

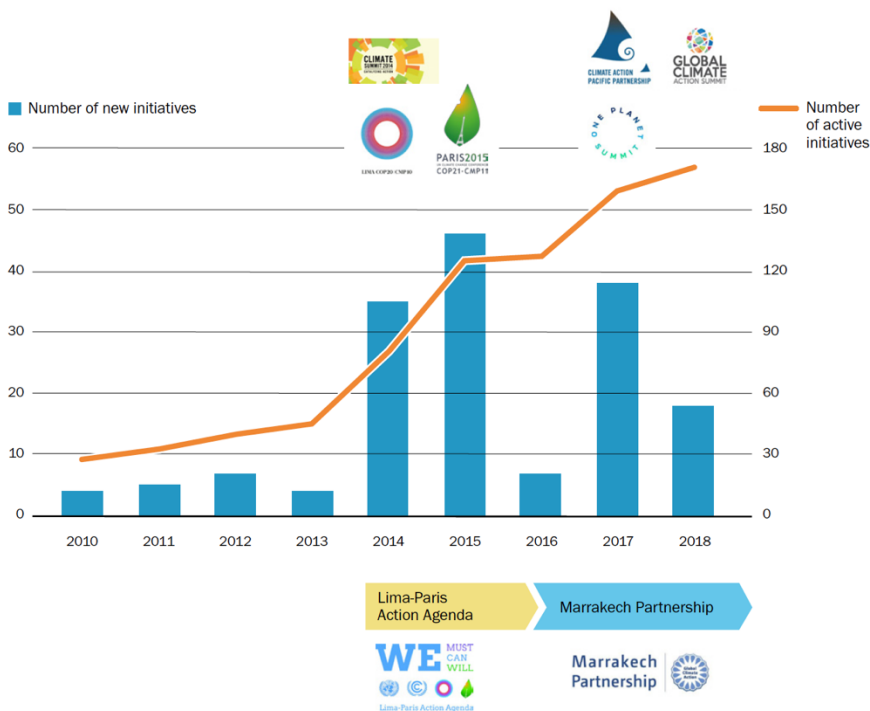
## COP25 policy brief

# Global Climate Action in the UNFCCC after 2020

December 2019

At COP21 and COP22, Parties created a link between the UNFCCC process and climate action by cities, states/regions, business, investors, and civil society, but its mandate expires at the end of 2020. The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action<sup>1</sup> was created to give increased visibility and momentum to non-Party climate action and to link it to Parties. Today these activities include the work of the High-level Champions, the NAZCA portal, the Yearbook of Climate Action, Climate Action events at COPs, and the Regional Climate Weeks.

Climate action by cities, states/regions, business, investors, civil society, and others has become a key part of global and national responses to climate change. The ‘groundswell’ of climate action has grown massively since Paris. According to the 2018 UNFCCC Yearbook of Climate Action:<sup>2</sup>



- 1 in 5 people in the world now live in the ~10,000 cities and regions taking action
- Over 6,000 businesses whose annual revenue is greater than the combined GDP of the US and China have committed to climate action
- Existing multi-stakeholder initiatives, if they continue to scale up, could lower global emissions by one third by 2030

Figure 1: Number of active initiatives by year and number of new initiatives by year<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See: <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/marrakech-partnership-for-global-climate-action>

<sup>2</sup> Available: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GCA\\_Yearbook2018.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GCA_Yearbook2018.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Available: <https://newclimate.org/2019/09/18/global-climate-action-from-cities-regions-and-businesses-2019/>

**The Marrakech Partnership has provided concrete benefits for both Parties and non-Parties.** As the point of intersection between non-Party climate action and the UNFCCC process, the Marrakech Partnership provides a unique set of functions that benefit both Parties and non-Parties.

<i>Key benefits for Parties</i>	<i>Key benefits for non-Parties</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summarizes best practices and technical insights from non-Party action to support national policymaking</li> <li>Catalyzing further non-Party action to support national actions</li> <li>Tracks scope and impact of non-Party climate action globally and nationally</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global recognition of their efforts</li> <li>Climate Action sequence at COPs for high-level, substantive engagement on core themes between non-Party climate action leaders and national policymakers</li> <li>“On the ground” engagement with policymakers at Regional Climate Weeks</li> </ul>

**It is important for the UNFCCC process to continue to engage with climate action from non-party actors after 2020.** Non-party actors are key partners in delivering the goals of the Paris Agreement. Institutional arrangements around non-party stakeholder climate action in the UNFCCC should focus on those functions for which there is unique “added value” in the UNFCCC process.

**There is an opportunity to reform existing institutional arrangements to maximize the positive contributions non-party actors can make, working alongside countries to deliver the goals of the Paris Agreement.** Core areas of focus could include helping countries formulate, implement, and (over)achieve their NDCs, and using the breadth and legitimacy of the UNFCCC process to track climate action globally in order to make it both credible and inclusive. More thinking will be needed to identify the best ways to take forward these activities.

**At COP25, it is important to signal the continuation of the UNFCCC’s engagement with and support for the broader world of global climate action.** In order to not lose the impressive momentum has been built so far, Parties should make sure arrangements around global climate action in the UNFCCC after 2020 are ready to implemented at the end of next year. At the “action COP,” COP25 can signal this continuity. Missing this opportunity may raise questions about the future direction of the UNFCCC process.

**Key actions to take at COP25:**

- Publicly declare support for the continuation of Global Climate Action in the UNFCCC after 2020, including at the Global Climate Action High-level Event on Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>
- Support an outcome at COP25 that signals renewed and revised Global Climate Action arrangements will be ready to be put into action by COP26 in 2020.

**Further information**

Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions resources:

<http://www.climategroundswell.org/>

Yearbook of Climate Action 2019

[https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GCA\\_Yearbook2019.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GCA_Yearbook2019.pdf)