

Memorandum to Funders: Executive Summary

How can Funders Accelerate Global Climate Action to 2018 and 2020?

Building A Catalytic “Ecosystem” for Subnational and Non-State Climate Action

March 1, 2017

This memo takes stock of the current state of climate action by sub- and non-state actors, focusing on efforts to orchestrate a groundswell of action in support of the UNFCCC process. It aims to give public and private funders an overview of the ‘ecosystem’ of actors and institutions around these efforts to inform funding strategies for the 2017-2020 timeframe in order to strengthen sub- and non-state climate action.

The ‘groundswell’ of climate action from cities, states and provinces, businesses, civil society groups, and other sub- and non-state actors has grown into a significant component of the international climate regime. In fact, it has been shown that these commitments have the potential to avoid as much carbon emissions into the atmosphere as all pledges made by national governments under the Paris Agreement. The recently formed Marrakech Partnership aims to channel this groundswell of climate action into a powerful tool for driving ambition in the UNFCCC process. It will do so by ensuring the coordination, orchestration, tracking and analysis of existing efforts, thereby maximizing the cumulative impact of all individual actions.

The success of the Marrakech Partnership is dependent on a whole ecosystem of actors supporting its work. However, currently critical niches in the ecosystem are not being filled – creating an opportunity for the funding community to advance climate action through targeted support to the actors and processes that empower sub- and non-state climate actions. By promoting effective co-ordination among partners, through centralized communication at the UNFCCC, the work of actors can be streamlined by aligning their strategies so to facilitate learning and prevent duplication of efforts. Directly expanding the resources of the UNFCCC, would enable them to capitalize on the groundswell of climate action by leading co-ordination efforts with other global groups and increase linkages with external activity so to increase the profile of activities.

Another key opportunity for promoting further climate action and scale up momentum, is to galvanize the functionality of the Global Climate Action ecosystem. By enhancing the ability of sub/non-state actors and initiatives (such as UNFCCC associates, the Marrakech Partnership and COP), climate action can be expanded into new geographic areas, industries and communities; showing decisive ambition for 2018 and the ratcheting of NDCs. Finally, through tracking and analysis, a vessel for illustrating progress can be developed. Funding commitments to NAZCA through the UNFCCC will provide an accurate picture of how sub/non-state action is contributing to the Paris goals, key in an effort to harbor confidence and ambition in the global climate action agenda.