



Open letter to the High-level Climate Champions

Your work to improve the Marrakech Partnership through 2030

5 May 2021

Dear High-level Champions,

The Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions (GGCA) network has been discussing the vision for improving the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA) that you outlined during the 9 March strategy meeting. We are writing to provide some feedback we hope will be helpful as you continue to develop and implement these plans.

First, we strongly congratulate you on the work done so far. It is exciting to see a vision for the MPGCA extending throughout the “decisive decade,” and encouraging to see the kinds of ideas that have been discussed in our community over the past years moving to reality. The work you are doing this year in the lead-up to COP26 is creating a strong base on which to build sustained and impactful action for the MPGCA and the wider ‘ecosystem’ as a whole.

Second, we note the vision remains fairly high-level, with further details still to be worked out. A few points in particular struck us as benefiting from further elaboration:

- We emphasize the importance of the ‘ambition loop’ as a core principle for the MPGCA—mobilizing non-Party actors helps Parties achieve and deepen their own climate action, and vice-versa. We think this central idea should sit at the heart of the narrative around the improved MPGCA, and can indeed play an important role in the larger narrative at COP26 as we shift to a decisive decade of implementation.
- Following this, exactly how the MPGCA helps build connections between Parties and non-Parties remains a key area for further work. We welcome the idea of trailing an “implementation lab” as soon as possible, and are excited that this will be piloted at the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Climate Week.
- It would be useful to develop some more concrete ideas on how the MPGCA will be organized moving forward. Who is part of it, and how do they work together? What is the status of the Champions’ Team, and how does that evolve as Champions change over time? The role of the newly appointed “Race to Zero/Resilience Ambassadors” would also benefit from further clarification.
- The tracking progress element should be developed further. For example, the improvements to the Global Climate Action Platform are proceeding, but remain on the drawing board. We believe we have the right processes in place in Camda and related for a to advance this work, but would underscore the urgency of getting this system in place as soon as possible. Questions around credibility and accountability are now urgent, and in our view holding back the potential of climate action to deliver its full potential.
- The link to the Global Stocktake can be further clarified. Specifically, what can the “super yearbook” do to maximize the ambition loop logic?
- We note the continued importance of making the MPGCA truly global, including the voices of the vulnerable and marginalized. What can be done to ensure that COP27 advances this goal in a transformative way?

As always, we are very happy to help think through these and any other questions, which we are seeking to grapple with in our own work as well.

Third, and perhaps most importantly, we are very conscious of the need to build further awareness of the MPGCA with both Parties and non-Parties, and to generate strong support for the ‘improved’ MPGCA, in advance of COP26. We note that the virtual nature of the Regional Climate Weeks further complicates this task. We are seeking to contribute to this goal by conducting our own awareness-building and outreach, with a focus on Africa. We are keen to continue supporting you on this front.



Finally, we reiterate the fundamental imperative of working out the basic organization of the Champions Team going forward, especially financial resources and personnel. We are very eager to help make sure we avoid the “boom/bust” cycle our community often experiences around major events, and instead continue to build on your excellent work thus far.

Going forward, we would suggest that June-July would be a good timeframe by which to have a more full and detailed description of the MPGCA, so that we can work to build support and understanding around this agenda in advance of the autumn.

Again, thank you for your leadership. We stand ready to help in whatever way is needed.

Sincerely,

Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions