

**Submission on the five-year vision and plan for the Global Climate Action Agenda**

**August 2025**

Australia welcomes the opportunity to submit views *on the Climate High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership five-year vision and plan for the Global Climate Action Agenda.*

Australia is keen to work with Parties to evolve the GCAA to ensure it continues to have lasting impact. Australia places high importance on finding the best means to advance delivery of the Paris Agreement goals and collective progress towards the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake (GST).

**Views on what success should look like for the GCAA in the next five years and effective measurement of efforts**

Both Parties and non-Party stakeholders (NPS) have mutually reinforcing roles to play in the GCAA to drive ambition and implement practical outcomes across the next five years and beyond. The growing number of GCAA actors, initiatives and commitments is a positive indicator of rising ambition and focus on delivering real-economy action. Despite this, there are challenges in ensuring continuity of initiatives between COPs and avoiding duplication of effort and over-proliferation of initiatives. The GCAA’s scale and scope presents challenges for Parties, NPS, and COP Presidencies to understand the progress made through past initiatives and where best to invest resources and effort each year.

Each COP Presidency brings a unique focus to their agenda which allows for different regional and thematic topics to feature in global discussions. Australia recognises this as a strength of our multilateral cycles. However, there is also value in increased continuity between Presidencies to build on the outcomes from year-to-year. The HLCs and the Climate Champions’ Team play a critical role supporting Presidencies as one of several ongoing roles with continuity across COPs. Australia suggests the HLCs, in coordination with the UNFCCC Secretariat, consider how dedicated briefings on the GCAA for Presidencies could strengthen continuity. This would accelerate the Presidency’s understanding of the scope, evolution and status of the GCAA and enhance the development of future GCAA strategy and ambition.

Australia encourages Parties, NPS and the Climate High-Level Champions to consider:

* **Strengthening focus on implementation and delivery:** the GCAA has played an important role in strengthening ambition and supporting implementation. Increased focus on supporting delivery would be beneficial, including to accelerate investment, mobilise finance, strengthen collaboration and public-private partnerships.
* **Improving monitoring, reporting and follow-up functions:** we see value in improving the monitoring and reporting of outcomes from initiatives, including how they help advance existing collective goals under the Paris Agreement and related decisions, and in helping identify where future work could add value. A clearer picture of the state of current activities will assist COP Presidencies, Parties and NPS in targeting their engagements and resources.
  + Where possible and appropriate, Party and NPS members of GCAA initiatives could encourage initiative secretariats, where they exist, to track, and make publicly available, actions and progress against relevant existing objectives such as those under the Paris Agreement, the outcomes of the first global stocktake, or goals set by parties under the Action Agenda. Other relevant information on progress such as investment trends or rate of uptake or deployment could also help build understanding and momentum for action.
  + A greater understanding of the individual impact of existing initiatives is needed for Parties and NPS to effectively design, develop and improve cooperation that will accelerate global climate action. In consultation with GCAA initiative secretariats, Parties and NPS, the HLCs may be able to assist with identifying challenges and blockers that initiatives face to achieving their goals, and what aspects of initiatives make them most successful and impactful. Sharing these insights with participants can help focus participants’ efforts and improve the quality of international climate cooperation.
* **Strengthening coordination:** Australia encouragesGCAA initiatives to coordinate work with other related initiatives to identify duplication, synergies and gaps across the GCAA.The coordination and planning proposed by the COP30 Presidency is welcomed. The HLCs may be best placed to provide additional support in the longer-term to assist with sectoral or thematic coordination. This will help make efficient use of resources, including focusing political leadership and improving continuity through-COPs.
* **Embedding the genuine and meaningful inclusion of Indigenous Peoples as standard practice:** enhanced support for the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the GCAA could include high-level dialogues, or stronger connections between the HLCs and the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform. In addition, the beneficial impacts of GCAA initiatives for Indigenous Peoples could be consistently reported on to measure progress.
  + Where possible, the GCAA can showcase the benefits of partnerships with and leadership of Indigenous Peoples, to facilitate and encourage NPS to support the effective and meaningful inclusion of Indigenous Peoples.
  + Australia encourages Parties, NPS and the HLCs to consider ways to champion the genuine and meaningful inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in global climate action, including initiatives championed by previous HLCs such as building stronger baseline data on Indigenous-led climate action to highlight the importance of Indigenous knowledges, sciences and practices.

**Views on facilitating direct and impactful engagement between Parties and NPS to support implementation efforts at both national and sectoral levels, to advance full delivery of the GST, NDCs, and NAPs**

Australia welcomes current collective efforts to strengthen Party and NPS collaboration. The significant and growing number of GCAA initiatives can stretch Party and NPS resources across various lines of effort. We welcome the opportunity to consider how to coalesce political engagement.

Australia encourages Parties and NPS to join up efforts within sectoral and thematic groups to pool resources and amplify collective impact. Sectoral-based coordination, as exemplified by the Breakthrough Agenda and the 2030 Breakthroughs, has been effective in spotlighting progress, challenges and opportunities in respective economic sectors.

**Views on promoting inclusive and equitable engagement in the GCAA**

Australia encourages Parties, NPS and the HLCs to consider promoting efforts to drive the full, equal, meaningful and diverse participation and leadership of women and girls in all their diversity, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, and children and youth in climate action, recognising that inclusive and participatory approaches can unlock greater ambition and sustainable outcomes. Parties, NPS and the HLCs may wish to consider the following actions to promote inclusive and equitable engagement in the GCAA:

* **Improving accessibility and reporting:** existing reporting data on participation collected by Parties, NPS or the HLCs could be disaggregated by stakeholder group to help identify Indigenous Peoples’ and youth participation and contributions and better promote gender-responsive climate action. Improving the accessibility of reporting and information sharing via different formats (e.g. infographics, videos, short summaries) can increase engagement for all stakeholders, and better raise public awareness and participation in climate solutions being driven under the GCAA.
* **Direct and targeted engagement:** such as greater engagement with the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform as part of GCAA sectoral coordination or engagement with the COP Presidency Youth Climate Champion to support youth-responsive and child-sensitive climate action at all levels.
* **Championing inclusive approaches to leadership:** empower and support Indigenous Peoples’, youth and women leadership and decision-making across all processes, including within the Marrakech Partnership and its focal point network.
* **Supporting the mobilisation of funding**: for Indigenous Peoples’, youth, and grassroots participation, including support for travel, accommodation, Pavilion spaces, interpretation and digital access support.
* **Improving accessible services:** including provision of translation services where possible and as needed for Indigenous Peoples, and accessibility support for people with physical disabilities, and older participants, including Indigenous Elders, to navigate the COP venue.

Australia recognises that not all Parties or NPS are equipped with equal resources to participate in the GCAA to the extent expressed by their individual ambition. Further work is needed by Parties, NPS and the HLCs to consider how to support and promote equitable participation. This can improve the flow of transferable solutions and ensure GCAA outcomes reflect diverse regional needs.

There has been growing recognition that climate change and biodiversity loss are intrinsically interlinked. The HLCs should consider how the GCAA can strengthen this momentum by continuing to highlight the importance of nature in the fight against climate change.

**Views on improving transparency, reporting and GCAA follow up**

Australia welcomes the current HLC work programme for 2025 with plans to scale up and improve current reporting processes for GCAA initiatives. Australia also recognises the valuable contribution of the annual Breakthrough Agenda Report in communicating GCAA progress in selected sectors. Australia encourages Parties, NPS and the HLCs to work together to communicate global progress. This may be through the Global Climate Action Portal (a.k.a NAZCA), the Yearbook of Global Climate Action or an alternative platform.

Targeted improvements could be made to the Global Climate Action Portal, including:

* **Focusing on user-friendly and intuitive site navigation:** the flow of information should be logical and easy for users to navigate. Currently it is difficult for Parties and NPS to track progress with the scale of information displayed on the site.
* **Clear communication of progress against progress indicators for agreed goals:** the current profiles on the website of states, actors, cooperative initiatives and events give a sense of progress reported against the parameters of ambition, robustness and delivery; however, it is difficult to understand how the initiative sees its overall progress against its stated goals. In addition, there doesn’t appear to be a clear way of viewing or tracking collective progress (e.g. across multiple states, actors, cooperative initiatives and events). Collective progress could be consolidated in a new tab or highlighted on the home page.