

## **Feedback to the Climate High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership on the 2025 Work Programme**

**Submitted by:** OUT for Sustainability (Out4S)

Out for Sustainability (Out4S) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to your reflections on a decade of progress and to the next phase of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA). We commend the Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for elevating non-Party stakeholders (NPS), aligning action to the Global Stocktake, and advancing sectoral collaboration. We also welcome your invitation to provide input on success metrics, inclusive engagement, and improved transparency and follow-up, including enhancements to the Global Climate Action Portal and the Yearbook of Global Climate Action.

### **Why LGBTQIA+/SGM inclusion is mission-critical for climate action**

A growing evidence base shows that sexual and gender minorities (SGM, including LGBTQIA+ communities) face distinctive and compounding risks across the climate cycle—from exposure and sensitivity to impacts, through preparedness, response, and recovery [1]. Multiple regional and national-level studies document barriers to shelter and services, elevated safety risks, and worse post-disaster conditions; quantitative analyses also find higher probabilities of disaster displacement and more adverse displacement experiences among LGBTQ populations compared with cis-heterosexual peers [2–3]. Climate-justice research further cautions that “gender” framed only as women’s issues can inadvertently reproduce exclusion; intersectional approaches are needed so people with diverse SOGIESC—and those with overlapping identities—are not left out of analysis, finance, or decision-making [1,4]. Additional regional and national-level evidence reinforces these patterns across environmental health burdens, humanitarian practice, evacuation processes, and access to relief [9–15].

### **Where NAPs and NDCs stand today—and why implementation must accelerate**

Encouragingly, some Parties have begun acknowledging SGM in national planning. A recent global mapping finds references to SGM in 23 of 198 Parties’ National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) or related documents, most at an early “sensitive” stage rather than “responsive” or “transformative” [5–6]. The same assessment stresses that recognition “on paper” rarely ensures equitable outcomes in practice, and that exposure—structural drivers that place people at risk—remains under-addressed [7]. On mitigation planning, prior reviews identified only a handful of NDCs referencing SGM—underscoring an early, uneven baseline [6]. By contrast, gender integration more broadly is now common in NDCs, offering an institutional pathway to extend inclusion (safely and context-appropriately) to gender-diverse populations [8].

With that in mind, we offer the following inputs, aligned to your questions and looking toward 2025–2030:

#### **1) What success should look like (and how to measure it)**

- **Equity & representation targets.** By 2030, all Marrakech Partnership thematic areas and priority initiatives adopt and report on minimum inclusion standards (accessibility, non-discrimination, safeguarding), with year-on-year increases in participation from under-represented groups in governance bodies, panels, and technical working groups.

- ❑ **Finance for inclusion.** Track the share of climate finance and philanthropic co-funding reaching community-led organizations serving marginalized groups.
- ❑ **Policy integration.** Measure the number of Parties that explicitly integrate SOGIESC- and disability-inclusive measures in NDCs, NAPs, sectoral roadmaps, and Just Transition strategies, and the number of NPS commitments that operationalize those measures through procurement, workforce, and community-engagement policies.
- ❑ **Safety & dignity indicators.** Include metrics on enabling environments—e.g., event and digital safety protocols, grievance mechanisms, and protection for environmental and human-rights defenders.

## 2) How the GCAA can enable direct, impactful engagement at national/sectoral levels

- ❑ **Establish an Inclusion & Justice Workstream** within the Marrakech Partnership to co-design practical guidance with LGBTQIA+, disability, Indigenous/Two-Spirit, youth, and other networks, and to advise sector pathways on people-centred climate action delivery.
- ❑ **Create an expert advisory circle** to develop sector guidance and match NPS expertise with Party implementation needs at national/sectoral levels.

## 3) Advancing inclusive and equitable engagement from under-represented groups and regions

- ❑ **Minimum participation standards.** Publish and adopt a short Participation & Safeguards Standard covering accessibility, interpretation, inclusive facilities, safe-space policies, and non-discrimination for all GCAA-affiliated events and workstreams.
- ❑ **Responsible data & privacy.** Use voluntary self-identification with strong privacy protections and regional sensitivity when collecting demographic data (e.g., SOGIESC, disability).
- ❑ **Accessible knowledge.** Fund accessible formats (captioned/ISL/ASL, plain-language briefs, mobile-friendly content) and multilingual dissemination beyond UN languages, prioritizing Global South audiences, and rotate time zones.

## 4) Transparency, reporting, and follow-up (Portal/Yearbook improvements)

- ❑ **Global Climate Action Portal.** Add optional fields for inclusion practices (accessibility, safeguarding, community co-governance) and equity outcomes.
- ❑ **Yearbook of Global Climate Action.** Add a recurring “Equity & Inclusion” chapter with metrics, case studies, and independent reflections.
- ❑ **Clearer, more predictable engagement.** Publish a rolling NPS Engagement Calendar (timelines, contact points, expected outputs) and plain-language participation notes for each workstream (who can join, how proposals are selected, how feedback is used, and how results are reported)..

## Dedicated section on emerging topics (proposed for 2025–2030 plan)

We recommend a standing section in the Champions’ multi-year plan focused on emerging equity priorities not fully addressed elsewhere in the process, with concrete actions and owners. Initial topics could include:

- ❑ Disproportionate climate impacts on LGBTQIA+ people, Indigenous Two-Spirit/Queer communities, immigrants, and persons with disabilities—covering heat and health, displacement, housing insecurity, and access to services;

- ❑ Integrate SRHR and GBV considerations in climate policy and planning; ensure continuity of SRHR services and rights in preparedness, response, and recovery; and reflect SRHR within NDC/NAP updates and financing.
- ❑ Commit to safe, voluntary, context-appropriate disaggregation that goes beyond sex whenever feasible; adopt privacy safeguards; and use intersectional evidence to design, monitor, and evaluate policies and programmes.
- ❑ Protection of environmental and human-rights defenders, including those targeted on SOGIESC grounds, with event and digital-engagement safety protocols;
- ❑ Accessibility and assistive-tech integration in adaptation and early-warning systems;
- ❑ Inclusive just-transition policies for informal, care, and service-sector workers;
- ❑ Ethical, inclusive use of digital technologies and AI in climate action, avoiding bias and exclusion.

#### **Near-term deliverables we stand ready to support (ahead of COP30)**

- ❑ **Participation & Safeguards Standard** and a practical Inclusion Checklist for Champions' partners and sector pathways.
- ❑ **Community of practice** linking LGBTQIA+, disability, and Indigenous networks with Marrakech Partnership leads to co-design templates for inclusive implementation "sprints."

Out4S is ready to assist the Champions and the Marrakech Partnership in co-developing these measures and in mobilizing a broader coalition of partners across regions. Thank you for your leadership and for inviting concrete, forward-looking input at this pivotal moment for delivery. We appreciate the open call for submissions and will make ours available through the specified channels.

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#### **About Out for Sustainability**

Out for Sustainability (Out4S) is a leading organization dedicated to bridging the gap between the LGBT community and environmental sustainability. Through advocacy, research, and community engagement, Out4S highlights the intersection of environmental and social justice. The organization collaborates with policymakers, grassroots movements, and international organizations to advocate for inclusive climate policies and resilience strategies. Out4S remains committed to ensuring that marginalized communities, including forcibly displaced LGBT individuals, are recognized and protected in climate action efforts.

For more information, visit our website [www.out4s.org](http://www.out4s.org) or reach out to our advocacy chair, and author of the present submission, Diego de Leon [diego.deleon@out4s.org](mailto:diego.deleon@out4s.org).

## Notes (footnotes)

- [1] Goldsmith & Bell, *Queering Environmental Justice: Unequal Environmental Health Burden on the LGBTQ+ Community*, **AJPH** (2022).
- [2] *Amplified Harm: LGBTQ+ Disaster Displacement* (national-level quantitative analysis, 2023).
- [3] *Queer and Present Danger: Understanding the Disparate Impacts of Disasters on LGBTQ+ Communities* (regional/national syntheses).
- [4] *A Crisis of Queer Invisibility* (global/regional perspectives on exclusion in crises).
- [5] *Mapping Sexual and Gender Minority Inclusion in National Adaptation Plans Globally* (2025).
- [6] Ibid., discussion of NDC references baseline.
- [7] Ibid., conclusions on implementation gaps and under-addressed exposure.
- [8] UNFPA, *Taking Stock: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Climate Commitments* (2023).
- [9] Collins, Grineski & Morales, *Environmental Injustice and Sexual Minority Health Disparities: A National Study of Inequitable Health Risks from Air Pollution* (Soc Sci Med, 2017).
- [10] Oxfam/Edge Effect, *Down by the River: Addressing the Rights, Needs and Strengths of Sexual and Gender Minorities in DRR and Humanitarian Response* (research report).
- [11] UN Women/APCOM et al., *Pride in the Humanitarian System: Asia-Pacific Consultation Report* (2018).
- [12] IOM-affiliated policy brief, *Environmental Migration—Legislative Landscape for LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Evacuation Processes: Gaps and Recommendations* (regional).
- [13] Innovators 4 Climate Action, *Climate Change Risk and Impacts on LBQ Individuals* (national-level report).
- [14] Youth for Change and Development, *The Impact of Discrimination on Access to Disaster Relief Items Among LGBTQ and Key Populations* (national-level study).
- [15] Williams Institute, *Climate Change Risk for LGBT People in the United States* (geospatial/NASA & FEMA risk analysis, 2024).