



**iGST West African Regional Hub**

<https://igstwahub.org/>

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Reference:

**Response to the call for input from High-Level Champions  
priorities for Global Climate Action for 2024**

Submitted by: iGST West Africa Regional Hub (<https://igstwahub.org/>)

To: [High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership](#), UNFCCC Secretariat

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Climate change appears to be the most challenging topic of our time because of its cross-cutting impacts on different developmental sectors. Globally, though the multilateral climate-related agreements are government-led, there is an overwhelming consensus on the complementary contribution of all people, especially civil society. Thankfully, through the existing frameworks under the UNFCCC, the participation of CSOs in the advancement of climate change is quite visible at the global level (through the COPs and the SBs) and at the continental level (through the regional climate weeks). However, at the sub-continental regional and national levels where the actual climate action is realized, little attention is paid to the participation/contribution of CSOs.

To maximize the impact of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership, we propose the following:

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?](#)
  - i) Support existing regional NPS networks to develop training programs and toolkits to help members understand the different opportunities for climate action (including the UNFCCC processes) enabling them to identify ways to contribute according to their different circumstances. Promote robust partnerships between governments, the private sector, and CSOs at the

regional and national levels to leverage climate technology innovations and investments.

- ii) Support and promote investment in capacity development programs tailored to the specific needs of CSOs in different regions and sectors. This includes training on climate change science, policy, project development, and access to finance which are crucial for climate action and local climate initiatives.
- iii) Support and promote activities geared toward integrating climate goals into national policies and development plans. For example, in our region, the local government which should be driving local climate actions is mostly unconcerned about national climate policies and is not involved in their implementation.

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

- i) Advocate and support the creation of a regional and/or national platform where NPS can showcase their activities to Parties. These platforms should provide a space for NPS to share experiences and success stories, access resources, and collaborate with government/Party agencies.
- ii) Lobby with Parties to ensure the participation of NPS in national climate commitment processes, ensuring that their perspectives and expertise are incorporated into policy development and implementation. This is particularly important for the West African region where the views and contributions of NPS are often disregarded, despite the transparency provisions agreed upon by Parties under the Convention.

## 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?

- i) Increase inclusivity within the Partnership by actively involving more diverse stakeholders, including indigenous communities, youth, and local governments, to enhance the richness of perspectives and broaden impact.
- ii) Advocate and promote the provision of customized assistance based on the specific needs and contexts of different regions and sectors.