



Submission to the Climate High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership

A Five-Year Vision for a Human-Centered, Emotionally Resilient Global Climate Action Agenda (2025–2030)



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Executive Summary

The Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) can play a transformative role in advancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement by fostering stronger collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders (NPS). To support the delivery of the Global Stocktake (GST), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), the GCAA must institutionalize inclusive platforms for structured dialogue, co-creation, and joint implementation. It should promote multi-level governance, align finance and technology flows with local priorities, and integrate NPS contributions into formal climate reporting and accountability systems.

To ensure inclusive and equitable engagement, particularly from underrepresented groups and regions, the GCAA must address structural barriers by providing targeted support for participation, embedding local knowledge in planning processes, and amplifying regional voices. This includes strengthening south-south cooperation and ensuring that the perspectives of women, youth, indigenous peoples, and frontline communities are not only heard but shape decision-making and implementation.

Transparency, reporting, and follow-up must be enhanced through improvements to tools like the Global Climate Action Portal and the Yearbook of Global Climate Action. These tools should feature better data architecture, interoperability with national systems, standardized MRV methodologies, and more accessible, multilingual interfaces. The Yearbook should evolve into a forward-looking instrument that highlights implementation progress, emerging gaps, and lessons learned.

Collectively, these improvements will ensure that the GCAA becomes not just a platform for showcasing ambition, but a dynamic mechanism for enabling inclusive, equitable, and measurable climate action that is deeply embedded in national and sectoral efforts across all levels.

What should success look like for the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) in the next five years, and how can it be measured effectively?

Success for the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) over the next five years must be defined not only by its ability to accelerate emission reductions and resilience building, but also by how effectively it enables inclusive, just, and transformative climate action. From a civil society perspective, success means turning climate ambition into reality on the ground—through community empowerment, transparent governance, and equitable access to climate finance and technologies. Civil society actors, including NGOs, community-based organizations, indigenous peoples, women’s groups, and youth movements, play a critical role in holding governments accountable, bridging policy and practice, and localizing global commitments.

The GCAA should help deliver a rapid and sustained decline in global greenhouse gas emissions, aligned with the goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C. This requires all countries and stakeholders to update and implement more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), long-term strategies, and adaptation plans well before the next Global Stocktake in 2028. Civil society organizations (CSOs) can support this by facilitating public participation in national planning processes, raising awareness at the grassroots level, and ensuring that vulnerable communities are represented in decision-making. Furthermore, successful implementation will hinge on accelerating the deployment of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, restoring ecosystems, and building climate-resilient infrastructure, especially in regions most exposed to climate shocks.

Equally vital is the scaling up of adaptation efforts and the operationalization of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). Civil society actors must be recognized as partners in monitoring local climate impacts, co-designing adaptation strategies, and promoting nature-based and traditional knowledge-driven solutions. Their close ties with communities enable more context-specific interventions and help ensure that adaptation is not top-down, but locally led and owned. Measuring progress on adaptation should therefore go beyond technical indicators and include metrics on inclusion, equity, and community empowerment.

Finance remains a cornerstone of success. The next five years should witness a significant increase in both public and private climate finance flows—toward mitigation and especially toward adaptation, where the gap is greatest. Success would mean not only meeting and surpassing the \$100 billion commitment but also ensuring that climate finance is accessible, transparent, and reaches those who need it most. Civil society can help track these flows, identify bottlenecks, and advocate for reforms in the international climate finance architecture that prioritize local access and capacity building.

Measurement of GCAA’s success must be multidimensional. Emission reductions and renewable energy deployment are essential indicators, but so too are participation metrics, transparency in reporting, and the inclusion of marginalized groups. Tools like the Global Climate Action Portal and Biennial Transparency Reports should evolve to reflect both top-down and bottom-up contributions. Civil society must be involved in shaping these tools to ensure they capture lived realities and promote accountability.

By 2030, if the GCAA can demonstrate that it has contributed to peaking global emissions, advancing just transitions, reducing climate risks for vulnerable communities, and fostering inclusive multistakeholder partnerships, it will have fulfilled its transformative potential. From a civil society lens, success is not just about reaching numerical targets—it is about enabling systemic change that puts people, equity, and sustainability at the heart of climate action.

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?

The Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) can play a pivotal role in facilitating direct and impactful engagement between Parties and non-Party stakeholders (NPS)—including civil society, subnational governments, indigenous peoples, youth, academia, and the private sector—to accelerate the implementation of the Global Stocktake (GST), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). This requires the GCAA to move beyond showcasing initiatives and evolve into an operational mechanism that strategically aligns the ambitions of the Paris Agreement with bottom-up actions, innovations, and sectoral expertise contributed by NPS.

To do so, the GCAA must first institutionalize inclusive dialogue platforms that allow for regular, structured, and transparent exchange between Parties and NPS. These platforms should be designed to co-create implementation pathways tailored to national contexts and sectoral priorities. By fostering these exchanges, the GCAA can help identify gaps, amplify success stories, and promote scalable solutions that are responsive to local needs and realities.

Second, the GCAA can enhance multi-level governance by supporting frameworks that bring national, subnational, and local actors together to jointly design and implement climate actions. This includes providing technical support for embedding NPS-led initiatives into national climate strategies and enhancing vertical coordination so that local actions inform and reinforce national targets. Through such efforts, the GCAA can help ensure that NDCs and NAPs are not top-down mandates, but living instruments co-owned by all segments of society.

Third, the GCAA can help mobilize finance, technology, and capacity-building by connecting NPS with financial mechanisms and innovation platforms, particularly those aligned with just transition principles and climate equity. This could include facilitating access to climate funds for community-based adaptation projects or enabling partnerships between private sector actors and public institutions to scale low-carbon technologies in key sectors such as energy, transport, agriculture, and water.

Additionally, the GCAA can contribute to greater transparency and accountability by supporting the integration of NPS contributions into national reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework. When supported by credible data systems and MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification) frameworks, such integration helps to demonstrate the real-world impacts of climate actions taken by non-state actors, thereby informing the GST process and guiding future ambition cycles.

Importantly, the GCAA must also strengthen enabling environments by promoting policy coherence, regulatory reform, and institutional capacity at both national and sectoral levels. This includes encouraging the recognition of NPS roles in national climate governance, removing legal and administrative barriers to their engagement, and ensuring that marginalized groups have a voice in decision-making processes.

By facilitating these multi-dimensional forms of engagement, the GCAA can create the conditions necessary for translating global climate ambition into national and local action. It can help unlock the full potential of non-state actors as critical partners in achieving climate resilience and low-emission development, thus ensuring that the delivery of the GST, NDCs, and NAPs is not only accelerated but also inclusive, equitable, and sustainable.

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

The Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) can promote inclusive and equitable engagement by intentionally designing its processes, platforms, and partnerships to uplift the voices and participation of underrepresented groups and regions, particularly those from the Global South, indigenous communities, women, youth, and frontline populations most vulnerable to climate impacts. This begins with acknowledging structural imbalances in access to finance, technology, and decision-making and committing to redress these through targeted interventions.

The GCAA can foster such inclusion by ensuring that participation mechanisms—such as multi-stakeholder dialogues, policy platforms, and implementation coalitions—are accessible, linguistically diverse, and culturally sensitive. It should allocate resources to support the meaningful participation of stakeholders who otherwise face barriers due to geography, socio-economic marginalization, or lack of institutional presence. This includes providing travel support, digital access infrastructure, and capacity-building to grassroots organizations and community leaders to enable them to engage as equals in global and national processes.

Further, the GCAA should ensure that engagement is not merely symbolic but embedded into decision-making and implementation. This means co-designing actions with underrepresented groups, integrating their traditional knowledge and lived experiences into adaptation and mitigation strategies, and institutionalizing feedback loops that allow their concerns and solutions to shape policy evolution. Special attention must be paid to regional equity by supporting region-specific climate platforms and south-south cooperation initiatives that strengthen localized climate leadership and innovation.

By promoting equity in representation, voice, and influence, the GCAA can democratize climate action and ensure that implementation efforts are both just and effective. This not only enhances legitimacy and ownership but also improves the quality and resilience of outcomes, as diverse perspectives and solutions are integrated into the heart of global climate governance.

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?

To ensure better transparency, reporting, and follow-up of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA), significant improvements are needed in both process design and technological tools such as the Global Climate Action Portal (formerly NAZCA) and the Yearbook of Global Climate Action. These tools must evolve from static registries into dynamic, integrated platforms that support real-time tracking, deeper analysis, and participatory verification of climate actions by non-Party stakeholders (NPS).

The data architecture of the Global Climate Action Portal needs modernization to enhance usability, comparability, and interoperability. It should allow for disaggregated data by region, sector, and actor type, and enable linkages with national reporting systems under the Enhanced Transparency Framework. Integration with NDCs, NAPs, and SDG tracking platforms will create a unified information ecosystem that reflects how non-state actions align with national and global goals. Moreover, inclusion of qualitative narratives—particularly from local and indigenous groups—alongside quantitative metrics would provide a more holistic view of progress and challenges.

The reporting framework must be made more robust, with standardized methodologies for measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) that balance scientific rigor with accessibility for smaller actors. This includes simplified templates and tiered reporting options so that grassroots organizations and local governments with limited capacity can still report their contributions without being excluded. Multilingual capabilities and mobile-friendly interfaces would further enhance accessibility, especially in underrepresented regions.

The Yearbook of Global Climate Action should become more than a retrospective publication. It should be used strategically to identify emerging trends, gaps in implementation, and opportunities for enhanced cooperation between Parties and NPS. To this end, the Yearbook should include independent assessments, regional breakdowns, and thematic spotlights that guide decision-making in the Global Stocktake and future ambition cycles. It should also reflect progress in equity, inclusion, and impact rather than simply listing commitments.

Additionally, follow-up mechanisms must be institutionalized to transform commitments into sustained engagement. This includes periodic verification, feedback loops, and recognition systems for impactful initiatives. Creating a climate action observatory or a “dashboard” for tracking implementation in near-real time could help maintain momentum and accountability while allowing stakeholders to adjust course based on emerging insights.

Finally, transparency and follow-up in the GCAA will only be meaningful if accompanied by inclusive governance, open data principles, and accountability frameworks that are co-designed with civil society and other non-state actors. Strengthening these aspects will ensure that the GCAA moves beyond visibility toward verifiable and sustained impact in global climate action.