

Ref: Letter to Parties and non-Party stakeholders from the High-Level Champions from H.E. Razan Al Mubarak High-Level Champion, COP 28 Presidency and Ms. Nigar Arpadarai High-Level Champion, COP 29 Presidency

The Kingdom of Morocco is pleased to submit this document in reply to the Letter to Parties from the High-Level Champions conveyed by the UNFCCC Secretariat on June 4th 2024.

We would like to extend our keen appreciation to the United Arab Emirates for the tremendous success of their historical Presidency of COP28, including when it comes to the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action.

We furthermore express our excitement for COP29, which we are convinced will be a resounding success under the leadership of the Republic of 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 Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, which was welcomed, inter alia, in Decision 1/CP22¹ indicates, among other equally important elements, that “The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action does not and cannot belong to us as High-Level Champions, rather it belongs to all of those across the globe who are passionately engaged in efforts to fight climate change and ensure a better, more resilient and more equitable lifestyle for our fellow citizens of the world.” This inclusive dimension of the Marrakech Partnership, anchored in the UNFCCC as a Party-Driven process, is a fundamental and critical component of its identity. As such, it is important to not only maintain but enhance that dimension. In that spirit, while acknowledging the efforts made by both the current and previous High-Level champions, we would like to invite again the High-Level Champions, the Marrakech Partnership and the UNFCCC Secretariat to enhance the meaningful representation of the Global South, in particular from Africa, in their activities. In that regard, we believe that the Regional Climate Weeks have played a significant role in facilitating important outreach towards Global South Based Non-Party Stakeholders and their collaboration at the regional level among themselves and with Parties. It is also important that the staff of the High-Level Champions and that of the associated organizations that support their important work, reflect meaningfully the importance of regional balance and inclusion, in particular when it comes to Africa. Finally, we believe that the core of the champions missions, as identified in the 2016 High-Level Champions’ reflections on the way forward, remains highly relevant: “To create opportunities to connect the implementation of actions by Parties and non Parties; to promote, facilitate and catalyze initiatives; to conduct outreach and engage actors and align the implementation of actions with the NDCs and SDGs, and to recognize the outcomes and impact of the actions and

¹ Decision 1/CP22, para 19

inform the formal multilateral process, as well as the general public of the actions that could serve to unlock greater ambition.”

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

The “Further, Faster, Now” approach indicated in the May 2017 Note by the High-Level Champions is a useful framing to bear in mind. We believe it is also important to also meaningfully integrating the concept of “togetherness” to that approach when it comes to enhancing collaboration between Parties and NPS to advance the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake. Such an integration need be guided by the principles of the convention, including the principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances. As a source of inspiration to achieve that integration of “togetherness”, we would like to refer in particular the following excerpt of the address of **His Majesty King Mohammed VI** to the Global Summit on Climate Action, organized as part of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28): “The conclusions of the First Global Assessment of the implementation of the Paris Agreement attest to a universal momentum around the climate issue. Nevertheless, adaptation efforts remain fragmented, progressive and unevenly distributed between regions, particularly those most vulnerable to the devastating effects of climate change. Bold measures cannot be organized in half-measures, and even less so in an isolated vision that only exacerbates risks, amplifies damage and increases material, natural and human losses. Global management of the climate crisis can only move towards an approach that is better adapted to national constraints, focused on sustainable qualitative growth and, above all, on a vision with a humanist vocation. Just as climate change is inexorably accelerating, the COPs must, starting here and now, move away from the "small steps" approach that has characterized them for too long. This empirical approach was - and I understand this - necessary when it came to convincing people of the relevance of climate action, or even of the very existence of climate change. Today, however, this technical approach complicates the terms of engagement and reduces the climate challenge to a circle of insiders, when it should be a challenge for all mankind.”

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?*

We believe that the 6 Key Functions identified in the Improved Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action for Enhancing Ambition 2021-2025², whose continuation was welcomed in Decision 1/CP25³, remain highly relevant and should be further pursued. We also believe that various important initiatives adopted under the umbrella of the Marrakech

² Mobilizing and aligning NPS, Supporting NPS to drive systems transformation, Strengthening collaboration between national governments and NPS, Broadening and deepening engagement globally, Tracking progress and enhancing the transparency and credibility of NPS action, Building a shared narrative.

³ Decision 1/CP25, para 27

Partnership ought to be strengthened as important components of the Partnership. These initiatives include, but are not limited to: Global Mangrove Alliance, Climate Action Pathways, 2030 Breakthroughs, the Breakthrough Agenda, the Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, the 2030 Climate Solutions, and the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience Campaigns. We further believe that the. We encourage the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action to strengthen its relationship with other relevant entities and bodies of the UNFCCC, as well as the broader UN system and in general. For example, important synergies can be leveraged through collaboration between the Marrakech Partnership and, inter alia, the Paris Committee on Capacity Building and its Network and the Action for Climate Empowerment. Non-Party Stakeholders, including Observers organizations in support of Climate Ambition and Action, such as the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection and its Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training, often engage across different channels and can play an important connecting and facilitating role, in close collaboration with Parties. Furthermore, the integration of adaptation and finance must be strengthened within the Marrakech Partnership, in a manner that is cognizant of and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable, reflecting in particular the special needs and circumstances of Africa. In addition, we would like to indicate the opportunity for the Marrakech Partnership to engage in support of the Presidency Youth Champion⁴, an important outcome of COP28. Finally and of utmost importance as we are looking towards the Nationally Determined Contributions to be submitted in 2025, in a context where “the best estimate of peak temperature in the twenty-first century (projected mostly for 2100 when temperature continues to rise) is in the range of 2.1–2.8 °C”⁵ and 2023 was confirmed as the warmest year on record⁶, it is our belief that the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action is a critically important component of the global response to address climate change and must be further continued past 2025.

⁴ Decision 16/CP.28

⁵ FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/12, Para 15

⁶ State of the Global Climate in 2023, WMO