



INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES TO THEMATIC GROUPS ON ACTIVITIES OF MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION AT COP 24

1. Purpose

The purpose of this note is to provide information on the planned activities of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action (MPGCA) at COP 24, to outline general guidelines to the Thematic Groups for planning, organizing, conducting, and reporting on relevant events and to launch a call for expression of interest to organize roundtables on cross-cutting issues and thematic interlinkages.

2. MPGCA activities at COP 24

The programme of MPGCA activities at COP 24 will comprise an opening press conference, a series of events, including the ones at the Action Hub (amphitheatre), and bilateral meetings. The opening press conference of the MPGCA will be held in middle of the first week as a curtain raiser. A series of events by MPGCA stakeholders and the High-Level Champions will be held over the course of the following 5 to 6 days. Additionally, shorter events or showcasing activities can take place at the “Action Hub” – an amphitheatre at a centrally located space of the venue. The secretariat will secure up to two 30-minutes slots per Thematic Group if there is interest. A guideline document will be prepared at a later stage with information on the application and selection process for the Action Hub.

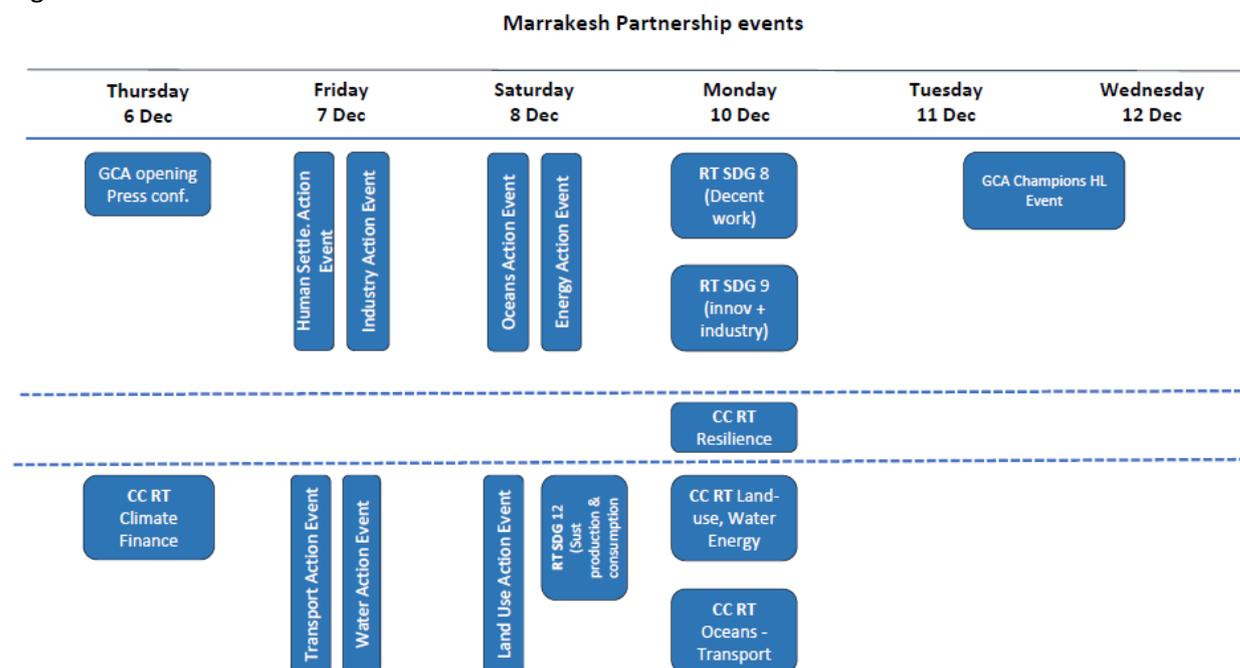
3. Objective of the High-Level Champions at COP24

Given that 2019 will be the last full year left before the governments start finalizing the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2020, the objective of the High-Level Champions for MPGCA activities at COP 24 in December 2018 is to ensure an opportunity to provide space for impact-driven focused dialogues and interactions between non-Party stakeholders (NPS) and Party representatives. The Marrakech Partnership events at COP 24 should therefore strengthen the collaboration for greater pre-2020 mitigation and adaptation actions and identify specific and concrete policy options and solutions that assist Parties to enhance and implement NDCs. The events should highlight milestone achievements for scaling up climate action up to 2020 and beyond, guided by the respective Thematic Action Tracker and aimed towards the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

4. Overview of the MPGCA events at COP24

There are broadly four different types of events at COP 24: Thematic Area Action Events, cross-cutting roundtables and roundtables on thematic interlinkages, SDG roundtables and the mandated high-level event. They are scheduled from Thursday, 6 December 2018 over the following 5 to 6 days as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1.



5. Types and nature of the MPGCA events

Thematic Area Action Events: Each of the seven thematic areas of the MPGCA will have an event slot of three hours to showcase the impacts their initiatives and coalitions have made in 2018 and to announce new commitments and any other achievements. The discussions on the thematic events should be at a technical level, focused to present to policy-makers key policy options, solutions and lessons learned as well serving as a space for recognition. These events are planned for the first week.

Roles and format: These events are led and curated by the stakeholders of the MPGCA under the guidance of the High-Level Champions and the support of the secretariat. The room will have a “davos style” stage set up and a theatre style floor.

Roundtables on thematic interlinkages: Based on the feedback from the MP stakeholders, in order to provide them with more opportunities to work on the interlinkages of various thematic areas and to interact with high-level participants (Ministers, Mayors, Governors C-level executives, etc.), two roundtables are planned for the second week. The themes are:

- a. Roundtable 1: Thematic interlinkage of Water, Land use and Energy
- b. Roundtable 2: Thematic interlinkage of Transport and Oceans and Coastal Zones

Roles and format: These roundtables should be led and curated by the stakeholders of the MPGCA of the respective groups under the guidance of the High-Level Champions and the support of the secretariat. Each roundtable is 90 minutes long. Format will be a roundtable discussion in a square room set-up.

Cross-cutting roundtables: In order to ensure opportunities to address themes of cross-cutting nature with engagement of higher-level participants, two roundtables are planned for the second week. The themes are:

- a. Roundtable 1: Climate action and Resilience
- b. Roundtable 2: Climate action and Finance

Roles and format: The Roundtable 1 should be led and curated by the stakeholders of the MPGCA under the guidance of the High-Level Champions and the support of the secretariat. The Roundtable 2 will be led and curated by the High-Level Champions with the support of the secretariat in cooperation with the MPGCA stakeholders. Each roundtable is scheduled for 90 minutes. Format will be a roundtable discussion in a square room set-up.

SDG roundtables: Three roundtables will discuss the nexus between climate action and SDGs 8, 9 and 12, which were selected by the High-Level Champions as the focus SDGs for 2018. These roundtables are aimed to bring Parties and NPS together to discuss high-impact opportunities and ways to remove barriers for the implementation of the SDGs from the perspective of climate action. The intention is that these discussions would include the possibility of higher-level participants.

Roles and format: The three roundtables should be led and curated by the High-Level Champions with the support of the secretariat and in cooperation with the MPGCA stakeholders. Each roundtable is 90 minutes long. Format will be a roundtable discussion in a square room set-up.

High-level event on Global Climate Action: GCA high-level event is a mandated event of the High-Level Champions and is the culmination of all the MP activities of the year, including events at COP 24. This high-level event is also referred to in the COP 23 Decision on Technical Examination Processes (TEPs) as a possible avenue for ensuring the continuity of the TEPs. The High-Level Champions would present the key messages from the year coming from the stakeholders contained in the Yearbook of Global Climate Action.

Roles and format: The event will be led and curated by the High-Level Champions with the support of the secretariat and in cooperation with MPGCA stakeholders. Format will be a plenary style presentation and dialogue.

An overview of the roles of the High-Level Champions and MPGCA stakeholders in the preparation of the concept notes are shown below (Table 1)

Table 1.

Type of event	Role of High-Level Champions	Role of MPGCA stakeholders
Thematic Action Events	Review and comment	Curate
Cross-cutting roundtables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Action and Resilience • Climate Action and Finance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and comment • Curate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curate • Support

RT on thematic interlinkages	Review and comment	Curate
SDG roundtable	Curate	Support
High-Level Event	Curate	Support

6. Features of MPGCA events

The following elements should be characteristics for the action events, cross-cutting roundtables and roundtables on thematic interlinkages:

- a. Focus discussions that brings impact based on the Thematic Action Trackers;
- b. Ensure to have a consistent messaging of the MPGCA and global climate action by NPS;
- c. Need to focus on transformative actions and solutions and how these are being or can be accelerated, scaled up and/or replicated;
- d. Focus on solutions to real-world cross-sectoral challenges (particularly for roundtables).

The MPGCA events should have an overall narrative for the Marrakech Partnership; with the theme coming from the Thematic Action Trackers; and including the cross-cutting issues that demonstrate real-world challenges and solutions that need to be factored in the planning phase of NDCs. Elements of the overall narrative are:

- a. Sense of urgency and optimism of readiness and support by MP stakeholders;
- b. Highlighting success stories of strengthened existing initiatives that assisted policy makers;
- c. Demonstrate how ambition and implementation can be further enhanced in the short term, making a link to the 2018 Talanoa Dialogue and the next round of NDCs;
- d. Demonstrate how ambition and implementation can be enhanced in the mid and long term, towards the implementation of the goals of the Paris Agreement to achieve climate neutrality and resilient societies.

The MPGCA events should be structured around:

- a. Overall progress towards the short-, mid- and long-term goals by 2020, 2030 and 2050 based on the Thematic Action Trackers;
- b. Spotlight ambitious action and success stories of implementation referring to the impacts identified in the Thematic Action Trackers;
- c. New opportunities, commitments and announcements.

As these are MPGCA events under the auspices of the High-Level Champions, they will be engaged in each of the Thematic Action Events as well as the roundtables on SDGs, cross-cutting thematic areas and thematic interlinkages. The roles of the High-Level Champions could be for one of the opening remarks or closing remarks.

7. Logistical information at COP24

Detailed information on the logistics of the venue and the events will be provided at a later stage, but the MPGCA activities are foreseen to take place in a prominent area with high traffic of participants, between the main entrance to the conference venue and the area where negotiation rooms are located. The exceptions to this are the high-level mandated event and the opening press conference.

The Thematic Action Event rooms are planned for a stage with a ‘Davos style’ setting with 8 arm chairs without a head table with the theatre style seating of approximately 200 capacity for the floor.

The roundtable room is a square setting, with 50 seats at table, 50 advisors’ row and additional 50 chairs on one side of the room. You may want to specifically invite up to 50 people to be seated at table. Other participants will still be able to join the event as seats will be available behind the table and on the side.

Regarding the accreditations, it is foreseen to distribute a fixed number of MPGCA badges for each thematic group. The number and parameters will be communicated to the MP stakeholders at a later stage.

Catering information will be provided as soon as the catering company prepares the ordering system.

8. Preparation of concept notes for events and roundtables

- *Action events* - Respective Thematic Groups are required to develop a concept note for the Action Events and upload it on the online platform based on the template provided on the platform.
- *Roundtables on thematic interlinkages* - Respective stakeholders from the thematic groups are required to jointly develop a concept note and upload it to the platform using the template also provided on the platform.
 - Roundtable on thematic interlinkage of Water, Land use and Energy
 - Roundtable on thematic interlinkage of Transport and Oceans and Coastal Zones
- *Cross-cutting roundtable on Resilience* - The cross-cutting thematic group on Resilience are required to develop a concept note and upload it on the online platform based on the template also provided on the platform.

9. Outcome documents of the events at COP24

An outcome document must be prepared for reporting on each event by the respective thematic groups for Thematic Action Events, and by the lead organizations for the cross-cutting roundtables and the roundtables on thematic interlinkages using the template available on the platform. All outcome documents will be posted online. The outcome document template mirrors the concept note template in order to facilitate reporting and focus the event impact-driven.

For the Action Events, the outcome template has been prepared in a way that facilitates respective Thematic Groups to update the Thematic Action Trackers. The outcome document provides an opportunity to report on the MPGCA’s work that was not covered by the Action Event.

Please note that the content of the outcome document should be used for updating the Thematic Action Tracker for 2019 where relevant.

10. Media event and communications

An opening press conference will be held by the High-Level Champions as a curtain raiser. MP stakeholders are welcome to organize additional press briefings or prepare press releases. Further communication activities will be shared by the GCA Communications team at a later stage.

11. Further guidance on the format of the events

Keep the events short: ideally the 3 hours of action events could be broken into shorter segments between 60 to 90 minutes each. Long events featuring several panels back-to-back often do not make for engaging viewing. Shorter events will be more palatable to a digital/online audience as well. Avoid death by a sequence of statements.

Impact-driven: instead of trying to cover many issues, select one or two with high impact with quality speakers for successful discussions.

Be inclusive: ensure gender balance, regional balance and balance of Parties and NPS.

Davos style stage: all action events will be allocated to a room with a Davos style. This is conducive to a dialogue and interaction with the audience. You could consider using this for the following:

- a. 'On the sofa' style dialogues: 1 moderator interviewing 3-4 speakers in an informal but engaging space;
- b. Two-sided debates with a clear motion, moderated competently. Opportunity to field questions from the floor to stir-up arguments;
- c. Ted-style talks, of between 10-20 minutes with a speaker who is familiar with the format.

Pick the right speakers: consider who the best speakers/presenters are, rather than simply identifying the most senior person. The events should of course involve the senior people but they should also be dynamic. This means not necessarily having the usual suspects paired together (i.e. business, investor, city) but also considering civil society or cultural figures to have a greater mix of knowledge.

Tip to use short movies, for introduction or change of panels.

What to avoid: pre-scripted long opening monologues and statements after statements. Better to keep the events lively as if they're an organic, albeit moderated discussion rather than a stream of statements.

Annex – Expected timelines

Friday, 21 September – At least up to section v. of the concept note for the thematic **action events, cross-cutting roundtables** and **roundtables on thematic interlinkages** should be finalized by the thematic groups on the respective tabs within the Marrakech Partnership Online Platform (<https://collaborate.unfccc.int/sites/SE/layouts/15/start.aspx#/>) for consideration of the High-Level Champions

10 – 11 October (tbc) – The concept note of **action events, cross-cutting roundtables** and **roundtables on thematic interlinkages** will be finalized at a planned Marrakech Partnership meeting.

Week of 15 October – The secretariat will publish the first part of the concept notes on the official website and enters information into Side Events and Exhibits Online Registration System (SEORS) for the announcement of COP 24 side events.

Friday, 19 October – The full concept note with information on speakers and detailed programme should be finalized by the thematic groups on the respective tabs within the Marrakech Partnership Online Platform.

<https://collaborate.unfccc.int/sites/SE/layouts/15/start.aspx#/>

Monday, 22 October – The secretariat will publish the detailed programme on the official website.
