

Submission of Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo (ECODES) on the 2025 Climate High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership Work Programme

23/07/2025

Context

[Comunidad #PorElClima](#) is a multi-stakeholder alliance committed to advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement within Spanish civil society since 2015. Since 2023, we have been officially recognized as Race to Zero Accelerators—the only one based in Spain—which has deepened our engagement with the High-Level Climate Champions and the Marrakech Partnership.

ECODES, acting as the Secretariat of Comunidad #PorElClima, is an accredited observer to the UNFCCC, and we submit this contribution in that capacity. Our experience spans a broad range of sectors—from SMEs to healthcare institutions—and covers a diverse set of activities, including carbon footprint assessments, climate finance (such as green bonds), and transition planning. This breadth has provided us with deep insight into both the obstacles and the enablers of effective mitigation efforts.

Through this work, we have identified a pressing need to build stronger synergies between existing frameworks and emerging ideas, bridging the gap between ambition and implementation. Drawing on over a decade of experience as observers and active contributors to the climate agenda, we are eager to offer our perspectives to inform the vision and strategic direction of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) over the next five years.

We previously contributed a written submission to the work programme last year, and we are pleased to renew our commitment by participating again.

What should success look like for the GCAA in the next five years, and how can it be measured effectively?

As Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, repeated in Bonn, it is well past time to move from ambition and commitments to action and implementation—going further, faster, and fairer. The Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) must reflect and operationalize this vision.

A key measure of success will be the alignment between the GCAA and the formal negotiation agenda. As envisioned in the work programme, strengthening the connection between non-Party stakeholder action and Party-led processes will be critical. This alignment could be assessed by examining the correlation between the key items on the negotiation agenda and the initiatives being designed or implemented at the non-state level. The GCAA should help translate high-level discussions into real-world projects, creating a virtuous cycle between multilateral commitments and localized implementation.

In this regard, we strongly support the four proposed pillars of work: the Activation Group, the Granary of Solutions, the Showcase of Progress, Results and Impact, and the Implementation Acceleration Plans. These mechanisms offer a valuable structure to deepen engagement and deliver on the 30 priority areas identified. However, their success will depend on how well they work together. It is essential to avoid fragmentation and instead promote coherent actions that enable stakeholders to engage across multiple areas without duplication or confusion.

On these synergies, scientific consensus has made it unequivocally clear that fossil fuels are the primary driver of climate change. Therefore, the GCAA must place the transition away from fossil fuels at the heart of its agenda. This should begin with a strong focus on energy efficiency (including both primary and final energy savings) and demand reduction, followed by a just and sustainable shift toward renewables and grid development. Social and environmental impacts must be central in this process. Moreover, in the context of mitigation, success must be defined by genuine decarbonization. Carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) and offset mechanisms cannot substitute for a deep transformation of production and consumption systems. The GCAA should make this distinction clear. Progress should be monitored through the lens of the campaign's five Ps—Pledge, Plan, Proceed, Publish, and Persuade—ensuring a consistent and credible approach to climate action.

To maximize its relevance, the GCAA must also work in alignment with the broader COP agenda and contribute to addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. Actions under the GCAA must be transversal, multidimensional, and evaluated from various perspectives, not solely through a climate lens.

Success for the GCAA should also echo across institutional levels vital for implementation. As we know, even within national governments, coordination gaps persist. The same applies to regional and local authorities. The GCAA must help bridge these gaps and ensure its impact reaches the most localized levels, where implementation often takes root.

Over the next five years, the GCAA must go beyond institutional reach and begin to resonate with broader society. At present, the GCAA is primarily known by the most engaged climate actors—those deeply involved in the COP ecosystem. But if we are to accelerate implementation and scale solutions, citizens must also become aware of it, understanding that they are all part of entities—businesses, schools, hospitals, municipalities—that can meaningfully contribute to the global climate effort.

For this, the visibility of the GCAA must expand across sectors, geographies, and levels of society, ensuring that a wider range of actors not only join but actively engage. This will require clear and compelling messaging that demonstrates the concrete benefits of participation—especially for smaller stakeholders like SMEs, whose actions, while often localized, carry vast transformative potential. Messages highlighting the value of engagement—ranging from visibility and credibility to tools, support, and recognition—will help motivate broader participation.

While this progress can partly be tracked through quantitative indicators such as participation rates, it is equally important to incorporate qualitative dimensions. Understanding how people feel about their involvement—their motivations, frustrations, and aspirations—will offer a fuller picture of the GCAA's impact and help strengthen its long-term relevance and resilience.

How can the GCAA facilitate direct and impactful engagement between Parties and NPS to support implementation efforts at both national and sectoral levels, in order to advance the full delivery of the GST, NDCs, and NAPs?

Working on implementation means engaging with the practical realities of transformation. It requires not only designing the right policies but also addressing the “how” of change—how to bridge the finance gap to deploy new technologies and support those who may face short-term losses; how to build institutional and technical capacity; and how to ensure a just transition for workers and communities.

In the Global North, this also means having honest conversations about how the current system—while benefiting some—ultimately fails to deliver fairness, resilience, or long-term prosperity. In the Global South, the challenge lies in affirming that a just and sustainable development pathway is possible without replicating the extractive and emissions-intensive models of the past.

To support the full delivery of the Global Stocktake (GST), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), the GCAA must create clear, accessible, and structured pathways for engagement between Parties and non-Party stakeholders. These pathways must be designed to foster complementarity, continuity, and coherence, enabling stakeholders to contribute meaningfully and consistently across implementation cycles.

One crucial step would be to establish an exclusion list—identifying activities that are incompatible with climate goals, especially those linked to fossil fuel expansion. Such a list would send a clear signal about what constitutes acceptable climate action in line with the Paris Agreement. In parallel, advancing work on common taxonomies should be a concrete priority. A unified understanding of sustainable investments and actions would help align implementation efforts and improve comparability across sectors and regions.

Additionally, the GCAA should fully operationalize its four pillars—the Activation Group, the Granary of Solutions, the Showcase of Progress, Results and Impact, and the Implementation Acceleration Plans—as platforms for strategic engagement. These mechanisms should go beyond information sharing and become spaces of dialogue, co-creation, and problem-solving between Parties and non-Parties. Used intentionally, they can drive alignment around priority sectors, identify synergies, and promote scalable solutions that are grounded in real-world experiences.

Above all, the GCAA must position itself as a catalyst of implementation, helping to connect political ambition with practical action—across levels, sectors, and geographies.

How can the CGAA promote an inclusive and equitable engagement, in particular from underrepresented groups and regions?

The UNFCCC framework is complex—its multiple stakeholders, processes, initiatives, and technical jargon require time, exposure, and practice to navigate. Its connection to parallel processes such as those of the IMO, UNCCD or CBD adds further layers of complexity that make full inclusion difficult, especially for newcomers and actors outside of established networks. Furthermore, language remains a major barrier. To address this, the GCAA must invest in translating materials, adjusting the level of technical language to match the

stakeholders involved, and adapting tools to local contexts—ensuring that stakeholders from all regions can engage meaningfully.

The GCAA's role must be that of a facilitator and enabler—a bridge into this complex system for those who want to contribute but are often left at the margins. In this context, the GCAA should work to improve arrangements for participation in intergovernmental negotiations, advocating for formats that enable fruitful, rather than symbolic, engagement. True inclusion is not about inviting ever more stakeholders into the room—it is about ensuring they have the conditions to act, influence, and deliver.

We consider that beyond the four pillars proposed in the work programme, Climate Weeks offer a valuable opportunity to widen access and participation. These spaces could be leveraged to connect underrepresented stakeholders more directly with the GCAA, co-develop solutions, and ensure stronger ties between local, national, and global action.

At the same time, equitable engagement must be vigilant. Inclusion cannot be reduced to numbers; it must also address the quality and intent of participation. The GCAA has a critical role as a gatekeeper, ensuring that space is not co-opted by private actors focused on protecting market share rather than driving genuine climate ambition. It must instead prioritize and elevate true frontrunners—those pushing for systemic change and delivering real-world impact.

True inclusion, therefore, requires more than participation—it demands transformation. The GCAA must ensure that underrepresented regions and groups are not only invited into the process but also empowered with the tools, resources, and platforms to shape its direction. This includes access to finance, technical support, and visibility.

We advocate for equitable representation across both regions and sectors, guided by criteria such as population index and level of exposure or vulnerability. All working groups, events, and initiatives convened under the GCAA must reflect this principle, ensuring that diverse voices—especially those from historically excluded communities—are co-creators of global climate action, not passive observers.

The GCAA must also help break down silos between sectors and dismantle the logic of “closed clubs.” It should actively foster collective engagement around key challenges: major emissions reductions, a just transition, and strengthened resilience. Representation must be visible—champions and success stories from all regions and sectors, especially at the grassroots level, must be recognized and brought into the global narrative. This is not just a matter of fairness; it is essential to legitimacy, trust, and effectiveness.

Reconciling the realities of the Global South and the Global North must go beyond negotiation texts. It must result in concrete, context-specific actions that reflect the diversity of both challenges and pathways. Implementation plans must be rooted in energy justice, explicitly addressing affordability, accessibility, and fairness. They must support workers and communities through the transition while promoting international cooperation based on public finance, democratic governance, and long-term sustainability.

Hence, access to finance is a decisive factor for inclusion. Smaller and more vulnerable actors need access to sustainable, non-concessional financing if they are to take part meaningfully in implementing climate solutions. The GCAA must elevate this concern and help unlock the resources necessary to turn ambition into action, ensuring that equity is not a principle on paper—but a reality in practice.

What improvements can be made to ensure better transparency, reporting and follow up of the GCAA, including in existing tools such as the Global Climate Action Portal (a.k.a NAZCA) and the Yearbook of Global Climate Action?

Transparency and accountability must be at the core of the GCAA. To achieve this, reporting systems should be consolidated and harmonized. Rather than multiplying platforms and publications, efforts should focus on creating an integrated portal (NAZCA) where all data, commitments, and progress updates are available in a coherent, user-friendly format. Harmonized reporting criteria would help ensure comparability, while also simplifying the work for stakeholders who often struggle to navigate the complexity of existing systems.

Follow-up should be oriented not just around outputs, but around implementation. It is not enough to know who pledged what—we need to track how commitments are being fulfilled and what results they are generating. This requires better integration between datasets and more dynamic tracking mechanisms. Technology can play a crucial role. Artificial intelligence could be used to translate materials into all languages and improve accessibility for stakeholders worldwide, particularly those operating at the local level or in underrepresented regions.

The GCAA's credibility and usefulness will depend on how effectively it supports informed action. Streamlined systems, multilingual access, and an emphasis on tracking implementation over time will all be essential improvements in this regard.