



UNFCCC Secretariat Recognition and Accountability Framework for non-Party stakeholder climate action

Version 1.0 (4 June 2023)

1. Achieving the objective of the Convention and the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement requires individual and collaborative action by Parties to the Paris Agreement and non-Party stakeholders.
2. The Paris Agreement and its implementing provisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) provide the legal obligations of an accountability framework for Parties.
3. Both the COP and the CMA invited the UNFCCC secretariat to “ensure greater accountability of voluntary initiatives through the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action platform.”¹
4. With the aim to recognize and celebrate voluntary non-Party stakeholder contributions and progress toward the goals of the Paris Agreement, and in response to the invitation from the COP and the CMA, voluntary pledges by non-Party stakeholders will be recognized on the UNFCCC Global Climate Action Portal (GCAP) as the United Nation’s data access point for all non-Party stakeholder voluntary climate action commitments.²
5. This UNFCCC Secretariat Recognition and Accountability Framework (the “Framework”) sets the principles of engagement, governance, and data management to achieve the aim of recognizing leadership and ensuring greater accountability.
6. The scope of this Framework covers individual entities as well as voluntary alliances, coalitions and initiatives and their members. How the Framework addresses recognition and accountability of individual members will be addressed in individual implementation plans under the Framework.
7. Existing coalitions and alliances and their members have helped establish important science-based norms for target-setting and progress reporting, which the UNFCCC secretariat will take into account. The UNFCCC secretariat will also draw on the expertise of the High-Level Champions in the area of enhancing transparency of progress toward the delivery of climate commitments from non-State Actors.
8. Implementation plans are to be Annexed to the Framework and are to be aligned with the Paris Agreement and reflective of the importance of credible climate action pledges, plans, and reporting by non-Party stakeholders.
9. Implementation plans will set out specific objectives, deliverables and timelines to enhance the recognition and accountability of climate action pledges, plans, and reporting by non-Party stakeholders, and these plans are to be realized in accordance with the principles of the Framework to provide assurance to Parties and the public regarding:
 - a. The integrity of voluntary commitments and their contribution to delivering on the aim of the Paris Agreement,

¹ Decision 1/CP.27, paragraph 65 and Decision 1/CMA.4 paragraph 93

² Referred to as the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action in UNFCCC decisions

- b. Credibility, leadership and recognition of progress toward commitments made by non-Party stakeholders, and
 - c. Identification of systemic barriers faced by non-Party stakeholders in undertaking climate action.
 - d. Transparency regarding the systemic impact of those who have not taken or are not delivering on their voluntary climate commitments.
10. The UNFCCC will provide comprehensive, assured, and publicly accessible outcomes based on the following Framework principles of engagement:
- a. Holistic: Acknowledge an existing and growing community of stakeholders actively participating in an ecosystem of enabling and tracking progress of ambitious non-Party climate action commitments.
 - b. Inclusive: Engage with the broadest range of stakeholders to communicate the aims of the Framework and to consult on its implementation plans through means including, but not exclusive to, open dialogues and requests for information.
 - c. Collaborative: Encourage cooperative approaches with stakeholders on efforts that bring greater coherence and credibility to voluntary commitments from non-Party stakeholders.
 - d. Accessible: Advocate and deliver, whenever possible, public access to non-Party stakeholder climate action commitments and progress made toward targets, pledges, and plans.
11. An approach to governance that is fit for the purposes of the implementation plans and that is aligned with the aims of the Framework will:
- a. Mobilize progress: Collaborate with the High-Level Champions, and the Marrakech Partnership under their leadership, to mobilize cities, regions, corporations, and financial institutions to commit to ambitious climate targets, provide transition plans, and to report progress.
 - b. Build capacity: Inspire greater activation, especially across sectors and geographic areas underrepresented in GCAP, for engaging with implementation plans of the Framework and delivering pledges, plans, and reports.
 - c. Enable innovation: Collectively identify challenges in pledges, plans, and reporting to unlock innovative solutions to systemic limitations and to promote enabling environments and technological pathways for success.
 - d. Foster assurance: Increase public understanding of reliable information through coherent processes and systems of credibility to inform and inspire additional action.
12. An approach to data management that is fit for the purposes of the implementation plans and that is aligned with the aims of the Framework will ensure that data and information received or disseminated by GCAP as the United Nation’s repository of non-Party stakeholder climate action data will have processes and systems regarding:
- a. Authentication protocols: Data or other information that is received by GCAP from non-Party stakeholders must be authentic.
 - b. Accuracy checks: Validation of datasets and information, to the best of knowledge, are required prior to submitting to GCAP by data providers or directly.
 - c. Comparability requirements: With an aim for interoperability and harmonization, comparable datasets sent by data providers or directly to GCAP are recommended.

- d. Secure infrastructure: Collaborations on digital infrastructure should enable ease of data sharing with GCAP and must disclosure data security adherence.
 - e. Open data: Information received by GCAP will be accessible and searchable through visual dashboards or downloads.
13. Processes and systems established within implementation plans are to follow the principles of engagement, governance, and data management of the Framework.
14. In accordance with implementation plans Annexed to this Framework, the UNFCCC GCAP and UNFCCC reports related to recognition and accountability are to be regularly updated.