

## **WBCSD FEEDBACK TO THE HIGH-LEVEL CHAMPIONS ON THE WORK OF THE MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION**

**(February 2019)**

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) remain a strong supporter of the overarching mission of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MP-GCA) to strengthen collaboration between Party and Non-Party stakeholders towards greater climate mitigation and adaptation action pre-2020 and beyond. WBCSD and its member companies support the swift implementation of the Paris Agreement, recognizing that this can be achieved at a much faster pace through collaboration among stakeholders and a common vision to accelerate climate action.

WBCSD welcomes the opportunity to contribute our inputs towards improving the work program of the MP-GCA for 2019. In this submission, we address a selected number of questions that were most applicable to business.

### **1. Priorities**

The 2019 priorities as described in the indicative MP-GCA work programme recognize the need for strong Party and non-Party interaction, balanced representation of partnerships across sectors and geographies, continuity and coherence between major milestones and communication of progress with impact.

WBCSD endorses the focus aimed at strengthening interaction between Parties and non-Parties stakeholders and the willingness to harness the collaborative experience of the Talanoa Dialogues. In this context we believe that **the spirit and methodology of the Talanoa Dialogue should be maintained** in developing a new framework to secure such cooperation.

As well as welcoming the participation of non-Party stakeholders from a broader range of regions and sectors, we also encourage the MP-GCA and the High-level Champions to **strengthen the involvement of Party stakeholders** in contributing towards the MP-GCA planning and strategy. We believe that the **increased engagement of Parties in the work of the MP-GCA** will help enhance the role that the partnership can play in supporting the achievement of the Paris Agreement objectives, specifically through the implementation and enhancement of NDCs.

2018 has shown that non-Party stakeholders, including business, is ready to play a key role in supporting Parties achieve the Paris Agreement objectives. Business for example, can contribute to helping design and implement NDCs, to remove barriers to innovation and technological transfer and to drive deep system transformation and structural change across developed and developing economies. **Business is ready to go further and faster, in partnership with national, regional and local governments.**

We think that the MP-GCA can therefore play an important role in supporting the creation and proliferation of climate ambition loops, positive feedback loops in which bold government policies and private sector leadership reinforce each other, and together take climate action to the next level.

In this context we also believe there should be a reference to the role of the MP-GCA in the transition in focus from global climate discussions/negotiation to the more regional/local implementation of mitigation, adaptation and raised strategies and commitments. We recognize this as an opportunity for the Marrakech Partnership to demonstrate how a more balanced representation of stakeholders can reinforce ambition at the regional level.

## **2. Thematic and cross-cutting areas**

WBCSD supports the approach taken by the Marrakech Partnership to structure, facilitate and track climate action through the selected thematic areas. However, as **the achievement of the Paris Agreement objectives will require systems transformation at scale across the entire global economy**, we strongly support addressing conversations in a cross-cutting manner, focusing on the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

We encourage the Marrakech Partnership to continue exploring the connections between the key thematic areas. By adopting a systems transformation approach to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, we believe that synergies between key thematic areas can be leveraged to accelerate the transformation of entire systems.

## **3. Regional climate weeks**

With focus now fully on the implementation of the Paris Agreement, WBCSD aims to emphasise its solutions-oriented approach to tackling climate change with a greater focus on regional and local dialogue and implementation. WBCSD actively contributed to the Regional Climate Weeks in 2018 and encourages the MP-GCA to strengthen its contributions and visibility at these regional events.

The Regional Climate Weeks convene a diverse range of actors from both the public and private sectors to demonstrate and showcase regional and local implementation of climate action. We consider these events **as important opportunities for regional stakeholders, including businesses, to engage with policymakers in regional-specific discussions aimed at accelerating climate ambition**.

This is also an opportunity for business to engage with key regional policy and decision makers from relevant sectors (e.g. finance, transport, agriculture) to share experiences and solutions towards unlocking regional barriers that affect the implementation of local mitigation and adaptation solutions.

## **4. Technical examination process on mitigation and adaptation**

*Not Applicable.*

## **5. Tracking and reporting voluntary action**

*Not Applicable.*

## **6. Marrakech Partnership activities at COPs**

The format and quality of Marrakech Partnership action events and roundtables held at the COP has seen a steady improvement over the years. WBCSD will support the MP-GCA and the team within the UNFCCC Secretariat to continue exploring ways for delivering innovative and interactive sessions at the COPs. For example, we welcomed and actively participated in delivering, Action Hub events at COP24.

We believe that the MP-GCA events have also provided strong quality of Party and non-Party speakers, reflecting the importance of such speakers in providing relevant and engaging discussions during the sessions.

However, we believe that **the impact of future activities can be further enhanced with increased participation from Party representatives**. We believe that integrating Parties more into the Marrakech Partnership strategy and plans will help them become more involved at such events.

Additionally, in view of the numerous competing events at the COPs, we believe that there is still scope to improve the branding and promotion of MP-GCA event venues and the advertisement of events at the COP, to drive an increased number of both Party and non-Party participants to the sessions.

## **7. The United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit in 2019**

WBCSD has identified the UNSG's Climate Summit as one of the key moments in 2019 for all stakeholders, Parties as well as non-Parties, including business, to showcase climate action and advocate for raising ambition in the next round of NDCs by 2020.

In the spirit of leveraging the collective experience and spirit of the Talanoa Dialogue, we believe that the **MP-GCA should consider the UNSG Climate Summit as an important milestone on the road to 2020**, and identify means for the Marrakech Partnership to support Parties in raising ambition in the official process.

WBCSD encourages the High-Level Champions to strongly advocate on behalf of the Marrakech Partnership for the MP-GCA partners to be closely engaged in the process, and to use the MP-GCA as a means for partners to gain input to support each other in engaging with this process. We believe that by providing relevant outcome documents from the 2019 Regional Climate Weeks and other MPGCA sessions, the Marrakech Partnership has the potential to provide a unique perspective of stakeholders that can feed into the content of the UNSG summit.

## **8. Post-2020 Outlook**

As we look to the post-2020 world, the implementation of the Paris Agreement will require continuous need for inclusive multi-stakeholder collaborations to support the implementation of mitigation and adaptation strategies. We believe that the High-Level Champions could have a crucial role to play to maintain the level of engagement between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, raise climate ambition and strengthen post-2020 action.

The role of the High-Level Champion to actively encourage cities, regions, companies and investors to commit to ambitious climate actions will become increasingly important post-2020. We therefore



encourage the Parties to recommend the continuation of the process by leveraging the results of their respective achievements and outcomes.

We also encourage the Marrakech Partnership to work with Parties to secure a **long-term implementation platform** within the UNFCCC process to ensure continued multilateral dialogues that can contribute to the official negotiating process.

#### **About the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)**

WBCSD is a global, CEO-led organization of over 200 leading businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world. We help make our member companies more successful and sustainable by focusing on the maximum positive impact for shareholders, the environment and societies.

Our member companies come from all business sectors and all major economies, representing a combined revenue of more than USD \$8.5 trillion and 19 million employees. Our global network of almost 70 national business councils gives our members unparalleled reach across the globe. WBCSD is uniquely positioned to work with member companies along and across value chains to deliver impactful business solutions to the most challenging sustainability issues.

Together, we are the leading voice of business for sustainability: united by our vision of a world where more than 9 billion people are all living well and within the boundaries of our planet, by 2050. <http://www.wbcasd.org>

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