

Submission on the issue: a consultative process for further and deeper reflections to develop a vision and a plan for the next five years of the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA)

Title: Climate High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

This submission was jointly developed by the following organizations: Observatório do Clima, Geledés - Instituto da Mulher, WWF-Brazil, Conectas Human Rights, Plataforma CIPÓ

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

Success in the next five years should mean a GCAA that is complementary, catalytic, collaborative, comprehensive, and credible (Chan et al. 2021; 2022; [Ramos et al. 2025](#)):

- *complementary* in working alongside governments to accelerate the implementation of internationally agreed climate goals, while also aligning to other sustainability goals;
- *catalytic* in inspiring societal (non-state and subnational) actors to take action and facilitating interfaces with governments to raise ambition through long-term mobilization;
- *collaborative* in involving other UN conventions, scientists, civil society, and existing initiatives in the design, mobilization, recording, and evaluation of the agenda;
- *comprehensive* mobilization of actions from a diversity of actors, including NGOs, people of African descent, quilombolas, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, children, and other marginalized groups, particularly in the global south—while enabling learning across governance levels and regions; and,
- *credible* in requiring regular reporting to track and evaluate actions, ensure individual and collective progress, and phase out underperforming initiatives.

To reflect these qualities, measures should include:

- ***Indicators of complementarity***, such as evidence that initiatives contribute to the implementation, and higher ambition, of nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans, accelerated implementation of the Global Stocktake and other national and international sustainability commitments and human rights.
- ***Metrics of catalytic effects***, including qualitative evidence of scaled-up solutions, integration into regulatory frameworks, and/or replication across sectors and regions.
- ***Assessments of collaboration***, for example the extent to which initiatives engage with other sustainability domains, scientific communities, and networks.
- ***Data capturing comprehensiveness***, such as geographical and actor-type participation metrics, always taking into consideration gender, race, and territories

(e.g., inclusion of under-represented actors, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, quilombolas, local communities, and global south-based initiatives).

- **Measures ensuring credibility**, including annual reporting on outputs and outcomes (mitigation, adaptation, and beyond), governance quality, finance, transparency, integrity indicators (e.g., responsible use of carbon credits, investments and finance flows to climate finance), and attention to synergies or trade-offs with nature and other sustainability aspects along with criteria to avoid conflicts of interest and third-party verification.
- Last, **to strengthen implementation frameworks in the Action Agenda**, the GCAA should define clear implementation pathways linking COP decisions to national, subnational and non-state action, sharing a concise, action-oriented five-year plan with targeted outcomes for delivery.

II. 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?

To support implementation efforts at both national and sectoral levels, in order to advance the full delivery of the GST, NDCs, and NAPs, the GCAA must become instrumental in advancing an effective domestic implementation of global decisions and commitments, considering:

- a. **The Action Agenda and Champions as Promoters of the Climate Economy:** Champions can guide actors involved in the pursuit of Net Zero commitments. The climate architecture remains largely voluntary, which has led to a proliferation of initiatives—sometimes overlapping or fragmented—creating confusion and skepticism. This has prompted the UN Secretary-General to establish a High-Level Expert Group to restore credibility. The Action Agenda should be central to these credibility-building efforts and serve as a promoter of a coherent climate economy.
- b. **The Action Agenda and Climate Finance:** Progress on implementation is contingent upon financial alignment. However, the climate finance landscape remains fragmented, spanning public and private mechanisms. Completing pending global finance architecture reforms—such as those involving accessibility to climate funds, the cost of capital, rating agencies evaluation, the debt crisis and international finance safety net—requires enhanced organizational coherence. The Action Agenda, owing to its multi-stakeholder voluntary nature and link to the UNFCCC Parties, is well positioned to play this coordinating role.
- c. **The Action Agenda as a Platform for Political Coherence Across Agendas and Forums:** The Climate Action Agenda has developed in an organic, actor-driven manner, producing multiple initiatives and events—such as regional climate weeks (e.g., New York, London, others)—often uncoordinated and with uneven legitimacy. While this spontaneity is a natural feature of the economic transition underway, it also creates confusion and risks duplication. The Action Agenda and Champions can help articulate political coherence across these diverse platforms—not by replacing organizers, but by identifying critical issues requiring attention and systematizing decisions and commitments in a more efficient manner.
- d. **The Action Agenda as a Catalyst for Synergies Across Rio Conventions:** The Climate Action Agenda has achieved a greater degree of maturity than those linked to the other Rio Conventions—on biodiversity and desertification. Nonetheless, there is

growing momentum toward cross-convention synergies. For instance, CBD COP16 adopted a decision on “Biodiversity and Climate,” and initiatives such as the “Rio Trio” aim to reinforce these links. In this context, the Action Agenda and Champions can serve as bridge-builders, activating engagement across conventions and promoting synergetic actions at both global and national levels. Finally, the GCAA could enhance synergy across multilateral environmental regimes and link with WHO, ICJ, and other global processes.

- e. The Action Agenda and Implementation of the 2030 Breakthroughs: The 2030 Breakthroughs initiative represents one of the most structured efforts to define sectoral transformation plans for climate action. Yet, it remains under-recognized, especially among political leaders and within domestic contexts. Building upon this initiative can accelerate progress on sector-specific targets required to achieve science-based transitions.

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

Increasing geopolitical tensions and deepening economic disparities threaten the multilateral mechanisms essential for coordinated global action on climate change. This fragmentation creates significant challenges for upcoming COP presidencies in fostering collaboration and building consensus. Non-Party Stakeholders, especially Civil society, are increasingly important to offer solutions and bridge divisions while ensuring accountability in climate action.

Also, advancing both the Negotiation and Action Agendas is a complex task for COP presidencies. This requires a difficult strategic alignment of the presidency’s priorities with those of diverse stakeholders. Challenges exist not only with enabling consensus on mandated topics, but also in defining how to effectively engage stakeholders to advance agendas.

To GCAA promote an inclusive and equitable engagement, in particular from underrepresented groups and regions, it must encompass:

- a. Create permanent dialogue spaces with civil society organizations and other non-party stakeholders, enabling regular inputs, information exchange, and trust-building, thereby ensuring greater transparency, diversity of voices, and meaningful engagement throughout conversations up to the negotiating process.
- b. Ensuring that financial resources pledged through negotiation decisions and action agenda initiatives effectively reach vulnerable populations discrepancies between promised financial support and actionable outcomes often hinder resource distribution, fostering environmental racism and the violation of human rights in the territories. These gaps stem from insufficient coordination among funding entities, unclear allocation criteria, and administrative inefficiencies, ultimately limiting the impact of these resources on addressing civil society priorities.
- c. Leverage existing capacity-building initiatives while introducing new initiatives with clear progress metrics to monitor results and strengthen the role of civil society actors. This includes specific initiatives such as the UN e-learning platform UN CC:Learn and broader capacity-building spaces like the Capacity-Building Hub.
- d. Establish continuous feedback channels to reinforce the leadership, legitimacy, and influence of civil society before, during, and after COP30.

- e. Provide opportunities for non-party stakeholders to learn effective strategies for engaging with civil society, fostering collaboration and mutual understanding.
- f. Adopt cost-effective approaches to prioritize capacity-building activities, ensuring impact while addressing time and budget constraints.

IV. 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](#)?

The need to establish effective and standardized reporting and accountability mechanisms presents a hurdle in monitoring the implementation of previous negotiation decisions and action agenda initiatives. Without actionable frameworks that include civil society, evaluating progress across host countries and ensuring alignment with priority actions becomes difficult. Noting it, the GCAA should consider the following improvements to ensure better transparency, reporting and follow up.

To maximize the effectiveness and legitimacy of the COP30 Action Agenda, it is recommended that:

1. *Anchor the Action Agenda to Implementation Processes*

- Ensure that the architecture of the Action Agenda is directly linked to the implementation of the Global Stocktake (GST), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- Guide discussions towards alignment with these processes, reinforcing coherence and enabling governments, non-state actors, and civil society to move in concert toward delivery of the Paris Agreement.
- Structure robust annual monitoring processes to track progress, identify gaps, and adjust actions accordingly.

2. *Improve Accountability Mechanisms*

- Demonstrate systematic follow-up to GST outcomes and NDC/NAPs responses, making existing platforms—such as the Global Climate Action Portal (GCAP), NAZCA, and the Yearbook—accessible and attractive for initiatives to showcase delivery against global goals.
- Encourage initiative participants to highlight good practices in implementation processes, including the Facilitative Multilateral Consideration of Progress (FMCP) and the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), as a way to promote transparency and credibility.
- Ensure that the Action Agenda reflects the full scope of COP negotiations, covering mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage.
- Rebalance attention beyond mitigation, emphasizing that adaptation and loss and damage are equally vital pillars of the Paris Agreement.

3. *Measuring and monitoring*

- Implement standardized monitoring tools to track the results, such as the Global Climate Action Portal, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- Establish metrics for assessing outcomes of NPS to COP goals, focusing on inclusivity and participation quality

- The Action Agenda could launch a “Compact” - a set of verifiable commitments, with an annual review, tying 2025-2030 together as the decisive cycle.

4. *Foster Systemic Follow-up and Communication*

- Maintain systemic communication channels and convene post-COP follow-up events to monitor the status of commitments, disseminate progress, and sustain civil society’s informed participation.
- Facilitate the involvement of organizations in subsequent COPs and related summits, ensuring that civil society remains integrated into consultations and negotiations throughout the year.
- Use these mechanisms to sustain momentum, reinforce trust, and strengthen civil society’s role in advancing global climate action.