



WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPIONS AND THE MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION FOR 2020–2021

Context

1. This work programme outlines the objectives and strategic approach of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for 2020–2021. At its twenty-fifth session, the Conference of the Parties (COP) acknowledged the important role of non-Party stakeholders, welcomed the continuation of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and decided to continue appointing High-Level Champions until 2025, requesting the Champions to explore ways to improve work under the Marrakech Partnership for enhancing ambition.¹ This work programme was developed on the basis of the work programme for 2019–2020² and outcomes of the activities undertaken in 2019,³ taking into account the COP 25 mandate, the shared vision of the High-Level Champions from Chile and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the emerging priorities of the COP 26 Presidency and the discussions at the strategy and planning meeting with stakeholders held in February 2020. The coalitions and initiatives of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action will collaborate and contribute where appropriate to the collective objectives and the strategic approach and tools, according to their strengths, expertise and areas of greatest potential value and impact.
2. The mission of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action is to strengthen collaboration between national governments and non-Party stakeholders to facilitate mitigation and adaptation action and action on means of implementation. Such action is to be guided by the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and undertaken in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.⁴
3. To fulfil this mission, the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, building on achievements in previous years, will focus 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.
4. As the challenging period of the coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak evolves and new dates for COP 26 are confirmed, the work programme will be adjusted accordingly to ensure it responds to the new challenges, time frames and plans for a sustainable recovery. Innovative and alternative ways will be explored to keep advancing the work as much as possible and facilitating

¹ See decision [1/CP.25](#), paras. 26–28

² The 2019–2020 work programme was published in May 2019 by the High-Level Champions from Poland and Chile and is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MPGCA_WorkProgramme_2019-2020.pdf.

³ A detailed overview of the 2019 achievements and outcomes is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/204701>.

⁴ In line with the approach to the Marrakech Partnership published in May 2017 by the High-Level Champions from Morocco and Fiji. See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/gca_approach.pdf.



global participation while following the recommendations of respective governments and the United Nations as the top priority to overcome this pandemic as swiftly as possible.

5. The High-Level Champions will also take stock of progress in early 2021 and the work programme will be adjusted accordingly, taking into account the feedback received on how to improve the work under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for enhancing ambition and from planned strategy sessions.

Objectives

6. The High-Level Champions, working with the Marrakech Partnership, have the following objectives for 2020–2021:
 - a) **Strengthening collaboration amongst national governments and non-Party stakeholders** and promoting integration of action, across all levels of government and sectors, with a view to catalysing concrete action on high-impact issues, in particular in cross-cutting areas, and leveraging, inter alia, the collaborative experience of the Talanoa Dialogue process to scale up transformational solutions that can support implementation and higher ambition of action. This includes supporting national governments in raising their ambition by engaging all types of actors and providing them evidence of climate action, solutions and commitments from non-Party stakeholders through a continuous “ambition loop”, in particular, to build growing coalitions of non-Party stakeholders committed to playing their part in implementing pathways for systems transformation;
 - b) **Broadening participation** in the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action of non-Party stakeholders from all regions and sectors, in particular from developing countries, to bring about more balanced representation and to realize the potential for action, promoting an environment of inclusiveness where a diverse set of views can be shared, and leveraging networks and members of coalitions and initiatives that can act as multipliers and catalysers of action. Among others, this includes striving to deliver a **tenfold increase in the number of non-Party stakeholders participating in the Climate Ambition Alliance**⁵ from across whole sectors, regions and value chains, that commit to net-zero emissions in the 2040s, and **building on the energy and enthusiasm of civil society and citizens** to further encourage ambitious climate action and concrete solutions for the benefit of all by appropriately supporting the COP Presidencies and the existing UNFCCC processes, as needed;
 - c) **Creating enabling conditions for breakthroughs in ten tipping points for systems transformation**, including by enhancing and providing sectoral specificity within the Climate Action Pathways, engaging the scientific community and mapping key actors, resources and initiatives;

⁵ See <https://cop25.mma.gob.cl/en/climate-ambition-alliance/>.



- d) **Following up on and ensuring continuity and coherence** of action between major milestones. Engagement activities and milestones should not be viewed in isolation but build on one another through a shared narrative and by focusing on transformative action linked to national sustainable development priorities. The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action will support follow-up work on the outcomes from these milestones (such as the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit 2019) through engagements in the lead-up to and at the annual sessions of the COP and during other relevant activities, capturing commitments, outcomes and related progress through the appropriate tools (see para. 10 below);
- e) **Tracking progress, impacts and results and** identifying best practices and lessons learned. This includes providing evidence that recognizes systemic transformation, and helps national governments accelerate action in support of the implementation of the Paris Agreement through tools such as the UNFCCC Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA)⁶ the *Yearbook of Global Climate Action* and the summaries for policymakers of the technical examination processes;

Strategic approach and tools

7. The overall approach will be to anchor the objectives around what ambition and the transition towards a 1.5 °C, climate-neutral and resilient world means in the identified thematic and cross-cutting areas and what immediate action is needed for the achievement of longer-term goals. The work of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action will be based on science and guided by a common narrative and a set of concrete questions, linked to development needs of countries and integrated with the priorities of the COP Presidencies, to provide continuity and to streamline and align efforts to collectively achieve the aims of the Paris Agreement.
8. Cooperation and communication will be built on the culture of inclusion, empathy, mutual respect and meaningful collaboration that was demonstrated during the Talanoa Dialogue process.
9. In response to the request from the COP (see para. 1 above), the High-Level Champions will conduct a process in 2020 to reflect on the current state of climate action and gather feedback from Parties and non-Party stakeholders on how to improve the work under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action to enhance ambition.⁷ In addition to this feedback process, the Champions will also reflect on the successes, challenges, lessons learned and inputs received since 2016 (including the feedback submitted by Parties and non-Party stakeholders in 2019

⁶ See <https://climateaction.unfccc.int>.

⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/invitation-to-provide-feedback-to-the-high-level-champions-on-how-to-improve-the-marrakech>.

related to the priorities and tools of the Marrakech Partnership⁸) in order to explore options. The High-Level Champions will develop a plan to improve the Global Climate Action Agenda for the long term, building a sustainable and resilient infrastructure that supports the role of the Champions and the Marrakech Partnership.

10. To accomplish the above objectives, the following tools and mechanisms will be leveraged and enhanced:⁹

a) **Communicating with impact the work of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action**

Communication and outreach are foundational elements of the role of the High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action. The work, achievements and progress against the above objectives and in all thematic and cross-cutting areas must be regularly communicated to build a common understanding of the current direction of climate action and to develop coherent messages that are tailored and delivered to different audiences. A key part of this communication objective is to massively increase awareness and understanding of the ‘S-curve’ and the exponential nature of the systemic change required to reach full transformation towards a 1.5 °C, climate-neutral and resilient world. A series of campaigns to encourage this transformational climate action among non-Party stakeholders will be promoted by the High-Level Champions as a way to support Parties in the implementation of their nationally determined contributions and enhance ambition to fulfil the collective goals of the Paris Agreement. The mobilization of non-Party stakeholders towards net-zero targets under the Climate Ambition Alliance, as well as evidence of systemic transformation will be proactively and continuously amplified through impactful language and storytelling with the overarching goal of “**communicating for change**”. This will be done using the existing communication resources of the UNFCCC secretariat and Marrakech Partnership stakeholders, complemented by new voices, and by expanding the available pool of media and communication expertise on climate action. Media specialists and networks will be engaged to assist efforts to raise awareness and facilitate broader stakeholder participation. This will include strengthening communication tools, such as by improving the usability of the Global Climate Action website¹⁰, in order to increase visibility and understanding of the work of the Marrakech Partnership.

b) **Strategic engagement**

The High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action will be actively involved in activities to promote inclusiveness, support the common narrative on

⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/invitation-to-provide-feedback-2020/invitation-to-provide-feedback-to-the-high-level-champions-on-global-climate-action>.

⁹ See annex II for an overview of the existing tools of the Marrakech Partnership and the role the High-Level Champions play.

¹⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership-for-global-climate-action>.

increasing ambition and accelerating change, address specific issues and take stock of progress against their objectives.

In addition, there will be several other opportunities over the next two years to drive climate action (information on which will be collected on the UNFCCC website), with the Marrakech Partnership ensuring the coherence of related activities by providing the overarching narrative and support for the preparations, as needed.

i. Regional climate weeks

Building on past experience, through the leadership of the High-Level Champions, the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action will be involved in the UNFCCC regional climate weeks to catalyse concrete climate action on the ground, in particular in developing countries, where opportunities will be explored for facilitating regionally relevant discussion and collaboration among and between national governments and non-Party stakeholders. The regional climate weeks will also be used as a means to explore and develop innovative approaches that could be replicated and/or complement activities at the sessions of the COP and the subsidiary bodies.

Regional climate weeks originally planned in 2020 in the following locations have been postponed to 2021:

- Africa (in Kampala, Uganda);
- Latin America and the Caribbean (in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic);
- Asia-Pacific (in Yokohama, Japan);
- Middle East and North Africa (in Dubai, United Arab Emirates)

Virtual activities to fulfil some of the objectives of the climate weeks are also being explored in 2020.

ii. Technical examination processes on mitigation and adaptation

In accordance with decision 13/CP.23, the High-Level Champions will continue to support the technical expert meetings on mitigation and adaptation by, inter alia, recommending appropriate expert organizations, practitioners and other non-Party stakeholders from the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action that can highlight case studies and solutions that could enhance the technical discussions and exchanges, including at the regional level, at the regional climate weeks. The policy options and opportunities identified at the meetings will inform the development of the summaries for policymakers referred to in decision 13/CP.23, paragraph 10.

iii. Constituted bodies of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement

The High-Level Champions will reach out to constituted bodies, as appropriate, with the aim of facilitating collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, complementing and streamlining stakeholder engagement, gathering relevant



expertise, capacity and technology, and promoting integrated approaches to adaptation, mitigation and engagement.

iv. COP engagement

The architecture of engagement between national governments and non-Party stakeholders during the COP will be adapted appropriately to drive ambition, implementation and systems transformation in line with the vision of the COP Presidencies and in coordination with the secretariat. The focus will be on identifying concrete and transformational solutions around cross-cutting topics, enabling synergy between stakeholders and integrating the COP Presidencies' priority areas. Among others, activities will be used as a platform for high-level representatives of Parties and non-Party stakeholders in leadership roles to demonstrate high-impact collaborative solutions, launch new initiatives, make ambitious announcements and raise public awareness of what has been achieved and what remains to be done.

c) **Tracking and reporting voluntary action**

The *Yearbook of Global Climate Action* will provide a synthesis of the key messages from and trends in climate action during the year and a comparison with the long-term goals in the thematic and cross-cutting areas of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action. The information provided will be tailored to the needs of national governments while highlighting important aspects for the general public. In line with the request from Parties at COP 25,¹¹ the secretariat will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA), with a particular focus on tracking the progress of voluntary action. The portal will be enhanced so that it provides an accurate picture of the voluntary commitments, action and progress of non-Party stakeholders and initiatives, with further information published on stakeholders, initiatives and actions in order to address regional and sectoral gaps, particularly in relation to developing countries, and link the local to the global, regional and national level.

d) **Strengthening cross-cutting action**

To recognize and drive the urgent and high-impact action needed for system and infrastructure transformation, an integrated and cross-cutting approach will be pursued, in particular in areas such as finance and resilience. Links to climate action in the sustainable development agenda will also be strengthened by engaging with key stakeholders and organizations with relevant expertise.

¹¹ See decision 1/CP.25, para. 29.



e) **Modes of cooperation**

The modes of cooperation of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action will be adjusted to reflect the urgency of transformational action. The High-Level Champions will enable collaborative solutions between national governments and non-Party stakeholders, building on the progress made at COP 25, where ministers of agriculture, energy, finance and science actively participated in different multi-stakeholder dialogues. The High-Level Champions will strengthen action on systemic change across thematic areas, working with representatives of national governments, to align the work of the Marrakech Partnership with the implementation of nationally determined contributions and long-term sustainable development strategies, and provide innovative tools to facilitate the most impactful participation of stakeholders. Modes of cooperation will evolve accordingly based on the feedback process described in para. 9 above being conducted in 2020 and the resulting path forward developed by the Champions.

Annex I

Tools of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

This annex lists the tools that are either directly led or actively used by the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action to achieve the objectives defined in the work programme.

Climate Action Pathways

The Climate Action Pathways¹ 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 updated by the coalitions and initiatives under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action. In addition to setting out sectoral visions for 2050, 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 help Parties and non-Party stakeholders identify actions relevant to their context, and initiatives and coalitions that could help them to achieve the goals outlined in their nationally determined contributions and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies. The Pathways also consolidate the work, outcomes and recommendations formulated throughout the year through 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 narrative² developed by the High-Level Champions sets out for each year the aims of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action 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

¹ See https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/reporting-and-tracking/climate_action_pathways.

² 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>.



opportunity for announcing new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions by Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action activities at COP sessions

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action activities at COP sessions³ provide an opportunity for the High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership stakeholders to showcase successful implementation of cooperative initiatives and engage in multi-stakeholder dialogues to identify further high-impact opportunities 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 UNFCCC regional climate weeks⁴ serve as a collaborative platform for in-depth and region-specific discussions between national governments and non-Party stakeholders of 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 from the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and non-Party stakeholders from the region on specific issues that can drive further 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-Adaptation)⁵ and by exploring high-potential mitigation policies, practices and technologies with significant sustainable development co-benefits for mitigation ambition (TEP-Mitigation),⁶ respectively. Under these 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 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.

³ 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>.

⁴ See <https://unfccc.int/about-the-regional-climate-weeks>.

⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/technical-examination-process-on-adaptation-tep-a>.

⁶ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/mitigation/workstreams/technical-examination-process-on-mitigation>.



Tracking and reporting voluntary action

Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA)

The Global Climate Action portal⁷ is an online platform, managed and maintained by the UNFCCC secretariat, that summarizes the present state of global climate action by recording and recognizing the climate actions of a diverse range of stakeholders, including businesses, cities, subnational regions and investors, and cooperative initiatives, such as those launched at the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit 2019.

Yearbook of Global Climate Action

The *Yearbook of Global Climate Action*⁸ 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 national governments 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,⁹ which provides an overview of the key recommendations resulting from the technical expert meetings in that year. It includes information on successful and specific policies, practices and actions that have the potential to be rapidly scaled up and replicated.

Modes of cooperation

Collaboration forum

The collaboration forum is a group of coalitions, initiatives, international organizations and sectoral expert organizations, spanning the thematic and cross-cutting areas of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, 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 act as multipliers and catalysers, providing substantive expertise and connecting broad networks of stakeholders that can implement action on the ground.

⁷ <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/>.

⁸ All of the Yearbooks are available at <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/reporting-and-tracking>.

⁹ All of the Summaries for Policymakers are available at <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership/reporting-and-tracking>.

Annex II

Topics and milestones relevant to the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

The following previously identified topics will be used as the basis for refining and harmonizing the substantive issues to be addressed under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action in 2020:

	Topic
Technical examination process on mitigation ¹⁰	Sustainable low-emission housing and building solutions
Technical examination process on adaptation ¹¹	Education and training, public participation and youth to enhance adaptation action
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ¹²	<i>To be determined</i>

¹⁰ See

http://unfccc.int/files/parties_and_observers/notifications/application/pdf/notification_tep_mitigation_topics_2018_20.pdf for further details on the topics identified by the High-Level Champions from 2018 until 2020.

¹¹ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/technical-examination-process-on-adaptation-tep-a>.

¹² See https://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/gca_approach.pdf for the background and rationale for having specific climate action discussions anchored in relevant SDGs.



Annex III

Key principles of the work under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

The following principles guide the work of the community of stakeholders under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action to collectively advance the fulfilment of the Paris Agreement:

- 1. Commit to accelerating action above all else**
Recognizing driving action, increasing ambition and delivering impact is the core purpose of our work
- 2. Build on the fantastic work to date**
Both inside and outside our community
- 3. Be driven by science**
Uniting behind the science, which acts as an anchor for our work
- 4. Celebrate our unique strengths**
Making the most of support team capacity and partner expertise
- 5. Be open and generous**
Working collaboratively, transparently and open to respectful challenge