

The Volunteer Team Foundation for Humanitarian Action

Observer in UNFCCC

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Contribution to the Call for Inputs by the Climate High-Level Champions

Submitted to: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

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Executive Summary

The Volunteer Team Foundation for Humanitarian Action, as an accredited Observer Organization to the UNFCCC, proudly submits this contribution to the Call for Inputs launched by the Climate High-Level Champions. This paper highlights our perspectives, experiences, and recommendations in advancing global climate action. Our foundation operates at the intersection of humanitarian action, climate awareness, and sustainable development, with a focus on empowering vulnerable communities, youth, and civil society actors.

We recognize that climate change is not only an environmental crisis but also a humanitarian challenge. Therefore, our approach integrates social justice, inclusiveness, and sustainable resilience. Our initiatives are directly aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with special emphasis on SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).

Through active participation in international partnerships, including the Climate Ambassadors Initiative, the Auditors and Experts Initiative in Sustainability and Climate Risk Assessment, the Water Footprint Pioneers, and the Carbon Neutral Pioneers, we have developed innovative approaches to address climate risks, advance education, and promote carbon neutrality. These partnerships serve as practical examples of how grassroots organizations can influence systemic change at national, regional, and international levels.

Our contribution addresses the guiding questions of the Climate Champions by sharing insights on enabling environments, capacity building, finance, resilience, and inclusivity. We also highlight lessons learned from our projects, particularly in building networks of climate ambassadors, strengthening professional expertise in sustainability, and pioneering new models for water and carbon management.

This submission concludes with a set of recommendations aimed at enhancing global collaboration, just transitions, and accelerating pathways toward net-zero by 2050.

Section I – Introduction

The Volunteer Team Foundation for Humanitarian Action (VTFHA) is a civil society organization committed to addressing the interconnected challenges of humanitarian needs, sustainable development, and climate change. Established to empower communities and provide innovative responses to crises, the foundation has expanded its mission to include climate action as a central pillar of its work.



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Our role as an Observer in the UNFCCC process reflects our commitment to contributing constructively to global dialogue. We understand that tackling climate change requires inclusive governance, where civil society, academia, private sector, and governments all play an integral role. By engaging in the UNFCCC process, VTFHA aims to amplify voices from the Global South, ensuring that perspectives from vulnerable communities are not marginalized.

The foundation is led by Dr. Mostafa Elsayed Sherbiny Elsayed, an internationally recognized expert in sustainability, carbon management, and climate policy. Under his leadership, VTFHA has become a hub for innovative projects that align humanitarian response with climate resilience. We prioritize capacity building, public awareness, and knowledge-sharing, making us a bridge between local action and global policy frameworks.

Our work is framed within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a cross-cutting approach that links humanitarian action with climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. For example, addressing water scarcity not only reduces climate vulnerability but also supports health, agriculture, and economic stability. Similarly, advancing carbon neutrality contributes to environmental protection while creating green jobs and supporting just transitions.

This introduction sets the stage for our contribution, which responds to the guiding questions of the Climate Champions. We share practical insights, highlight best practices from our projects, and propose recommendations for strengthening the Global Climate Action Agenda.

Section II – Response to Guiding Questions

Q1: What are the most important enablers of climate action at the non-Party stakeholder level?

- Enablers include: policy alignment, accessible finance, strong partnerships, and inclusive governance.
- Example: Our Climate Ambassadors Initiative shows how youth-led networks can mobilize large-scale awareness campaigns, influencing national climate discourse.
- Lesson: Empowering communities requires both institutional support and grassroots mobilization.

Q2: How can capacity building best support climate ambition and implementation?

- Professional capacity is critical: auditors, experts, and practitioners need advanced skills in sustainability reporting, risk assessment, and ESG disclosure.



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- Example: Our Auditors and Experts Initiative has trained thousands of professionals in Egypt and across the Arab region on climate risk assessment aligned with IFRS S1, S2, and TNFD.
- Recommendation: Capacity building should integrate both technical knowledge and soft skills (leadership, communication, community engagement).

Q3: How can financial flows be better directed towards climate solutions?

- Challenge: Civil society organizations face barriers in accessing climate finance.
- Proposal: Establish simplified, transparent mechanisms for grassroots organizations to access micro-grants and blended finance.
- VTFHA contribution: Through partnerships, we demonstrate accountability frameworks that ensure effective use of climate finance, increasing donor confidence.

Q4: What role does inclusivity play in scaling climate action?

- Inclusivity ensures legitimacy and sustainability. Marginalized groups (youth, women, indigenous peoples, rural communities) bring local knowledge critical for adaptation strategies.
- Example: The Climate Ambassadors program has empowered young volunteers in Egypt and Sudan to lead awareness campaigns, influencing both communities and policymakers.
- Recommendation: Every climate program should integrate inclusivity as a core principle, not an afterthought.

Q5: What innovations or tools can accelerate climate action?

- Tools: digital platforms for carbon accounting, AI-driven water footprint mapping, and blockchain for climate finance transparency.
- Innovation: The Water Footprint Pioneers initiative introduces new methods for tracking and reducing water use in agriculture and industry.
- Example: In Egypt, water footprint mapping has been used to raise awareness among farmers about sustainable irrigation practices.

Q6: How can we ensure accountability and transparency in climate commitments?

- Mechanism: independent verification and reporting aligned with global standards (GHG Protocol, ISO 14064, IFRS S1/S2).



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- VTFHA Role: As part of the Auditors and Experts Initiative, we train professionals to implement rigorous verification processes.
- Recommendation: Encourage governments and private sector to adopt third-party verification to ensure credibility of their net-zero pledges.

Section III – Contributions to the Global Climate Action Agenda

VTFHA's contributions can be grouped into four thematic areas:

1. **Climate Education and Awareness** – Through the Climate Ambassadors initiative, we have mobilized thousands of young volunteers to engage communities in climate literacy, sustainable lifestyles, and behavioral change.
2. **Capacity Building for Professionals** – The Auditors and Experts Initiative provides specialized training on climate risk assessment, ESG reporting, and sustainability auditing. This builds a professional ecosystem capable of supporting ambitious climate policies.
3. **Water Sustainability** – The Water Footprint Pioneers program addresses one of the most pressing challenges in the MENA region: water scarcity. By promoting efficient use and management, we help build resilience to climate-induced water stress.
4. **Carbon Neutral Pathways** – The Carbon Neutral Pioneers initiative provides frameworks for organizations to measure, reduce, and offset emissions, supporting global net-zero targets.

Through these contributions, VTFHA bridges local action with global ambition. By integrating humanitarian values with scientific approaches, we demonstrate how civil society can be a catalyst for systemic transformation.

Section IV – Recommendations & Proposed Actions

1. Establish a dedicated funding window under the UNFCCC for grassroots civil society climate projects.
2. Strengthen collaboration between High-Level Champions and Observer Organizations to ensure bottom-up perspectives inform global strategies.
3. Promote standardization of climate reporting for non-Party stakeholders to increase transparency.
4. Integrate inclusivity and equity into all climate initiatives, ensuring just transitions that leave no one behind.
5. Accelerate knowledge-sharing platforms to scale best practices across regions.



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Conclusion

The Volunteer Team Foundation for Humanitarian Action reaffirms its commitment to advancing the Global Climate Action Agenda. By combining humanitarian principles with sustainability expertise, we contribute to building resilient communities and supporting the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals. Our partnerships, initiatives, and recommendations underscore the importance of inclusive, transparent, and ambitious climate action. We stand ready to continue our engagement with the UNFCCC, the Climate High-Level Champions, and global stakeholders in shaping a sustainable, carbon-neutral future.

Annex – Examples of UN SDG Partnerships

1. **Climate Ambassadors Initiative** – Promoting climate literacy and engagement through youth networks | <https://sdgs.un.org/partnership-progress/climate-ambassadors>
2. **Auditors and Experts Initiative in Sustainability and Climate Risk Assessment** – Building professional capacity for ESG and climate risk reporting. | <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/auditors-and-experts-initiative-sustainability-and-climate-risk-assessment>
3. **Water Footprint Pioneers** – Driving sustainable water use and raising awareness of water footprints. | <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/water-footprint-pioneers-initiative-water-ambassadors>
4. **Carbon Neutral Pioneers** – Guiding organizations on pathways toward carbon neutrality. | <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/carbon-neutral-pioneers-initiative>

Signature of Dr. Mostafa Elsayed Sherbiny Elsayed
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Mostafa Sherbiny

