

Suggestions for Champions on COP25 – GlobalABC feedback

15 February 2019

ANNEX III - QUESTIONS FOR STRUCTURING INPUTS TO THE MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

PRIORITIES AND FOCUS AREAS

1. Priorities

As described in the indicative work programme for 2019 of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, the priorities for this year are:

- a) Strengthening **interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders** and promoting integration of action, among all levels of government and sectors, with a view to catalysing concrete action on high-impact issues, in particular related to cross-cutting areas, and leveraging, inter alia, the collaborative experience of the Talanoa Dialogue process;
- b) **Broadening the participation** of non-Party stakeholders in the Marrakech Partnership in regions and sectors in order to ensure a more balanced representation and to realize greater potential for action, in particular in developing countries;
- c) Providing **follow-up, continuity and coherence** with and between major milestones. Engagement activities and milestones should not be viewed in isolation but build on one another;
- d) **Communicating with impact** the work of the Marrakech Partnership and developing coherent messages that are tailored and delivered to different audiences.

Q1. Do the above priorities adequately reflect what needs to be done to accelerate pre-2020 action and support enhanced ambition, adaptation, resilience and support? If not, how could they be refined? In the context of the priorities, could specific actions be taken to achieve the desired outcomes?

Yes, the above priorities do reflect the objectives to 2020. They could maybe be enhanced by putting a greater emphasis on key sectors such as the building sector where there still seems to be a large gap between potential and actual actions. We could explore the best way the MPGCA and UNFCCC could help with the diffusion of the main messages of the GlobalABC.

Q2. How could interaction and communication between Parties and non-Party stakeholders be enhanced? How could the high-level champions contribute to that enhancement?

The enhancement of communication between Parties and non-Party stakeholders could be done by establishing a better porosity between green zone and blue zones of exchange and bringing results from the MPGCA to the blue zone, for all cross cutting themes and selected SDGs. The Champions could also help ensure that high level representatives assist on some more technical events by being present in person during the event. Also, as they have assisted preliminary technical meetings of the MPGCA, which was very appreciated, they might help extracting key points that could be brought in the discussions.

Q3. What obstacles and barriers do you face in taking enhanced action and engaging stakeholders?

One of the main issue we face is that it is difficult to mobilize stakeholders when there is not enough visibility given to the building sector which is today subsumed under Human Settlements, which might seem logical as buildings are parts of cities but it would be more pertinent to have a visible and well identified category for the sector of Buildings and Construction as we need to involve multiple stakeholders that range from National and sub-National to private sector or individual members, similarly to the industry sector.

Q4. What could the high-level champions and the Marrakech Partnership do to increase Parties' access to relevant experts and resources?

There is a great potential for the Champions to disseminate the work of the MPGCA by quoting it in speeches, in press conferences, in the medias, but there is also the need to enhance accessibility to the internet site for Parties, possibly by having a dedicated access and page.

Q5. How can non-Party stakeholders best support Parties and vice versa in the implementation of the Paris Agreement?

Non-Party stakeholders could support Parties by demonstrating that solutions are available and pointing to what enabling conditions they need to bring them to scale. Party stakeholders could support non-parties by setting clear targets and market conditions, enabling roll out of solutions. Together, they help increase the effectiveness of action by spurring public-private partnerships. One example is the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction which brings together different stakeholder groups that range from National and sub National governments to NGOs and private sector. This is reflected in the production of work aimed at both Parties and non-Parties such as the science-based targets for the private sector, and the Roadmap and policies for National governments. The GlobalABC facilitates better mutual understanding and cooperation through Roundtables, local Alliances and communication such as the Global Status Report.

2. Thematic and cross-cutting areas

The Marrakech Partnership is structured around seven thematic areas (energy, land use, human settlements, industry, transport, water, and oceans and coastal zones) with specific cross-cutting areas (finance, health, resilience, gender, education and decent work) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being focus areas for a particular year. As outlined in the indicative work programme, the focus in 2019 will be on finance and resilience, in addition to on four specific SDGs. Efforts will also be made to engage with media and communication specialists and networks and to reach out to the constituted bodies, as appropriate, to facilitate greater collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, promoting integrated approaches to adaptation and mitigation and highlighting innovative technologies and capacity-building opportunities.

Q6. Considering each of the thematic areas, cross-cutting areas, SDGs and priorities outlined in the indicative work programme, should any specific high-impact topics that address the greatest needs of Parties be discussed?

The GlobalABC would appreciate that the Buildings and Construction field becomes clearly identified along with the seven other items (Oceans, Coasts, Energy, Industry, Land, Transport and Human Settlements). The Buildings and Construction sector should be given the opportunity to attract attention to its great potential for mitigation and gather stakeholders around the common goal of engaging in this not yet fully identified field of concern. One idea could be to identify Human Settlements as one of the

Cross Cutting fields and include the Buildings and Construction subject in the seven thematic areas linked to specific sectors.

OPERATIONAL APPROACH

3. Regional climate weeks

The high-level champions began their engagement in the regional climate weeks in 2018 and the lessons learned from their experience will be taken forward this year. The intention is to catalyse concrete climate action on the ground, in particular in developing countries, and to facilitate regionally relevant discussion and interaction among and between Parties and non-Party stakeholders. Although the list remains open, the following regions have been scheduled so far for climate weeks in 2019:

- a) Africa (to take place in Accra, Ghana, from 18 to 22 March 2019);
- b) Latin America and the Caribbean (to take place in Salvador, Brazil, from 19 to 23 August 2019);
- c) Asia-Pacific (to take place in China or Bangkok, Thailand (TBC), from 2 to 6 September 2019).

Q7. Why do you attend the regional climate weeks and what would incentivize you to participate regularly?

We attend the Regional Climate Weeks to highlight the importance of urgent action in the Buildings and Construction sector and catalyse political will through sharing of experiences. We would have a keen interest to build greater synergies, benefitting from attendance to the Climate Weeks and pooling resources that we have, to bring participants to Regional Roundtables of the GlobalABC – to do this, information on location and date of Climate Weeks would have to be made available earlier than current practice.

Q8. Who would you like to meet at such events?

Country and sub-national government representatives including other line ministries than Climate and Environment to support environment and climate advocates in making the case for action to their cabinet colleagues. We would also appreciate meeting with the private sector.

4. 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 by, inter alia, recommending appropriate expert organizations, practitioners and other non-Party stakeholders from the Marrakech Partnership that can highlight case studies and solutions to enhance the technical discussion and exchange, including at the regional level, through the regional climate weeks. The policy options and opportunities identified at the meetings will inform the development of the relevant summaries for policymakers. The most recent summary for policymakers was published in October 2018.

Q9. Are the messages and recommendations in the summaries for policymakers useful and clear? How could they be enhanced and made more effective?

The summary for policy makers is short and clear, well presented. The benefits of integrated planning and action highlighted are focused on circular economy, waste reuse, vulnerable groups. The report could benefit from emphasis on key sectors for urgent action. Although material production is mentioned (cement, steel and bio based) we would have liked to see a paragraph mentioning specifically the buildings and construction sector with reference to the Global Status report – given the huge mitigation potential and adaptation need.

5. Tracking and reporting voluntary action

The second edition of the *Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2018*³ was released before COP 24 in November 2018 and aimed to synthesize the key messages and trends in relation to climate action from that year. To facilitate distribution and accessibility, it was published solely in electronic format on the UNFCCC website. Meanwhile, a revamped version of the NAZCA portal⁴ was launched in September 2018. The NAZCA portal should be further enhanced to provide a continuously evolving picture of the voluntary commitments, action and progress of non-Party stakeholders and initiatives.

Q10. Is the Yearbook, as currently formatted and presented, a useful tool for Parties? Are the key messages clear and useful? How could it be improved?

Yes, the Yearbook is a well presented, easy to access, useful tool, but it could still be improved.

The 2018 version focused on case studies that did not always relate clearly to the seven thematic areas. We would suggest a dedicated chapter on buildings and construction or at least case study or box to bring the attention that is needed to the subject.

Q11. What is your feedback on the revamped NAZCA portal? Is the information useful for Parties? What other types of information and features should be added? What do you need to promote NAZCA and help mobilize non-Party stakeholders and initiatives to register their actions?

The Nazca Portal when accessed from the internet opens on a home page with a map uploading with blue dots on cities and overlapping some text information which is difficult to read. There could be a line of text information reminding of what Nazca is and what information this map provides for those who did not check the “about” section. The filter function is not clear (by themes, by stakeholders, more filters... and often no answer probably due to lack of data) but selecting a country and exploring by city works well.

6. Marrakech Partnership activities at COPs

Since COP 22 the high-level event on global climate action, complemented by a full programme of action events and round tables, has been convened during sessions of the COP to highlight the progress made throughout the year, showcase transformational action and provide a space for dialogue between Party 15 representatives and non-Party stakeholders. In addition, convening activities to take place during the regional climate weeks may help to distribute those activities and engagement with Parties throughout the year.

Q12. Are the high-level and action events and round tables held at the COPs in their current format useful? How could they be made more impactful and accessible?

Problems commonly encountered are: overlapping schedules leading to competition between events; format leading to a fizzling out of audiences.

Event passport with short descriptions of all sessions may help attract more people, beyond the typical captive audience already dealing with the area.

The events could be filmed and broadcasted on websites, or transformed into short statement films.

7. The United Nations Secretary-General’s Climate Summit in 2019:⁵

The high-level champions and Marrakech Partnership stakeholders will proactively engage to prepare for the United Nations Secretary-General’s Climate Summit in 2019 and demonstrate their contribution to the Summit of a broad set of impactful initiatives, solutions and action.

Q13. How can the high-level champions and the Marrakech Partnership best contribute to the Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Summit?

The High level champions could contribute to the SGCS 2019 by preparing an overview of where we stand and what the gap is plus using the SGCs as a rallying point for new commitments.

LOOKING AHEAD

8. Post-2020 outlook

Ramping up pre-2020 action remains a top priority and focus. In addition, as the mandate for the highlevel champions ends in 2020, this may also be a good time to receive some initial views on the potential role of the high-level champions beyond 2020, reflecting on experience so far.

Q14. Is there a need to discuss the possibility of a post-2020 role for the high-level champions? How could the current champions facilitate such discussion?

Since it seems likely that the targets will not be met by 2020, there is a continuing role for high-level Champions to keep the momentum and accelerate action. One suggestion could be to make a link to the 2030 timeline of the SDGs.

Q15. Could the high-level champions be more helpful in the implementation of the Paris Agreement beyond 2020?

See above.

Q16. What key functions of the high-level champions would be useful to take forward beyond 2020?

Model role (action at home), witness (of progress), motivator (to do more faster).