systems and signed the [Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature and Climate](#). This commits endorsers to take action across ten priority action areas and calls on governments to put in place enabling conditions to scale action, including repurposing public subsidies. The Call to Action focuses on the need to support farmers and frontline food system actors and other vulnerable groups and respect and value the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.

Finance

- 23) Through the Regional Platforms for Climate Projects, the High-Level Champions are advancing a global pipeline of implementable, financeable, and investable projects for emerging markets and developing economies, covering all areas of adaptation, resilience and mitigation. The Regional Platforms have successfully helped 19 climate projects in emerging markets and developing economies raise USD 1.9 billion in investment, demonstrating that high-quality investable projects are plentiful in these places, but that more work needs to be done to connect project developers with financiers to ensure finance flows to the solutions on the ground and are also supporting sustainable development in line with regional priorities.
- 24) This year, work has commenced on the curation of additional investable projects with a particular focus on renewable energy, adaptation and nature, to enable climate finance to flow to tangible on-the-ground projects. The platforms comprise regional shortlists of a total of 60+ investable projects in five regions around the world. These projects, curated by Capital for Climate, were promoted to financial institutions through regional events with partners. These included the LAC region (Brazil with Capital for Climate), Africa (Ethiopia with UNECA), Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN (with Temasek and The Global Ethical Finance Initiative, GEFI) and Europe (Germany, France, UK with UNEP FI and DZ Bank). To help build local ecosystems for financing climate projects, the following were co-created with the High-Level Champions:
- a) Curation of additional investable climate projects with technical implementation partners SLK Capital and BCG, which will be socialized with financiers in 2024 and towards COP 29.
 - b) Establishment of a new Global Capacity-Building Coalition with Bloomberg Philanthropies to build the capacity of developing country financial institutions to deploy capital to climate finance.
 - c) A roundtable with the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) to enhance climate disclosure in Africa.
- 25) Participation in the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) included exchanges on how to attract and scale private finance, de-risking solutions and advancing debt-for-nature swaps. New work on how insurance can de-risk and unlock the 2030 Climate Solutions to advance sectoral transformations has started. Involvement in the Brazil Climate and Nature-based Solutions Investment Summit focused on enabling project matchmaking with investors. Cross-constituency collaboration was facilitated to advance transport finance, built environment finance, nature, and food systems.
- 26) The High-Level Champions continued to emphasize leadership and action in emerging economies and developing countries and facilitate South-to-South dialogue and cooperation, to ensure the voices and leadership of all countries are equally highlighted and amplified and that solutions are locally relevant, helping to achieve mitigation, adaptation and sustainable development goals. The Champions have participated in this year's Africa CEO Forum, UNECA Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), and the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development in Lebanon.

Inclusion

- 27) In 2024, the High-Level Champions continue to deepen relationships and partnerships built with key partners on progressing the agenda. Activities include:

- a) Indigenous Peoples: Call for Proposals for the delivery of a new Indigenous Peoples Global Data study to establish a solid evidence base showcasing Indigenous Peoples significant contributions in the critical realm of climate action. This global study will commence in June of this year, with the results delivered at COP 30. This study will bolster the economic case for investing in Indigenous Peoples knowledge and contributions, as a critical means for climate protection.
- b) Women and Gender: Curating and designing workshops on Advancing Gender Responsive Climate action through the Marrakech Partnership with the support of the gender team of the UNFCCC secretariat. The first session was delivered on 7 May while the second session is planned in-person during SB 60. These sessions are aimed at building capacity of the stakeholders on mainstreaming gender equality and prioritization of a gender lens in the implementation efforts of the 2030 Climate Solutions.
- c) Youth: The fourth cohort of the Climate Champions Youth Fellowship Programme was launched in April. The programme creates a pathway for young professionals to work with the High-Level Champions’ team to help deliver on the priorities for COP 29 and beyond. From June 2024, seven fellows will join the team.

C Support engagement of NPS in the UNFCCC process

- 28) The High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership have been supporting the engagement of NPS into the UNFCCC process, including specifically through the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme (the Mitigation Work Programme), the new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance, the Sharm el-Sheikh Dialogue on Article 2, paragraph 1(c) of the Paris Agreement and its complementarity with Article 9 (the Sharm el-Sheikh Dialogue), the follow up on the first GST, among others.
- 29) At COP 27, Parties encouraged the High-Level Champions to support the effective engagement of NPS in the Mitigation Work Programme dialogues and the investment-focused events organized by the secretariat under the guidance of the co-chairs.
 - a) Responding to the mandate, in May, ahead of the third global dialogue, the High-Level Champions provided a [submission](#) that highlights the opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers relevant to the topic for 2024, “Cities: buildings and urban systems”. The key messages include how decarbonizing cities can significantly and positively impact major sectors like concrete, steel, and road transport; and how sustainable urban development can scale innovation and the adoption of greener practices in key industries critical to city functioning and infrastructure development; and how city-level mitigation co-benefits can support a just, equitable transition, through promoting sustainable development; and how cities in emerging markets present significant private investment opportunities; and how cities as hubs of trade and communication are well-positioned to accrue strengthened means of implementation through international, multi-stakeholder cooperation.

- b) In addition, the High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership are supporting the co-chairs of the work programme and UNFCCC secretariat by providing substantive expertise, strengthening the integration of the Regional Platforms for Climate Projects into the investment-focused events, provide recommendations and mobilizing NPS to participate, and disseminating, amplifying and considering the outcomes from the discussions in future work.
- 30) There is an ever-increasing willingness for private finance institutions to contribute to the UNFCCC process and drive climate action. This year, many private finance institutions that are engaged in the process are focussing on what their response to the NCQG will be and how they will invest in NDCs and NAPs of national governments. The Marrakech Partnership Finance group, for instance, made a [submission](#) to the NCQG process ahead of the 10th Technical Expert Dialogue (TED10) with respect to mobilizing the trillions, improving effectiveness and supporting greater access to finance and facilitated the development of private sector guidance on how NDCs can catalyze finance. In addition, the Champions, working with the Marrakech Partnership, have supported the mobilization of NPS to actively engage in TED9 and TED10 of NCQG and the Sharm el-Sheikh dialogue workshop during SB 60 and plan to continue to do so for the upcoming dialogues and workshops in the second half of the year, as appropriate.
- 31) Non-Party stakeholders, including from the Marrakech Partnership, who were actively involved in the first GST were mobilized to make submissions on experiences and lessons learned in relation to conducting the first GST and has been recently [synthesized](#).
- 32) In addition, various Marrakech Partnership stakeholders have been mobilized to support other UNFCCC work streams where needed. For instance, the Marrakech Partnership Human Settlements group was involved in providing substantive inputs on buildings and construction to inform the Technology Executive Committee (TEC)'s activities for 2024. To support the work of the response measures forum and its Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI), Marrakech Partnership transport group is supporting , the organizing of the mandated [event](#) on unpacking the positive and negative impacts of low and zero emission transport technologies taking place at the SB 60.
- 33) The High-Level Champion for COP 29 also participate in the Copenhagen Climate Ministerial and the Petersberg Dialogues in order to bring to Parties information, ideas and solutions NPS are doing for ambitious climate action towards a 1.5 net zero and resilient future. The Champions believe that their unique role can support bridging Parties and NPS and most importantly transmitting the needs of Parties to NPS to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

D Enhance accountability

- 34) Update on the Recognition and Accountability Framework for Voluntary Commitments of NPS and Implementation Plan with respect to Net-Zero Pledges of NPS and Integrity Matters, building on the work done by Race to Zero's Partner Initiatives and Expert Peer Review Group