

Global Climate Action Team
UNFCCC Secretariat
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 1
53113 Bonn, Germany

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Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for inviting feedback on the Global Climate Action platform, the achievements of the HLCs and NPS over the last decade, and the future of this work.

The [Network of Networks \(NoN\)](#) is a new coalition of higher education networks and member institutions dedicated to harnessing the unique assets of the global higher education community to advance climate action. Led by network leaders and representatives, this growing group meets regularly to coordinate, collaborate and expand opportunities for meaningful action and impact locally and globally. Since COP26, the NoN has enjoyed the encouragement and endorsement of COP Presidencies and High-Level Champions. The current reach of the coalition is estimated at approximately 2700 institutions around the world.

Our responses are detailed according to each of the three questions posed below and incorporate brief examples of climate action activities and initiatives across the higher education and network community.

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?*

By continuing to support and strengthen the role of non-party stakeholders (NPS) in facilitating, accelerating and delivering climate action including through:

a. Undertakings that harness the keen and [growing interest of NPS](#) in contributing actively to [UNFCCC priorities](#) and processes and advancing climate action goals, through continued [refinement of HLC and MP structures and mechanisms](#) to serve this purpose, and by making the process and opportunities for NPS engagement clearer and more explicit.

b. Further emphasis and empowerment of the [horizontal actions and enabling conditions](#) necessary for meaningful climate action. This includes the guidance, knowledge and brokering needed to support credible policy development and solutions implementation needs, such as in the recent addition of the [Race to Zero 5th "P"](#) or the [R2Z campaign support of higher education networks EAUC and Second Nature](#).

c. Ongoing, explicit, and enhanced engagement of the higher education sector as actors in the MP and HLC action agendas, as seen in the recent addition of a [Higher Education Lead as part of the Climate Champions Team](#), active participation in strategic sectoral [roundtables during COPs](#), [leadership amplification in media](#) and partnerships with sector coalitions like the NoN.

d. Recognising existing higher education expertise, innovation, capacity and solutions leadership across many areas of the action agenda (e.g. energy, agriculture, finance, human settlements and more) and further connecting these to action needs in NPS and Parties, such as the new solutions implementation challenges research collaborative in the [MENA region](#).

e. Counting the higher education sector as allies in the continued effort to prioritize inclusivity, diversity and justice in climate action, including through support for [Global South participants](#) at COP and SBs, in regional gatherings such as (the return of) Climate Weeks and [other relevant bodies](#) and convenings.

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

By continuing to identify opportunities where NPS climate action creates the conditions for enhanced NDC ambition and implementation, while facilitating collaborations that will ensure parties have the capacity to achieve the deep and rapid system change needed to limit global warming to 1.5c, including through:

a. Greater focus on knowledge transfer and [policy co-creation](#) to help identify and address [policy and implementation obstacles](#), and bring to bear expertise from NPS. Using the status and profile of the Climate Champions to initiate national and regional policy dialogues and support further cross party/NPS partnerships such as the [Breakthrough Agenda](#).

b. Mobilizing [academic actors working in policy facing research](#), government secondments, or technical committees. Ensure strategic involvement in Marrakech Partnership working groups to help bridge the gap between the NPS agenda and NDC development and implementation.

c. Supporting the scale-up of [government/academic policy fellowships](#), exchanges and implementation advisory support in priority areas for systems transformation - whether through new flows of funding, as academics embedded in government or policy makers embedded in universities or otherwise.

d. Promoting initiatives that facilitate [climate focused action-oriented research, practice, and knowledge brokering](#), bringing together policy makers, academics, civil society and other real economy actors, in a process of co-creation designed to address real world and immediate climate issues.

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?*

By working with Parties and NPS to create a strong collaborative infrastructure that facilitates credible, evidence-based, actionable and equitable climate policies, progress and delivery partnerships, including through:

a. Further extension and evolution of the Marrakech Partnership “ambition loop” to address barriers and support the development of the enabling conditions and implementation capacities that follow from climate policies and pledges, such as those involved in expert insight into climate finance, partnerships to support local resilience and in the Actions and Enablers of the 2030 Climate Solutions Implementation Roadmap.

b. Brokering, mobilizing and supporting relevant knowledge, expertise and innovations in support of climate solutions and evolving policy needs, such as those relating to technology deployment, mitigation options and natural systems.

c. Fostering closer cross-sector connections across geographies, and in solution and policy co-creation areas of need, as seen elsewhere in support of global policy leadership and cooperation, delivering just transitions and regional climate action.

d. Connecting to and mobilizing the extensive ‘living lab’ experience in the higher education community around implementation including particularly in exploring, advancing and accelerating urban and city transformation targets.

e. Facilitating more active support and resources targeting higher education efforts in building public awareness, policymaker capacity, educating new and emerging climate leaders and ensuring cross-regional exchange and development opportunities.

In closing and on behalf of our community of higher education sector and network representatives we would like to thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback into the priorities of the HLC and MP and to contribute to strengthening this work more broadly. Should you wish to follow-up on any of the items in this document, please feel free to contact us.

With appreciation,

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