



**Submission by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)  
To the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)  
In relation to the Feedback to the High-Level Champions on how to improve the work under the  
Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for enhancing ambition (Decision 1/CP.25)**

FAO welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the High-Level Champions on how to improve the work under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for enhancing ambition (decision 1/CP.25 para 28), based upon organization's experience working with the Partnership and its stakeholders. FAO is honored to have participated in the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action since its inception and has been contributing to the action groups on Land Use, Water, Oceans and Coastal Zones, and Resilience.

FAO believes the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can only be achieved through effective co-operation and co-ordination between Parties and non-Party stakeholders. In this regard, FAO foresees an important role of the High-Level Champions to mobilize climate ambition and action, especially by cities, regions, businesses and investors. This should inform governments and climate negotiators on how non-Party actors are working on the path towards the 1,5 °C goal and a climate-neutral and resilient world.

Agriculture and food systems are important contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, but they are also part of the solution to climate change. Therefore, FAO believes that the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action have a great opportunity to help raise ambition and climate action towards a successful implementation of the Paris Agreement. FAO remains a strong supporter of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and will continue to collaborate with parties and non-state actors.

In this submission, FAO is addressing a s number of questions to provide feedback on how to improve the work of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.

**1. 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?**

The success of the Marrakech Partnership and the High-Level Champions is embedded in **transparent and coherent vision, objectives, outputs and outcomes** in the Work Programme for a biennium. While vision and objectives are reflected in [2020-2021 Work Programme](#) assuring continuity of the priorities<sup>a</sup> defined in 2019, outputs, outcomes, activities, and work plan for the stakeholders of the Marrakech Partnership, the High-Level Champions, and the UNFCCC Secretariat are missing. Biannual Marrakech Partnership Coordination Meetings should be used to develop more concrete work programme using logical framework approach involving all key actors e.g. stakeholders of the Marrakech Partnership, facilitators of the action groups, the High-Level Champions, and the UNFCCC Secretariat. A clear work programme would bring multiple benefits including increased transparency among stakeholders and clarity of Marrakech Partnership's work to the potential partners and stakeholders.

<sup>a</sup> (1) strengthening collaboration among national government and non-Party stakeholders; (2) broadening participation; (3) creating enabling conditions for breakthroughs in ten tipping points for system transformation; (4) following up on and ensuring continuity and coherence; and (5) tracking progress, impacts, results and identifying best practices and lessons learned.

## **2. 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?**

An outstanding change and progress have been achieved since 2019 to transform the Marrakech Partnership, to increase the ambition and to upscale climate action across all sectors. The High-Level Champions play a key role to assure the continuity of the initiated change towards more ambitious climate action across all sectors. At the same time, there still is a need for stronger and more visible advocacy and broader and more diverse participation, especially from Global South's non-state actors.

In this context, South-South<sup>b</sup> and Triangular Cooperation<sup>c</sup> (SSTC) of FAO can offer a catalytic delivery mechanism that can complement and add a multiplier effect to the North-South Cooperation adaptation and mitigation initiatives. Specifically, SSTC can help Marrakech Partnership's objectives of strengthening interaction between Parties and non-party stakeholders and on broadening participation by non-Party stakeholders by:

- Highlighting opportunities for strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities as well as scalable solutions from developing countries identified by Technical Examination Processes on Adaptation and Mitigation and disseminating them in an effective and timely manner to Southern solutions seekers (match making) thereby supporting scale-up and/or co-creation of proven solutions according to country needs;
- Facilitating sharing of countries' experiences on low emission and climate resilient pathways;
- Mobilizing Southern expertise through leveraging on existing networks, Communities of Practitioners, Centres of Excellence and Universities in the countries; and
- Promoting inter and intra-regional dialogue, cooperation and financing of environmental, economic and social systems' strengthening.

In addition, the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership should consider the use of innovative communication channels and tools such as e-learning to disseminate its work and reach a wider range of non-party stakeholders so as to increase recognition, influence and participation. An example of such tools is the series of climate change courses accessible to all users around the world free of charge on the [FAO elearning academy](#).

## **3. 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?*

**The communication to Parties on the activities under the Marrakech Partnership should be more targeted to specific audience.** Discussion under the Marrakech Partnership of Global Climate Action, within and outside United Nations Climate Change Conference, are separated from the ones taking place between Parties during the climate negotiations and various technical workshops. These, for example, include discussions of the *Article 6 under the Paris Agreement*, [Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture \(KJWA\)](#), [Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change](#), [Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change Impacts \(WIM\)](#), as well as [Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan \(LWPG and GAP\)](#). The existing tools used by the Marrakech Partnership to report climate action, including Thematic Climate Action Pathways, Yearbook for Global Climate Action, Nazca Platform, thematic action events at the Regional Climate Weeks and United Nations Climate Change Conferences should be used to inform Parties and delegates following the discussions and work listed above.

<sup>b</sup> **South-South Cooperation (SSC)** is the "mutual sharing and exchange of key development solutions – knowledge experiences, good practices, policies, technologies and resources – between and among the countries in the global South.

<sup>c</sup> **Triangular Cooperation (TrC)** "involves two or more countries of the global South in collaboration with a third party, typically a multilateral institution, traditional resource partner or emerging economy, facilitating SSC through provision of technical or financial resources".

**Establish a necessary space, means of communication and interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, during United Nations Climate Change Conferences.** A timeslot could be negotiated with UNFCCC for the presentation of the outcomes of each of the thematic events, in order to guarantee that more targeted Party stakeholders are informed on the priorities and actions taken by non-Party stakeholders including public-private and community perspectives.

Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic revealed the importance and effectiveness of digital communication in convening large audiences from around the world. The High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership need to capitalise on this opportunity to enhance communication and collaboration.

- 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?*

**Involving other workstreams under the UNFCCC in the Marrakech Partnership activities** to inform and support their work. The comparative advantages of the Marrakech Partnership are its stakeholder network, wealth of knowledge and examples of climate action of state and non-state actors across all sectors in all levels. In this respect, the Marrakech Partnership can contribute to the work of the Constituted Bodies and thematic areas under the UNFCCC. The dialogue for further exchanges of the work delivered by the Marrakech Partnership, Constituted Bodies, and other thematic areas under the UNFCCC could be created during the biannual Strategic Coordination Meetings of the Marrakech partnership. A good example of such involvement and collaboration is Action for Climate Empowerment engagement in Marrakech Partnership.

- 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?*

The High-Level Champions should serve as the *ambassadors* of the Marrakech Partnership of the Global Climate Action and of the non-Party stakeholders. In line with the agreed process of the Global Stocktake, the High-Level Champions could follow the proposed actions:

- Encourage non-Party stakeholders and observer organizations to provide inputs to the first phase of the Global Stocktake – Information Collection and Preparation;
- Communicate and promote key messages of the synthesis reports on adaptation, mitigation, finance and status on Nationally Determined Contributions, while assuring that climate action of non-Party stakeholders is well represented;
- Endorse the key messages of the technical assessment reports produced at the second phase of the Global Stocktake; and
- Advocate for ambitious political key messages to be integrated in the outputs of the Global Stocktake.

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

**Transparent enrolment process for new stakeholders.** In order to attract more diverse Party and non-Party stakeholders, the High-Level Climate Champions and the UNFCCC Secretariat should establish a clear mechanism and principles on how one can become a member of the Marrakech Partnership. Such information should be made available in the UNFCCC web portal dedicated to the Marrakech Partnership as well as communicated to the current stakeholders. Furthermore, outlining a narrative of the value-added to becoming a member would be important to attract more stakeholders, especially from the Global South who are currently underrepresented.

**Ensuring that all sectors are well represented and ambitious under the Climate Action Pathways.** Whilst food and agriculture are included in the Land Use thematic area of the Marrakech Partnership, the importance of the sector could be more specifically highlighted. With about a quarter of all emissions originating from the AFOLU sector, the importance of reducing emissions in this sector should be highlighted. Livestock, in particular, generate nearly 15% of all emissions, with cattle contributing nearly two thirds of this. Over half of the emissions from ruminant livestock are in the form of methane. Action to reduce methane emissions from livestock food systems should therefore be a priority because reductions could have

a relatively fast impact on global warming. A number of more ambitious climate actions for livestock<sup>d</sup> sector should be integrated in the Climate Action Pathways and treated with more urgent priority. Furthermore, the High-Level Champions should accelerate action and ambition of non-Party stakeholders by encouraging accountability and low-carbon targets among the large food-producing firms.

Moreover, attention should be given to the ocean due to its importance in heat absorption, climate regulation and mitigation potential. Considering that ten percent of the world population live in coastal areas and is exposed to sea level rise and extreme events that have implications for livelihoods, food security, ecosystem and human health, enhancing ambition of climate action entails the development and implementation of an adequate programme of work on adaptation in coastal areas, building on the findings of the UNFCCC thematic group of experts on oceans. Adequate monitoring could be based on milestones and indicators that could reflect action on the ground and help raise awareness amongst climate negotiators.

**Emphasizing the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships** to bring together Party and non-Party actors other than Marrakech Partnership, for strengthening ambitious climate action within and across all sectors. An example in the livestock sector is the [Global Agenda for Sustainable Agriculture](#).

**Regional climate weeks** should be used not only as platform for more focused region-specific climate change discussions, but also to popularize the Marrakech Partnership and to enrol more stakeholders, by the UNFCCC Secretariat.

**Expanding the Yearbook of Global Climate Action** to better communicate the outcomes of Technical Examination Process on Adaptation and Mitigation (mandated until 2020), regional climate weeks, as well as to link and report activities by Party and non-Party stakeholders. For example, by including chapters dedicated to various ongoing work programmes (KJWA, WIM, LWPG and GAP, Nairobi Work Programme and others), as well as achievements of various Constituted Bodies under UNFCCC.

**Continuous boosting of NAZCA portal** to capture climate action in all regions and countries. While the NAZCA platform captures over 26 000 climate actions globally, Party and non-Party stakeholders need to be continuously reminded to include their actions during regional climate weeks and Climate Change Conferences. The Yearbook of Global Climate Action could be used to present the progress of NAZCA platform while promoting it.

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<sup>d</sup> FAO. 2019. Five practical actions towards low-carbon livestock. Rome. Available online: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca7089en/ca7089en.pdf>