

COP26 briefing note on the renewed Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, 2021-2025

November 2021

This memorandum summarizes the state of play on the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action at COP26. It identifies key messages to further strengthen climate action in the UNFCCC process at COP26 and beyond. We encourage Parties and non-Party actors to promote these messages with Parties and other stakeholders, in official statements throughout COP26, and in public communications.

Context

- 1) *Renewed mandate.* At COP25 in 2019, under the Chilean Presidency, Parties decided to extend the mandate of the High-level Climate Champions to 2025, and tasked them with exploring how to further improve the work of the Marrakech Partnership.
- 2) *Strong results since COP25.* The enormous efforts of High-level Climate Champions Gonzalo Muñoz (Chile) and Nigel Topping (UK) have [strengthened](#) the Marrakech Partnership. This work includes:
 - a) **Global campaigns:** The [Race to Zero](#) and [Race to Resilience](#) campaigns, as well as the [Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero](#), have galvanized cities, regions, business, investors, civil society, and others to converge toward robust net zero and adaptation and resilience commitments and actions.
 - b) **Breakthroughs:** The [2030 Breakthroughs](#), launched in January 2021, have provided a framework for sector-by-sector ambition and joint target-setting for near-term action.
 - c) **Climate Action Pathways:** Through an expansive process of collaboration among partnering organizations, the updated and revitalized [Climate Action Pathways](#) have served to converge actors across the landscape around common roadmaps for sector-specific transformations.
 - d) **Regional Climate Weeks:** Over the last years, the UN-hosted [Regional Climate Weeks](#) have served as key mechanisms to connect global, regional and local-level climate action, facilitating a two-way process of exchange in knowledge, capacity, narrative, and coordination. The recently trialled Implementation Labs have led the way in demonstrating the implementation of commitments through collaboration between line ministries and sector-specific sub- and non-state actors.
- 3) *Forward vision.* Following the COP25 mandate, the Champions have published [a vision for an effective Marrakech Partnership through 2025 and, indicatively, until 2030](#). This vision outlines how the Marrakech Partnership can play a unique orchestrative function across the landscape of sub- and non-state actors and cooperative initiatives, and drive the ‘ambition-implementation loop’ between national governments and sub- and non-state actors. The renewed Marrakech Partnership will be formally launched at COP26.

Key messages

1. *A strong Marrakech Partnership will play a key part of the UNFCCC process in this decisive decade of implementation and action.* Reaching the Paris goals requires immediate action. The Marrakech Partnership [provides unique added value](#) by linking the UNFCCC process to the wider ‘groundswell’ of climate action, helping both Parties and non-Parties deliver and enhance their goals. Providing a “space” for action is critical as the UNFCCC process shifts to a period of intense implementation.
2. *Parties and non-Party actors should engage fully in operationalizing the work of the Marrakech Partnership.* With the Marrakech Partnership framework now in place through 2025, all efforts must go to operationalization. Parties can work to ensure that relevant line ministries (e.g. finance, transport, industry, agriculture, etc.) are engaged in the substantive thematic work of the Partnership. Similarly, non-Party actors can join the global campaigns and work to deliver the 2030 breakthroughs. We need all hands on deck. It is particularly important to ensure that global networks include [robust representation and ownership of actors from developing countries](#).
3. *The COP26 decision should welcome the Champions’ vision for a strong Marrakech Partnership.* As previous COP decisions have done, it is important for Parties to again recognize the work of the Champions and of non-Party stakeholders more widely, and to welcome the improved Marrakech Partnership, responding to the mandate they gave to the Champions at COP25 in Madrid.
4. *The Marrakech Partnership can make a unique contribution to the 2023 Global Stocktake.* Parties have agreed that the Global Stocktake will include inputs from non-Party stakeholders. Alongside the community of observers and constituencies, the Marrakech Partnership can make a unique and complementary contribution by providing information on the actions, progress, and goals of sub- and non-state actors, as well as multi-stakeholder initiatives. This information is critical for taking stock of progress toward the Paris Goals. The Marrakech Partnership's unique role should be explicitly recognized in the Stocktake planning process. The Stocktake process should also take into account the changing priorities of Parties with regards to mitigation and adaptation and pay attention to issues of social justice.
5. *COP27 offers a critical opportunity to further advance the work of the Marrakech Partnership.* The Marrakech Partnership was born at COP22 in Morocco. As the next COP to be held in Africa, [COP27 offers a unique opportunity](#) to deepen the role of actors from developing countries in the Marrakech Partnership, and to strengthen core themes such as adaptation, finance, youth, energy access, agriculture, and other priorities for the region. The COP27 Presidency has a significant opportunity to advance these goals by appointing a dynamic and dedicated High-level Champion who could spearhead leadership in emerging strategic climate action and particularly those relevant to the most vulnerable communities.

Who we are: Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions

Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions is a series of dialogues that brings together organizations supporting climate action at all levels. Its objectives include:

1. Bringing the groundswell of climate actions from cities, regions, companies, and other groups to a higher level of scale and ambition;
2. Increasing efficient coordination among cooperative initiatives and sub- and non-state networks;
3. Improving analysis and understanding of “bottom up” climate actions;
4. Building a positive narrative of pragmatic, concrete action on climate change; and
5. Identifying opportunities for the groundswell of climate actions and the multilateral process to support and catalyze each other.

Since 2014, Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions has brought together city and regional networks, company networks, cooperative initiatives, governments, international organizations, and researchers to discuss and advance these objectives. By convening the community of actors that make up and support the groundswell of climate actions, we seek to realize the full potential of this extraordinary innovation in global governance.

www.climategroundswell.org