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## **Submission by The Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection**

**Subject: Submission in response to the letter from the High-Level Champions** 

Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, August 2024

**Title:** Strengthening the work of high-level champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action Global Climate Action to accelerate climate action and stimulate implementation

The Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection was established in June 2001, at the initiative

## **Context:**

of His Majesty King Mohammed VI. Her Royal Highness Princess Lalla Hasnaa was entrusted with the Chair from the beginning. The Foundation's fundamental mission is to raise awareness and educate for sustainable development. In this mission, the Foundation targets all audiences, including school children, political and economic decision-makers as well as the general public. The Foundation has been engaged in all main UNFCCC meetings and events since becoming an Observer in 2009 through COPs and Regional Climate Weeks, with a particular focus on activities linked with Action for Climate Empowerment, the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, and the Paris Committee for Capacity Building. The role of the High-Level Champions was established at COP 21 in Paris in 2015. Their primary mission is to enhance high-level engagement, ensuring the effective implementation of existing efforts while fostering the expansion and initiation of new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives, and coalitions. COP22 in Marrakech in 2016 played an instrumental role in providing a structured framework to the work of the Champions by establishing the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, based on a roadmap, reflections on a path forward, a proposed approach, a draft work programme and an impact and priority tracker. The partnership plays indeed a pivotal role in the mission of the Champions, underpinning their efforts to accelerate ambitious climate action among non-State actors—such as cities, regions, businesses, investors, and civil society. This acceleration is carried out with the necessary speed, scale, and justice to support Parties and the UNFCCC process. For 2024, the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership have introduced a comprehensive Work Programme. This programme is based on the 2021-2025 five-year plan and is informed by past work. A document detailing the achievements from January to May 2024 has also been released, showcasing the activities delivered within this timeframe.

## Recommendations

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 High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership action can add significant value by leveraging their convening power to identify and leverage synergies for Climate Ambition and Action. Indeed, there is a clear and urgent need to mobilize and provide additional resources for climate and sustainable development, in particular resources for the most vulnerable in the Global South, with a particular focus on Africa. They can accelerate the implementation of climate projects, complement existing efforts and drive impactful climate actions, contributing to a more sustainable and resilient world and ensuring economic, environmental and social benefits through:

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- Inspiring effective, progressive and inclusive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge,
- Advocating for regulatory frameworks that are supportive of climate action and reflective of the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances,
- Improving access to and the volume of international climate finance
- Enhancing local capacities through targeted training and partnerships with stakeholders such as universities for the development of context-specific and responsive tools and knowledge-sharing initiatives. We propose the establishment of a series of comprehensive workshops and training programs, with inclusive and impact oriented KPIs, designed to provide non-state actors and government representatives with the crucial tools and knowledge needed for impactful climate action. We believe that the regional climate weeks provide a particularly important venue for such activities. These programs could focus on practical skills essential for today's climate challenges, such as carbon accounting, implementing renewable energy solutions, and mastering climate finance opportunities. Synergies with, inter alia, the UNFCCC PCCB would be instrumental to that effort.
- Developing and distributing widely high-quality educational materials specifically tailored to enhance climate literacy across various educational platforms, from schools to universities and professional training programs. This strategic dissemination of knowledge will serve not only to educate but also to inspire and mobilize a new generation of climate leaders. Making sure that these materials are inclusive, including when it comes to language, is an important requirement. To ensure these educational initiatives achieve long-lasting impact, we encourage to implement tracking and feedback mechanisms, hinged on the most effective, efficient and inclusive monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. These tools will monitor the uptake and effectiveness of the training and educational resources, providing data that can be used to continually refine and improve the offerings. Such tools mush be country defined, owned and analyzed. Synergies with, inter alia, the UNFCCC ACE would be instrumental to that effort.
- Creating knowledge exchange platforms, strengthening local leadership, and supporting climate resilience and adaptation are crucial for effective, context-specific solutions. Synergies with, inter alia, the UNFCCC Lima Gender Action Plan on gender would be instrumental to that effort.
- Fostering public-private partnerships to drive innovation and investment in sustainable technologies. Synergies with, inter alia, the UNFCCC CTCN would be instrumental to that effort.
- Promoting inclusive climate action, with a particular focus gender, youth and social inclusion
- Driving behavioral change through awareness campaigns and scaling up proven solutions to amplify impact.
- Strengthening robust and context specific monitoring and accountability frameworks to ensure commitments are met.
- Mainstreaming circular economy practices can sustain climate initiatives and reduce waste.
- Scaling Up Inclusive Nature Based Solutions for Climate Action



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

By systematically capturing and disseminating knowledge, we can accelerate the scaling of effective solutions and foster a global community committed to advancing the outcomes of the first GST. In particular, we would suggest the following:

- Launch new and support existing capacity-building programs focused on empowering civil society organizations and local authorities with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively contribute to GST outcomes.
- Establish new and support existing engagement platforms that are continuous, building, for example, on the process of the GST, such as Implementation Lab events at COPs, which will serve as vital bridges between non-party stakeholders (NPS) and Parties. These platforms will enhance dialogue and collaboration, aligning sector-specific strategies
- Develop and promote comprehensive communication strategies that disseminate the progress and success stories of collaborative efforts between Parties and NPS. This will not only raise awareness but also inspire other stakeholders to engage in similar initiatives, fostering a culture of shared responsibility and collective action. By highlighting the tangible benefits and impacts of such collaborations, we can build momentum and sustain the engagement necessary to achieve the ambitious targets set out in the GST.
- 3- How can the Marrakech Partnership be enhanced to support Parties in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, including through new and exiting tools?

Thanks to the commitment of many, including the French, Morocco, Fijian, Polish, Chilean, British, Egyptian and Emirati UNFCCC COP Presidencies, the Marrakech Partnership has gone from strength to strength and is the umbrella under which important initiatives such as the Race to Zero, Race to Resilience, the Breakthrough Agenda and the Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda have been launched. This incubation and coordination role must be further bolstered and strengthened including by:

- Mainstreaming a positive "can-do" mindset to address climate change
- Developing networks that connect Parties with non-Parties, including local communities, youth, civil society, academia and research institutions, to identify opportunities for collaboration and put in place concrete collaborative endavous
- Creating and supporting regional platforms that serve as hubs for local climate projects. These platforms can facilitate collaboration by providing a repository of local initiatives and offering technical assistance to ensure effective implementation. Regional climate weeks have an important role to play in that regard. Initiatives such as the African Youth Climate Hub and the African Green Universities and Youth Education Networks also play an important role to that effect across the continent.
- Defining and implementing strategies centered around educational outreach, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement.
- Identifying and leveraging synergies across the Rio Conventions.

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Establishing and strengthening a feedback mechanism where lessons learned and success stories from these networks and regional platforms can be documented and shared widely. This will create a continuous learning environment, enabling Parties and non-Parties to adapt and refine their strategies based on concrete and context specific experiences.

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