



Submission by Denmark and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Copenhagen, 26/08/2025

Subject: Work of the Climate High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action 2026 - 2030

Summary/Key messages

- We welcome the work done by the High-Level Champions (HLC) and the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MP) - jointly referred to as Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA). The EU has been supportive of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership since its beginning, because we need to accelerate action by all stakeholders, including (but not limited to) the private sector, subnational actors, civil society, youth and vulnerable groups to deliver on the commitments from the UAE Consensus, with a view to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- The GCAA should focus on delivering what Parties have already agreed to and advancing the global efforts from the first Global Stocktake (GST-1) outcome, while consolidating, strengthening and building on existing initiatives.
- To increase effectiveness, better alignment between the Presidency Action Agenda, the Marrakech Partnership and the work of the High-Level Champions is needed. We therefore welcome the current efforts for a unified Action Agenda. In addition, we encourage exploring ways to better link the GCAA with the negotiations.
- We appreciate the vision as outlined in the Letters of the incoming COP30 Presidency to advance a Global Mutirão calling on all stakeholders to act decisively through an ambitious and integrated Action Agenda. Organising the Action Agenda in six thematic axes, 30 objectives and multiple solutions and the setting up of activation groups for this purpose should advance unifying and strengthening "One Action Agenda".
- We wish to underline that the GCAA cannot replace intergovernmental negotiations but plays an important role in incentivising action and in supporting the implementation of decisions made in the negotiations.
- The EU has always insisted on integrity, transparency, monitoring and accountability. We welcome efforts that enhance tracking and accountability, including through strengthened cooperation with relevant international organisations.



1. Introduction

The EU would like to thank the High-Level Champions for their letter and the call for inputs. The EU is grateful for the opportunity to share views and looks forward to continuing and enhancing its engagement with the High-Level Champions and other Parties and non-Party stakeholders in the context of the GCAA.

The EU has been supportive of the GCAA since its beginning, because we need to accelerate action by all stakeholders, including (but not limited to) the private sector, subnational actors as well as civil society to deliver on the commitments from the UAE Consensus, with a view to achieve the Paris Agreement Goals. We welcome the work done by the HLC and the MPGCA as illustrated in the Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2024. Please find our input below.

2. Input

Ten years after the agreement of the Paris Agreement, implementing the first Global Stocktake (GST-1) decision serves as a critical test of the **Paris Agreement's effectiveness and of multilateralism more broadly** — a commitment to which the EU remains fully dedicated.

As we move forward, governments and non-party stakeholders should accelerate the **full implementation of the UAE Consensus and the outcome of the first GST (1/CMA.5)**, and especially accelerate the global efforts on energy transition in paragraph 28 of the GST-1 outcome (notably the transitioning away from fossil fuels while tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030), paragraph 33 on halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and paragraph 36 on sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, **with a view to reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement**.

Therefore, we welcome the promotion, mobilization and acceleration of climate action by **non-Party stakeholders (NPS)**, including in the context of the GCAA, supporting the implementation of the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and the full implementation across all areas of the GST, covering mitigation, adaptation and finance flows, means of implementation and support, and underpinning the implementation of Parties' NDCs and NAPs, especially as part of an economy-wide approach.¹ In this context, it is important that NPS share lessons learned and opportunities in scaling up climate action at all levels.

¹ The role of NPS is recognized by 1.CP.21 as well as 1/CMA.5 para 158, initiatives in 1/CMA.5 para 159.



In accelerating the **implementation of NDCs and NAPs, subnational stakeholders such as cities and local authorities will be key**, for example through fora as the Global Covenant of Mayors as well as the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships for Climate Action (CHAMP).

We **recognize the achievements of the MPGCA and the efforts made by the HLC²** for a more impactful and visible GCAA. The MPGCA is providing a space for ideas and initiatives from different origins, including campaigns by COP Presidencies and initiatives founded at the UN Secretary General's Climate Summits and elsewhere, linking Parties and NPS as well as seeking synergies with other international processes.³ We therefore also welcome the renewal of the mandate of the HLC until 2030 at COP29.

In the **implementation of the UAE Consensus, the GCAA can play a crucial role**. We have always promoted a unified GCAA that is guided by the outcomes of the UAE consensus, which fosters translation of the GST-1 into concrete and accelerated efforts. To accelerate implementation, it is important that initiatives 1) create significant measurable impact, 2) build on existing ones, only creating new ones where necessary, and 3) are accountable. We therefore welcome the aim of the designated COP30 Presidency and the HLC to focus the COP30 Action Agenda on the implementation of the GST-1, building on existing initiatives and strengthening their accountability.

We think one additional **strength of the GCAA and its real impacts on climate action and support will depend on increased interaction between the GCAA and the intergovernmental negotiation process**. In Dubai, for instance, the thematic days and initiatives on energy efficiency and renewable energy, methane, and health and food security created strong incentives for the negotiation on the UAE Consensus. At COP28, the Local Climate Action Summit was also instrumental in bringing together and accelerating actions at the local level.

The **GCAA has a key role to play here and should focus on advancing the global efforts from the GST-1** outcome as much as possible. The Champions have played an important role in involving NPS in the GST-1 process, including via the Technical Dialogues. We encourage them to continue to play that role in ensuring an inclusive approach also in discussions on the implementation of the GST as well as in the preparations of the second GST (GST-2), and preparations of NDCs.

² As recognized in 1/CMA.5 para 160.

³ As urged by 1/CMA.5 para 161, 162, 163.



It is encouraging to see **international organisations** such as IEA and IRENA picking up on the global efforts that came out of GST-1 and playing an active role in tracking their implementation. The actionable solutions listed in the '2030 Climate Solutions' roadmap by the High-Level Champions and the MPGCA refer to their work on many occasions. We welcome the engagement of international organisations for tracking progress and informing next steps.

The GCAA should look into best practices on **promoting inclusive engagement**. We recommend drawing inspiration from the following examples from the EU. The European Commission launched a 'European Climate Pact' (with Ambassadors from different Member States) that brings individuals, communities and organisations together to fight climate change and adapt to its consequences. Also, certain EU Member States have engaged in citizens' assemblies to gather input from a broad representation of the populations, which also ensures the incorporation of diverse perspectives. Usually, citizens' assemblies gather a group of randomly selected individuals who come together to deliberate on a specific issue and make recommendations. They are a form of deliberative democracy, where participants learn about the topic, discuss it with experts, and then engage in facilitated discussions to reach informed conclusions.

The EU encourages the MPGCA to further support gender-responsive, youth-led, and inclusive initiatives, and to ensure that other factors such as (but not limited to) gender, age, sexual orientation and gender identity, disability, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, minority status, socio-economic or health situation, national, social, or birth origin, as well as other intersecting factors are considered across all thematic areas, sectors, and stakeholder engagement processes.

For increasing the effectiveness, communication and impact, **better alignment between the Marrakech Partnership and the work of the High-Level Champions and the Presidency Action Agenda is needed**. We therefore welcome the current efforts for a unified Action Agenda, for example as reflected by the COP30 Presidency proposal for a framework of the GCAA that is incorporated in the 2025 Work Programme of the MPGCA.

The EU appreciates the vision as outlined in the Letters of the incoming COP30 Presidency to advance a Global Mutirão calling on all stakeholders to act decisively through an ambitious and integrated Action Agenda. Organising the Action Agenda in six thematic axes, 30 objectives and multiple solutions and the setting up of activation groups for this purpose could advance unifying and strengthening "One Action Agenda".

The EU has always insisted on **integrity, transparency, monitoring and accountability** to identify good practices and provide recognition. Integrity requires the meaningful



participation of all stakeholders, including vulnerable groups that can act as agents of change and key enablers, such as (but not limited to) women and girls in all their diversity, Youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. Transparency is a cornerstone of a whole-of-society approach, for both governments and non-party stakeholders. All stakeholders need access to information to build trust and participate meaningfully. Governments provide transparency through their NDCs and BTRs. Non-Party stakeholders, such as businesses, investors, and cities and other subnational actors should also provide transparency through disclosure regimes and regular reporting. Robust accountability mechanisms help sending signals and allow all stakeholders to track the status and integrity of implementation efforts.

The Global Climate Action Portal remains a key building stone in providing this recognition and accountability, implementing the UNFCCC Recognition and Accountability Framework.

In the past decade, the commitments have grown to over 39,000 actors and 175 Cooperative Climate Initiatives, which shows the enormous potential. The letter from the Co-chairs of the Recognition and Accountability Framework Consultation also contains some useful recommendations regarding the GCAP. For instance, the GCAP should describe the voluntary cooperative initiatives, as much as possible, in a standardized manner that improves transparency and enables comparability. Ways to further develop the GCAP to enhance recognition and accountability should be explored, and we welcome efforts that enhance tracking and accountability.

Taking the previous points into consideration, the **new five year plan of the Marrakech Partnership (2026 – 2030)** should:

- emphasize its role in **delivering what Parties have already agreed to, including through implementing all outcomes of the first GST-1 with a view to reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement**, as well as the importance of non-party stakeholders, initiatives, and international collaboration in pursuing this effort;
- **build on the good practices and learnings from the current five year plan** (2021 – 2025), including as set out in the Synthesis Report 2024, as well as on the experience and feedback on the 2025 work programme, and be reviewed regularly;
- enhance the **continuous alignment** between the Presidency Action Agenda, the Marrakech Partnership and the work of the High-Level Champions for the application period of the five year plan and beyond;
- **consolidate, strengthen and build on existing initiatives**, rather than creating new ones, as highlighted by most Parties in their 2024 submissions on the Action Agenda. It was suggested that the **HLCs should align global initiatives** to reduce redundancy, prioritize clear goals for COP30 and enhance **coordination between commitments**;



- mainstream **gender responsiveness and intergenerational equity** across all initiatives, building on the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender, and ensure the participation and leadership of women and youth in climate action processes;
- strengthen the **cooperation with relevant international organisations**;
- include an objective to **enhance transparency and accountability**, including by implementing the UNFCCC Recognition and Accountability Framework, e.g. by further enhancing availability of up-to-date information and further developing the Global Climate Action Portal, including through the use of innovative digital tools;
- provide for an annual, concise and action-oriented update to Parties at the COP, showcasing progress, challenges and opportunities in supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement, in order to enhance mutual accountability and drive implementation.
- include an objective to **improve communication** with a view to enhance understanding and accessibility of initiatives, partnerships and sectoral commitments made by Parties, non-Party stakeholders and other institutions, including calls, commitments and other actions agreed in cover decisions, emphasizing the role of e.g. the COP Presidencies, High-Level Champions and the Secretariat in this; and
- explore ways to better **link the GCAA with the negotiations**, which can include, for example, informing Parties on opportunities and barriers for implementation, and structured engagement in existing programmes (e.g. Mitigation Work Programme, Just Transition Work Programme, UAE Dialogue for implementing the Global Stocktake outcomes). We wish to underline that the GCAA cannot replace intergovernmental negotiations but plays an important role in incentivising action and supporting the implementation of decisions made in the negotiations.

Finally, we **encourage looking for synergies** with other work streams to avoid duplication of work, and promote current tools, rather than opening new work tracks. We recognize the efforts already undertaken to make the GCAA more visible and streamlined. It has played a key role as hub for ideas and initiatives from different origins. It also plays an important role in fostering ownership among vulnerable groups and enabling them as agents of change. It is a critical moment to accelerate climate action that is truly connected, inclusive, and transparent as we deliver on the Paris Agreement.