

This submission is made on behalf of the Southeast Climate and Energy Network (SCEN), an observer organizational network representing environmental organizations in the Southeast portion of the United States.

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

The **First Global Stocktake** technical report, as relayed in the Executive Summary, Section B, Key Finding 4, states that “global emissions are not in line with modelled global mitigation pathways consistent with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, and there is a rapidly narrowing window to raise ambition and implement existing commitments in order to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.” Given the current global political landscape, we need an **all-in strategy** for everyone who wants to engage in addressing the climate crisis—how we adapt to it, and how we respond to losses and damages **immediately**.

The **GCAA** and the **MP** will be critical in engaging **non-Party stakeholders (NPS)** to bring the level of ambition required to meet this moment. NPS may be the key to unlocking action in countries that currently lack ambition for climate action. This shift in thinking, opportunity, access, and possibility is essential if we are to effectively address the crisis.

We need a plan that **uplifts, empowers, and supports** NPS—not only to match but to exceed what Parties have put forward as possible, especially if the proposed 2025 NDCs fall short of the necessary ambition. Success in the GCAA will recognize the power that civil society organizations, businesses, and communities have in addressing this challenge.

**Success looks like:**

- **Party engagement** with non-Party stakeholders not typically included in climate negotiations (e.g., Indigenous peoples, women and gender groups, minority groups, youth, persons with disabilities, cities/local government, etc.).
  - **Measurement of government engagement** with these groups (including cities, villages, and local governments)—requiring Parties to list who they are working with and how they are represented.
  - **Measurement of emissions reductions** from projects undertaken by NPS.
- **Direct engagement** of local and regional NPS in the GCAA and MP, broadening the tent to include a wider range of voices.
  - **Tracking the number of local, regional, national, and international groups** actively engaging with the GCAA and MP.
  - **Provision and cataloging of technical tools (openly accessible)** to measure the impact of climate action.
- **Collaboration with regional and national networks** in areas where increased climate ambition is needed, to host multi-stakeholder dialogues focused on staying within the Paris Agreement targets.
  - **Documentation of the number and outcomes** of these dialogues, including actions taken as a result.

- **Continued use of the Global Climate Action Portal**, with a focus on highlighting the success of NPS in reducing emissions.
  - **Monitoring increased portal usage** through views and submissions. Work with national civil society and business networks, such as **SCEN**, to train NPS on how to showcase their impact at the international level.
- **Implementation of a unifying narrative** that shifts toward collective action and empowers NPS to rise to the challenge—especially where governments fall short. We must move from a zero-sum perspective to one focused on collective progress toward a world better for people and the planet.
  - **Direct involvement of NPS in conversations** around the six axes, or appointment of an NPS coordinator to guide strategic engagement and demonstrate collective power.
- **Development of a structured & easily accessible process** to engage NPS and UNFCCC Observer Organizations in the GCAA and MP processes.
- For countries that have not submitted **NDCs or NAPs**, promote entities like the **NDC Partnership**, and also work with NPS to provide technical support in developing the ambition needed. Elements contributed by NPS should be elevated into **Implementation Acceleration Plans** to encourage greater ambition from Parties.
  - **Measurement of the quantity and quality** of NPS contributions that are incorporated into Implementation Acceleration Plans.
- **There is an Increased ambition** to meet or exceed the goals of NDCs, NAPs, and the Global Stocktake—surpassing current national commitments in order to stay below the temperature limits set in the Paris Agreement.
- **Non-party stakeholders to be in dialogue with Parties to develop proposals for climate finance** in order to meet obligations of the NCQG, Loss and Damage, and Adaptation Goals.
  - **Note the amount of proposals**, and use those proposals to maneuver climate finance from Annex I to Annex II countries.
  - **Measure how much extractive companies need to pay into climate finance** based on environmental harm.
- **Non-party stakeholders to the GCAA and the MP should not include extractive businesses that are contributing to climate change**, this includes fossil fuel companies, energy companies, mining (rare earth minerals), biomass companies, etc.
  - Measure how many businesses are removed if we do not include extractive industries.

**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?**

Encouraging Parties to engage with non-party stakeholders (NPS) they typically do not interact with—such as climate justice groups, vulnerable populations, or even stakeholders who are sometimes critical of Parties—could be instrumental in raising ambition. These groups are often the first and worst affected by climate change and stand to gain the most from increased ambition. They also benefit directly from climate solutions such as the transition to clean energy, the protection of land and forests, and investment in public transportation.

However, because these groups tend to be critical of Parties, they are often overlooked in formal processes. Yet, it is precisely these voices that need to be centered and uplifted to effectively address the climate crisis. Bridging these gaps and encouraging Parties to actively listen to these NPS—while providing them space within Activation Groups—represents a valuable opportunity for the GCAA to lead and facilitate.

Additionally, supporting regional networks such as SCEN and sectoral groups to participate in Activation Groups and share their contributions to the Global Stocktake (GST), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) can unlock emission reductions that Parties alone may not achieve.

For example, according to Chapter 12 of the most recent U.S. National Climate Assessment, the Southeast—home to 26% of the U.S. population and 25% of its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions—emits more combustion-related CO<sub>2</sub> than any other region. The largest sources are electricity generation (41%) and transportation (35%). Strategically engaging stakeholders in the Southeast, along with the electric and transportation sectors, could therefore yield significant emission reductions.

For major emitters like the U.S., addressing regional emissions directly can have a substantial impact. These groups can also offer critical insight into NAPs and GST delivery, as subregions often face distinct challenges and needs. Building ambition through regions and sectors—alongside Party efforts—can advance climate action more effectively than relying on Parties alone. In this context, the GCAA would be well-positioned to establish direct connections with these groups and elevate their voices within international discourse and planning.

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

To promote an inclusive and equitable process within the GCAA, non-Party stakeholders (NPS) must be engaged at leadership levels and throughout the structure of the GCAA & Marrakech Partnership (MP). NPS should co-lead the Activation Groups and be central to decision-making and discussions. Both an open call for participation and intentional outreach are essential to ensure broad and representative involvement. *Who* represents NPS is just as important as providing access in the first place. Co-leadership opportunities must include individuals from underrepresented regions and groups. Being intentional about who is invited to the table is critical for building equitable processes.

A clear example of inequity we have observed—both in UNFCCC processes and domestically—is when large corporations, such as power companies, are treated as NPS. While technically accurate, allowing such actors to co-lead and dominate feedback processes would not be equitable. These entities are often major contributors to emissions and wield significant capital and influence—far more than smaller, Black-led environmental justice groups who are directly harmed by the company’s pollution and climate impacts.

Even large environmental organizations may not reflect the lived experiences or local insights of frontline communities. To truly meet the needs of those most affected, leadership roles should prioritize civil society and organizations that advocate for and are rooted in impacted communities. These groups are also more likely to demand the level of ambition required to address the crisis.

Local, national, and regional networks—such as SCEN—can help identify representatives from underrepresented groups and elevate them to the international stage, enabling them to have global influence. This kind of representation is not optional—it is vital. High-Level Champions, Marrakech Partnership Focal Points, Parties, and support staff should proactively identify and engage stakeholders from all countries party to the Paris Agreement. Special care should be taken to ensure greater representation from those most affected by climate change—such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and other vulnerable regions.

These representatives should also come from communities directly facing the climate crisis and be able to speak for the everyday people experiencing its impacts. These individuals not only elevate authentic voices but can also identify effective, community-rooted solutions that can drive ambition and accelerate action.

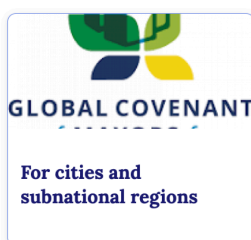
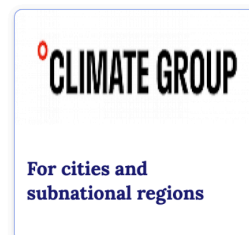
**What improvements can be made to ensure better transparency, reporting and follow up of the GCAA, including in existing tools such as the Global Climate Action Portal (a.k.a NAZCA) and the Yearbook of Global Climate Action?**

To be effective, the portal needs to have civil society, business, city, and government champions who will encourage others to sign up for each country. It also needs to be easier to sign up as individual organizations or networks. It is clear how to sign up for a Cooperative Climate Initiative (CCIs). However, it is unclear how to register, especially for civil society organizations, which are critical for upholding equitable engagement. Having a place for civil society to clearly be listed as actors is important, it is also challenging to join the Marrakech Partnership since a recommendation is needed from a larger environmental organization. This makes it inaccessible to most organizations that may want to get involved (see attached screenshot for reference). As a newer actor to this space, SCEN, is looking to participate, but it is unclear how to deeply engage in this work as the world needs the US South to reduce emissions dramatically.

## For Individual Actors:

To join an initiative already recognized in our portal, you may use the contact information on the specific initiative in our portal to contact the initiatives directly. All initiatives are listed on our Cooperative Initiatives page [here](#).

To register your individual commitment to action please visit the website of our data partners, accessible by clicking on one of the links below



Although the CCI allows for countries and entities to engage and assign themselves to certain initiatives. It is not clear what progress has been made, if there are emission reductions, adaptation opportunities, or response measures being taken as a result of these initiatives. The yearbook helps make these connections a bit more, but it is truly difficult to understand what impacts are actually being made. Having clear emission reductions and what has happened as a result of their engagement is critical in these portals. This is a point where we need to measure collective action, and barriers to engaging and adding efforts that organizations are taking around the world with or without parties to manage this crisis.