

Response from the United Arab Emirates to the call for inputs on the work of the Marrakesh Partnership and the High-Level Champions (Reference C&E/MTP/O/HLC/2024 WP)

30 July 2024

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) congratulates the High-Level Champions (HLCs) on the launch of their 2024 work program and welcomes the opportunity to reflect on how the work of the Champions and the Marrakesh Partnership can continue to support the implementation of the UAE Consensus and advance ambitious climate action through the engagement of Party and Non-Party Stakeholders

As the Presidency of COP28, the UAE saw firsthand the critical role the HLCs play in amplifying and enhancing the credibility of the outcomes of the UNFCCC process, particularly in advancing implementation and integrating a broader stakeholder community and agents of the “real economy” into climate action.

Since their inception at COP21 and the establishment of the Marrakesh Partnership at COP22, the HLCs have consistently expanded the resource pool for climate action and enabled a more inclusive and holistic approach to implementation of the Paris Agreement, strengthening its social, environmental, and economic benefits, as well as support for it across sectors. They have also provided a consistent and well-organized structure for Non-Party Stakeholders to engage in the COP process. The Race to Zero and Race to Resilience notably remain among the most effective and credible accountability tools for Non-Party Stakeholder climate action to date.

As the urgency of science-driven and equity-based climate action becomes more critical if we are to keep 1.5 degrees and global resilience within reach, the outcomes of COP28 effectively emphasized the need for a whole-of-society approach across all systems and sectors. Continuing and strengthening the work of the High-Level Champions and the Global Climate Action Agenda is therefore of ever-greater strategic importance in order to continue the collaboration between Party and Non-Party Stakeholders to deliver implementation.

COP28 saw a highly fruitful collaboration with the work of the HLCs, with unprecedented and diverse participation from Non-Party Stakeholders, an integrated two-week thematic program, over \$70 billion of climate finance announcements, and the strengthening of existing initiatives, in addition to the launch of new efforts. HLC tools like the Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda and Breakthrough targets directly informed the framing of the COP28 Presidency program; in this spirit, the HLC and Marrakesh Partnership framework must continue their work over the coming years and up until 2030 as a tool for advancing the implementation of the UAE Consensus.

Accordingly, the UAE would see particular value-add in 2024 and 2025 from HLC mobilization around the implementation of the outcome of the first Global Stocktake. The commitments to triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency by 2030, as well as to end deforestation by 2030, are examples of important areas of collaboration between Party and Non-Party Stakeholders to ensure opportunities and challenges for enhanced climate ambition are comprehensively addressed.

The HLCs are also well-placed to assess and develop the potential for Non-Party Stakeholder mobilization around new thematic focuses and reinforced priorities that emerged at COP28, such as cooling, sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems, industrial decarbonization, human health, water scarcity, and access to finance in highly vulnerable and fragile countries and communities.

In this year of the “Triple COPs,” and in line with paragraph 33 of the outcome of the first Global Stocktake, the HLCs are also uniquely positioned to deliver efforts that further connect climate ambition to global nature and land use goals, thus also contributing to combat biodiversity loss and land use degradation.

The HLCs have additionally made substantive progress in mobilizing Non-Party Stakeholders from developing countries, including through regional chapters (like of the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net-Zero) and targeted capacity-building. We welcome a continued focus on regionalization.

The HLCs furthermore can continue to encourage implementation of the UAE Consensus that is responsive to gender, age, ability, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, among other critical lenses for climate action. A sustained HLC focus on these dimensions will help to expand the number of climate actors that are able to maximize their contribution to 1.5 and resilience.

Continuity among the work of different HLCs has proved critical for impact too. We encourage future HLCs to maintain the practice of developing a 5-year plan to provide clarity to Parties and Marrakesh Partnership members.

We also note that COP29 can serve as a unique opportunity to consider the mandate renewal of the HLCs and the Marrakesh Partnership, providing early, long-term stability and continuity as the value of collaborative action with Non-Party Stakeholders increases, to ensure we keep 1.5 degrees and global resilience within reach.

The UAE looks forward to continued collaboration with the HLCs and Marrakech Partnership and to supporting their mandate renewal.