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To: UNFCCC secretariat

From: Africa NDC Hub

Subject: Feedback to the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership on how to accelerate climate action and drive implementation

As the devastating impact of climate change is being felt more and more acutely around the world, the urgency of the climate crisis is elevating the importance of the role that the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership (HLC & MP) must play in driving climate action that is inclusive, pragmatic, innovative and effective. The Africa NDC Hub commends the efforts and achievements of the HLC & MP so far and is pleased to take the opportunity of this submission to share our perspective on what we believe the HLC & MP should prioritize ahead of COP29 in Azerbaijan.

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 HLC & MP should drive the acceleration of climate finance as a key enabler for climate action, especially towards adaptation solutions for the Global South, through both advocacy and pragmatism:

- Push for a faster operationalization of the Loss and Damage fund, given the urgent need to have it deployed in the most vulnerable countries, which typically struggle to access climate finance
- Catalyze co-benefit solutions, such as large green energy projects in the Global South (to simultaneously address climate mitigation and economic development challenges), and circular economy solutions (to address both adaptation and mitigation issues while creating value and jobs locally, especially in developing countries)
- Bring more attention to and facilitate the replication of success stories and effective win-win mechanisms that can draw large amounts of investment from the private sector to address climate change challenges, especially on the adaptation front (e.g. regenerative agriculture at a large scale)

The HLC & MP should support broader acknowledgement of and action to address the unintended consequences of some climate efforts on developing countries and communities' environmental and socio-economic wellbeing, including:

- The accelerating pace of the green transition worldwide is likely to exacerbate the environmental pollution, resource exploitation and economic deprivation of local communities induced by the rush for critical minerals in developing countries
- Carbon market mechanisms include a number of contradicting incentives with perverse effects, including the fact that countries with the most carbon sequestering forest and coastal ecosystems



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are not compensated for their mitigation contribution and are better off economically if they exploit those resources before building them back up to take advantage of carbon market incentives

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

The HLC & MP should push for a wider awareness of the outcomes of the Global Stocktake (i.e. the current significant gap to achieve the Paris agreement) by a wider range of stakeholders to elicit broader and urgent action.

The HLC & MP can facilitate the greater involvement of the private sector, as climate solutions can scale up only if enterprises can design and run economically attractive business models that will lead to their broad adoption:

- Focus on commercially viable, private sector project models when translating NDCs into investment projects and apply an inclusion lens to ensure climate investments have wide, positive effects
- Scale climate finance by expanding the use of innovative financing tools, including the use of more de-risking tools to scale private sector investment
- Promote market-based approaches to improving community ownership and long-term adaptation impact of nature-based solutions (NbS)

The HLC and MP should also foster a just transition by strengthening the involvement of women, youth and indigenous communities in COP negotiations and the design of climate solutions, as they are the most vulnerable groups, although they often hold invaluable knowledge that is mostly untapped.

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?

The HLC & MP must guide the development of the next round of NDCs to drive inclusive climate change strategy, planning, and monitoring:

- Prioritize the development of low carbon and climate resilient development strategy and planning
- Increase transparency by accelerating the implementation of both adaptation and mitigation Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems and by supporting countries in setting up climate data collection systems, methodologies to define indicators, and coordination mechanisms for implementation
- Address multiple intersecting forms of discrimination and structural drivers of gender inequality

The HLC & MP must foster the expansion of innovative, adapted, and sustainable climate finance:



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- Recognize the sovereign fiscal debt constraints facing the most climate-vulnerable countries and target as recipients of concessional finance
- Unlock carbon finance to fund NbS projects by strengthening regulatory frameworks and technical skills

The HLC & MP should support robust and enhanced regional programs, governance, and coordination, especially in the Global South:

- Strengthen governance at the country level, as national ownership is key to delivering NDCs and LT-LEDS and needs to be mainstreamed in the national development planning and delivery processes
- Promote and increase coordination, learning, scaling, and replicating successful models at the regional/ continental level
- Foster and encourage the scaling up of innovative solutions and technologies, especially by incorporating private sector solutions into regional programs to ensure transparency as well as effective tracking of impact and allocated funds

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Respectfully,
Africa NDC Hub