

**Submission by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
to the High-Level Champions of the COP 28 Presidency and the incoming
COP 29 Presidency to Parties and non-Party stakeholders**

**In response to the call for feedback to the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech
Partnership on how to accelerate climate action and drive implementation**

28 JULY 2024

Question 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?

The Marrakech Partnership (MP) led by the High-Level Champions is an increasingly important and effective institution supporting the engagement of non-state actors in achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

The following next steps could make the MP even more effective:

1. Increase the focus on fostering exchange of information and cooperation among stakeholders responsible for different MP thematic priorities to overcome the siloed approach and create synergies and cross-fertilization of ideas and knowledge creation. This could be done through regular bilateral and multilateral online and in person meetings to exchange experiences and align activities. For instance, UNEP led Global Alliance on Buildings and Construction which is co-chairing the Human Settlements workstream with ICLEI, already requested the High-level Champions team to organize a bilateral consultation with coordinators of the Partnership Finance workstream to align its work and promote synergies.
2. Support as a priority those activities which promote practical implementation of the existing COPs initiatives. For instance, the Global Cooling Pledge and the Building Breakthrough were launched at the COP-28 in Dubai; these initiatives focus on implementation and achieving objectives of the Paris Agreement. However, the challenge is that each COP presidency would wish to prioritize new commitments over ones adopted earlier. As part of the support to implementation, (i) ensuring broader basis for commitments adopted by previous COPs initiatives (such as the Global Cooling Pledge) to engage more cities, entrepreneurs, architects and developers to sign up; (ii) transitioning from commitment to implementation; would go a long way.

3. Prioritize actions that strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities and ecosystems. Ensure that adaptation measures are integrated into all aspects of climate action to address the immediate impacts of climate change. In this regard, synergies with the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation could be strengthened.
4. Promote work on addressing extreme heat, especially in view of the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action on Extreme Heat. Special attention needs to be paid to activities on cooling, passive cooling and nature-based solutions as these generate a dual dividend for mitigation and adaptation. It is also proposed to leverage the Sharm-El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda by developing MP guidelines and support framework for NDCs to include cooling and nature to address rising heat and energy system resilience.

Question 2. How can the High-Level Champions enhance collaboration between Parties and NPS to advance the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake?

The Global Stocktake undertaken at COP 28 concluded that current NDCs fall short of the needed reductions, even if fully implemented; and the importance of the next round of NDCs cannot be overstated.

Facilitating dialogue between Parties and Non-Parties Stakeholders is crucial to develop and especially implement the NDCs. It is important to convene high-level roundtable discussions focused on achieving the Paris Agreement objectives and the NDCs for specific sectors (e.g., energy, transportation, agriculture) to foster sector-specific collaboration and innovation between the Parties and non-Party stakeholders. Ambition and implementation of NDCs can be further enhanced by developing simple and straightforward accounting mechanisms that enable the recognition of multi-layered governance structures for the implementation of ambition. The HLC has a special role in advocating for and enhancing the recognition of the contribution of NPSs. Furthermore, following the roundtables, it would be important to conduct mapping of expertise of non-Party stakeholders and support matchmaking between the national governments and NPSs to provide support to national governments in the provision of information, tools or capacity building. The full drive should be towards enhancing implementation and means of implementation.

Question 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?

It is crucial to strengthen the alignment of the Partnership activities with other climate related global processes, such as work on NDCs 3.0, loss and damage and transparency to amplify impact of stakeholder led activities. Also, stronger engagement with the Partnership institutions through participation of High-level Champions in the NPSs events, preparation of publications, would elevate the role of the Marrakesh Partnership.



UNEP and GlobalABC are committed to supporting the Marrakech Partnership led by the High-Level Champions and on request will be prepared to elaborate in more detail the above proposals and organize consultation meetings.

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