

Submission by the African Group of Negotiators (AGN)

In regards to the call from the Climate High-Level Champions

For the next five years of work

The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) offer our sincere appreciation to the Climate High-Level Champions (CHLCs) for launching a consultative process for further reflection in order to contribute to development of a vision and plan for the next five years of the GCAA.

The AGN acknowledges and appreciates the valuable contributions of and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA) over the past decade. They have played a pivotal role in promoting meaningful climate action across the African continent and globally.

From the historic appointment of the first Climate Champion—an African—to the tireless efforts of the Marrakech Partnership in translating climate commitments into tangible actions on the ground, the AGN recognizes and commends the Champions' historic attachment and sustained engagement in advancing a just and inclusive global climate action agenda.

The AGN welcomes the decision taken at COP29 to extend the mandate of the Climate Champions until 2030. This renewal reflects a shared understanding among Parties of the critical role Champions play in catalyzing ambition and supporting the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. The AGN sees this extension not as a continuation of business as usual, but as a call for a more coherent and targeted approach.

The AGN remained committed to strengthening its engagement with the Champions, including in the lead-up to drafting the 2025 Work Program of the Marrakech Partnership. To this end, the AGN Chair issued a letter on May 14th, highlighting the importance Africa places on the role of the Champions and underscoring the need to keep adaptation and finance as central pillars of the 2025 Work Program. The AGN will continue to actively contribute to shaping an agile and responsive global climate agenda.

In this spirit, And with a strong commitment to further strengthening engagement with the CHLCs, the AGN offers the following contribution in response to the guiding questions:

Q1: what should success look like for the GCAA on the next five years, and how can it be measured effectively?

The Climate Action Agenda has grown increasingly dynamic, engaging a broad range of stakeholders and voluntary initiatives. Over the years, 'the Improved Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action to Enhance Ambition' has evolved and gained greater clarity by aligning with 1.5°C pathways and setting targets across key systems. This Partnership has been further strengthened by major flagship initiatives, including the Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda,

which holds particular significance for Africa. Moreover, the partnership has enhanced engagement with developing countries through the establishment of regional hubs and increased participation in UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks.

Nonetheless, the AGN remains concerned about the imbalance in its focus. The three foundational pillars of the Paris Agreement—mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation (notably finance)—must be treated with equal importance. To date, mitigation has disproportionately dominated the agenda, often at the expense of adaptation and climate finance, both of which are of critical importance to African countries.

Moreover, the Climate Agenda has been overloaded with highly detailed and ambitious targets that span sectors far beyond the capacity of most Parties and Non-Parties alike, many of which lack the necessary means of implementation to have meaningful impact. Instead of complementing negotiated outcomes, many of these initiatives are placing undue strain on the global climate efforts. Moreover, fragmentation and the proliferation of overlapping initiatives have been another feature of the global climate action agenda.

Therefore, the AGN broadly supports the Brazilian COP30 Presidency's vision as articulated in its fourth letter—particularly its emphasis on using the GST outcomes as a compass for guiding an ambitious, integrated and solution-oriented Action Agenda. The AGN emphasizes that a successful GCAA in the next five year should be:

1. Directly address the critical gaps identified in the GST, particularly in adaptation, climate finance, and international cooperation, with stronger alignment to the needs and priorities of the Global South to ensure equity and sustainable development. Previous Presidencies have launched important initiatives in tackling adaptation and climate finance challenges—especially the Sharm Elsheikh Adaptation Agenda and those related to accessibility and affordability—by introducing climate finance guidelines, frameworks, and funds. These initiatives should be systematically followed up, reinforced, and built upon. The GCAA should serve as a bridge between successive COP Presidencies, High-Level Champions, Parties, and Non-Party Stakeholders (NPS), fostering coordinated efforts to advance the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.
2. A balanced and focused Action Agenda—refocused on actions that directly support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, prioritize equity among its pillars, and reinforce the capacity of developing countries to contribute meaningfully to climate ambition.
3. Equally, a mainstreamed Agenda that phases out underperforming initiatives is essential to enhance coherence and efficiency across the GCAA.
4. Ensure accountability and credibility of the climate efforts particularly through developing additional robust measures for tracing the contribution of non-Party stakeholders, thereby ensuring the effectiveness and credibility of this approach.

Q2: 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 contribution of NPS is essential to support Parties in enabling the effective implementation of NDCs and NAPs and achieving the key deliverables of the GST as well as strengthening international cooperation. The AGN believes that Parties and NPS meaningful engagement is timely and needed to move beyond mobilization efforts to advance implementation.

Achieving this requires improved information sharing: Parties especially in developing countries need to be better informed about the resources, expertise, and potential contributions of the NPS, while NPS should gain clearer understanding of the implementation gaps and the specific needs of Parties. At present, there remains an information and knowledge gap on the scope, progress, and alignment of existing initiatives, particularly across key sectors such as energy, agriculture, building, and industry. To address this, the AGN proposes the following:

1. Undertaking a regular mapping exercise of voluntary initiatives and Marrakech Partnership tracks. This would enable Parties to be better informed of ongoing efforts and assess their relevance and alignment with national priorities. Regional hubs and regional Climate Weeks could serve as effective platforms to advance this goal by strengthening engagement and collaboration between Parties and NPS and probably creating structured channels for dialogue and cooperation.
 2. The Proposed Activation Groups could further contribute by acting as facilitation platforms to help disseminate information, and ensure accountability and traceability of progress across initiatives.
 3. Importantly, it is essential to ensure that these initiatives, particularly those targeting specific sectors, are equipped with commensurate means of implementation.
 4. Additionally, and to further ensure impactful engagement between NPS and Parties, the AGN believes that greater space should be dedicated to international cooperation, as the GST outcome clearly highlights a significant gap in this area. Supporting partnerships between NPS from the Global North and the Global South should be encouraged, with the specific objective of helping to bridge implementation gaps in NDCs, NAPs, and the GST outcomes.
1. The AGN sees clear value in emphasizing this issue under the sixth and final track. At the same time, it underscores the need for enhanced technical support to NPS in the Global South, particularly to address complex issues such as standards, regulations, and trade-related measures, which are by nature highly technical and require sustained capacity-building.
 2. In the same context, and while expressing openness to the structures proposed by the Champions, including the establishment of an Activation Group, the AGN affirms that such a structure should remain lean, and have a clearly defined role. Its mandate should also take into account the issues proposed by the AGN.

Q3: 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, and the Yearbook of the Global Climate Action?

3. While the Global Climate Action Portal and the Yearbook are important steps towards enhancing transparency, there remains scope for further work on developing criteria to

evaluate the contribution of NPS to Parties' efforts in delivering on their NDCs, NAPs, and the outcomes of the GST. The Activation Group, together with other proposed tools, could work with the Secretariat and the structures proposed by the High-Level Champions to further elaborate these criteria. However, these platforms must be strengthened to ensure that data is transparent, independently verified, and accessible.

4. Moreover, the Yearbook could incorporate deeper analysis to assess regional participation, benefits, and engagement in voluntary initiatives and Marrakech Partnership tracks.

Q4: How can the GCAA promote an inclusive and equitable engagement, in particular from underrepresented groups and regions?

1. A balanced thematic focus in the GCAA, by definition, ensures broader inclusion and equitable engagement of regions and groups. Placing stronger emphasis on adaptation and finance priorities in the developing countries would help advance this objective, in this regards, the Champions should also ensure that future initiatives embody those principles and ensure better representation and engagement of these groups and regions. Regional initiatives such as Clean Cooking for Africa and Mission 300 on energy security and connectivity should also be given particular emphasis.
 2. Regional hubs should play a role in identifying groups or countries that are underrepresented. Combined with the analysis provided through the Yearbook-as proposed above, this would help to clearly highlight gaps and underrepresentation. Based on these findings, the Secretariat should submit a set of recommendations to the High-Level Champions and Parties, with a view to addressing these gaps and strengthening inclusiveness.
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