



LETTER TO PARTIES AND NON-PARTY STAKEHOLDERS FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPIONS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

Distinguished representatives of Parties, groups of Parties and non-Party stakeholders,

We sincerely hope this letter finds you safe and healthy. With the COVID-19 pandemic, we are facing an incredible challenge that touches each and every one with us. We must do all that we can to look after ourselves, family members and our communities first and foremost. As High-Level Champions, we are closely monitoring the situation as it unfolds and exploring innovative and alternative ways to keep our work moving forward, while ensuring that our staff and colleagues follow the recommendations of their respective governments and the United Nations as their top priority to overcome this pandemic as swiftly as possible. Despite the recent emergence of this pandemic, dealing with the long-standing global issue of climate change remains as urgent as ever in 2020. In this context, we are reaching out to you to follow up on a mandate given to us at COP 25.

Collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders (businesses, cities, subnational regions, investors and civil society) is more critical now than ever for scaling up climate action. This was acknowledged by Parties through decision 1/CP.25, “Chile Madrid Time for Action”, in which COP 25 expressed appreciation for the work done so far and acknowledged the important role of non-Party stakeholders in supporting Parties towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, Parties agreed to the continuation of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and the role of the High-Level Champions until 2025, and the champions were requested to explore how to improve the work under the Partnership for enhancing ambition taking into account feedback from Parties and non-Party stakeholders.¹ To support these efforts, the tracking of voluntary actions through the Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA) will be strengthened to provide meaningful recognition of the actions and to follow their progress.

As part of the Paris Agreement in 2015, Parties decided to establish the role of the High-Level Champions to accelerate climate action in the pre-2020 period.² At COP 22 in 2016, the High-Level Champions launched the Marrakech Partnership with the mission of strengthening collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders to allow greater mitigation and adaptation action.³ Building on achievements in previous years and to help fulfil this mission, the High-Level Champions from Poland and Chile published a work programme in May 2019 for the Partnership to focus on environmental, economic and social system transformation, promoting higher ambition of all stakeholders to collectively strive for the 1.5 °C

¹ [Decision 1/CP.25](#), para. 28.

² [Decision 1/CP.21](#), para. 121

³ See https://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/gca_approach.pdf.



temperature goal and a climate-neutral and resilient world.⁴ We will soon be publishing a refined version taking into account the COP 25 mandate mentioned above, our shared vision and the emerging priorities of the COP 26 Presidency.

Throughout this period since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the global movement of climate action has increased substantially. Part of this is reflected in the Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA) where there has been an increase from 2,500 commitments registered at the beginning of 2015 to over 25,000 collaborative initiatives and individual actions at the end of 2019. Leading institutions from private finance, cities, subnational regions, indigenous people and businesses are setting their own targets, taking action, tracking their progress and aligning their plans with the commitment of Parties to fulfil the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Following the aforementioned COP 25 mandate, and with the incoming COP 26 Presidency of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland calling 2020 the “year of climate action”, we are entering a new phase of the Marrakech Partnership and it is essential to make the Partnership fit for purpose as we start this decade of delivery. In response to the above-mentioned request, we are kicking off a process to reflect on the current state of climate action and to gather feedback on how to improve the Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition. We would greatly appreciate hearing your advice and views in this regard and welcome your responses to the following questions.

- Q1. How would you define success of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership in terms of enhancing ambition in the next 5 years and beyond?*
- Q2. How can the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership add the most value and complement existing efforts to drive ambition and transformation in the next 5 years and beyond?*
- Q3. How can the High-Level Champions enhance collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders to further catalyze global climate action?*
- a) How can Parties benefit from the action resulting from the Global Climate Action movement and how can this action best be reflected in the work of the High-Level Champions?*
 - b) How can the COP and the UNFCCC process be more effective in the collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders to further catalyze global climate action?*
 - c) How could the High-Level Champions through their work in accelerating action and ambition of non-Party stakeholders most effectively contribute to the global stocktake of the Paris Agreement?*

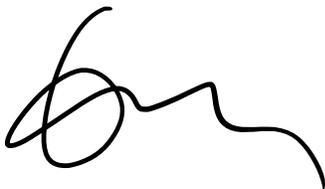
⁴ Further details on the Marrakech Partnership work programme for 2019–2020, its evolution and the achievements in 2019 can be found in annex I.

Q4. On the basis of experience so far, how can the Marrakech Partnership be improved for enhancing ambition, including through new and existing tools?⁵

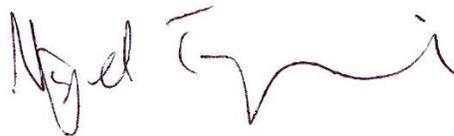
We would be most grateful if you could submit your inputs by **31 July 2020**. Any Parties and observer organizations (United Nations System entities and admitted intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations) wishing to do so should submit their views via the UNFCCC submission portal at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>; and any other non-Party stakeholders wishing to do so should email their views to globalclimateaction@unfccc.int. The views received will be posted on the dedicated page of the UNFCCC website.⁶

In addition, there will be opportunities to provide oral feedback over the course of this year, and a summary of all feedback will be made publicly available in the latter part of the year in the lead-up to COP 26. An overview of the feedback process is provided in annex III. As the COVID-19 situation evolves, we will adjust our approach, timelines and milestones accordingly to ensure that stakeholders around the world have an opportunity to participate. In addition to this feedback process, we will also reflect on the successes, challenges, lessons learned and inputs received over the past years in order to develop a path for improving the Marrakech Partnership over the period until 2025 for the purpose of enhancing ambition.

We would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of this request in this challenging period. We are fully committed to supporting Parties in implementing the Paris Agreement and facilitating collaboration with non-Party stakeholders to accelerate ambitious climate action.



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



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

Annexes to this letter:

ANNEX I - Summary of achievements and outcomes in 2019

ANNEX II – Marrakech Partnership tools

ANNEX III – Process for gathering feedback on how to improve the Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition

⁵ An overview of the existing tools of the Marrakech Partnership can be found in annex II.

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership-for-global-climate-action>.



ANNEX I - SUMMARY OF MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTCOMES IN 2019⁷

Work programme for 2019–2020

A process was launched in 2019, through a letter to Parties and non-Party stakeholders, for receiving feedback, reviewing the work of the High-Level Champions so far and taking stock of where they and the Marrakech Partnership could make progress in the pre-2020 period to facilitate even greater climate action.⁸ On the basis of the inputs received, the High-Level Champions from Poland and Chile published a work programme for the Marrakech Partnership for 2019–2020⁹ in May 2019. According to the work programme, the focus of the Marrakech Partnership is to be on environmental, economic and social system transformation, promoting higher ambition of all stakeholders to collectively strive for the 1.5 °C temperature goal and a climate-neutral and resilient world. This would be fulfilled through the following actions:

1. Strengthening interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders;
2. Broadening participation in the Marrakech Partnership by non-Party stakeholders from all regions and sectors, in particular from developing countries;
3. Following up on and ensuring continuity and coherence of action between major milestones;
4. Tracking progress, impacts and results.

The work programme is considered a living document and is in the process of being refined in the first quarter of 2020 on the basis of the emerging vision of the High-Level Champions from Chile and the United Kingdom, the priorities of the incoming COP 26 Presidency, and reflections from the annual Partnership strategy and planning meeting with Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

Climate Action Pathways

Under the leadership of the High-Level Champions, the Marrakech Partnership stakeholders developed and published the Climate Action Pathways¹⁰ in November 2019, which provide a blueprint on how to collectively strive for a 1.5 °C, climate-neutral and resilient future by 2050 across the thematic and cross-cutting areas of the Marrakech Partnership.

⁷ A detailed overview of the achievements and outcomes in 2019 is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/204701>.

⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/invitation-to-provide-feedback-to-the-high-level-champions-on-global-climate-action>.

⁹ See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MPGCA_WorkProgramme_2019-2020.pdf.

¹⁰ See https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/reporting-and-tracking/climate_action_pathways.



Strategic engagement

United Nations Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Action Summit

The High-Level Champions encouraged non-Party stakeholders to participate in and to take action to build momentum towards the Summit. The champions hosted a “Summit to Summit” event in New York, where all climate milestones between the Secretary-General’s 2014 Summit and the 2019 Summit were analysed and their importance in mobilizing ambitious climate action was demonstrated. The Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA) played a critical role in this regard, as it was ensured that all initiatives launched at the Summit were included on the portal.

Key messages from the Summit included that:

- Five years of global summits and processes have helped to 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 achieve their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and implement their 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 for regionally focused discussions with policymakers with the aims of increasing climate action and enhancing the participation of stakeholders from the region. The aim of the regional climate weeks in 2019¹¹ was to discuss, among other things, the transformative areas of the Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit.

Climate Ambition Alliance¹²

The Marrakech Partnership initiatives and coalitions played a key role in mobilizing all the non-Party stakeholders that committed to net zero emissions by 2050 and joined the Climate Ambition Alliance launched by Chile, UNFCCC and UNDP at the Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit and then in the lead-up to COP 25, demonstrating exponential growth. By the close of COP 25, the number of non-Party stakeholders included 786 businesses from across all major sectors, 398 cities representing over 660 million people, 15 subnational regions across the globe, and 16 investors with USD 4 trillion in assets under management. At COP 25, the United Kingdom joined the leadership of the Alliance. The two High-Level Champions will now together lead in the recruitment of non-Party stakeholders and inspire delivery of their commitments.

¹¹ See <https://www.regionalclimateweeks.org/>.

¹² See <https://cop25.cl/#/ambicion-climatica>.



Tracking and reporting voluntary action

Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA)

The portal¹³ was relaunched in September 2019 with a new interactive map and country profile pages, making it easier for users to navigate through the information on cross-sector climate commitments from around the world. The country profile pages compile information on climate action by cities, regions, companies and organizations to provide a snapshot of climate action within a country, which can inspire replication of initiatives in other countries and help in identifying potential for further collaboration across other sectors of society. Weblinks to the countries' NDCs and, where applicable, their long-term strategies are also provided.

The portal is the official repository for information on the transformational initiatives that were launched at the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit. It will remain active as a source of information for following up on the commitments and will help with work to scale up and monitor the initiatives in order to achieve the promised objectives.

A major upload of data on new and updated individual commitments and cooperative initiatives was undertaken at COP 25.

Yearbook of Global Climate Action

The *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2019* was published on 20 November 2019,¹⁴ highlighting trends in and providing information on the evolving state of climate action in 2019.

Summary for Policymakers

The High-Level Champions actively engaged in the technical examination processes on adaptation and mitigation and the in-session and regional technical expert meetings. On the basis of the outcomes of the expert meetings, the champions guided the development of the *UNFCCC Technical Expert Meetings 2019: Summary for Policymakers*,¹⁵ which provides an overview of the key recommendations resulting from the meetings.

¹³ <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/>.

¹⁴ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GCA_Yearbook2019.pdf.

¹⁵ Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/UNFCCC_SPM_2019.pdf.



ANNEX II – MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP TOOLS

This annex lists the tools that are either led or proactively utilized by the High-Level Champions and under the Marrakech Partnership to achieve the objectives defined in the work programme.

Climate Action Pathways

The Climate Action Pathways¹⁶ are documents that outline the longer-term sectoral visions for a 1.5 °C climate-resilient world and set out the forward-looking actions needed to achieve that future. Under the leadership of the High-Level Champions, the Pathways are developed and maintained by the coalitions and initiatives under the Marrakech Partnership. In addition to the 2050 sectoral visions, the Pathways detail:

- Overarching sectoral milestones for 2020, 2030 and 2050;
- Sectoral facts and figures;
- Progress made towards the 2050 visions;
- Key impacts that need to be achieved to realize the 2050 visions;
- Transformational actions for 2020, 2030 and 2050 for realizing the 2050 visions;
- Initiatives that aim to support the above actions.

The Pathways will help Parties and non-Party stakeholders to identify actions relevant to their context, and initiatives and coalitions that could help them to achieve their goals. They consolidate the work, outcomes and recommendations throughout the year of the Marrakech Partnership and related forums. As such, they are living documents that are updated periodically with the latest information and lessons learned as the state of climate action evolves.

Common narrative

A common narrative¹⁷ developed by the High-Level Champions sets out for each year the aims of the Marrakech Partnership and how stakeholders can collectively deliver on those aims and serves as inspiration and a common thread across the various activities of the Partnership. It provides a basis for messaging by stakeholders and helps Parties and the general public to understand the work of the Partnership.

Strategic engagement

High-level event at COP sessions

The mandated annual high-level event at COP sessions, which is convened by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, the incumbent and incoming COP Presidents and the High-Level Champions provides an opportunity for announcing new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions by Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

¹⁶ See https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/reporting-and-tracking/climate_action_pathways.

¹⁷ The first common narrative was developed in the lead-up to COP 25 and is available at <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership-at-cop-25>.



Marrakech Partnership activities at COP sessions

Marrakech Partnership activities at COP sessions¹⁸ provide an opportunity for High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership stakeholders to showcase successful implementation of cooperative initiatives that advance systemic transformation across thematic and cross-cutting areas and highlight the nexus between the Sustainable Development Goals and climate action.

Regional climate weeks

The regional climate weeks¹⁹ serve as a collaborative platform for in-depth and region-specific discussions between Parties and non-Party stakeholders on practical solutions to the challenges faced by the regions. They are organized by the UNFCCC secretariat with its core partners in the Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Middle East and North Africa regions. The High-Level Champions mobilize and bring in the perspectives of non-Party stakeholders from the region on specific issues that can drive high-impact climate action.

Technical examination processes and technical expert meetings (*mandated until the end of 2020*)

The UNFCCC technical examination processes on adaptation and mitigation aim to catalyse pre-2020 action by identifying opportunities for strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities in relation to adaptation (TEP-Adaptation²⁰) and by exploring high-potential mitigation policies, practices and technologies with significant sustainable development co-benefits for mitigation ambition (TEP-Mitigation),²¹ respectively. Under the processes, technical expert meetings are convened annually, with one set (TEM-M) on a specific mitigation topic and one set (TEM-A) on a specific adaptation topic, where Marrakech Partnership stakeholders are invited to act as lead expert organizations and to support the organization of the meetings at UNFCCC sessions and at the regional level. The High-Level Champions identify the topics for the technical examination process on mitigation and facilitate the follow-up on and continuity of the identified policy options and opportunities resulting from both processes for the benefit of the wider climate community.

¹⁸ Links and references to the concept notes, programmes, outcome documents and webcasts of the Marrakech Partnership activities at COP sessions, including the high-level events, are available at <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership-for-global-climate-action>.

¹⁹ See <https://unfccc.int/about-the-regional-climate-weeks>.

²⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/technical-examination-process-on-adaptation-tep-a>.

²¹ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/mitigation/workstreams/technical-examination-process-on-mitigation>.



Tracking and reporting voluntary action

Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA)

The portal²² is an online platform managed and maintained by the UNFCCC secretariat for recording and recognizing climate action by a diverse range of stakeholders, including businesses, cities, subnational regions and investors (i.e. it summarizes the present state of global climate action).

Yearbook of Global Climate Action

The Yearbook of Global Climate Action²³ provides evidence of the evolving state of climate action over the previous year, highlighting trends and taking stock of progress. On the basis of this information, key messages are set out for the global community that can encourage bold and courageous climate action by Parties and non-Party stakeholders. The Yearbook is produced by the UNFCCC secretariat under the guidance of the High-Level Champions with the support of Marrakech Partnership stakeholders.

Summary for Policymakers (*mandated until the end of 2020*)

Under the guidance of the High-Level Champions, the UNFCCC secretariat develops an annual Summary for Policymakers,²⁴ which provides an overview of the key recommendations resulting from the technical expert meetings in that year. It provides information on specific policies, practices and actions representing best practices that have the potential to be rapidly scaled up and replicated.

Modes of cooperation

Collaboration forum

The collaboration forum is a set of coalitions, initiatives, international organizations and sectoral expert organizations across the thematic and cross-cutting areas of the Marrakech Partnership that are convened by the High-Level Champions and the UNFCCC secretariat to align efforts towards the collective goal of driving ambitious climate action. The organizations are the primary touchpoints within the Marrakech Partnership, which provide substantive expertise and connect broad networks of stakeholders that can implement action on the ground.

Leadership network (*currently inactive*)

A leadership network²⁵ was established in 2017 as a group of senior decision makers and thought-leaders who could help in establishing effective connections and mobilizing immediate action in the pre-2020 period in specific sectors and regions.

²² <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/>.

²³ All of the Yearbooks are available at <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership-for-global-climate-action>.

²⁴ All of the Summaries for Policymakers are available at <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership-for-global-climate-action>.

²⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/actors/leadership-network>.



Communities of practice (*currently inactive*)

To maintain established relationships with key actors on the ground, scale up engagement and facilitate expansion into new areas, an informal community of practice would be established for each of the thematic and cross-cutting areas of the Marrakech Partnership.



ANNEX III – PROCESS FOR GATHERING FEEDBACK ON HOW TO IMPROVE THE MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR ENHANCING AMBITION

The process for gathering feedback on how to improve the Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition involves opportunities for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to provide written and oral inputs to the High-Level Champions for their consideration. Their feedback will be guided by the following questions.

- Q1. How would you define success of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership in terms of enhancing ambition in the next 5 years and beyond?*
- Q2. How can the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership add the most value and complement existing efforts to drive ambition and transformation in the next 5 years and beyond?*
- Q3. How can the High-Level Champions enhance collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders to further catalyze global climate action?*
- a) How can Parties benefit from the action resulting from the Global Climate Action movement and how can this action best be reflected in the work of the High-Level Champions?*
 - b) How can the COP and the UNFCCC process be more effective in the collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders to further catalyze global climate action?*
 - c) How could the High-Level Champions through their work in accelerating action and ambition of non-Party stakeholders most effectively contribute to the global stocktake of the Paris Agreement?*
- Q4. On the basis of experience so far, how can the Marrakech Partnership be improved for enhancing ambition, including through new and existing tools?²⁶*

Opportunities for gathering feedback include:

- The Marrakech Partnership strategy and planning meeting, held from 24 to 25 February 2020:
 - Interested Marrakech Partnership stakeholders (Parties and non-Party stakeholders) participated in the annual session, which included discussions on the above questions;
- The invitation to provide written feedback via the UNFCCC secretariat between 27 March and 31 July 2020:

²⁶ An overview of the existing tools of the Marrakech Partnership can be found in annex II.



- Any Parties and observer organizations (United Nations System entities and admitted intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations) wishing to do so should submit their views via the UNFCCC submission portal at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>;
 - Any other non-Party stakeholders wishing to do so should email their views to globalclimateaction@unfccc.int. The views received will be posted on the dedicated page of the UNFCCC website;²⁷
- Informal bilateral meetings with groups of Parties and also with non-Party stakeholders at UNFCCC sessions and the regional climate weeks, among others.

A summary of the feedback will be made publicly available in the latter part of 2020 in the lead-up to COP 26.

The figure below provides an overview of the activities in and timeline for the feedback process. It highlights the major milestones and, as the COVID-19 situation evolves, the approach, timelines and milestones will be adjusted accordingly to ensure that stakeholders around the world have an opportunity to participate. As such, it should not be considered exhaustive. In order to gather feedback that is as diverse as possible, the High-Level Champions intend to use all their engagement activities throughout the year to listen to stakeholders and collect their views.

In addition to this feedback process, the High-Level Champions will also reflect on the successes, challenges, lessons learned and inputs received since 2016 (including the written feedback from Parties and non-Party stakeholders in 2019 on specific questions related to the priorities and tools of the Marrakech Partnership²⁸) in order to explore options and develop a path for improving the Marrakech Partnership over the period until 2025 for the purpose of enhancing ambition.

When responding to the questions above, Parties and non-Party stakeholders may also wish to reflect on specific aspects indicated by the questions below:

- Are the objectives in the Marrakech Partnership work programme the right ones for driving the urgent, transformational action for collectively fulfilling the Paris Agreement and striving for a 1.5 °C, resilient future? What should be done differently? How best to deliver on these objectives?
- What types of conversations need to be convened with policymakers and non-Party stakeholders and with each other to drive systemic change, break down silos and unlock barriers? What are the current challenges?
- What type of stakeholders would Parties like to engage with to support them in the implementation of the Paris Agreement?

²⁷ <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership-for-global-climate-action>.

²⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/invitation-to-provide-feedback-to-the-high-level-champions-on-global-climate-action>.



- What are the urgent needs in developing countries to drive mitigation and adaptation action and how can the broader climate action community support them?
- How can the Marrakech Partnership, the High-Level Champions and the broader climate action community support the implementation and enhance ambition of NDCs and long-term strategies?
- How can the Marrakech Partnership and the High-Level Champions enable the broadest range of actors to take ambitious climate action, bringing in and empowering new stakeholders?
- What is the most effective way to understand the needs and gather inputs from areas with high-potential for impact and under-represented sectors and regions?
- How can the Marrakech Partnership help accelerate the implementation of existing commitments of stakeholders and provide visibility of this progress that is useful to Parties and all stakeholders?
- How can the Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA) be enhanced to credibly take stock of where non-Party stakeholders stand in relation to the goals of the Paris Agreement? What metrics should it prioritise?
- How can Marrakech Partnership members help address the current data gap in terms of actions (e.g. from non-Party stakeholders in developing countries, small and medium-sized enterprises, etc.) to ensure that the breadth of climate action globally can be captured?
- What is needed to highlight scalable solutions and disseminate key messages in an effective and timely manner to reach the appropriate stakeholders and maximize impact?



FEEDBACK TIMELINE 2020

