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## Submission by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on the Global Climate Action Agenda

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) ) congratulates the incoming COP presidency on laying out an ambitious and structured approach for the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) and welcomes the opportunity to provide input on the future direction of GCAA for the period 2026-2030. As a specialized United Nations agency mandated with promoting inclusive and sustainable industrial development, UNIDO stands ready to contribute its expertise to the Marrakech Partnership framework and help move the GCAA forward. We are honoured to be part of the secretariat for Axis 1 Objective 2 and Axis 6 Objective 23 while initiatives led by the Organization recognized across the various axes. Our input focuses on how the GCAA can evolve beyond COP 30 to support the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and advance the achievement of the UAE Consensus.

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

By 2030, the GCAA should be recognised as a **delivery platform** that turns GST outcomes and NDC/NAP priorities into coordinated action. Consistency from year to year should be maintained, enabling internationally prioritized actions—such as those emanating from the GST—to receive the political attention needed to accelerate progress, while still allowing each COP Presidency to add its own distinct contribution, for example by devising implementation measures or mobilizing implementation funds. Success indicators could include:

- **Industrial transformation in hard-to-abate sectors** through Activation Groups under *Transitioning Energy, Industry and Transport*, the GCAA should provide quantitative and qualitative progress indicators on low-carbon technologies, renewable integration, and transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly, and equitable manner at sectoral level, provide transparency on plans of various initiatives and connect the dots by looking at the wider ecosystem of support for climate action and how it links to the climate action agenda. The agenda should also look into green industrialization opportunities arising from industrial transformation and energy transition and their economic benefits especially in more vulnerable countries. The structure to support the GCAA can integrate country champions also in its governance beyond the initiative level to ensure consistently driving the agenda and keeping momentum from one COP to the other.

- **MSME resilience and competitiveness**, linked to the *Climate-Proofing SMEs Campaign*, with measurable uptake of low-carbon technologies, circular economy solutions, and adaptation measures in supply chains.
- **Geographical equity in participation**, with a demonstrable rise in initiatives and coalitions from LDCs, SIDS, and economies in transition in the Global Climate Action Portal NAZCA.
- **Science-based targets and MRV alignment**, ensuring initiatives report against GST-linked indicators via the Portal, supported by third-party verification.
- **Operational readiness for participation in high-integrity carbon markets**, including Article 6.2 cooperative approaches and the Article 6.4 Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism, with measurable increases in the volume and quality of transactions originating from developing countries.

Measurement should combine:

- Sectoral dashboards under each Activation Group, tracking contributions to GST priority outcomes.
- Annual synthesis in the *Yearbook of Global Climate Action*, linking NPS action directly to NDC and NAP progress.
- Case-based evaluation of systemic impact, including co-benefits such as job creation, skills development, and nature-positive outcomes.
- Promoting capacity building and matchmaking platforms to connect host countries, private sector actors, and buyers under high-integrity carbon market mechanisms, ensuring alignment of transactions with NDCs, NAPs and GST outcomes.

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## 2. 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?

UNIDO recommends strengthening the Marrakech Partnership's role as a **structured interface** between national policy and voluntary action by:

- **Integrating Activation Groups into national climate governance** via NDC/NAP focal points, ensuring sectoral roadmaps feed directly into policy updates.
- **Sector-specific co-creation spaces** for technology deployment, particularly in manufacturing, construction materials, industrial energy efficiency, and clean mobility, building on the *2030 Breakthroughs* and *2030 Climate Solutions*.

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- **Leveraging UNIDO's technical cooperation and convening power** to connect Governments and NPS on industrial decarbonization and adaptation projects, aligning investment with GST-driven priorities. For example, UNIDO can offer its newly launched platform, the global green industrialization dialogue to be a moment that supports stocktaking and discuss solutions and plans ahead of each COP.
  - **Facilitating access to climate finance** for industrial and SME transformation, in collaboration with finance enabler groups under the Marrakech Partnership.
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### 3. How can the GCAA promote inclusive and equitable engagement, particularly from underrepresented groups and regions?

Building on the UAE Consensus principles of inclusivity and multilevel action, the GCAA should:

- Provide **dedicated resource mobilisation windows** for underrepresented countries and regions to join and scale Marrakech Partnership initiatives.
  - Deploy **regional “granary of solutions” exchanges**, showcasing locally adapted industrial, nature-based, and urban resilience innovations in multiple languages.
  - Mainstream the *Climate-Proofing SMEs* approach in all thematic areas to ensure the backbone of economies, MSMEs, are not excluded from climate action benefits.
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### 4. 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?

- **Encourage periodic updates** in the Global Climate Action Portal NAZCA, harmonised with national MRV frameworks and sector-specific metrics.
  - Publicly accessible **Activation Group progress reports** linking initiative outputs to GST-aligned outcomes.
  - Integration of **impact narratives** in the Yearbook to contextualise quantitative data with on-the-ground transformation stories, especially from developing countries.
  - **Real-time visibility** of solutions, commitments, and results in the Portal, with filters for thematic area, geography, and scale of impact.
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### Emerging areas of action for 2026–2030 GCAA

From a UNIDO perspective, there are several clear emerging areas of action that have not been fully mainstreamed during 2021–2025, but will be highly relevant for the 2026–2030 GCAA work programme:

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## **1. Industrial adaptation and climate-resilient supply chains**

- Integrate climate risk and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning into industrial policies and strategies, ensuring factories, parks, and supply chains can withstand extreme weather, water stress, and other climate impacts.
- Promote climate intelligence-driven innovation by industry, including MSMEs, and financing mechanisms to enhance anticipatory action and climate proofing investments.
- Promote climate-proof infrastructure, heat-resilient workplaces, and nature-based adaptation solutions in industrial zones and cities.
- Establish activation workstreams on resilience planning in manufacturing supply chains, including climate risk modelling, diversified sourcing, and local production capacity-building.
- Use GST-aligned indicators for resilience alongside mitigation metrics.

## **2. Circular economy and industrial symbiosis**

- Accelerate adoption of closed-loop manufacturing systems, secondary raw materials use, and waste-to-resource innovations across global value chains.
- Promote industrial symbiosis in clusters and parks, where one facility's by-product becomes another's input, reducing emissions and resource extraction.

## **3. Green hydrogen supply chain development and expansion**

- Facilitate knowledge sharing and policy and regulatory coordination on hydrogen supply chain to create enabling environment for uptake of green hydrogen across industrial sectors.
- Facilitate the development of green hydrogen production hubs and corridors connected to industrial users and export markets.
- Encourage hydrogen-to-ammonia pathways for use in hard-to-abate sectors (e.g. iron, steel, chemical, aviation and shipping) as well as for food-energy nexus (e.g. fertiliser production), particularly in developing countries with renewable energy potential.
- Enhance public-private partnerships and financing for piloting and scaling up green hydrogen supply chain model.

## **4. Sustainable critical energy transitions minerals and value chains**

- Develop governance and technology standards for low-carbon, socially responsible mining, refining, and recycling of critical minerals essential to renewable energy technologies.
- Promote global and South–South cooperation to capture more value in mineral-rich developing countries, including skills-development, local processing and product manufacturing.

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## **5. Industrial bioeconomy and nature-based manufacturing**

- Foster bio-based materials (bioplastics, biomaterials for construction) and nature-positive industrial processes that integrate biodiversity conservation with economic development.

## **6. Net-zero industrial parks and special economic zones**

- Develop GCAA Activation Groups focused on planning and implementing net-zero-ready industrial zones, integrating renewable microgrids, circular resource loops, and green logistics.

## **7. Carbon management and industrial carbon removals**

- Explore durable carbon removal linked to industrial co-benefits, for example, mineralisation in building materials.

## **8. Climate–trade–industry nexus**

- Work on harmonised carbon accounting standards to support equitable participation in carbon-border adjustment mechanisms (CBAM) and green product certification schemes.
- Promote climate-aligned trade facilitation for low-carbon goods and services.

## **9. Climate-smart manufacturing for health security**

- Strengthen manufacturing capacities for health technologies (vaccines, diagnostics, PPE) in climate-resilient, low-carbon facilities to address both climate and health crises.

## **10. Industrial AI and digital tools for climate action**

- Leverage artificial intelligence, machine learning, and digital twin technologies to optimise industrial processes for emissions reduction, resource efficiency, and predictive maintenance.
- Integrate digital climate tools into MSME support programmes, enabling smaller enterprises to adopt low-cost, scalable innovations.
- Promote digital innovation ecosystems in developing countries, connecting industrial clusters with digital public infrastructure, AI applications, and climate entrepreneurship networks.

## **11. High-integrity carbon markets**

- Support the development of Article 6-ready project pipelines in priority industrial sectors, including cement, steel, chemicals, waste-to-energy, and hydrogen, with robust baselines, additionality, and safeguards.
- Facilitate public–private partnerships for the generation, certification, and sale of high-integrity mitigation outcomes, ensuring proceeds contribute to industrial transformation and local development.



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UNIDO stands ready to support the Climate High-Level Champions, the Marrakech Partnership, and all stakeholders to advance an ambitious, inclusive, and implementation-focused GCAA that delivers measurable climate impact and industrial transformation in line with the Paris Agreement.