

# **The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the five-year vision and plan for the Global Climate Action Agenda**

***Provided in line with the request from the Climate High-Level Champions, as delegated by the incoming Presidency, and the corresponding letter from 17 July 2025.***

***19<sup>th</sup> August 2025***

1. The United Kingdom welcomes the opportunity to set out our views '*on the five-year vision and plan for the Global Climate Action Agenda*'. The United Kingdom (henceforth, UK) warmly acknowledges the pivotal role that the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) plays in uniting both state and non-state actors.
2. The UK strongly supports the COP30 Presidency's efforts to streamline and improve accountability within the GCAA. The current structure of the GCAA is fragmented, and a lack of continuity between Presidencies and an inconsistent approach to monitoring and coordinating of the existing initiative landscape hinder its effectiveness in driving climate action.
3. COP30 presents a unique opportunity to streamline efforts, enhance accountability, and leverage the collective strength of state and non-state actors to accelerate climate action. To be as effective as possible, the GCAA must evolve to ensure a more cohesive and consistent approach, enabling better coordination and collaboration.
4. The UK is particularly supportive of focusing the GCAA towards enabling the full implementation of the Paris Agreement by taking into the account the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake (GST) as the organising framework for the GCAA.
5. The UK proposes the following principles should guide the GCAA. We welcome the work that the COP30 Presidency, the High-Level Champions and the Marrakesh Partnership are already undertaking to implement these:
  - a) Works within and seeks to cohere the existing international architecture, bringing together existing initiatives where they have been effective in driving progress in key sectors. The focus should be on improving and elevating what exists already.

The UK highlights in particular the Breakthrough Agenda (BA) framework as an exemplar of an effective coordination mechanism that can be built on within the wider GCAA reform. The BA has over the last 4-years since COP26 brought together governments, international organisations, and non-state actors to coordinate efforts across key sectors. Its annual process has proven effective in strengthening the GCAA for the specific sectors it works on by coordinating international collaborative initiatives, reducing overlaps, and building consensus on urgent actions needed to accelerate the transition.

Other sectoral initiatives such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, Green Grids Initiative, Powering Past Coal Alliance and Forests and Climate Leaders Partnership provide coordination on key sectoral issues while driving policy ambition, and should be utilised. The Presidency's approach to GCAA reform should seek to

utilise and build on these existing initiatives and not inadvertently duplicate or undermine them.

- b) Focuses down on a few key priorities. The UK encourages future Presidencies to continue the proposed framework, while tightening the focus to one or a few priority issues within each of the six axis – elevating the issues that, aligned with the best available science, will have the biggest impact on limiting temperatures rises to 1.5 degrees. This includes nature, forests and the ocean which are relevant to multiple UN Conventions (as per point g). Future Presidencies should seek to advance these priority objectives within the existing framework, streamlining the number of objectives and Activation Groups. Where there are gaps in the international architecture, COP Presidencies should seek to fill this with an appropriate coordination group, but only where the existing architecture cannot be used to address the gap, to reduce proliferation. Presidencies should engage each other early to ensure co-design and buy-in. Ultimately, this will reduce the number of objectives and Activation Groups within the GCAA. The UK's experience during the COP26 Presidency was that the GCAA is most effective when structured around a limited number of clear goals (for example, on forests, finance, coal phase out, and Zero Emission Vehicles) which state and non-state actors can unite to deliver behind.
- c) Provides continuity across Presidencies. The UK suggests that future Presidencies and High Level Champions should continue with the 6-axis structure proposed by the COP30 Presidency to strengthen continuity from COP to COP and accelerate delivery of the GST and delivery of the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. After future GSTs, COP Presidencies and High Level Champions should review the GCAA axis to ensure they reflect the highest possible ambition, helping ratchet ambition and creating a positive feedback loop between negotiations and the GCAA.
- d) Supports and embeds accountability, transparency and reporting. The UK's view is in addition to the tracking NAZCA currently does, there should be further analysis of interventions to understand effectiveness. NAZCA should work with leaders within relevant fields (i.e. IEA) to add this analytical layer, and in doing so should seek to avoid duplication with other existing and proposed platforms.
- e) Places inclusivity at the heart of the GCAA, with genuine involvement of a range of actors including both states and non state actors. To achieve this, Presidencies should collaborate with established initiatives that already bring together diverse stakeholders, including governments, sub-national authorities, businesses, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. Good examples of this working effectively include the Breakthrough Agenda and the Climate and Clean Air

Coalition, where a wide variety of actors (state, subnational authorities, inter- and non-governmental organisations) are collaborating to drive forward progress. However, aiming to involve every possible group is unrealistic if the goal is to drive rapid and meaningful progress. The focus should instead be on empowering and accelerating international action by supporting initiatives with the greatest potential for impact. Building smaller, focused coalitions around key issues—guided by the most robust scientific evidence—will allow these groups to deliver effective solutions efficiently (as evidenced, for example, through the Powering Past Coal Alliance).

- f) Compliments the formal UNFCCC process by providing clear links with the negotiations process and outcomes. The UK strongly believes that discussions within the GCAA are a complement to, not a substitute for, progress within negotiations. The UK welcomes the COP30 Presidency's focus on the GST and full implementation of the Paris Agreement. However, key issues such as mitigation ambition require dedicated space and Party-led outcomes. The GCAA should provide the space to build upon such outcomes, discuss solutions and showcase delivery of our existing commitments, connecting with, as set out above, the non-state Parties who play a vital role in implementation. We support the vision set out in the Climate High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership's 2025 work programme, to enhance engagement and non-party stakeholder's contribution across the different workstreams of the UNFCCC negotiation process, as appropriate.
- g) Supports synergies across Conventions. The GST, and the 6-axis the COP30 Presidency have proposed, encapsulate many issues which are negotiated within the UN Convention on Combatting Desertification or UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The UK suggests a reformed GCAA can serve as a mechanism to identify and advance practical solutions for realising synergies and aligning action across the Rio Conventions.

6. The UK reiterates its support for the GCAA.