

Marrakech Partnership Strategy and Planning Meeting

26-27 March 2018

Lisbon, Portugal

Notes prepared by: Ingrid Timboe, Policy Associate, AGWA

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- a. Provide guidance to GCA stakeholders to build coherence of various activities within the UNFCCC process between 2018 and 2020;
- b. Built coherence between the UNFCCC process and key moments outside the process and identify strategic opportunities to link from and feed into those moments;
- c. Identify synergies by aligning MP Partners' respective signature activities and input to the UNFCCC process and key moments.
- d. Fine tune calendar of events for 2018

DAY 1

Morning Session: Overview of Meeting, Ocean Pathway Partnership, Milestones for 2018+

Both of the UNFCCC Champions, Tomasz Chruszczow and Inia Seruiratu, were present and helped lead and provide feedback during all sessions. The first day focused on going over the UNFCCC milestones and priorities for 2018 and recommendations / discussion around Marrakech Partnership engagement with the Talanoa Facilitative Dialogue process.

After introductions and opening remarks from the GCA Team and the Champions, first on the agenda was a short presentation on the [Oceans Pathway Partnership](#) by the Fijian delegation. The Ocean Pathway was successfully launched in COP23 in Bonn with a two track strategy for 2020 that includes: 1. Establishing the role of ocean in climate change in the UNFCCC process and; 2. Significantly increasing action priority areas impacting or impacted by ocean and climate change. Co-chairs are Fiji and Sweden represented by the Fiji Minister of Economy and Minister Responsible for Climate Change, Hon. Aiyaz Sayed Khaiyum and Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, Hon. Isabella Lovin. More information is available from Taholo Kami).

After that, the GCA team presented on the upcoming priority events for the Marrakech Partnership in the run up to 2020. These include:

- Talanoa Facilitative Dialogue process [Dates: throughout 2018; deadlines for participation: 2 April (for inclusion in Bonn Intercessional), 28 October (for inclusion at COP 24)]
- Regional Climate Weeks (April – August 2018. Details in notes from Day 2)
- Global Climate Action Summit (12-14 September 2018, New York, NY USA)
- COP 24 (3-14 December 2018, Katowice, Poland)
- Sec. General's Climate Summit (July 2019, New York, NY USA)

As 2018 is the year of the Polish Presidency, Champion Chruszczow confirmed that **the Polish UNFCCC priority areas for 2018 are Forests, Just Transition of Work (from coal to green energy in Poland's case), and Innovation.**

The also mentioned the TEPs as a priority for GCA (more details below in Day 2) but formal Marrakech Partnership participation at SB 48 is currently limited primarily to the Champions, who will represent the GCA agenda within these consultations.

We are planning to at least observe TEP-A during SB 48. Marrakech Partnership has previously asked for there to be greater non-party stakeholder (NPS) participation in the TEPs, and they have agreed to this in principle, but it remains to be seen how this will manifest.

-Lunch-

Afternoon Session: Talanoa

Champion Inia Seruiratu gave an overview of the Talanoa approach, which has been covered in detail elsewhere, and online. The Dialogue Process takes place in two temporal phases, Preparatory (Jan-May 2018) and Political (Jun-Dec 2018). All inputs from the preparatory phase will feed into the High Level Political session at COP 24, resulting in an official declaration. If you want more details about the approach, see the UNFCCC [Talanoa website](#).

This was followed by a presentation by the GCA team on how we can engage the 2018 Talanoa Facilitative Dialogue. There are 3 ways:

- Online submission of comments via the Platform. The online portal is open and accepting submissions from both Parties and NPS. Just last week, the FCCC published a [guidance document](#) and [templates](#) to help craft submissions, but it is not necessary to follow the templates. Submissions received by 2 April will be included in the synthesis report produced for SB 48 (30 April – 10 May 2018); those received from 3 April – 28 October 2018 will be included in the final synthesis report presented at COP 24.
- Participation at the in-person dialogue scheduled for Sunday 6 May during SB 48 in Bonn, Germany. NPS participation is limited, and nominations are currently being reviewed. We have applied to participate through the Ringo Constituency, which has 5 seats allocated. Contact Maggie White for more details.
- Host a Talanoa Event. More information is available on the UNFCCC [website](#), but if we would like to hold a facilitative dialogue at any of our events this year (i.e., World Water Week), we can do so under the “banner” of the Marrakech Partnership. To qualify as a Talanoa event, the event must be relevant to at least one of the 3 central questions of the Talanoa Dialogue (Where are we? Where should we be going? How will we get there?), and should support the overarching goal of helping implement and increase NDC ambition. The outcome(s) of these events would need to be written up and submitted through the online portal. If we’re interested in going down this route, we can get in touch with [Kay Merce](#) or [Danielle Magalhaes](#) for more information.

The GCA team supports our involvement in Talanoa but are not giving much in the way of support outside of relaying information and there is no joint Marrakech Partnership submission planned at this juncture, aside from events that are branded under the banner of the Partnership.

One important thing to note is that both the Champions and the GCA team stressed the need for these submissions to be brief (2-5 pages max) and in the “spirit of Talanoa” meaning they should focus on stories that promote action and trust building. Submissions should not be policy briefs, reports, or lists of recommendations. Champion Tomasz Chruszczow gave the example of the success of afforestation efforts in Poland in helping to stem biodiversity loss and actually increase the total hectares of forested land in Poland over the past 30 years. The Polish submission will use this narrative in its submission to demonstrate the importance of resilient forest management practices in achieving the Paris Agreement targets.

Additionally, there was enthusiastic, if cautious, support for the Talanoa Process and many expressed a hope that this dialogue process would continue beyond its 2018 mandate.

Ultimately, it is up to us to choose how we, as the water team, want to engage. We will have at least one Talanoa submission, led by Solène and the FWP, for the 2 April deadline. Possibly more. Let Ingrid or Maggie know if you have specific suggestions for us as a group or are planning to submit / participate separately so we can keep track and coordinate efforts.

Participants then broke into groups to discuss engagement strategies for the Talanoa Dialogue process. Notes from these group sessions will be distributed by the GCA soon and I will forward them to you.

– End Day 1 –

DAY 2

Morning Session: Breakout Groups on thematic priorities for 2018 and beyond

Responding to the priorities mentioned during Day 1, participants again broke into small groups to discuss what is needed to ensure coherence, complementarity, and reduce unnecessary duplication of efforts. Participants were asked to answer the following questions:

1. What are the high-impact synergies between Marrakech Partnership thematic areas?
2. How can we complement existing efforts and initiatives to achieve these goals? How can the Champions and the MP facilitate these efforts?

Combined notes from this group session will be distributed by the GCA soon and I will forward them to you.

Other UNFCCC milestones for NPS

The GCA team then presented updates on several other UNFCCC milestones for 2018.

Technical Examination Processes (TEM / TEP-A) at SB 48 (30 April – 10 May 2018) and at regional meeting(s) throughout the year (no dates / locations set yet).

TEM topics 2018-2019

2018: Industry, implementation of circular economy, industrial waste reuse and prevention solutions. The SB 48 TEM agenda was just posted [here](#).

2019: energy: decentralized energy solutions for smart energy and water use in the agrifood chain

2020: human settlements: sustainable low-emission housing and building solutions

TEP-A topics 2018-2019

2018: Adaptation planning for vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystem. [No agenda](#) posted yet but Ingrid is monitoring.

2019: Adaptation Finance

As some of you may recall (or not), there was a UNFCCC Decision at COP23 ([13/CP.23](#)) providing recommendations for strengthening linkages between the TEPs and GCA. These include:

- Better integrate the TEPs with the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action;
- Focus on specific policy options and opportunities that are actionable in the short term, including those with sustainable development co-benefits;
- Engage expert organizations to organize the relevant technical expert meetings on mitigation (TEMs-M);
- Engage Parties and non-Party stakeholders to organize regional technical expert meetings, building on existing regional climate action events;
- Make the TEMs-M more interactive, provide an agenda and guiding questions well in advance and conclude the TEMs-M with a session on proposing ways forward and necessary actions;
- Inform the summary for policymakers, the high-level events and the Talanoa Dialogue.

The GCA team reiterated these points, adding:

- Need to ensure continuity and follow-up by including summary of meetings via the high level champions.
- Non-party stakeholder engagement must be improved; more expert group participation (but how??? Unclear from this session.)
- More interaction; we need the agenda and guiding questions in advance
- The secretariat needs to propose ways forward. There is space for Marrakech Partnership GCA sessions within regional meetings that feed into the SBs, less in May due to time constraints.
- Need specific policy options and opportunities for mitigation and adaptation that are actionable in the short term, especially including those with sustainable development co-benefits

UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks

Regional Climate Weeks for 2018: Good opportunity to meet with gov't representatives and negotiators – agenda is more open and there are no negotiations going on so it's easier to get their attention and schedule meetings. Possibly more strategic. If we want to have a thematic event at any of these, or to set up a networking session with climate negotiators that will be present, get in touch with [Kay Merce](#).

The schedule for 2018:

- Africa Climate Week (Nairobi, Kenya 9-13 April). Focus on NDC implementation, south-south implementation and connection to SDGs – Climate Action in the run-up to the COP
- Asia-Pacific Climate Week (Singapore 25-29 June). No agenda posted yet.
- LatAm and Caribbean Climate Week (Montevideo 20-25 August). No agenda posted yet.

Linkages with Agenda 2030: Priority SDGs until 2019 under the Marrakech Partnership

2018: SDGs 8 & 9 Decent work and economic growth & industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 12 Responsible production and consumption

2019: SDGs 14 & 15 Life on land and below water, SDGs 6 & 7 Clean water & Affordable / clean energy

COP 24

This discussion dominated the remainder of the meeting and was easily the most animated session as well as the one with the most left up in the air, given that so much of the COP agenda remains un-finalized.

The GCA team proposed holding an informal 1.5-2hr meeting during SB 48 for those of us in Bonn to reconvene and get updates on COP planning. I will follow up with GCA to confirm that this is happening.

The GCA team started with reflections from 2017, including the post-COP23 survey results. Everyone agreed that COP 23 was important and successful in some ways but there were way too many events and therefore they had limited impact. All sectors struggled to move out of their own sessions and engage with others. This was certainly true for Water.

Major takeaways for the GCA team → less is more; all are suffering from engagement fatigue.

Proposed activities at COP24: Thematic Events (NOT DAYS, over consecutive days, ~3hours each), GCA Amphitheatre hosting media and cross-sector events with Facebook Live, etc. (similar to Talanoa space at COP 23), bilateral meetings between parties and NPS, networking sessions (select cross-cutting themes), breakfasts.

Proposed Calendar of COP 24 GCA Events (will likely change)

Thursday 6 December 2018: opening of GCA

Friday 7 December – Saturday 8 December: Thematic Group Events – Water is scheduled on the 8th with Oceans and Human Settlements, however Human Settlements will probably switch with Land Use so that the 3 “natural systems” groups are together on the 8th.

Monday 10 December: SGD roundtables

Tuesday 11 December 11: Roundtables: resilience, finance for climate change (GCA event, not the mandated high level event)

Wednesday 12 December: GCA Champions HL Event

Thursday 13 December: GCA Closing Event

Regarding the Thematic Events: unlike last year’s Thematic Days, these events should not be a showcase, they should be designed to be impactful. Need to really think about what is the most strategic way to present our work and include cross-participation with other thematic groups and climate representatives (A few initial thoughts are included in the email to which these notes are attached).

There was concern raised by a few participants that having the Thematic Days during the first week (Fri-Sat) would limit the high level participation that we can attract. The Champions and the GCA team were mostly dismissive of this concern.

There was greater concern from a number of participants that we've gone from one extreme to another in reducing the thematic segments from full days to a single event each. Others supported the move to evolve our engagement strategy, however, there was a general sense of unhappiness with the proposed structure. All this to say that it's probable that, like in past years, there will be many changes before December. Stay tuned.

If we have comments about the proposed structure / calendar of GCA COP24 engagement, including the switch from Thematic Days to Thematic Events, we need to submit them by Wednesday 4 April. If you have comments, email them to Ingrid and she can submit on behalf of the group.

– Lunch –

Afternoon Session: Breakout Groups on 2018 Marrakech Partnership engagement, with particular focus on COP 24 and the Regional Climate Weeks

Questions: **What** do we want the Marrakech Partnership to achieve (Note: this question was adjusted at the last minute to reflect a feeling from the morning session that participants perhaps do not agree on the overall purpose / agenda of the Partnership):

- Interact with Parties and policy makers on policy levers
- Address high-impact cross-cutting synergies
- Increase uptake and scaling up of initiatives
- Showcase / recognition

How to achieve this? Examples:

- How can we use the regional climate weeks?
- How to best use the COP engagements, including thematic events, amphitheater activities, network sessions, bilaterals, breakfasts, etc.?
- Other?

Combined notes from this group session will be distributed by the GCA soon and I will forward them to you.

Meeting Wrap-Up

GCA team synthesized the topics covered over the 2 days and promised to follow up with final notes and next steps RE: COP 24 and a possible informal meeting at SB 48 next month.

The High Level Champions offered their thanks to all the participants for their hard work over the 2 days and promised to do their best to support and highlight our work through their capacity as Champions throughout the coming year.

– Meeting Adjourned –