

Submission by the Republic of Gabon on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) to the Process for Gathering Feedback on how to Improve the Marrakesh Partnership for enhancing Ambition

1. This submission is made by the African Group to the process launched by the Marrakesh Partnership High-Level Champions to gather feedback on how to improve the partnership for enhancing climate ambition.
2. This submission is based on the four guiding questions posed by the High-Level Champions in their letter to Parties and non-Party stakeholders of the UNFCCC on 27th March 2020.
3. The Africa Group would take this opportunity to express its appreciation to the High-Level Champions for their continued work towards enhancing climate action, and to ensure its continued support to their mandate and objectives.
4. For Africa, the High-Level Champions (HLCs) and the Marrakech Partnership should be defining its success in the next five years and beyond. The success should be defined in terms of how far will it be able to achieve its objective, ultimately enhancing climate action and ambition at all levels: public and private, local, national, regional and global, as well as in terms of mitigation and enhancement of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs), adaptation and building resilience, and driving an increase in support in all its forms, especially to all African Countries.
5. The African Group believes that Africa possess a robust and effective civil society that has the potential to make real impact on the ground in the fight against climate change, if provided with the necessary means and tools. Civil society and non-party stakeholders need to be part of the effort used towards implementing African NDCs under the Paris Agreement. This can only be achieved if this African civil society is empowered and enabled to play this important role.
6. Through enhancing their engagement with non-party stakeholders in Africa, the HLCs and the Marrakesh Partnership can add value and complement existing efforts to drive ambition and transformation in the continent towards participating in the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals on adaptation, mitigation & finance. Thus, a careful examination of the current status of African non-party stakeholders should be undertaken, in close collaboration and consultation with their representatives, in order to assess the current gaps and shortcomings, and the needs to bridge these gaps. Through its vast network and existing tools, the Marrakesh Partnership can contribute to mobilizing support for the African civil society to address these gaps.

7. The HLCs and the Marrakesh Partnership can also contribute to enhancing collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders in Africa through its existing tools, such as the regional climate weeks that bring together Parties and non-Party stakeholders, the TEP process, meetings of the constituted bodies, and supporting African civil society to participate and effectively voice and showcase their actions during the COPs, among others.
8. One particular area which the African Group believes has strong potential for success, and on which the Partnership is already engaged, is the follow-up to the UN Climate Action Summit held in September 2019. In the Summit, a number of ambitious and important initiatives were launched. Governments pledged political commitments, many of which target actors are beyond the conventional state. This push towards enhancing climate action driven by the Secretary-General has good potential for enhancing and complementing actions by states. The Marrakesh Partnership could play an important part in mobilizing support for this effort and bringing more potential non-party actors to get involved. This could be one way of helping Parties benefit from the Global Climate Action.
9. The UNFCCC process can also further benefit from the Partnership and the Global Climate Action, through enriching discussions and consultations undertaken by Parties, in line with the UNFCCC principles, commitments, rules of procedure and established practice, all while emphasizing the country-driven nature of the process.
10. On the global stock-take (GST) of the Paris Agreement, the African Group believes the HLCs and the Marrakesh Partnership could contribute to extensive consultations between African national focal points, civil society representatives and with the UNFCCC secretariat on the process of the GST. The Africa Group remains open for any further consultations on this matter. This particular aspect could be the focus of the Partnership's work in 2020-2021, leading to a set of actionable proposals that would make the global stock-take more inclusive and participatory, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, and subject to consultations with and decisions of Parties, given the fact that the stock-take of the Paris Agreement is also a country-driven process under the UNFCCC.