



Summary of the Global Climate Action High-Level Event at COP 26

The mandated United Nations High-Level Event for Global Climate Action “Racing to a Better World” was held at Plenary Cairn Gorm on 11 November 2021, convened by the High-Level Champions in collaboration with the COP 25 and COP 26 Presidents and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary. With having a number of participants from Parties and non-Party stakeholders, matters including the progress of climate action by non-Party stakeholders, improvement of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, and the transformation happening in the real economy was presented throughout the event.

1. Key messages from the High-Level Champions

- The [Improved Marrakech Partnership](#) for enhancing ambition for 2021-2025 was presented to start this decade of delivery.
- Launch of the [Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2021](#), with reference to its content on the future vision of the High-Level Champions on three campaigns: Race to Zero, Race to Resilience, and the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero, was also presented.
- Re-launch of the [Global Climate Action Portal](#) was also presented.
- The Champions showcased the growth of companies committed to net zero by 2050 throughout the biennium: from 97 to more than 5,000 firms from all around the world. He also mentioned the transformation of the subnational region's coalition, which has now become a net-zero coalition representing more than 50 percent of the global economy.
- It was stated that the financial institutions are now putting climate at the centre of their agenda.
- It was also mentioned the launch of Race to Resilience to build resilience for four billion people in this decade towards 2030, and the positioning of Race to Zero with a concrete focus on halving emissions by 2030.
- The Champions also presented the future ambition of the work. They pointed out that the focus will be on how to turn those commitments into short-term action to drive the changes that is needed in this decade.
- It was emphasised the necessity to be more inclusive by involving the voices of people and groups most vulnerable and affected by climate change in the development of the solution and their implementation. Three key strategies were outlined for this:
 1. Work to mobilise private finance in emerging markets and developing economies;
 2. Continue raising resilience up the agenda to be an equal sibling to mitigation;
 3. Commit to further regionalising the work.

2. Key note address by the United Nations Secretary-General

- The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, highlighted that climate action requires "all hands-on deck".
- He stated the necessity to zoom in on the quality of implementation plans and has declared his decision to establish a high-level expert group to put both clear standards to measure and analyse net-zero commitments of non-State actors.
- He emphasised that only if governments, non-State actors, and civil society work together can the 1.5 degrees goal and the equitable and resilient world be in reach.



3. Dialogues with non-Party stakeholders

- Two panel discussions with the Champions and non-Party stakeholders were held during the event.
- In the first session, the question of how to build trust in order to ensure work is recognised and enhanced and to enable greenwashing to be called out, was discussed. There were several opinions, such as emphasising the importance of setting annual targets, and alarming that "commitments will not reduce CO₂, promises will not stop the suffering of the people, pledges will not stop the planet from warming," but only immediate and drastic action can make a change. In this regard, there was a statement asking business and finance leaders to show their faithfulness, trustworthiness, and honesty to prove the youth saying all these promises are insufficient that they are wrong.
- In the second session, discussions were held around how to turn the momentum into concrete action in the near term. Several opinions, such as the necessity to have a green economy, the importance of having clear targets based on science and mechanism that can make people and citizens track progress, and the vital role of cities, were mentioned.

4. Interventions from Parties

- Representatives from seven Parties and negotiation groups gave their statements: [Spain](#), [Peru \(on behalf of AILAC\)](#), the [European Union](#), the [Dominican Republic \(on behalf of AOSIS\)](#), [Japan](#), the United States, and Panama.
- The majority of Parties expressed their strong support and expectations of the work of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership. In this regard, there was a statement that such work will become more important as the "UNFCCC shifts from negotiation to implementation". There was also a statement that expressed the importance of regionalisation and increasing focus on adaptation. Parties also mentioned their intention and work regarding non-Party stakeholders, including messages stating to "count on us".

Reference

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