

*Dear High-Level Climate Champion, dear Tomasz,*

The EU would like to thank you for this opportunity to share some of our views on the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCA). The EU sees the GCA playing a pivotal role in catalysing enhanced voluntary action by all actors. We remain very supportive of your engagement as high-level climate champion and appreciate you seeking the views of Parties and Stakeholders at the beginning of the year that we know to be critical for climate action and ambition.

We welcome the summary of achievements and outcomes in 2018 under the GCA, and note with appreciation the wide range of activities that have taken place in 2018, notably: the numerous events during COP24 and especially the high-level event, the facilitation of non-state actors (NSA) participation in the Talanoa dialogue, the publication of the Yearbook of Climate Action 2018, the revamp of the NAZCA portal, the Technical Examination Process, and the Champions' involvement in the regional climate weeks, for which reports and overviews of results should be shared in the GCA newsletters.

We appreciate the opportunity to answer to the questionnaire and summarize our answers as follows:

- **The tracking of progress of the initiatives**, to identify good practices and provide recognition to top performers should be among the priorities of the GCA for 2019. In this year of climate ambition, the GCA needs to contribute to the discussions that will take place on enhancing global ambition by 2020. The Champions should make sure that **lessons learned and good practices from the GCA will inspire national actions and provide confidence to governments to implement robust policies and measures with a long-term perspective**. During the course of 2019, it will be important for the Champions to also share lessons on how to scale-up and reinforce existing initiatives with the potential to help Parties achieve their commitments and implement their NDCs on the ground. We encourage the link with the Agenda 2030 when relevant, especially this year with the review of SDG13 at the High-level Political Forum. The Champions could also act within sectoral communities, for example at major high-profile trade fairs.
- It would be helpful to receive **more feedback from all Parties** on what they have learned and applied emerging from this GCA process.
- During the COP, in order to improve the interaction between Parties and non-Parties, there should be **fewer events, with higher profiles** (the high-level event at COP24 was successful in that regard) and, if possible, not overlapping with negotiation sessions. Secondly, it would be beneficial to ensure the attendance of relevant domestic decision makers who are often different individuals than the climate negotiators. This would allow for more dialogue. In addition, the EU welcome the Open Dialogue that took place at COP23 and the format of the Talanoa dialogue at COP24, both of them allowing dialogue between Parties and non-Parties at the COP.

- We welcome the revamp of **NAZCA** but regret that currently, it only allows identifying cooperative or individual civil society initiatives but does not provide a forum for discussion between non-state actors and with the Parties. The GCA team could make available the contact details of initiative leaders and links to dedicated web pages on NAZCA. It is essential to develop the monitoring and reporting of the impacts of the actions announced and implemented. The champions could, for example, strongly encourage the focal points of the initiatives to increase the percentage of NAZCA sheets filled in, in terms of carbon impact (directly on the platform or via a link on a site / document of the structure) or impact in terms of meeting the adaptation objectives.
- In order to improve interactions between the numerous non-state actors, Parties and UNFCCC, we recommend making use of **sectoral and regional personalities representing the actors on the ground** - the Climate Action Leadership Network is the existing vehicle for this and could even include representatives from key GCA initiatives. Outreach towards big emitters and developing countries is particularly important.
- The **Yearbook** is a valuable tool and should be used by all Parties as a “dictionary” of the MPGCA. Its usefulness could be further improved in order to increase its diffusion and utilization. We recommend consulting Parties and all stakeholders well in advance of drafting the Yearbook. Moreover, the sectoral approach allows stakeholders to connect with their fields and needs to be kept within the Yearbook, maybe as an annex structured by sector. Following the same idea, contact information needs to be provided to allow networking and good best practice sharing.
- The **Summary for Policy Makers of the Technical Examination Process** is not very clear, nor visible. In order for it to be useful, it should be more targeted, and may be combined into one document with the Yearbook. The content of the SPM also reflects the need to increase the presence of highest-level experts at the TEMs, as well as to ensure that TEMs address very focused topics, with solution-oriented and inspiring invited speakers.
- The EU is currently reflecting on the future of the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action and will discuss with other Parties and non-State actors during the first semester of the year. We would welcome the opportunity to engage with the UNFCCC, the high-level Champions and other Parties on the **post-2020** at the appropriate time.

Turning to the **indicative work program for 2019**, we would like to take the opportunity of this letter to highlight some areas for improvement and seek further clarification on some of the details:

1. The work program should be **more concrete** and define key activities that the Champions and the GCA team will lead or participate in for each of the milestones, ensuring a balance between COPs and other NSA activities outside the UNFCCC
2. More specifically, in the context of the "operational approach" of the indicative work plan, a more precise definition of the planned activities and references to the specific COP decisions that motivate this work would be useful. In addition, to allow for a genuine consideration of the approach we would welcome **information on the anticipated budgets and the sources of financing**.

3. When relevant, the presence of the **UN Secretary-General, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, the high-level Champions, or the Secretariat team** in the numerous high level meetings will be useful in order to highlight the synergies between their different activities. In order to maximise the impacts of the planned outreach and advocacy, special attention needs to be paid to (i) defining the distinct roles of different actors, (ii) making the most of the complementarities and synergies between the efforts of different teams, while avoiding duplication (e.g. between GCA and the UNSG Summit team), and (iii) focusing on the robustness and value-added of new initiatives and events, particularly those intended to attract high-level participation.
4. Much of the support to some of these non-UNFCCC events can also be provided by simply helping organizers in the preparation and conceptualization of events, identifying inspirational non-state actors and sharing good practices. We welcome 2019's perspective towards the **UNSG summit** and learn with appreciation about the possible link to the GCA. In our view, the GCA and the UNSG Summit team **need to work together** in order to feed in best practice and knowledge developed within the GCA. The work and actions undertaken under the Global Climate Action Agenda should feed in the UNSG summit by highlighting concrete actions in all sectors that will be discussed during the summit, which need to be scale-up in order to accelerate the global transition and shift of public and private finance flows toward a sustainable future.
5. We also noticed the focus of the GCA work on the regional climate weeks. While we see the benefit of the GCA involvement in these, the extent of involvement of the GCA team and the Champions should be clarified to Parties and **results and financing of these activities should be made transparent**. Parties should be more informed about these activities and reports would be welcomed. Within the EU, an upcoming relevant milestone will be the International Conference on Climate Action, which will be held in Heidelberg, Germany on May 22 and May 23 and focus on collaborative climate action between all levels of government.
6. While we think the link to constituted bodies is surely important, in our opinion, this work should not be the main focus of the GCA.
7. Please clarify in this context, the role to be played by **resources provided by non-state actors**, in particular the private and philanthropy sector, which we consider important in contributing to the development of the Global Climate Action agenda.
8. Climate action media and communication is important to expand the visibility of the GCA and there is still a room for improvement in this respect, including with regard to social media, but it doesn't need to be an additional work stream to expand. These are very much functioning we consider part of the work of the UNFCCC Secretariat as a whole. In addition, the NSA part of the GCA can be **better leveraged** for broader outreach and communication activities through their channels and media outlets. It would be good if you could clarify the specific purpose and value added of the proposed expansion of climate action media and communications.

Finally, the activities proposed in the operational plan should clearly outline the resources required for them. As in the past, the EU is in favour of focusing the role of the UNFCCC Secretariat to where it can really add value in creating the link between Parties and non-party stakeholders, while allowing

bottom-up organized mobilization to take place. Hence, as soon as the incoming Chilean Champion will be announced, we and other supporters of the Marrakesh Partnership would greatly benefit from a more detailed and targeted operational plan for further discussion and in view of endorsement by the Parties of the activities and the related budget.

*On behalf of the European Union and its Member States,*

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