

## High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

*This informal document provides a brief overview of the 2019 outcomes related to the Global Climate Action as well as the work of the High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action from January 2019 to December 2019.*

### What is the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action?

Launched at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22), the Marrakech Partnership provides a structured and coherent framework that aims to enhance and accelerate climate action among Parties and non-Party stakeholders throughout the world. 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 actions between now and 2020 that support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and help Parties to achieve and surpass their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans. 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.

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### COP 25 decision on Global Climate Action:

In Madrid, Parties acknowledged the important role non-Party stakeholders play towards the objective of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement, in particular supporting Parties in mitigation and adaptation actions. In so doing, Parties also welcomed the **continuation of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action** and decided to have **high-level champions until 2025**. The champions are tasked to explore how to improve the work under the Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition. (Decision 1/CP.25<sup>1</sup>)

## Achievements and outcomes

### Marrakech Partnership Work Programme for 2019–2020

At the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the High-Level Champions informed Parties that they would be sending a letter encouraging Parties and non-Party stakeholders to provide their feedback on how the Marrakech Partnership could most effectively support pre-2020 action and what its future could be after 2020. On 29 January 2019, such a letter was sent. Forty inputs were received, three of which came from Parties, one from a group of Parties and the remainder from non-Party stakeholders. A summary of these inputs is posted on the UNFCCC website<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://unfccc.int/resource/cop25/1cop25\\_auv.pdf](https://unfccc.int/resource/cop25/1cop25_auv.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/HL%20Champions%20letter%20-%20summary%20of%20inputs.pdf>

Based on these inputs and a strategy session with stakeholders held in the first half of 2019, the High-Level Champions released their work programme for 2019-2020<sup>3</sup>. It focusses on environmental, economic and social system transformation, promoting higher ambition of all stakeholders to collectively strive for a 1.5 °C, climate-neutral and resilient future. The objectives for 2019-2020 are:

- Strengthening interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders;
- Broadening participation;
- Following-up and ensuring continuity and coherence; and
- Tracking progress, impact and results.

The High-Level Champions work throughout 2019 was centered on moving forward these objectives.

### Climate Action Pathways

The Climate Action Pathways<sup>4</sup> suggest a vision for 2050 and the transformational actions and milestones for 2020, 2030 and 2050 towards full implementation of the Paris Agreement in key areas, such as energy, industry, transport, human settlements, water, land use, and resilience to the inevitable effects of climate change. The pathways were developed in a collaborative effort with the High-Level Champions and the stakeholders of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.

The Pathways are an evolution of the climate action tracker released in 2016 to indicate a visionary pathway to a 2050 climate-neutral and resilient future for all the areas. The Pathways, which will be updated and added to over time, present a forward-looking concrete roadmap towards meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement.

### Strategic Engagement

#### *Climate action at COP 25*

The High-Level Champions **designed the Global Climate Action Agenda at COP 25<sup>5</sup>** in consultation and collaboration with stakeholders from the Marrakech Partnership, with the aim of showcasing actions and facilitating open dialogue between non-Party stakeholders and Parties. The narrative for COP 25 included informing on the current challenges, opportunities and metrics (such as data and analysis) for **pre-2020 actions** for realizing the transition towards full implementation of the Paris Agreement using technology, innovation and finance and how systemic transformation can be accelerated. The events also used the transformational solutions and evidence outlined in the **Climate Action Pathways, the Yearbook of Global Climate Action and the Global Climate Action Portal (NAZCA)** as vehicles for discussion. The events followed-up on the results of the **2019 United Nations Secretary-**

<sup>3</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MPGCA\\_WorkProgramme\\_2019-2020.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MPGCA_WorkProgramme_2019-2020.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/reporting-and-tracking/climate\\_action\\_pathways](https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/reporting-and-tracking/climate_action_pathways)

<sup>5</sup> <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership-at-cop-25>

**General's Climate Action Summit** by exploring how the transformational initiatives and outcomes of the Summit could be taken forward and scaled up to accelerate the transition.

The events covered not only the seven thematic areas,<sup>6</sup> but also cross-cutting topics on resilience, agri-food and circular economy and activities linking climate action and specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>7</sup>. Marrakech Partnership stakeholders also showcased and discussed high-impact climate action in the Action Hub. The Global Climate Action Agenda culminated with the mandated High-Level Event on Global Climate Action with the United Nations Secretary-General, the High-Level Champions and other non-Party stakeholder leaders where Parties had an opportunity to provide interventions and reflections on Global Climate Action, among others.

Overall, the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership facilitated the **participation of over 50 high-level non-Party stakeholder leaders** for COP 25 (CEOs and other executives, mayors, governors and civil society leaders), ensuring a balance in terms of sector, region and gender.

#### ***UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit***

The High-Level Champions encouraged non-Party stakeholders to participate and to take action to build momentum towards the Summit. The High-Level Champions hosted a "Summit to Summit" event in New York; which analysed all climate moments from 2014 Secretary-General's Summit until this year's Summit and demonstrated the importance of these milestones in mobilizing ambitious climate action. The Global Climate Action Portal (NAZCA) had a critical role, ensuring that all initiatives launched at the Summit were included in the Portal.

The key messages from the Summit included:

- Five years of global summits /processes have helped drive a rapid increase in the number of initiatives and commitments;
- Initiatives and commitments come from all over the world and target all aspects of climate action;
- Initiatives have massive potential to help countries achieving their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

#### ***Regional climate weeks***

The High-Level Champions used the infrastructure of existing regional climate weeks to encourage, through the Marrakech Partnership, non-Party stakeholders to interact with government representatives and create a platform of **regionally focused** discussions with policymakers with the aim of increasing climate action and enhancing the participation of

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<sup>6</sup> The thematic areas of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action are energy, human settlements, industry, land use, oceans and coastal zones, transport, and water.

<sup>7</sup> The SDGs covered at COP 25 included SDG 6, SDG 7, and SDG 14 and 15.

stakeholders from the region.<sup>8</sup> The regional climate weeks aimed to discuss, among other things, the transformative areas of the Climate Action Summit hosted by the United Nations Secretary-General.

The Marrakech Partnership **organized high-level events** at the regional climate weeks, bringing together non-Party stakeholder leaders, ministers and other dignitaries to discuss the enhancement and implementation of NDCs. Also, **appropriate non-Party stakeholder experts** contributed to the technical discussions on the key challenges of NDCs with Party representatives during workshops at the **NDC Regional Dialogues**.

A bottom-up approach was used when mobilizing stakeholders for the Marrakech Partnership, with the programme for the technical workshops and events developed in cooperation with other partners and coalitions to enhance regional and local impacts. The High-Level Champions also facilitated capacity-building activities which was used to help develop the Climate Action Pathways and organized bilateral meetings between key stakeholders.

The media reported widely on the regional climate weeks, as well as posts on other social media outlets. This year there was record participation in the climate weeks, with an exponential increase in all regions. From just above 1,000 total registrations in 2017 to more than 2,000 in 2018 and close to 11,000 in 2019. There is an increase of more than 550% in 2019 compared to 2018, with the largest climate week this year being held in Latin America and the Caribbean with over 4,000 participants.

### ***Climate Ambition Alliance***

The Marrakech Partnership initiatives and coalitions played a key role in mobilizing all the non-Party stakeholders who committed to net-zero emissions by 2050 and joined the Chile-led Climate Ambition Alliance<sup>9</sup> at the initial launch at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit and then in the lead up to COP 25, demonstrating exponential growth. The Alliance launched in September with 93 businesses, 102 cities, 10 regions, and 12 investors. At COP 25, it grew to include 786 businesses, 398 cities representing, 15 subnational regions, and 16 investors, representing an increase of non-Party stakeholders by 5 times.

Businesses that have joined include 177 that have signed the “Business Ambition for 1.5°C - Our Only Future” pledge publicly committing to a adopt 1.5°C science-based emissions reduction targets, 85 signatories to the “Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action” who commit to drive the fashion industry to net-zero emissions in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement no later than 2050, and 532 B Corporations – organizations that meet the highest standard of social and environmental performance – committing to reach net zero by 2030. The “Chambers Climate Coalition” of more than 2,000 chambers of commerce, representing

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<sup>8</sup> The Regional climate weeks took place in Africa (Accra, Ghana), Latin America and the Caribbean (Salvador, Brazil) and Asia-Pacific (Bangkok, Thailand) region in 2019.

<sup>9</sup> <https://cop25.cl/#/ambicion-climatica>

millions of local businesses, support action aligned with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C and reaching net-zero emissions by no later than 2050.

The megacities under ‘Deadline 2020’ and the local cities under ‘The Argentinian Network of Municipalities’ – representing over 660 million people – that are part of the Alliance are following a pathway that would deliver emissions reductions consistent with 1.5°C. ICLEI – a global network of local and regional governments – will work on a process to strengthen the criteria and alignment of climate neutrality targets, by developing additional guidance to maximize emissions reduction impacts of its local and regional governments worldwide.

Fifteen subnational regions from across the globe are committing to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 or earlier, including 12 from the Under2 Coalition.

Investors representing US\$ 4 trillion in assets under management have committed to transition their investment portfolios to align with a 1.5°C scenario and net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 as part of the “United Nations-convened Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance”, addressing Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement.

### ***Engagement with Constituted Bodies***

During SB 50, the High-Level Champions held meetings with Chairs and/or Vice-Chairs of the Adaptation Committee (AC), Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) and Technology Executive Committee (TEC) to explore how to strengthen collaboration with the bodies and how non-Party stakeholder action could support their work, including in the context of the Technical Examination Processes.

### ***Meetings of the Marrakech Partnership***

The High-Level Champions convened the following meetings with Parties and Marrakech Partnership stakeholders:

- One **strategy and planning workshop** to discuss the lessons learned over the past three years and the forward-looking objectives of the Marrakech Partnership over the next one and a half years that formed the basis of the Work Programme for 2019-2020;
- Two **meetings of the Marrakech Partnership** covering discussions on next steps and the programme of activities at the COP, and facilitating the work of key stakeholders to identify synergies; and
- Three **meetings of the Marrakech Partnership during the regional climate weeks** to engage and hold capacity-building sessions and engage with non-Party stakeholders towards ambitious climate action at the regional level.

A concerted effort is being made to nurture the relationships of the High-Level Champions with Parties and non-Party stakeholders continuously throughout the year across these strategic engagements, with a view to enhancing collaboration, advancing stakeholders’ work to catalyze action and maximizing their contribution to the UNFCCC process. By the end of

COP 25, the High-Level Champions will have taken part in approximately 200 bilaterals, meetings and speaking engagements throughout the year.

## Tracking and reporting voluntary action

### *Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA)*

The Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA)<sup>10</sup> –currently displaying **over 20,000 climate actions** from **nearly 15,000 actors** – was re-launched in mid-September with a new interactive map and country profile pages, making it easier for users navigate cross-sector climate commitments from around the world. The country profile pages bring together climate action from cities, regions, companies and organizations to provide a snapshot of climate action within a country, which can inspire the replication of initiatives in other countries and help identify the potential for further collaboration across other sectors of society. Weblinks to the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and, where applicable, Long Term Strategies are also provided.

It is the official repository for the transformational initiatives that were developed for the **UN Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit**. It will remain active in the follow-up of the commitments and will work to further scale-up and monitor the initiatives to achieve the promised objectives.

A major data upload of new and updated individual commitments and cooperative initiatives was made during COP 25.

### *Yearbook of Global Climate Action*

The Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2019<sup>11</sup>, published on 18 November 2018, highlights trends and information relating to the current state of climate action.

Key messages from the Yearbook include:

- Increase implementation across all thematic areas to realize multiple benefits;
- Create the conditions needed for non-Party stakeholder action;
- Continue and strengthen the Global Climate Action agenda within the UNFCCC process post-2020;
- Align finance flows with finance needs; and
- Strengthen the completeness and robustness of the reporting of results from climate action.

### *Summary for Policymakers*

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<sup>10</sup> <http://climateaction.unfccc.int/>

<sup>11</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GCA\\_Yearbook2019.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GCA_Yearbook2019.pdf)

The High-Level Champions actively engaged in the Technical Examination Process and the in-session and regional Technical Expert Meetings. Based on the outcomes from these expert meetings, the High-Level Champions were consulted on the development of the Summary for Policymakers<sup>12</sup>. For the mitigation and adaptation topics addressed in 2019, key recommendations include:

- For mitigation in the agri-food chain:
  - Align finance flows with finance needs
  - Design adequate policy, regulatory and governance frameworks
  - Build confidence among end-users and enabling uptake
  - Set up appropriate support infrastructures
- For adaptation finance:
  - Catalyze adaptation finance
  - Incentivize private sector investment in adaptation
  - Commercialize adaptation technologies
  - Build trust and increase transparency for optimal use of available finance

### Communicating with impact

To convey their vision and provide a common direction for the strategic engagements and events throughout the year, the High-Level Champions developed a shared narrative to align efforts of stakeholders and the desired outcomes of activities throughout the year towards COP 25. (Refer to Annex 2 for this narrative).

The launch of Yearbook of Global Climate Action and the Climate Action Pathways was accompanied by a wider communication campaign that included web and social media outreach<sup>13</sup> and the development of news stories<sup>14</sup>, infographics and web cards<sup>15</sup> to facilitate understanding of the state of climate action.

The on-line collaboration platform for Marrakech Partnership stakeholders to share information and work together was further refined and embedded into the day-to-day activities of the Partnership.

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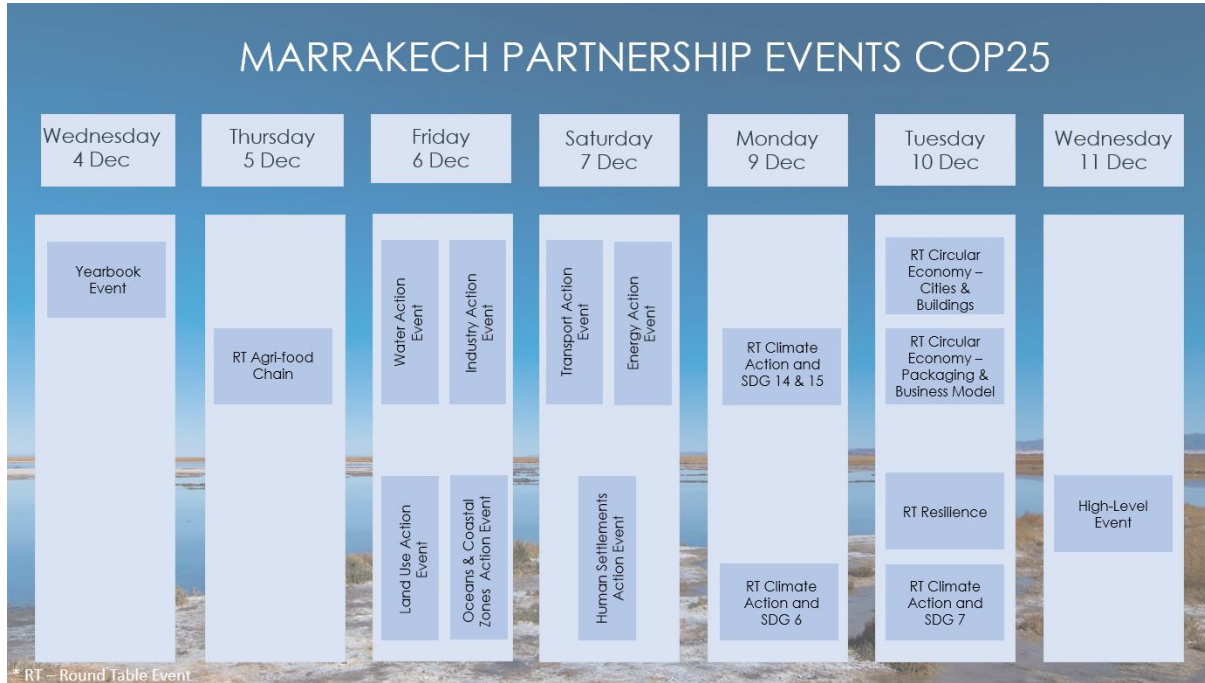
<sup>12</sup> [http://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/UNFCCC\\_SPM\\_2019.pdf](http://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/UNFCCC_SPM_2019.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://twitter.com/UNFCCC/status/1199584259301883904> ;  
<https://twitter.com/PEspinosaC/status/1199006778735939584>

<sup>14</sup> <https://unfccc.int/news/climate-action-yearbook-pathways-lend-clarity-to-climate-crisis-response>

<sup>15</sup> <https://trello.com/b/pozETlln/gca-yearbook-and-the-climate-action-pathways>

## Appendix 1: Marrakech Partnership Events at COP 25



For further details, concept notes, programmes and outcome documents, please visit:  
<https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership-at-cop-25>

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