



## **High-Level Champions’ request for feedback from Parties and non-Party stakeholders on the work going forward**

*July 2024*

Launched in 2016, the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MP-GCA) identifies “Ocean & Coastal Zones” as one of its priority themes, along six others (Energy, Human settlements, Industry, Land Use, Transport and Water). The MP-GCA on Ocean & Coastal Zones community brings together more than a hundred organisations – including NGOs, business and industry, Indigenous populations, research and academic institutes, international organisations – to raise ambition and accelerate the implementation of ocean-based climate solutions.

In 2021, Loreley Picourt, Executive Director of the Ocean & Climate Platform was nominated to become focal point for the MP-GCA on “Ocean & Coastal Zones”. Since then, the ocean community has undertaken major collaborative efforts to advance the ocean agenda under the UNFCCC. At COP26 in Glasgow, the MP-GCA on Ocean & Coastal Zones published [the Ocean for Climate Declaration](#), signed by 120 organisations from the ocean community (NGOs, private sector entities, research institutes, etc.), laying out ocean-based climate actions to be accelerated by both Parties and NSA. The following year, the ‘[Blue Ambition Loop: Achieving Ambitious 2030 Ocean-Climate Action](#)’ report was released at COP27 in Egypt, consisting in a mapping exercise to track, aggregate and visualise progress made by non-state actors towards ocean-based climate actions. Finally, last year, the MP-GCA on Ocean & Coastal Zones launched [the Ocean Breakthroughs](#) ahead of COP28: a set of turning points to reach by 2030 in five key sectors (i.e. marine conservation, aquatic foods, shipping, ocean renewable energy and coastal tourism) to deliver for Climate, Nature and People. The support and commitment from both the High-Level Climate Champions (HLCs) and the Marrakech Partnership have been instrumental in powering each of these efforts.

Building on these experiences and lessons learned over the past years, the Ocean & Climate Platform welcomes the opportunity offered by the HLCs to share its reflections on ways forward for the HLC and the Marrakech Partnership.

### **1. How can the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership add the most value and complement existing efforts to accelerate climate action and drive implementation?**

- **Developing a more accessible and clearer narrative, and better communicating on results**

The OCP acknowledges efforts made to develop a more accessible narrative, which should be carried on to mobilise stakeholders who are less familiar with the UNFCCC framework, the HLC and the Marrakech Partnership. This requires explaining in more concrete ways to NPS how they fit into global efforts, how their efforts can be valued, and ways they can benefit from the Marrakech Partnership (i.e. capacity-building, knowledge sharing, concrete opportunities for engagement or to develop new partnerships, etc). Therefore, one area of focus in the coming months could be on **storytelling and outreach strategy** (e.g. developing video capsules to explain the work of the MP-GCA and/or specific projects).

Furthermore, the HLCs have increasingly gained in visibility and credibility over the years, as the Marrakech Partnership has become more structured with a growing number of opportunities for NPS to engage, which could benefit from being more visible. Initiatives such as the Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda and the 2030 Climate Solutions report mobilise a high and diverse number of stakeholders who dedicate time to provide inputs. However, **how the outcomes of these initiatives are valued could be improved**, giving them more visibility and recognition. Launching these reports at COPs events are essential and often time-sensitive (e.g. launch of the 2030 Climate Solutions at COP28 as a contribution to the Global Stocktake) but it shouldn't be limited to it, especially as the costs of COPs are increasing, preventing some organisations from attending. **Building a strong narrative that links the HLCs and the Marrakech Partnership could also be achieved by strengthening the role of HLCs as ambassadors of specific initiatives launched by the Marrakech Partnership.** For instance, the support of H.E. Razan Al Mubarak for the Ocean Breakthroughs has spurred great attention for the initiative. It gave it credibility to gain traction from Parties, including the UAE COP Presidency, and NPS.

- **Establishing robust mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on progress made by non-state actors, ensuring transparency and accountability**

**Being able to track progress on the speed and scale to which we are delivering on the goals of the Paris Agreement is essential to further mobilise and drive implementation**, especially as it can help identify thematic and areas where to focus our efforts. Indeed, it contributes to improving accountability and helps inspire others to take similar actions. The Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda and its implementation reports, as well as the 2030 Climate Solutions report are great examples of how these efforts are already undergoing. However, while the “report” format remains an effective way to present findings, **the establishment of digital frameworks to track progress and showcase successful climate actions could bring together these efforts.** These efforts could build on the GCA Portal which already encompasses thousands of commitments. The OCP encourages the Marrakech Partnership to consider improving it by **drawing inspiration from other tracking systems which are more user-friendly, providing data in more synthetic, engaging and accessible ways** (e.g. Systems Change Lab) that could meet Parties' needs. This also calls to reflect on ways to improve transparency regarding how progress on the registered voluntary commitments is verified. These considerations were raised by members of the MP-GCA on Ocean & Coastal Zones when discussing the development of a mechanism to measure progress in the five sectors of the Ocean Breakthroughs. The objective is to launch this tool for COP30 in Bélem, Brazil. These efforts are led by the OCP - in partnership with the World Resources Institute and Systems Change Lab - who will gladly share their feedback with the HLC and the Marrakech Partnership.

Additionally, while the HLCs and team may be very mobilised to support the launch of specific initiatives (especially to satisfy the need for new announcements at COPs), their involvement tends to decrease overtime. A number of initiatives launched by NSA to feed into specific HLC campaigns (e.g., R2Z / R2R / 2030 Breakthroughs) would benefit from **greater support and follow up from the HLC team overtime.** There is an overall tendency to focus on new announcements/commitments chasing the “wow” effect, which can contribute to a greater cacophony and a lack of reporting on existing initiatives and their progress.

## **2. How can the High-Level Champions enhance collaboration between Parties and NPS to advance the outcomes of the first GST?**

- **Pursue efforts on inclusivity and regionalisation**

The outcomes of the first Global Stocktake urges “*Parties and non-Party stakeholders to join efforts to accelerate delivery through inclusive, multilevel, gender-responsive and cooperative action*”, supporting the idea that the integration of all stakeholders (local, national, regional and global) is required to successfully deliver on the goals of the Paris Agreement. **It will thus be important for the HLCs to improve mobilisation at the regional level of both Parties and NPS, including from the Global South**, as implementing the outcomes of the GST will look different from one region to another. Stakeholders such as cities, grass-roots organisations, regional development banks, are critical actors to embark on this journey, as they will be the ones implementing and financing the solutions. Instruments such as the Regional Climate Weeks are essential to keep momentum across the year and achieve this goal. **Stakeholders from the Marrakech Partnership could also benefit from the identification of regional focal points**, to improve inclusivity and representation. This would address the lack of representation of the Marrakech Partnership’s thematic when the Focal Points do not have the human or financial resources to participate in the Regional Climate Weeks, and empower other members by sharing leadership. Building on the leadership of COP28 and H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, it is part of the HLC’s responsibility to **facilitate access to COPs for NSA**, especially IPLCs and vulnerable groups. The Climate Champions could, for instance, mobilise partners and donors to invest in a **participatory fund** every year.

- **Facilitate the connection between NPS and Parties for the revision of national strategies**

For the past years, the HLCs have effectively proven their role as a bridge between NPS and Parties. It should be now considered to **strengthen their roles as facilitators**. It has been demonstrated that NPS are well-equipped to assist countries in enhancing their national strategies for mitigation and adaptation through technical support, providing them with indispensable tools, knowledge and resources. The creation of Implementation Lab events at COPs, initiated by the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions as a means to broaden and deepen regional engagement and provide a bridge with national governments, was a positive signal in this direction. **Similar spaces/opportunities convened by HLCs, where Parties and NPS can interact and identify alignment between their actions on specific thematic could be developed all-year round** or be aligned on the next **NDC revision cycles**. Additionally, the outcomes of the GST state on multiple occasions that Parties and NPS should align their efforts with other global frameworks. It would thus be of high interest to **build strong connections between the HLC and their counterparts at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the CBD Action Agenda Champions for Nature and People**. The HLCs experience developed over the last 8 years must inform their mandates on how to best mobilise civil society and create connections with Parties to support the successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

- **Build trust in order to mobilise finance**

**Advancing the outcomes of the first GST will require increased investments towards climate action. The HLC have a key role to play in building trust to achieve this goal** by highlighting success stories, as well as encouraging and facilitating more public-private partnerships that leverage the strengths of both Parties and NPS. These efforts will resonate with the priorities of the Azerbaijan COP Presidency, as COP29 is expected to identify a new collective quantified goal on climate finance (NCQG).

### **3. How can the Marrakech Partnership be enhanced to support Parties in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, including through new and existing tools?**

- **Terms of Reference need to be developed**, as requested by many partners for years. Indeed, facilitating the involvement of organisations and a greater diversity of stakeholders, requires clear guidelines on what it entails to be part of the Marrakech Partnership. Similarly, it would be incredibly useful to clarify the **mandate of the focal points**. The potential for the MPGCA remains underrated and undervalued by organisations who do not grasp its full potential, and thus tend not to appoint focal points who have leadership positions in their institutions. This is a fundamental first step which could then be complemented by an **updated GCA Roadmap**, building on the revised plan adopted in Glasgow which laid out a number of excellent ways forward but, unfortunately, was not fully implemented.
- The Marrakech Partnership needs to **improve its timeline**. The turnaround time allowed to provide feedback or develop collaborative documents (e.g. annual concept notes for action events at COP) tends to be insufficient. The Secretariat needs to keep in mind, and respect, that most MP-GCA partners take part in these activities on a voluntary basis on top of their existing workload.
- **The MPGCA and HLC could improve their collaborations when it comes to planning for COPs**, and thus show a united front when working with the different COP Presidencies. For instance, the planning for Nature-Ocean Day at COP28 was chaotic and uncoordinated among the protagonists in charge of scheduling official and high-level events. While we should have celebrated Nature being front and centre for the first time at a climate COP, the thematic day ended up overcrowded and many events were in competition. It made it incredibly tedious for the MPGCA focal points and partners to navigate and ensure the success of their respective events.