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Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2024

Marrakech Partnership
for Global Climate Action



United Nations
Climate Change

UN Climate Change
High-Level Champions

Marrakech
Partnership



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Foreword

Simon Stiell

Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC

Last year, the world came together in Dubai, at COP 28, providing a much needed response to the demands of the Global Stocktake. Countries from around the globe committed to phasing out all fossil fuels in energy systems, justly, orderly, and equitably. This commitment came together with a specific target on tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency by 2030.

The countries of the world are committed. Climate action is happening. The real challenge now is implementation, stemming from national climate plans, down to local action on the ground.

As we approach COP 29, in Baku, we are focusing more and more on the importance of setting the right parameters that will allow climate action to ramp up and accelerate. A new collective quantified goal on climate finance will be a fundamental enabling tool for all those that want to act for a more sustainable planet – and especially for all non-Party stakeholders that wish to contribute, to lower emissions, to adapt and to build resilience.

Equally, the discussions on carbon markets will play a fundamental role as we move forward. It will allow countries to better cooperate for a goal that is fundamentally common. After all, greenhouse gases somewhere are greenhouse gases everywhere. Working together to cut emissions is not individual work. It is shared.



Both climate finance and carbon markets point to the fundamental importance of multilateral cooperation. The ambition and commitments of the Paris Agreement, and of the COP process, are fundamental. But so are the enabling features that empower actors – Party and non-Party alike – to act on the ground, translating these commitments into the real economy, making the Paris Agreement work.

Indeed, the world needs the involvement of non-Party stakeholders more than ever. For example, we need private financiers to be ready to respond to the NCQG on day 1 after COP 29. We know the willingness and the know-how to contribute to the process are there. They must inform Parties on the matter of climate finance this November.

This need is only more important as next year, we will see a new round of Nationally Determined Contributions. These climate plans will determine the concrete work of governments as they create enabling environments for climate action. The world needs businesses to demand greater ambition from governments on their plans. Ultimately, ambition opens greater opportunities for business to benefit, while fulfilling the transition needs of our societies. This is especially important in developing countries, where the need for investment is direct.

Transparency plays a fundamental role in this effort. We need efforts by both countries and companies to be transparent about their climate action – to inspire further change and to create efficiencies by learning from each other.

The Global Climate Action Portal shows a lot of promise in this respect. It is mapping so many initiatives from non-Party stakeholders, empowering frontrunners to inspire others to follow. Together with the Biennial Transparency Reports, due by the end of this year, and other efforts, like the Net Zero Data Public Utility, we have the opportunity ahead of us to direct efforts where they can have the greatest

impact – not only in major economies, but also in developing countries, impacting every region and local community.

There can be no comprehensive approach without the involvement of the entire economy and the whole of our societies. And that means we need Parties and non-Party stakeholders to work together, to join efforts, communicating on best ways forward, systematically.

This is why the Marrakech Partnership is so important. Why the examples in this Yearbook are so fundamental. Why they must be scaled up. And why their examples must spur further action, bringing others on board, sending the right signal to governments and policy-makers that we need to accelerate, pushing ahead with the energy transition, and building more resilient societies.

Non-Party stakeholders will play a fundamental role – implementing change on the ground, yes, but also communicating what support is most needed to world-leaders, and making sure the scale of need is well understood. May this book be a modest, but important contribution to a booming chorus for accelerating implementation this November.

Foreword

**Razan Al
Mubarak**

**High-Level Champion of the COP 28
Presidency (United Arab Emirates)**

Nigar Arpadarai

**High-Level Champion of the COP 29
Presidency (Azerbaijan)**

Together for transformation

The climate crisis, once a distant warning, has become an undeniable, ever-present force impacting lives, ecosystems, and economies with accelerating intensity. Across the globe, heatwaves scorch cities, oceans rise against coastlines, and communities – from small island nations to sprawling metropolises – grapple with a changing world. Yet, as these challenges grow, so does a powerful momentum for change.



At COP 28, we witnessed transformative stories of resilience and innovation. Climate action is advancing across the globe, from the rise of the 15-minute city spurred on by the Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods programme, to the restoration of 20 million hectares of land in the Sahel thanks to Africa's Great Green Wall initiative. These examples – two of many – show us that, collectively, we have the potential to pivot towards a thriving future. COP 29 is a defining moment to build on this ambition, translating it into immediate, far-reaching action.

As High-Level Champions, we have observed a groundswell among non-Party stakeholders advancing work towards a just, resilient future. However, to meet this urgent moment, the priorities outlined here – from nature restoration to a gender-just transition – must drive real-economy impacts that transform sectors and regions.

The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action serves as a catalyst for this transition, aligning non-Party stakeholders with the goals of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. In 2024, we've been guided by essential priorities that form the foundation of collective, impactful progress across sectors worldwide.

Achieving net zero emissions remains paramount. Through the Race to Zero, a growing alliance of more than 15,500 members – from cities to financial institutions – have made science-based commitments that demonstrate ambitious climate action is both feasible and beneficial. COP 29 offers a unique opportunity to strengthen these pathways, empowering stakeholders to scale and accelerate emissions reductions towards a net zero future.

Strengthening resilience is equally crucial, with the Race to Resilience aiming to improve the resilience of 4 billion people by 2030. With over 41 partners spanning 164 countries, the campaign has reached a key milestone – developing action plans covering more than 2 billion people most vulnerable to the climate crisis. These partners are committed to scaling up efforts, with pledges to increase the resilience of 3.2 billion people by 2030 and over \$40.88 billion targeted in adaptation finance to implement their Resilience Action Plans.

Complementing these efforts, the Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, launched at COP 27, continues to focus on transformative adaptation across critical systems – water, agriculture, health, and infrastructure.

Equitable finance is the cornerstone of sustainable climate action. This year, we reinforced our commitment to creating an inclusive financial system that bridges funding gaps, particularly for communities most affected by climate change. By directing resources to support Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), we aim to enable gender-responsive, nature-positive initiatives that create both resilience and economic opportunity across regions.

Nature itself is at the heart of our climate response. Initiatives such as the Nature Positive for Climate Action campaign have brought together over 500 businesses and financial institutions with governments and Indigenous communities to implement nature-based solutions (NbS). The Mangrove and Coral Breakthroughs, alongside collaborative efforts via the Climate-Nature Coordination Platform, showcase the essential role of ecosystems in climate resilience and underscore the importance of centering nature in our strategies.

Transforming food systems is also a priority. The Food Systems Call to Action, endorsed by over 200 organizations since COP 28, focuses on regenerative agriculture, sustainable urban food programmes, and other approaches to align food systems with climate and biodiversity goals. These efforts promote security and equity, ensuring sustainable nourishment for communities while safeguarding ecosystems.

Acknowledgments

The High-Level Champions (HLCs) would like to thank all contributions from many organizations and individuals that made this edition of the Yearbook of Global Climate Action possible. Special thanks go to all Marrakech Partnership (MP) stakeholders, and the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience Partners. The High-Level Champions would also like to thank their entire team and the UNFCCC secretariat for their support.

Inclusive climate action is the key to enduring progress. The newly launched Impact Makers campaign spotlights grassroots leaders driving transformative solutions worldwide, helping us double down on our commitment to representation and ensuring diverse voices shape a resilient future. Youth, Indigenous Peoples, local governments, the private sector, and community leaders all bring invaluable perspectives, reminding us that inclusivity strengthens our collective impact.

Finally, advancing technological innovation is essential for overcoming the complex challenges posed by climate change. From renewable energy solutions to sustainable land management, initiatives led by alliances such as UNEZA are pioneering scalable strategies that propel us towards shared climate goals.

Together, we have an unparalleled opportunity to elevate these interconnected priorities, ensuring this year's initiatives create transformative impacts for communities worldwide. As we set our sights on COP 30 and beyond, we must each take ownership of this journey, recognizing that the seeds of this year's progress require ongoing care to grow into lasting, impactful actions that benefit all.

In unity and purpose, we are committed to advancing the transformative climate action upon which the world – and the wellbeing of future generations – depends.



Executive summary

Accomplishments at COP 28 set the stage for COP 29

Before and during COP 28, businesses, cities, regions, civil societies and experts offered their leadership, partnership, and expertise, as an input to the first Global Stocktake (GST). This input has directed global economic and systems transformation towards a net zero, nature-positive, and climate resilient future. Governments are setting enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs), non-Party stakeholders are offering their leadership, capital, and insights to assist with this critical task. These actors highlight how national plans can help to reach those in most need, thus spurring sustainable development. Furthermore, they show how inclusive whole-of-society participation in the design and implementation of these plans can accelerate a just and equitable transition at the national, regional and at the community levels.

In 2024, the HLCs through the secretariat, have worked closely with partners to design an enhanced Marrakech Partnership (MP) approach and structure featuring: (1) a new Leadership Forum to boost visibility and impact, (2) coordination meetings for improved thematic alignment and (3) ad hoc working groups to address implementation gaps. Implementation will begin next year, with support from the secretariat and Climate Champions Team (CCT).

Chapter 1: Tracking global climate action

Over the past decade, the Global Climate Action Portal (GCAP) – previously known as the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) – has grown from a commitment registry to a comprehensive climate action tracking platform that recognizes over 39,000 actors. Currently, GCAP is undergoing significant redevelopment to enhance its role in transparency and accountability, particularly through implementing the Recognition and Accountability Framework (RAF) and integration of the Net Zero Data Public Utility (NZDPU).

As of October 2024, GCAP is tracking over 39,000 actors and 175 Cooperative Climate Initiatives (CCIs). Most CCIs registered on the portal (79.43 per cent) operate globally and focus primarily on mitigation, with energy being the dominant thematic area. Despite strong short-term target setting for initiatives through 2025, key challenges persist, particularly regarding access to finance and the maintenance of operational capacity. Through its integration with the NZDPU and its enhanced governance structure through the new Governance Hub, GCAP aims to strengthen its role as a central repository for climate action data and accountability.

Chapter 2: Transformation toward climate goals

Race to Zero

Race to Zero has shown a growth of 16% in the last year, by COP 29 reaching over 15,500 members from over 150 countries transitioning to net zero and contributing to halving global emissions by 2030. This includes over 12,400 companies of which over 9,200 are small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Membership also includes 1,100 cities, nearly 50 states and regions, 650 financial institutions, 1,200 education institutions, and 80 healthcare institutions. Two significant new Partners have joined this campaign: the Net Zero Export Credit Agencies Alliance, representing \$120 billion in international trade, and the United Kingdom's National Parks, which are pioneering nature-positive commitments. The campaign's reach in emerging markets has been strengthened by seven new Accelerators from Indonesia, Ghana, Kenya, and the Philippines, which have established comprehensive coverage across various regions (Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Latin America (LATAM), Africa, the European Union (EU), Asia-Pacific (APAC), North America) and sectors (communications, hard-to-abate industries, water utilities, consumer goods, and SMEs).

Sectoral transitions

During 2024, significant progress was made across key sectors. Renewable energy capacity expanded by 473 GW in 2023, with solar energy accounting for 73 per cent of this total. The Utilities for Net Zero Alliance announced plans to invest \$116 billion annually in renewables and grid infrastructure. In industry, low-carbon steel production reached 1-2 per cent of global output, while the cement sector reduced carbon intensity by 8 per cent from the 2020 level. Mixed progress was observed in the transport sector: Although sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production doubled to 0.53 per cent of total aviation fuel and zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) sales grew to 18 per cent of global car sales, zero-emission fuel adoption remained slow in maritime transport. The Buildings Breakthrough expanded to 29 countries, with emerging economies introducing enhanced building codes. Green demand initiatives have gained momentum, with renewable energy procurement increasing by 25 per cent to 45 GW; however, increasing market transformation requires stronger government policy support to create level playing fields and reduce green premiums.



Nature

In 2024, the integration of NbS took centre stage as the global community acknowledged the interconnectedness of the climate and biodiversity crises. Initiatives to halt and reverse deforestation, restore ecosystems, and transform food systems were expanded under the leadership of the High-Level Champions (HLCs) and MP. Over 500 businesses and financial institutions are actively engaged in [Nature Positive for Climate Action](#), and national governments are working with Indigenous Peoples and local communities to scale NbS. Efforts such as the Mangrove and Coral Breakthroughs are safeguarding critical ecosystems, and new partnerships, such as those formed through the [Climate-Nature Coordination Platform](#), are aligning nature-based actions with enhanced climate goals. This focus on nature underscores its role not only in reducing emissions but also in protecting communities and enhancing resilience to climate impacts.

Finance

Equitable finance has become a critical enabler of advancing climate action, particularly in developing countries where vulnerabilities are greatest. The Race to Resilience and the Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA) have played pivotal roles in directing investments to underserved regions. Additionally, initiatives such as the [Regional Platforms for Climate Projects](#) have helped to channel funding to emerging markets, fostering inclusive climate solutions. This emphasis on equitable finance is ensuring that financial flows reach the most impacted communities to bridge gaps in adaptation and mitigation while supporting a just and inclusive transition to a low-carbon economy.

Chapter 3: Whole of Society Climate Action

In 2024, significant progress was made in climate action equity and inclusion across multiple stakeholder groups. Private sector engagement has increased: as a key focus, the HLCs are supporting the mobilization of SMEs through the Climate Proofing SME Campaign; SMEs constitute 90 per cent of all businesses worldwide and play a critical role in advancing the low-carbon transition. Alongside key partners such as the SME Climate Hub, initiatives such as the Race to Zero and the SME Transition Planning Report, are ensuring that SMEs are leaders in the clean energy, transport, and the circular economy and other sectors, helping them transition to net zero and resilient economies.

Cities and regions have strengthened implementation of climate action through 26 local stocktakes and the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships for Climate Action (CHAMP) initiative has enhanced coordination between national and subnational governments. The establishment of the Presidency Youth Climate Champion role and Youth Fellowship Programme marked important advances in youth representation. Indigenous Peoples have gained

greater recognition through multiple COP 28 initiatives, including the Global Data Study and improved access to climate finance. Gender-responsive action has been strengthened through the COP 28 Gender Responsive Just Transitions Partnership, which has been endorsed by 83 governments, and new initiatives for gender-environment data collection.

The Impact Makers campaign was launched to highlight diverse innovators, ranging from social entrepreneurs to community leaders and startups, and tangible climate solutions across regions, industries, and communities. This global campaign has selected a range of impactful projects, proving that it is possible to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help people adapt to the realities of climate change, and that change is already underway at speed and scale.

There is still a long way to go, but the progress made in 2024 highlights the collective ambition and the foundational role of inclusive multi-stakeholder collaboration in addressing the climate crisis.

Resilient lives and livelihoods

Race to Resilience, the UAE-Belem Work Programme, SAA and other projects support progress for monitoring the global resilience and adaptation efforts. The Race to Resilience campaign has expanded to cover over 41 partners across 164 countries. It has set concrete plans to cover the resilience of more than 2 billion people and pledges to support 3.26 billion people by 2030. To support resilience efforts, Race to Resilience campaign partners are targeting over \$40.88 billion for mobilization in adaptation finance to implement their resilience action plans. SAA now includes more than 40 adaptation solutions with specific outcomes and targets by 2030. The UAE Framework has introduced new tools for measuring adaptation progress. Key achievements included the development of climate-resilient health systems, with 151 nations committing to this goal, and securing financial commitments such as \$300 million from the Global Fund and \$100 million from The Rockefeller Foundation. Programmes like Roof Over Our Heads and the Resilient Planet Initiative are focusing on vulnerable communities in informal settlements. These efforts emphasized local collaboration and digital solutions for climate adaptation.

Chapter 4: Non-Party stakeholder engagement in the process

As in previous years, the HLCs and the MP continue to support the engagement of non-Party stakeholders into the UNFCCC process. This engagement spans key initiatives including the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, the Sharm el-Sheikh Dialogue on Article 2, paragraph 1(c) of the Paris Agreement and its complementarity with Article 9 (the Sharm el-Sheikh Dialogue), or the follow up on the first GST, among others. HLCs have actively participated in key climate events, including the Copenhagen Climate Ministerial, Petersberg Dialogue, and pre-COP meetings, to strengthen collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders. During SB 60 they hosted and joined in a series of public events, roundtables, and workshops with MP partners and government representatives. Through an open letter to all Parties and non-Party stakeholders they have sought feedback on accelerating action and driving implementation with an emphasis on amplifying solutions, creating synergies and prioritizing delivery.

The progress made in 2024 sets a strong foundation for accelerated climate action towards the COP 29 and 2030 goals. While significant challenges remain, particularly in equitable finance mobilization and scaling decarbonization, the increased engagement of non-Party stakeholders and strengthened frameworks have provided momentum. The revision of NDCs, expansion of adaptation initiatives, and growing emphasis on inclusive action across the private sector, cities, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and gender-responsive programmes demonstrate the power of whole-of-society climate action.

Successfully meeting 2030 targets will depend on sustaining and scaling these collaborative efforts while ensuring a just transition that protects vulnerable communities.



An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. A long, straight road or bridge extends from the bottom left towards the center of the frame. The land is a mix of brown, tan, and green patches, suggesting a mix of vegetation and bare earth. The water in the bottom left corner is a deep blue-green color. The sky is not visible.

Introduction

At COP 28 in Dubai, non-Party stakeholders such as businesses, investors, civil society, youth, cities and regions, and Indigenous Peoples were pivotal drivers of climate action. The global climate action space has facilitated collaboration, showcasing practical solutions from various sectors that aim to halve global emissions by 2030 and bridge gaps in adaptation.

Non-Party stakeholders have contributed to these efforts by providing key insights, data, and perspectives that enriched the first GST. They have helped to highlight gaps in climate action, particularly in areas such as financial flows, adaptation needs, and the pace of the transition away from fossil fuels throughout the first GST process, which culminated at COP 28. Based on their own leadership experience, they offered suggestions regarding how governments could unite at COP 28 with a strong response to the stocktake

In support of the first GST, the HLCs and the MP, among others, compiled the **2030 Climate Solutions**, setting effective measures based on insights from a wide range of non-Party stakeholders. These measures are being undertaken but need to be scaled up and

replicated to halve global emissions, increase the resilience of 3.2 billion climate-vulnerable people, and significantly scale equitable climate finance by 2030. Governments have welcomed the leadership and efforts of the HLCs in supporting the effective participation of non-Party stakeholders in the **GST**.

These stakeholders have provided their support, giving governments the confidence to set ambitious, sector-specific energy, transport, zero-emissions technology, and nature targets. These targets include a just transition away from fossil fuels, doubling of adaptation finance, tripling global renewable energy capacity, aiming to double the rate of energy efficiency improvements, substantially reduce methane emissions, and halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. The participation of non-Party stakeholders in the first GST process helped governments to reflect on a broad range of actions and partnerships, emphasizing the need to scale inclusive and equitable climate solutions that will ensure the centrality of vulnerable communities and ecosystems to enhanced national plans.

Notable COP 28 achievements:

- **Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA): International Renewable Energy Agency** (IRENA) and the HLCs launched UNEZA with 25 global utilities and power companies, covering 300 million customers, and the support of the World Economic Forum, International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), National Electrical Coordinator, and Global Renewables Alliance.
- **Nature Positive for Climate Action:** Over 200 businesses and financial institutions have supported the Nature Positive for Climate Action campaign, signalling the importance of conserving and restoring ecosystems to achieve various climate goals, including halting deforestation by 2030.
- **Indigenous People Recognition:** As part of the Action Agenda, COP 28 hosted an Indigenous People's Day, featuring events co-curated with Indigenous Peoples organizations. Over 300 Indigenous People attended the conference and were prominently represented in various segments, including the World Climate Action Summit, Business and Philanthropy Forum, Nature Day and Global Climate Action Agenda.
- **Multilevel Urban Cooperation:** COP 28 highlighted multilevel action, with 72 nations signing the **CHAMP Pledge for Climate Action** and nearly \$500 million committed to urban infrastructure. The first-ever Local Climate Action Summit also signalled a new phase of cross-government collaboration.
- **Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems for People, Nature and Climate:** More than 200 non-Party stakeholder organizations signed this Call to Action, complementing the UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, which was signed by over 150 governments.

In response to the invitation set forth by national governments in the first GST outcome, the HLCs and the MP have supported the implementation of the GST outcomes, thus accelerating climate action and aiding governments in developing and implementing NDCs and NAPs.



The HLCs are consolidating insights, priorities and offers of support from businesses, investors, cities and subnational regions and civil society groups in the **Whole-of-Society Support For Strong National Climate Plans** report, aiming to make this information readily available for the Parties to use while designing and implementing their NDCs and NAPs. The net zero implementation plans of more than 15,500 non-Party stakeholders who are already transitioning to net zero, thus contributing to halving global emissions by 2030 through the **Race to Zero** can be accelerated through enhanced, ambitious NDCs complemented by strengthened policy incentives. The net zero investment plans of the 650 Race to Zero finance members, can accelerate all countries' sustainable development opportunities through investable NDCs with clear investment strategies. The Race to Resilience partners' adaptation and resilience action plans now cover more than 2 billion people and can be rapidly scaled through inclusive and participatory NAPs and NDCs with quantified adaptation targets.

Throughout the year, the HLCs have helped convene the Parties and non-Party stakeholders through a series of focussed dialogues at SB 60 in Bonn; during the London, New York, and Baku Climate Action Weeks; the Clean Energy Ministerials Mission Innovation (CEM MI), and across Africa, APAC, LATAM, and the Caribbean supporting Parties in the design and implementation of enhanced NDCs and NAPs that are investable and implementable.

The HLCs invite the Parties to meaningfully engage in the Action Agenda at COP 29, intended to aid Parties in designing and implementing their NDCs and NAPs, and to accelerate their delivery of the UAE Consensus outcomes.

The Marrakech Partnership review

Since the Parties welcomed the improved MP for enhancing ambition at COP 26, the HLCs through the secretariat, have worked closely with partners to design a new approach and structure to support the delivery of the MP. This new approach includes the appointment of a Leadership Forum aimed at increasing the visibility and value of the MP within the climate action ecosystem. It also foresees the establishment of coordination meetings, to enhance the strategic alignment of the thematic groups. Furthermore, the new approach considers the opportunity to create ad hoc working groups, aiming to emphasize implementation of the MP workplan and address gaps and emerging issues in the planning and implementation of the MP workplan. The new structure will be implemented from next year with the support of the secretariat and CCT.

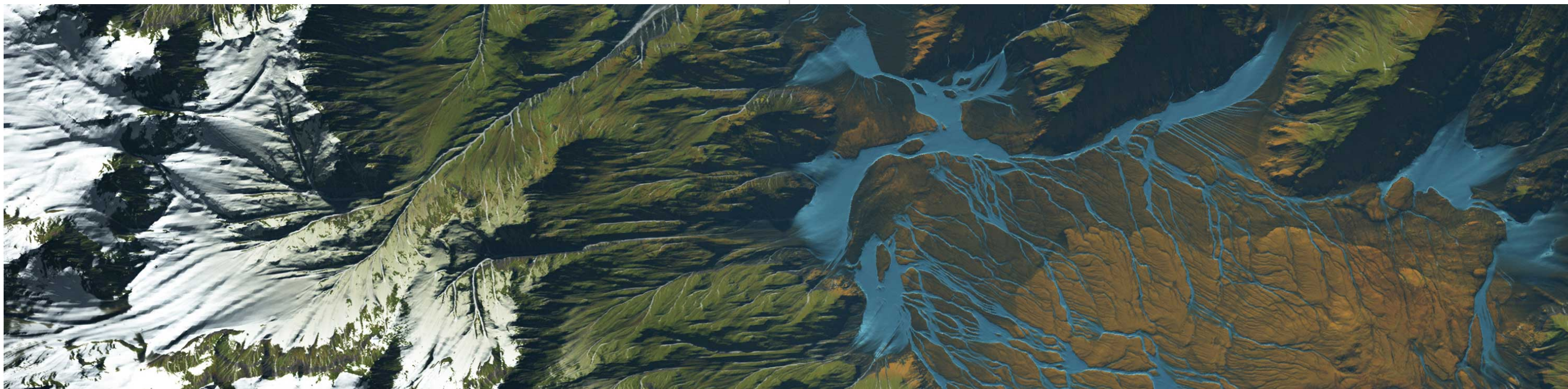
An aerial photograph of a river delta, showing a complex network of channels and distributaries. The water is a vibrant turquoise blue, contrasting sharply with the dark brown and orange-brown sedimentary land. The patterns are intricate and organic, resembling a web or a tree's root system. The lighting is bright, highlighting the textures of the water and the land.

Chapter 1

Tracking global climate action

Non-state Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA): 10 years of tracking global climate action

Over the last 10 years, NAZCA (now known as GCAP), has charted the groundswell in climate action taken by all sectors of society. During this time, the number of actors registered on this portal has increased from 1,000 in 2014 to over 39,000 today. As a platform operating within the official UNFCCC process, NAZCA has provided the Parties a transparent view of non-Party stakeholders' climate action, fostering a connection between the two groups of stakeholders and inspiring increased ambition from both. Over time, the portal has evolved with the needs and opportunities associated with climate data, providing a focus that has catalysed work across the climate data ecosystem, incentivizing disclosure, promoting standardization and championing the tracking of progress. The redevelopment of this platform will enhance its ability to access reliable, useful and open climate data, as well as its governance, enabling it to support the implementation of the secretariat's RAF.



The NAZCA portal was launched in December 2014 during COP 20 in Lima, Peru. This online repository registers and showcases voluntary commitments to climate action made by companies, financial institutions, cities, subnational regions, and other organizations (collectively referred to as non-Party stakeholders). By providing a mechanism to quantify and communicate the scale of voluntary climate commitments, NAZCA has played an important role in supporting the objectives of the Lima Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) and inspiring greater ambition from the Parties as they prepared their intended NDCs and negotiated the Paris Agreement.

Additionally, NAZCA successfully connected the voluntary climate actions of non-Party stakeholders and Parties through its formal inclusion in the Paris Agreement text. In that agreement, the Parties welcomed the efforts of all actors to scale up their climate actions and encouraged them to register these actions on NAZCA, establishing it as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) access point for non-Party stakeholders' voluntary climate action commitments.

Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement, NAZCA continued to register the commitments of non-Party stakeholders through annual updates, which were normally issued prior to the COP. Although these highlighted an increasing number of stakeholders, it became evident that only showcasing commitments would not be sufficient to produce policy changes at the speed necessary for transitioning to a 1.5 °C climate-resilient world. To maintain the credibility of the positive feedback loop between non-Party and Party climate actions and ambitions, it became essential to understand the progress made towards those commitments. This need was reflected in a request made by the Parties at COP 25 in Madrid for the secretariat to enhance the portal's effectiveness through changes such as improving the tracking of the registered voluntary actions. In response, NAZCA was updated to include progress-tracking metrics using a standard framework involving the acknowledgement of plans, progress, and actions undertaken, as well as commitments. The work brought together experts from across the climate data ecosystem and, in addition to supporting the portal's development, helped to catalyse and

mainstream conversations associated with tracking non-Party stakeholder climate action. At this time, NAZCA became known as GCAP, although the "Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action" continues to be used for official purposes, including in decisions. Hereafter, "GCAP" will be used to refer to this portal.

These newly included metrics have enhanced GCAP's analytical depth, offering detailed information on the climate activities (including emissions trends) of actors registered on the portal; however, the rise of net zero commitments and accompanying demands for greater accountability have weakened GCAP's method of tracking progress through a recognition framework that acknowledges accomplishments (e.g., setting a target, having a plan, taking an action) without governing or setting criteria associated with the integrity of the reported information.

In a pivotal moment, COP 27 acknowledged the need to enhance the portal. The Parties asked the secretariat to ensure the increased accountability of voluntary initiatives through GCAP, and the Secretary-General stated that the portal needed to be scaled up to provide transparency around the accountability of non-Party stakeholders who make net zero pledges.

In response, the secretariat published the RAF, in which the foundational principles of engagement, governance, and data management are used to achieve the aims of recognizing leadership and ensuring greater accountability through the GCAP. The RAF was accompanied by a draft implementation plan that was the subject of a high-level consultation, co-chaired by Sarah Bloom Raskin and Bing Leng, resulting in a series of recommendations on how to take the plan forward.

GCAP redevelopment

The secretariat has accepted the appropriate elements from recommendations and is currently working on a feasible and realistic approach towards implementing the RAF, aiming to identify net zero leaders and identify where additional support is needed. This approach will have several key attributes: it will be voluntary in nature, additive to existing endeavours and scalable over time.

To effectively promote transparency and accountability, GCAP will require redevelopment in accordance with the requirements of the implementation plan. The secretariat is currently developing user-facing climate apps to support greater engagement and interaction with GCAP. Although intended to increase engagement, these apps can be leveraged to enable entities to opt in to the RAF process and provide channels for the various stakeholders (entities, net zero initiatives, and third-party verifiers) to communicate the information and demonstrate their compliance with the RAF principles.

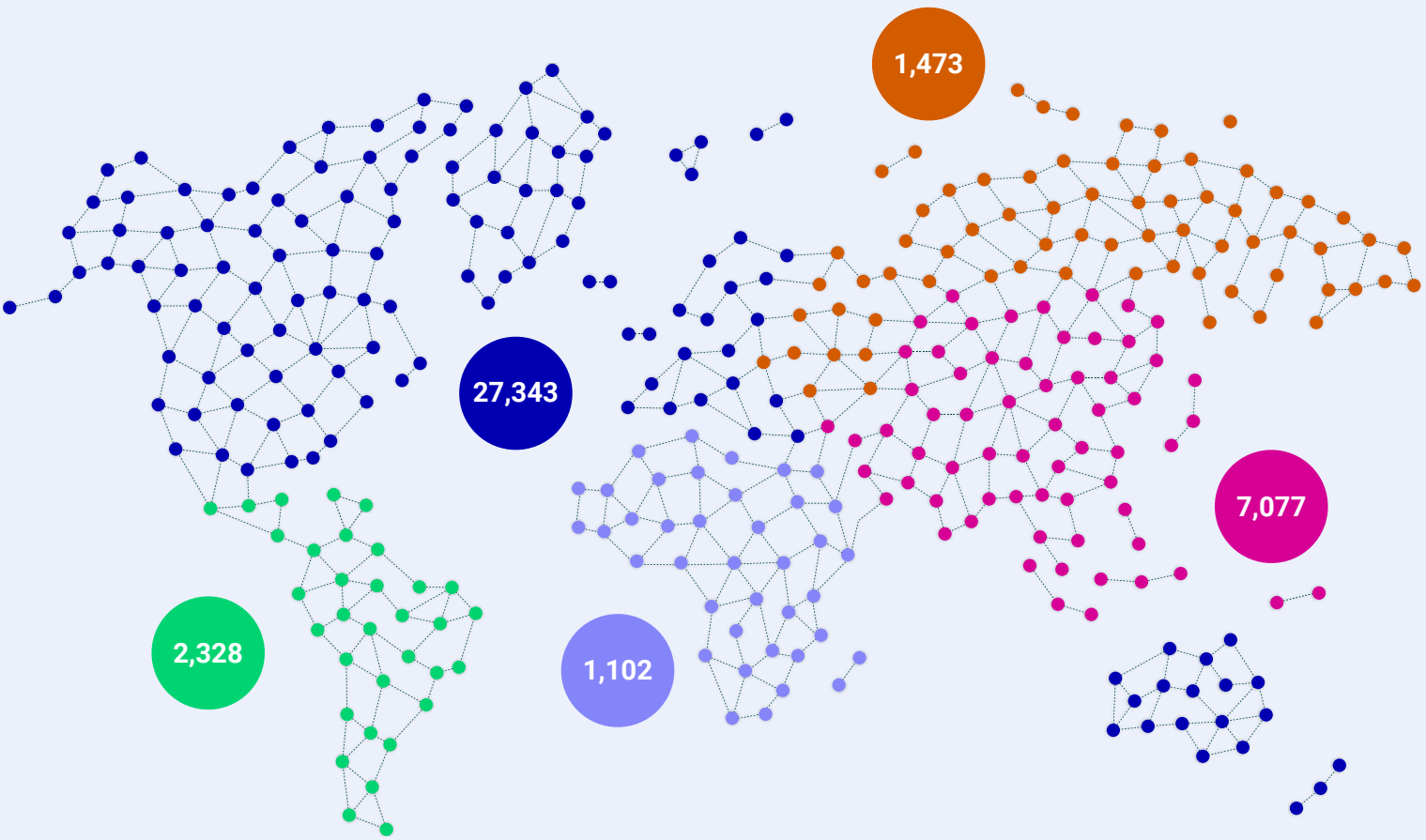
As well as enabling the implementation of the RAF, the redeveloped portal will be holistic, encompassing aspects beyond net zero commitments such as broad non-Party stakeholders climate action on mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and other types of CCIs. The redevelopment process will also provide an essential opportunity to incorporate the latest technologies, improve data access and facilitate data integration to solidify GCAP's position as a central location for comparable climate action data that presents a clear and comprehensive view of global climate actions from regions, cities, businesses, and financial institutions as a public good, while recognizing actors and inspiring further increases in ambition toward achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.







To support the decision-making processes that the implementation of the RAF and further enhancement of GCAP will require, the secretariat will establish a Governance Hub to be led by the UNFCCC, with inputs from external technical and non-technical stakeholder groups, to support decision-making and establish data governance criteria.

An important component of the portal's redevelopment will be the integration of the Net Zero Data Public Utility (NZDPU). This open source of company level climate information is being developed following recommendations from the Climate Data Steering Committee. The proof of concept version of the NZDPU was launched at COP 28, and further enhancements are ongoing. With the recently announced expansion of the partnership between the NZDPU and CDP (a key UNFCCC data partner) to bring climate data from over 10,000 companies into the public domain, the NZDPU's integration into GCAP will both streamline and increase the precision of data presently available through the portal and will provide critical evidence to help track progress towards global net zero goals. As partners, UNFCCC, NZDPU and CDP emphasize transparency and alignment with global reporting standards and thus support efforts to meet the Paris Agreement's objectives.

While the secretariat takes the necessary steps towards GCAP redevelopment, RAF implementation and GCAP Governance Hub creation, the portal remains a regularly updated resource of climate action. As of October 2024, GCAP has registered over 39,000 actors – an increase of 7,000 actors from the number reported in the 2023 yearbook and a 40 fold increase since 2014. See Figure 1.

Figure 1: actors recognized in the Global Climate Action Portal (November 2024)



	Cities	Regions	Companies	Organizations	Investers	Total
 African Group	248	27	444	332	51	1,102
 Asia-Pacific Group	541	29	5,021	1,263	223	7,077
 Eastern European Group	1,069	8	291	56	50	1,473
 Latin American and Caribbean Group	797	104	1,058	307	62	2,328
 Western European and Others Group	8,886	138	13,614	3,303	1,401	27,343
 Total	11,541	306	20,428	5,261	1,787	39,323

Cooperative climate initiative tracking

In addition to working with partners (such as CDP and NZDPU) to publish data disclosed by individual actors, GCAP also tracks and recognizes CCIs. These are collaborative efforts by a diverse range of stakeholders, including cities, regions, businesses, investors, academic institutions, national governments, non-governmental organizations, and research institutions, working together to achieve defined climate goals.

These initiatives manifest through the creation of coalitions, alliances, and networks; the development of declarations, platforms, and hubs; the production and dissemination of knowledge via publications and events; the setting of norms and standards; the implementation of local projects; and the establishment of monitoring frameworks, training programmes, awareness campaigns and more. CCIs collectively pursue strategies and actions focused on climate

mitigation (reducing greenhouse gas emissions), climate adaptation and resilience (enhancing the capacity to adapt to climate impacts) or both.

The secretariat has maintained ongoing direct engagement with the initiatives, including during bilateral consultations such as those held at SB 60, which included discussions with CCI focal points who actively engaged with the GCAP tracking process (e.g., respondents of the 2023 survey). These consultations provided an opportunity for the UNFCCC secretariat to explain its broader goals and plans and gather feedback on key areas, including expectations for how the information will be highlighted in reports, opportunities for streamlining processes, how to enhance progress tracking (e.g., through baselines and targets) and how to improve collaboration among CCIs.

Efforts to facilitate the registration of CCIs on GCAP are ongoing, and the secretariat has established a streamlined process for initiatives wishing to express their interest in being recognized on GCAP. In addition, since 2019, GCAP has tracked climate action announcements made at COPs, including the launch and progress of initiatives at COPs, and has published this information on dedicated event pages. Following COP 28, a mechanism for proactively contacting tracked initiatives and encouraging them to register was implemented to ensure both accountability and recognition. Furthermore, the development of climate apps with a user interface will improve the interactions between initiatives and the portal, allowing initiatives to update information on the status of their activities and participants more autonomously.

The following figures offer an overview of the data captured by the GCAP as of October 2024, highlighting key insights into the initiatives' scope, challenges, and progress as reflected on the UNFCCC Climate Action Portal and as submitted by the CCIs during the 2024 Climate Cooperative Initiatives Survey. Figure 2 illustrates the geographical scope of the initiatives registered on the portal. The vast majority of initiatives (79.43 per cent) operate on a global scale. A smaller proportion of initiatives have regional (10.29 per cent), multinational (5.71 per cent), and national (4.57 per cent) scopes, reflecting a diverse range of efforts at different geographical levels.

Figure 2: geographical scope of initiatives



Figure 3: climate focus of initiatives

Figure 3 shows the climate focus of the initiatives by their start year. Most initiatives are primarily focused on mitigation, followed by those with an equal focus on both mitigation and adaptation. In contrast, the number of initiatives focused mainly on adaptation represents less than one-fifth of the number centred on mitigation. The distribution of start years highlights steady growth among CCI across all categories, especially between 2015 and 2023.

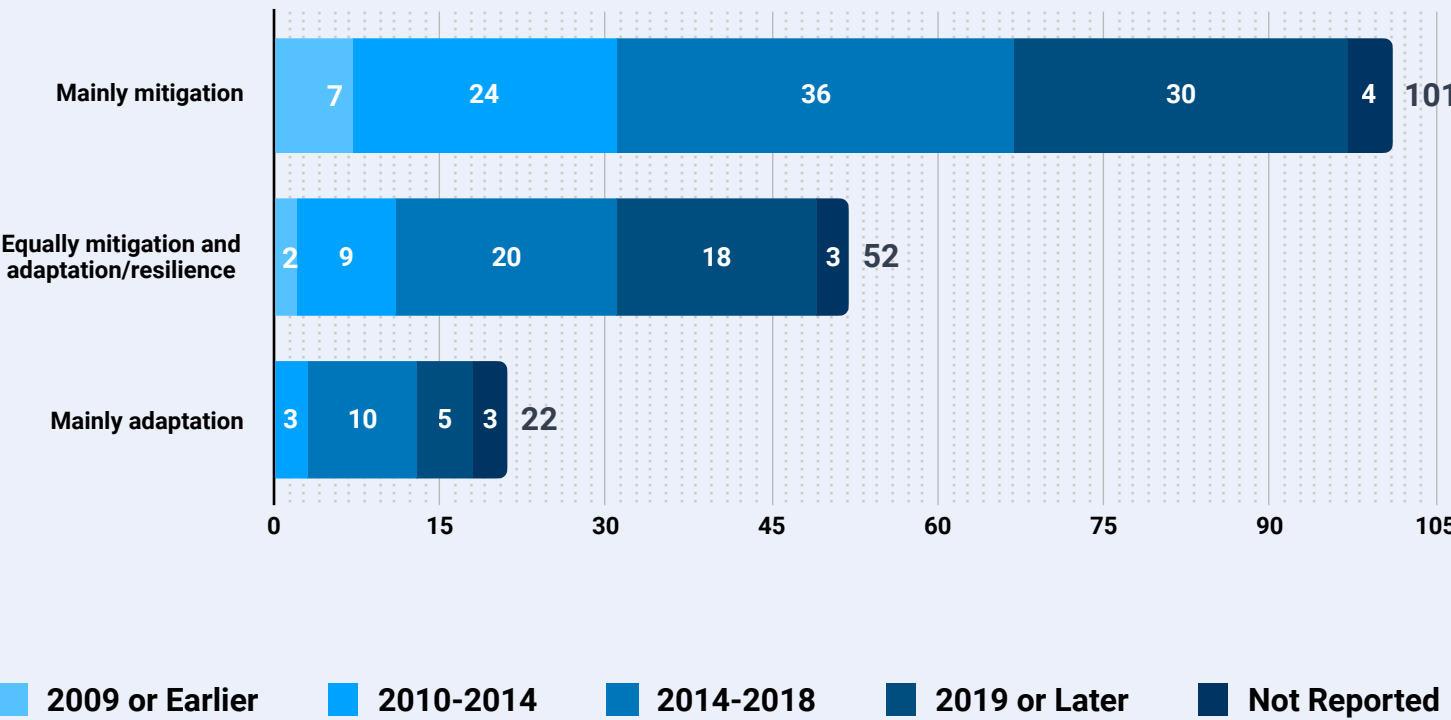


Figure 4: CCIs per themes

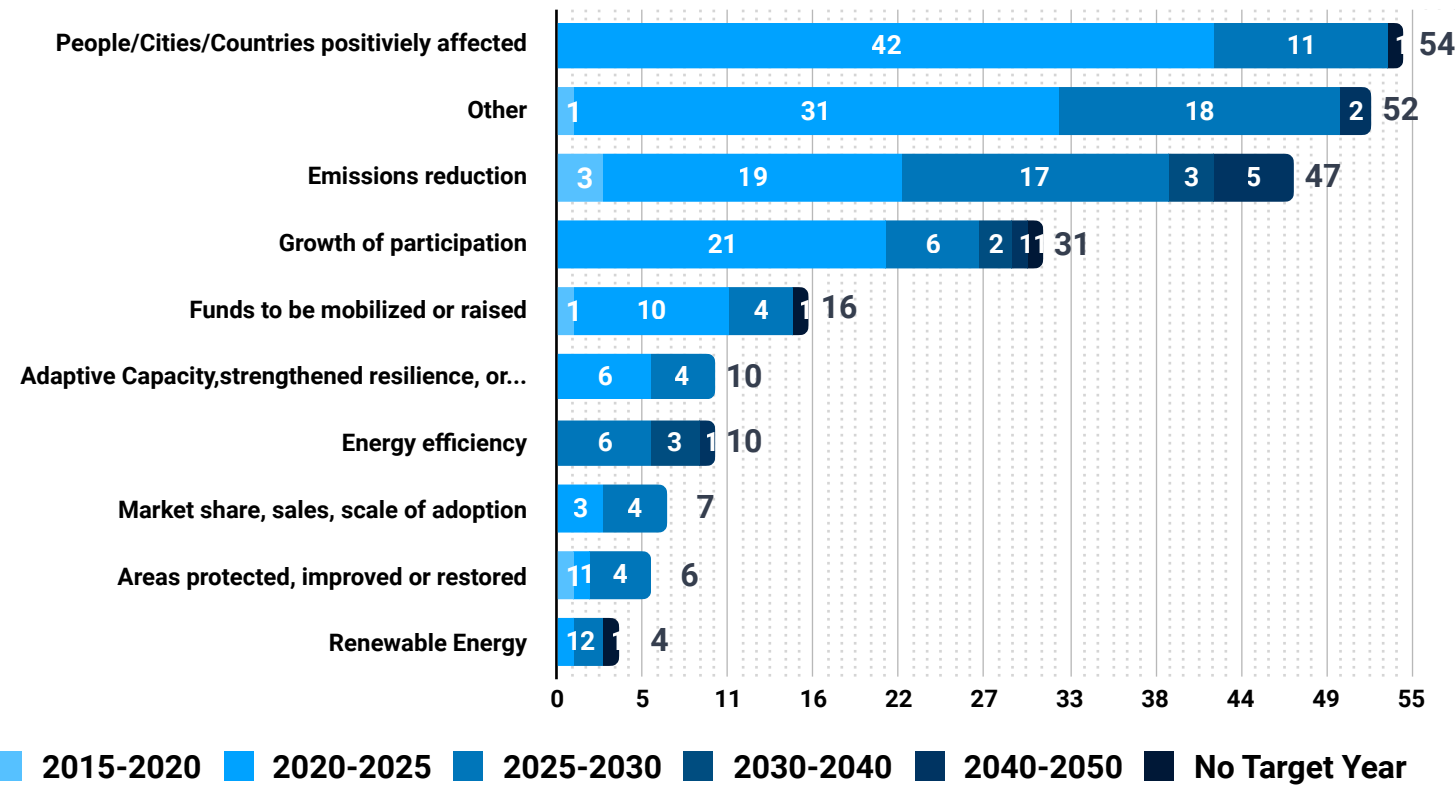
Figure 4 illustrates the distribution of CCIs across the themes of the MP. Energy-related initiatives represent the largest share, followed by actions in land use, human settlements, transport and industry. However, themes such as water and ocean/coastal zones, which have fewer initiatives, highlight the need for increased participation to address these critical areas.

Theme	Number of CCIs
Land use	41
Ocean and Coastal Zones	20
Water	24
Human Settlement	39
Transport	38
Energy	79
Industry	40

Figure 5: types of Initiatives by target years

Figure 5 presents the target types associated with these initiatives, categorized by target year. The most common target type is positive impact on people, cities or countries. Emission reduction, growth of participation and mobilization of funds also have received substantial emphasis. Less frequently, initiatives have targeted areas such as adaptive capacity and resilience, energy efficiency, market

share and adoption and renewable energy. The data indicate that most initiatives are focused on targets for the period up to 2025, with a smaller proportion setting longer-term goals up to 2040–2050 or having no specified target year. This concentration of targets up to 2025 highlights the need for ambitious long-term goals to ensure continuity and predictable long-term action.



In September 2024, the secretariat conducted its annual CCI survey, offering initiatives an opportunity to provide updates on their progress towards targets, share actions taken and reflect on their challenges and opportunities. The survey has served as the primary method of collecting data on CCIs, and all information presented on the portal is self-reported. The contributions provided by the initiatives do not necessarily reflect the views or bear the endorsement of the secretariat. The CCIs that participated in the 2024 survey collectively represent over 14,000 initiative participants on GCAP. While the responses are currently being processed to inform

updates to the portal ahead of COP 29, Appendix 3 lists the CCIs that have participated, providing preliminary insights along with an overview of the key information gathered.

To streamline and improve reporting requirements for the Race to Zero Partners, the CCT collaborated closely with the UNFCCC secretariat to develop an aligned reporting process between GCAP and Race to Zero. By October 10, six new Race to Zero Partners had registered on GCAP, joining the 12 that were already registered.

Figure 6: types of actions

Figure 6 illustrates the types of actions undertaken by the initiatives in pursuing their climate objectives. The most common actions include the establishment or update of norms, standards, procedures or practices, as well as the establishment of new partnerships, capacity-building sessions and general

reporting. Other notable actions include the publication of advocacy materials, implementation of projects on the ground and organization of events. This year, less frequently reported actions include research and development, the development of public databases and fundraising.

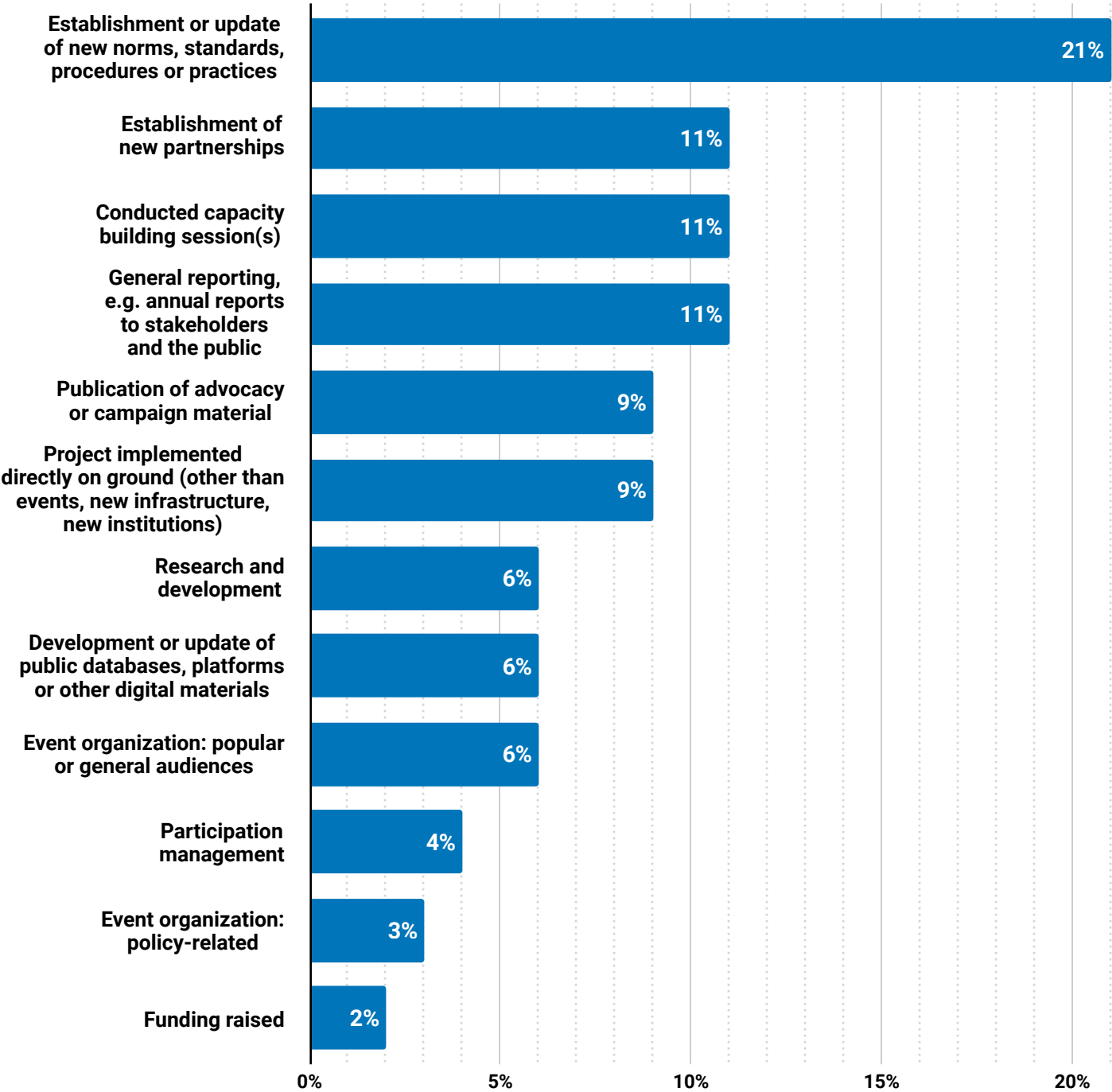


Figure 7: distribution of target types by CCI

Figure 7 illustrates the distribution of target types pursued by CCIs. The most frequently pursued objective reported is growth in participation, highlighting the initiatives' focus on expanding involvement. This is closely followed by emissions reduction and goals that aim to positively influence people, cities and countries, which encompass adaptation by addressing local vulnerabilities. Other noteworthy targets are adaptive capacity, strengthened resilience or reduced vulnerability, which further emphasize the initiatives' adaptation efforts. This distribution highlights the balance between mitigation and adaptation in the objectives reported by the initiatives. Areas such as market share, sales, scale of adoption and funds to be mobilized or raised were reported less frequently, indicating that while important, they are less commonly considered by CCIs.

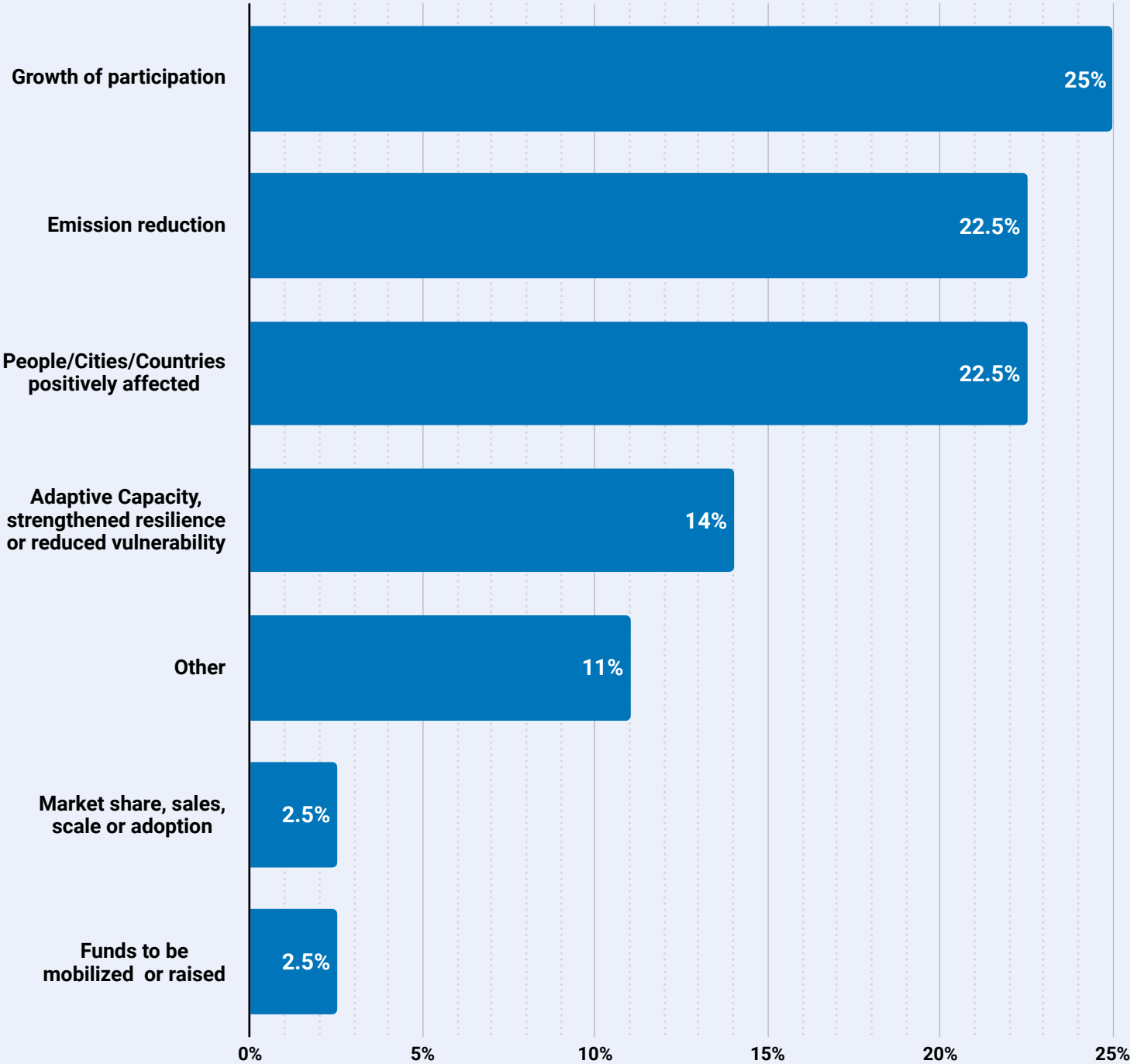
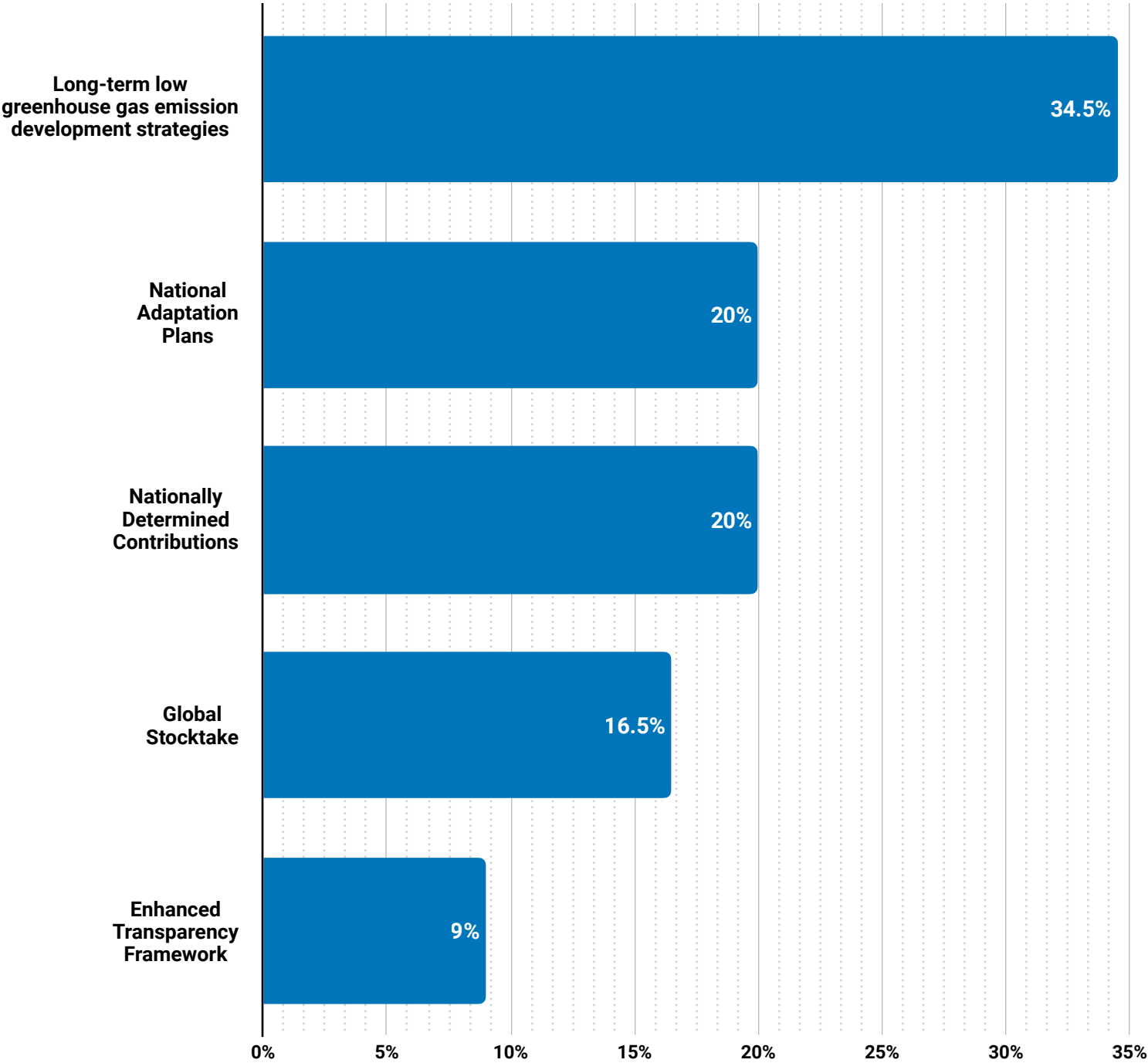


Figure 8: links to UNFCCC multilateral processes

Finally, Figure 8 shows how often the CCI linked their actions to specific UNFCCC multilateral processes. Each action submitted by an initiative could reference one or more contributions. The most frequently mentioned type of contribution is related to long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-LEDs), followed by contributions to NAPs and NDCs. Contributions to

the GST process were also substantial, whereas mentions of the Enhanced Transparency Framework were less frequent. This distribution highlights the primary focus of initiatives on long-term planning and adaptation efforts, while also addressing transparency and stocktaking mechanisms under international climate agreements.



Progress reported in relation to contributions to multilateral processes

Many initiatives have clearly identified links with the multilateral secretariat processes listed in the figure above and are actively aligning their efforts accordingly. These frameworks are helping to drive interest and investment in and action towards crucial climate goals by guiding civil society and non-Party stakeholders to address priority areas such as decarbonization, sustainable land use and urban mobility. However, about half of the initiatives reported no explicit links to these processes. This may indicate the initiatives’ lack of awareness of the links between their work and global frameworks, rather than an actual lack of alignment. This gap in understanding highlights an opportunity for the secretariat to improve its communication and outreach efforts, ensuring that more initiatives will recognize their roles and align their contributions with the broader climate agenda.

Progress was reported in the promotion of long-term greenhouse gas emission development strategies, particularly in the energy, land use and transportation sectors. In the energy sector, initiatives have indicated an increase in investments towards renewable energy infrastructure, such as solar and wind power, marking a shift away from fossil fuels towards cleaner alternatives. Energy efficiency projects were also noted, although the extent of their implementation varied across regions. In the land use sector, initiatives focused on integrating NbS, including reforestation and sustainable land management. These efforts are intended to reduce emissions, particularly in agriculture-dependent regions. Reports from the transportation sector highlighted actions towards the electrification of transport systems and the development of sustainable urban mobility.

In the context of NAPs, initiatives frequently mentioned the agriculture, land use and water resource sectors. Reported actions pertaining to the

agriculture sector included the promotion of climate-resilient farming practices aimed at adapting to changing weather patterns. However, the depths of these interventions and their coverage across regions have remained largely anecdotal, with many initiatives self-reporting improvements. Water resource management projects were highlighted as key components in building resilience, particularly in drought-prone regions. These initiatives often focused on improving water supply management, although clear data on long-term outcomes were not always available. Similarly, infrastructure projects aimed at protecting vulnerable communities from extreme weather events were reported, but these remained limited to specific regions and are not necessarily indicative of broader progress.

Initiatives reported contributions intended to support countries in meeting their NDCs, especially within the energy and urban mobility sectors. In the energy sector, initiatives mentioned efforts to decarbonize national energy systems, increase renewable energy generation and improve the efficiency of existing infrastructure. These activities were described as supporting national commitments to reduce emissions. Urban mobility initiatives focused on cleaner public transport and electric vehicle infrastructure, as well as improvements in urban planning and transport efficiency. In the land use sector, initiatives aimed at reducing emissions from agriculture and promoting sustainable land use practices were reported as contributions to national climate goals.

Intended to assess collective progress toward the Paris Agreement goals, the GST process involved frequent reporting from initiatives in sectors such as energy, agriculture and transportation. Initiatives mentioned their work in the clean energy space, including the development of renewable energy sources and improvement of energy grids. In the

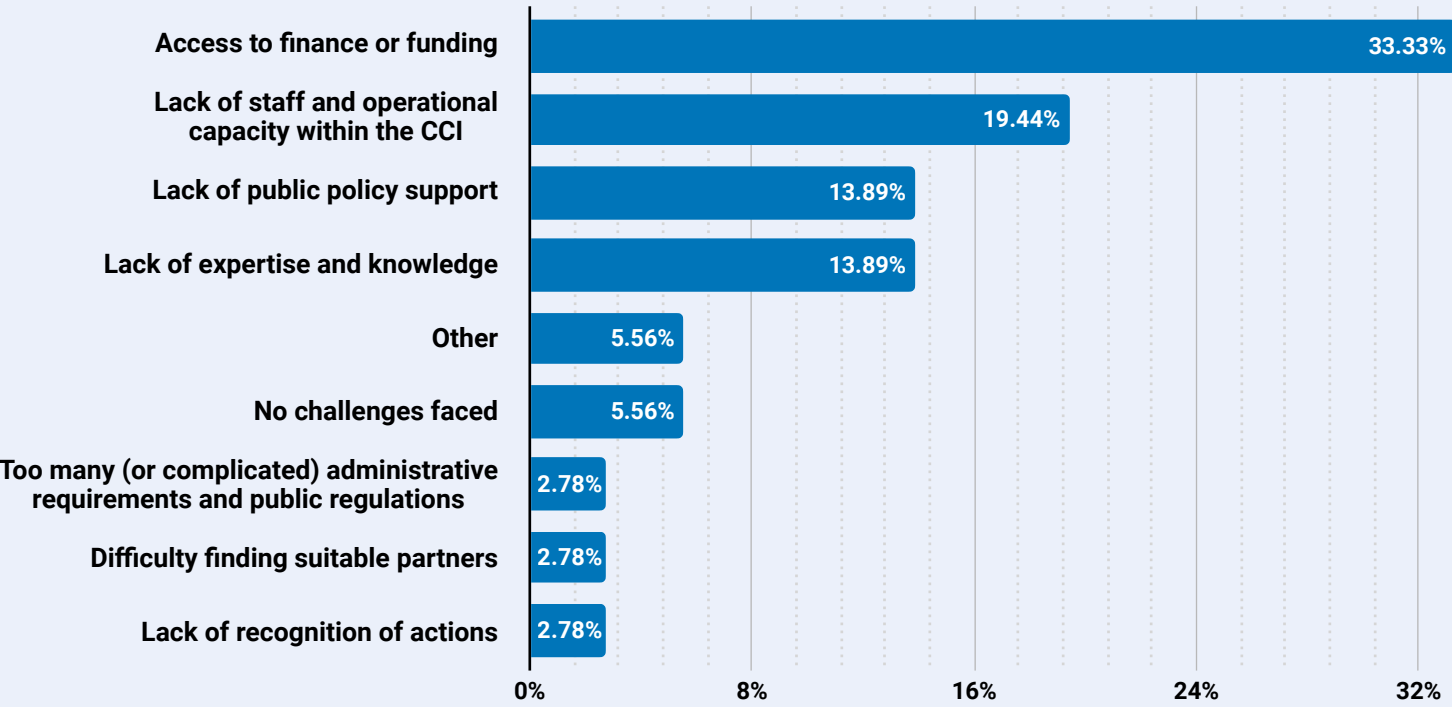
agriculture and land use sectors, several initiatives described their efforts to promote sustainable practices and carbon sequestration through NbS. Although these actions were presented as contributions to global mitigation efforts, concrete data supporting their impact on emissions reduction remain sparse. Transportation initiatives reported progress in shifting towards low-carbon systems.

Initiatives contributing to the Enhanced Transparency Framework focused on transparent and accountable reporting, particularly in the energy, land use and financial sectors. Reporting mechanisms were established to track emissions reductions, particularly in association with renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. In the land use sector, initiatives highlighted the tracking of carbon sequestration projects such as reforestation, although these claims generally lacked external validation. Initiatives focused on the financial services sector reported on efforts to improve transparency in climate finance flows, often

emphasizing the role of green finance. However, the actual alignment of these investments with broader climate goals is difficult to assess without independent verification.

Despite the positive momentum generated by these multilateral processes and efforts to align with them, CCIs continue to face significant implementation challenges. The survey results provide insights into the key obstacles reported by the initiatives. Figure 9 highlights the most common challenges, with access to finance or funding being the most frequently cited, followed by a lack of staff and operational capacity. These two challenges consistently were ranked highest, as limited funding often directly impacts the ability to maintain sufficient capacity and staffing. Additionally, many CCIs reported a lack of public policy support and lack of expertise and knowledge as significant barriers. Other challenges reported by initiatives include administrative complexities, difficulty in finding suitable partners and a lack of recognition for their actions.

Figure 9: types of challenges





Chapter 2

Transformation towards climate goals

A) Accelerating the just transition away from fossil fuels

Non-Party stakeholders play a significant role in reducing demand for fossil fuels, tripling renewable energy, doubling energy efficiency and building a resilient and equitable future economy. There are opportunities to combine climate transition with sustainable development activities in the Global South, especially in fast-growing urban areas. Business engagement is also important, with Race to Zero members delivering tangible evidence of progress and leadership and businesses playing leading roles in many collaborative initiatives involving heavy industry and energy.

While the expansion of clean energy technologies is accelerating rapidly, the [Breakthrough Agenda Report 2024](#) outlines how increased international collaboration is required to accelerate it and ensure that clean energy technologies are more affordable, accessible and attractive than fossil fuels. Three-quarters of leading businesses have increased their investments in the net zero transition over the past three years, motivated by growing commercial opportunity according to the [Business Breakthrough Barometer](#). Furthermore, 90 per cent say they would invest more, if targeted sector policy measures were implemented.



In 2024, Race to Zero continued to grow and support global efforts towards net zero. The number of non-Party stakeholders in the campaign increased to 15,500, an annual increase of 16 per cent.

Since last year, the campaign has welcomed two new partners, expanding the coverage of actor types who are taking net zero action. At COP 28, the **Net Zero Export Credit Agencies Alliance** joined the campaign as “the first-of-its-kind net zero finance alliance consisting of global public finance institutions that together supported an estimated \$120 billion in international trade in 2022”. The **United Kingdom’s National Parks** were the first national parks system to join, committing to halve carbon emissions within their landscapes by 2030 and become significant net zero carbon sinks by 2050 and thus demonstrating a nature-positive commitment to action.

Seven new accelerators also joined the Race to Zero, including organizations from Indonesia, Ghana, Kenya and the Philippines, thus increasing the presence of the campaign in emerging markets and developing economies. To date, Race to Zero accelerators cover all regions from MENA, LATAM and Africa to the EU, APAC and North America, as well as many sectors (e.g., communications, hard-to-abate, water utilities and consumer goods) and both large enterprises and SMEs.

Energy

According to IRENA’s most recent data, 2023 was a significant year for renewable energy, with 473 GW of new capacity added globally, 73 per cent of which was derived from solar energy. However, an additional 7.2 TW of capacity must be deployed to reach the required 11 TW by 2030. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), in 2023, global investment in clean technology manufacturing reached approximately \$200 billion, marking a 70 per cent increase from 2022.

In September 2024, the Utilities for Net Zero Alliance (UNEZA) was launched at COP 28 under the guidance of IRENA and the HLCs, including 32 major utilities (17 Race to Zero members) serving more than 327 million customers (1.4 billion people), as well as ecosystem partners. UNEZA announced its collective intent to invest more than \$116 billion annually in renewable energy generation (52 per cent) and power grid infrastructure (48 per cent).

Since March 2024, the HLCs have rallied non-Party stakeholders, including intergovernmental organizations and companies, to deliver the doubling of energy efficiency outcomes set forth by the GST through regionally appropriate actions and targets in LATAM, Africa and APAC. They also have worked to implement the Methane 2030 Breakthrough by facilitating the financing of methane abatement initiatives in MENA and operationalizing the **Joint-Agreement on the Responsible Deployment of Renewables Based Hydrogen** with global and regional partners. In addition, the HLCs have added biofuels to their energy portfolio in preparation for COP 30 in Belém, including specific workstreams on HEFA-SAF (biofuels and hydrogen-based SAF) and the role of ethanol in clean cooking.

In May 2024, during the IEA Summit on Clean Cooking in Africa, held in Paris, Her Excellency (HE) Razan Al Mubarak, the HLC for COP 28, published her

Op-Ed co-authored by Joseph Nganga of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet. In this piece, published in Project Syndicate, the co-authors underscored the critical importance of clean cooking technologies for enhancing public health, safeguarding the environment and unlocking social and economic opportunities.

The adaptation of energy generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure into national energy planning is also progressing, with 41 per cent of NDCs now referencing energy in their adaptation components. However, the inclusion of energy infrastructure in NAPs remains limited, and awareness of the link between adaptation and resilience and energy remains a barrier.

Industry

In 2024, low-carbon steel production has reached 1-2 per cent of the steel industry’s global output, driven by the expansion of electric arc furnaces and hydrogen-based direct reduction processes. The Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC), comprising over 400 major global investors across 27 countries with \$65 trillion in assets, has partnered with investors to prioritize policy interventions aimed at transitioning the European steel sector. Recognizing the strategic importance of steel to construction, energy infrastructure and transport, IIGCC emphasizes the need for a just and fair transition, particularly in terms of human capital and workforce management.

The cement industry reduced its carbon intensity by eight per cent compared with 2020 levels through the increased use of alternative fuels and supplementary cementitious materials. The Global Cement and Concrete Association reported that 35 per cent of its members had set science-based targets for emissions reduction. Chemical companies made progress in circular economy practices, with recycled plastics accounting for 15 per cent of total plastic production.

Cross-sector initiatives also gained momentum: the **First Movers Coalition** expanded to include 95 companies, collectively representing over \$10 trillion in market capitalization. These companies have committed to purchasing low-carbon industrial goods, thus creating demand signals for emerging technologies. The Industrial Transition Accelerator (ITA), launched at COP 28 to fast-track industrial decarbonization in high-emitting sectors, launched its first country programme in Brazil in 2024.

Governments have started to implement stronger policies to support industrial decarbonization. Green public procurement policies for low-carbon materials have been adopted by 15 countries through the Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI). These policies will substantially increase the rate of green market demand in the future.

Transport

In 2024, SAF production has doubled, accounting for 0.53 per cent of total aviation fuel in 2024. Europe is the leading SAF supplier, followed by the Americas and Asia. Key initiatives driving growth in this sector include the ReFuelEU mandate and the United States SAF Grand Challenge; however, there remain significant hurdles to overcome before reaching the target of 10 per cent SAF by 2030.

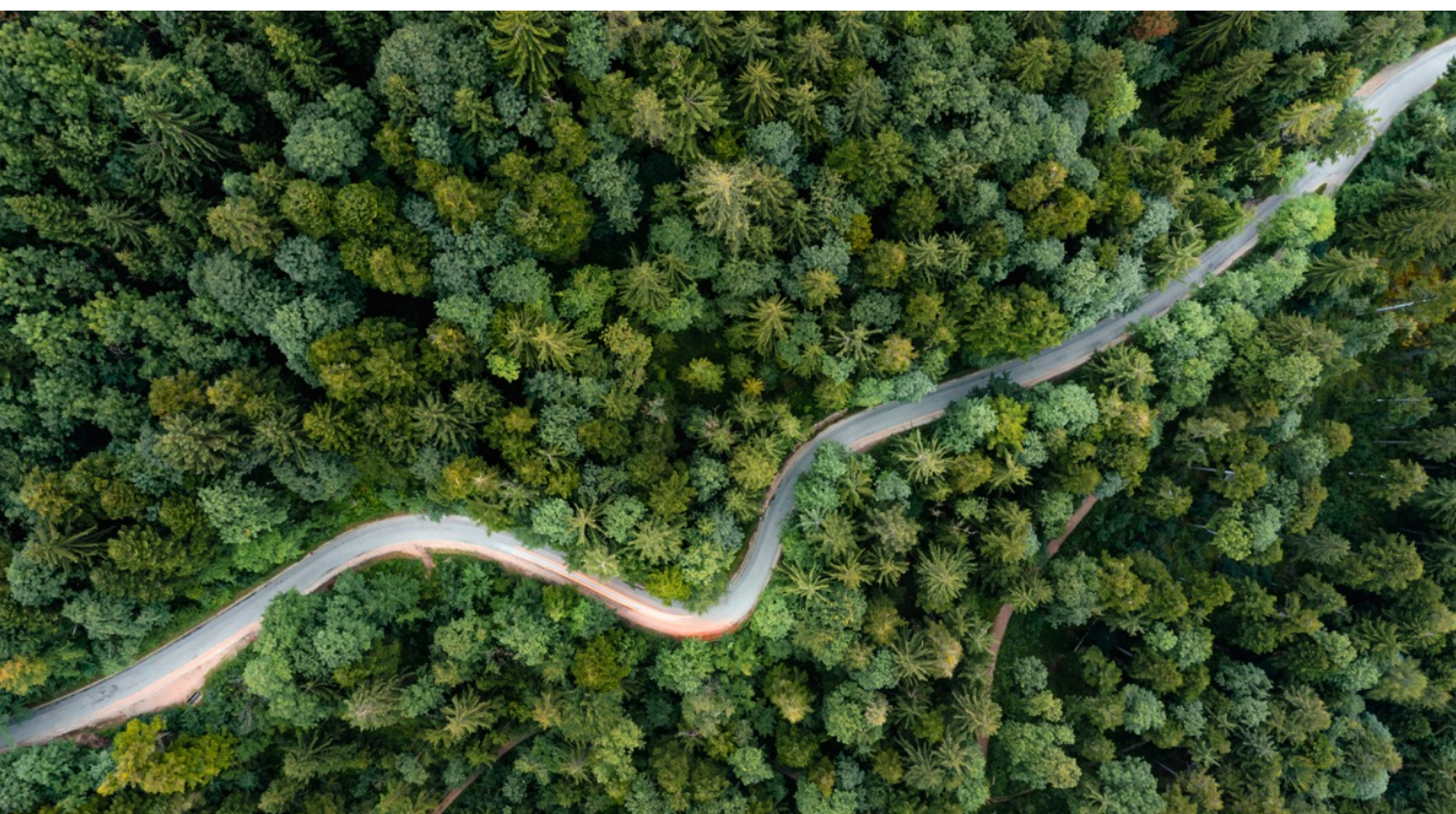
In the maritime sector, progress towards zero-emission fuel adoption has been slower than needed to meet the target of 5–10 per cent by 2030. While policy developments at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) offer optimism, the current pace of change is insufficient. Notable advancements include the launch of The Green Pioneer, the first dual-fuelled ammonia vessel, as well as methanol bunkering demonstrations in major ports such as Antwerp and Singapore. However, net zero capable ships still account for only 0.44 per cent of the global fleet.

In Africa, the highlights of 2024 include a session on financing the maritime sector to support greater private sector involvement in decarbonization and ecological transition, as well as a session on regionalizing the Maritime Just Transition Task Force in which the 10-point Action Plan to Achieve a Just Transition for Seafarers was created to implement this transition.

In the land transport sector, ZEV sales grew by 35 per cent, accounting for 18 per cent of global car sales in 2023; the growth was led by China (60 per cent), Europe (25 per cent) and the United States (10 per cent), while emerging markets lagged in this area. Charging infrastructure increased by 40 per cent, with six-fold growth projected by 2035. The **updated ZEV roadmap** – in which governments represent over 50 per cent of the global car market – is helping to build capacity across Emerging Market and Developing Economies (EMDEs), improve access to finance and increase the availability of EVs in EMDEs and the scaling up of charging infrastructure and sustainable ZEV lifecycle management.

The Fleet Electrification Coalition has focused on truck electrification, aiming to decarbonize logistics. Through collaborations with shippers, carriers and charge point operators, progress is being made in terms of aggregating demand, analysing data and identifying opportunities for charging infrastructure and financing solutions. At CEM15, the **ninth corridor** of the 10 **Global Green Road Corridors (GGRC)** initiative was launched.

Railway operators continue to deliver electrification (35 per cent of tracks by 2022) while adopting alternative traction methods, such as hydrogen, hydrotreated vegetable oil and batteries. Bus operators also continue to increase electrification. In Mexico, Metrobús has begun to transition to electric mobility, while in Dakar, the first all-electric bus rapid transit system on the African continent was launched. Clear air in cities encourages citizens to walk and cycle and increases the uptake of public transport.



The new Avoid and Shift Breakthrough, which is aligned with the aim of **SLOCAT** to double the share of energy-efficient and fossil-free forms of transport, includes a set of non-Party stakeholder contributions to assist countries with including mainstream **best avoid and shift practices in their NDCs**. The approach that **Antofagasta Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan** (SUMP) has taken to scale city-level action to national Chilean Low Emissions Transport Strategy (CLETS) demonstrates how cities can lead on ZEV adoption and **walking and cycling initiatives**. Mainstreaming the inclusion of popular transport into ZEV climate solutions is a key method used by the MP to enable a just transition.

Regarding demand aggregation, **Zero Emission Maritime Buyers Alliance's (ZEMBA)** first tender and **Sustainable Aviation Buyers Alliance's (SABA)** major fuel certificate purchase marked progress in the maritime and aviation sectors, respectively, while ZEV initiatives such as EV100+ have continued to thrive.

Built environment

The **Buildings Breakthrough**, formally launched at COP 28 with the support of 28 countries and the European Commission, expanded to include 29 countries by 2024. In March 2024, the **Declaration de Chaillot**, backed by 69 countries, was introduced at the **Buildings & Climate Global Forum**, co-hosted by GlobalABC.

In developing countries, enhanced building codes are increasingly driving transition in the building sector and unlocking associated opportunities. For instance, Chile introduced a new Building Energy Code in May 2024, Colombia updated its Building Code to improve housing resilience and Kenya's National Building Code 2024 features the integration of sustainability requirements into its comprehensive framework for building planning, design, construction and maintenance.

Regional, industry-led collaborations are building confidence in national-level actions. Examples include the **Sustainability Built Environment Blueprint**, and **Sustainable Built Environment Pledge** launched in the UAE and Azerbaijan – both of which are supported by the HLCs – as well as the United Kingdom's first **Net Zero Carbon Building Standard**.

Efforts to provide safe, resilient housing for 1 billion people by improving design, construction and access to finance are gaining momentum. Although global data on the beneficiaries remain underreported, initiatives such as Climate Resilient Housing have already impacted 1.17 million people, including 588,000 women. Early warning systems (EWS) are also progressing, with multi-hazard EWSs aiming to provide universal coverage. While significant advancements have been made through programmes like Early Warnings for All (EWS4All), Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS), and Early Hazard Risk Assessment (EHRA), progress remains uneven across regions. Finally, a working group on informality is being established under the SAA Human Settlements Task Force.

Green demand

Insufficient demand for green fuels and commodities is recognized as one of the main barriers to transformation of the energy, industry and transport sectors and urban and land systems. In 2024, some progress was made towards creating green demand, building on the momentum generated at COP 28. Notably, corporate commitments to renewable energy procurement surged, with power purchase agreements totalling 45 GW, an increase of 25 per cent from the previous year.

In recent years, many initiatives led by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have flourished, helping companies and governments to develop and streamline their demand for green products; these include RE100 and EP100 in the energy sector;

ConcreteZero, SteelZero and SSBA in the industrial sector; EV100, EV100+, ZEV Declaration and RouteZero, ZEMBA and SABA in the transport sector; IDDI for national governments; and the First Movers Coalition (FMC) and African Green Products Initiative, which are multi-sectoral. As committed companies move from commitments to procurement, a second generation of demand initiatives, green market makers and book and claim services are emerging, helping companies to aggregate their demands into a collective request for proposals. Examples of these initiatives include SABA's RFP for SAF, ZEMBA's RFP for zero-emission fuels and the Center for Green Market Activation's

upcoming e-trucking RFP. Since July 2024, the CCT, WBCSD, the Breakthrough Agenda Secretariat and the FMC have regularly convened these initiatives to align their ambitions and strategies ahead of COP 29 and COP 30.

Governments play a key role in shaping green markets by adopting demand-enabling policies and measures to create a level playing field, break down green premiums and allow all types of businesses (including SMEs) to take part in the transition.



B) Protecting and restoring nature

As the world grapples with the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, the need for a unified approach to address these interconnected challenges is increasingly recognized. The HLCs and the MP are spearheading efforts to halt and reverse deforestation, transform food systems and restore ocean and coastal ecosystems, while emphasizing the critical role of NDCs and NAPs in driving these initiatives. Already, over 480 businesses and financial institutions have participated in **Nature Positive Climate Action**, and over 280 farmers, cities, businesses, civil societies, Indigenous Peoples and philanthropies are taking action to **Transform Food Systems for People, Nature, and Climate**. These leading actors are highlighting how national climate, nature and biodiversity plans can accelerate their actions to protect, manage and restore nature.

The three COPs of the UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD, which are occurring in consecutive months during the last trimester of 2024, have led various stakeholders and influential non-Party stakeholders to converge and amplify the interconnectedness of ecosystems and thus provide diverse ecosystem services to people. Since the intersessionals in Bonn (SB 60), where a broad agreement was formed across all presidencies and the Climate–Nature Coordination Platform (CNCP) was launched, meetings of Parties and non-Party stakeholders have been scheduled during Climate Week New York and each of the three COPs, aiming to develop a concrete action plan and way forward to be announced in Belém at COP 30.

Several papers from non-Party stakeholders have detailed the ambitious policies that they are seeking from national governments, which would enable them to act further and faster. A collective of over 130 major companies have highlighted how national climate and biodiversity plans can help companies to transform their operations, value chains and entire sectors, thus contributing to a thriving economy that depends on healthy ecosystems. See Business for Nature's **call for renewed policy ambition to implement the Biodiversity Plan and halt and reverse nature loss in this decade**. Inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships between national and subnational governments, the private sector, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and consumers can yield substantial climate benefits by promoting holistic, resource-efficient and sustainable practices throughout the food system. See the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Climate Focus' **Food Forward NDCs** and **Unlocking And Scaling Climate Solutions In Food Systems**. National governments are working with local forestry groups, Indigenous Peoples and the private sector to scale NbS. These partnerships can be scaled through national climate and biodiversity plans to drive innovation, enhance solution implementation and ensure community-driven, resilient climate actions. See the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)'s **Nature-based Solutions in Nationally Determined Contributions**.

Urban nature

Acknowledging the critical role of nature as a key component of cities' sustainable planning and resilience strategies that affect climate mitigation and adaptation and biodiversity and land targets, at COP 28, the HLC HE Razan Al Mubarak, together with non-Party stakeholders, city networks and financial institutions, emphasized the need for cities and local governments to increase their investments in NbS and incorporate urban nature frameworks into their transition plans. The Urban Nature Programme, officially launched at CBD COP 16 in Cali, Colombia, is aligned with the Land Use 2030 Breakthrough, as well as the SAA, Race to Resilience and Race to Zero campaigns.

Resilience and Nature

Nature is the backbone of resilient development – without it, our progress crumbles. Healthy ecosystems act as natural shields, protecting communities from climate disasters such as floods, droughts and storms. By restoring and preserving nature, we not only protect biodiversity but also unlock benefits such as climate risk reduction, clean air, water security and fertile land, which drive economic growth and human well-being. NbS are cost-effective, adaptable, and sustainable, empowering communities to thrive even in the face of adversity. To accelerate resilient development, we must invest in nature because when nature thrives,

people and economies flourish. For this reason, the SAA has set diverse outcome targets across systems that reflect the contributions of nature ecosystems to adaptation and climate risk reduction, benefitting both lives and livelihoods, including mangroves, coral reefs, wetlands, landscapes and forests.

Land use

In 2024, the land use sector witnessed significant changes, with private sector engagement and large-scale initiatives driving notable progress. According to the [land gap report](#), governments have proposed approximately 1 billion hectares of land for land-based carbon removal as part of their climate mitigation pledges – an area larger than South Africa, India, Türkiye and the EU combined. Approximately 50 per cent of these pledges are focused on ecosystem restoration, allowing ecosystems to naturally recover carbon storage without changing land use. However, transparency in these pledges is crucial, as more credible and climate-resilient strategies are needed. The remaining 50 per cent of land-based pledges involve tree planting (afforestation and reforestation), which typically requires land use changes that may conflict with food security, ecosystem resilience and the rights of local communities. Major companies such as Nestlé and Unilever have expanded their regenerative agriculture programmes, helping to restore degraded lands while securing supply chains, and

impacting over 500,000 smallholder farmers. Africa's Great Green Wall initiative has restored 20 million hectares of land, boosting food security and providing over 350,000 jobs in the Sahel region. The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) has scaled up, committing to restore 140 million hectares by 2030 and focusing on climate resilience.

Technological advancements, such as Global Forest Watch's AI-driven real-time monitoring, are further supporting land management, particularly in the Congo Basin. Furthermore, a leading group of financial institutions are taking action against deforestation through the Finance Sector Deforestation Action initiative (FSDA), which represents more than \$8 trillion in assets under management and showcases [progress towards their commitments](#). The FSDA also has launched the first-ever investor expectations of banks regarding deforestation. To tackle deforestation further, mainstreaming across private finance will be needed.

Food systems

COP 28 was a landmark moment for food systems, with the launch of the [COP 28 UAE Declaration on Food & Agriculture](#), now signed by 160 Heads of State, and the [Food Systems Call to Action](#), which has been endorsed by 300 food systems actors, with more continuing to join. The Call to Action aligns actors around a shared vision and priority set of actions to transform food systems to deliver positive outcomes for people, nature, and climate, and centres on the need to support farmers and other frontline food systems actors, as well as vulnerable groups. Momentum continues to grow in 2024.

At the country level, the [Technical Cooperation Collaborative](#) was launched to support the implementation of the COP 28 UAE Declaration on Food & Agriculture. Sierra Leone, one of the co-chairs of the [Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation](#), secured [\\$100 million in funding](#) at the Africa Food Systems Forum in Kigali, Rwanda.

Denmark is introducing the world's first [carbon tax on farmers](#), charging farmers for emissions from their livestock. WWF launched [The Great Food Puzzle](#), an interactive tool for identifying policy solutions for countries based on their socioeconomic and environmental characteristics. The second phase of the FAO Roadmap, setting out a global pathway to meet nutritional needs and ensure equitable access to healthy diets while meeting the 1.5 °C goal, is due to be launched at COP 29.

Non-Party stakeholders across several food systems areas are making significant progress in various ways, including scaling up sustainable, regenerative, and agroecological approaches; increasing the accessibility, availability and affordability of healthy, sustainable and locally appropriate diets; protecting and restoring nature; and reducing food loss and waste. Several global and regional farmers organizations have developed statements of action for engagement in the Rio Conventions to reflect their members' key asks, including calls for strengthened and simplified mechanisms to access finance. Farmers are already adapting and responding to climate impacts and other shocks and stresses, implementing context-specific approaches and demonstrating results through farm- and landscape-level efforts. One hundred and three agri-food businesses – more than a 700 per cent increase from 2023 – have established and validated [science-based targets](#) that include land-based emission reductions and removals through the [Forest, Land and Agriculture Science-Based Target-Setting Guidance \(SBTi FLAG\)](#). Thirteen agrifood businesses have set validated science-based targets that include land-based emissions reductions and removals through the Forest, Land and Agriculture Science-Based Target-Setting Guidance ([SBTi FLAG Guidance](#)).

Over 235 food and agriculture organizations, including some of the largest food companies in the [Action Agenda on Regenerative Landscapes](#), are working to scale up regenerative soy on degraded



lands in the Brazilian Cerrado. Financial institutions are developing **innovative finance mechanisms** to de-risk agricultural investments and catalyse more private capital. Cities have been taking action on food procurement, for example **New York City's Plant Forward initiative**. There are barriers to scaling action, and significant gaps exist in mobilizing resources to support a just transition that does not unduly burden the most vulnerable.

Oceans

Since the launch of the Ocean Breakthroughs at COP 28, the ocean's potential has been unlocked through increased action and investment intended to address the urgent challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. The Ocean Breakthroughs set out five key milestones in five critical sectors needed to achieve a healthy and productive ocean by 2050: marine conservation, ocean renewable energy, shipping, aquatic food and coastal tourism.

The Mangrove Breakthrough members oversee 66,141 hectares of mangroves under various forms of protection, restoration or policy influence. These direct actions have safeguarded an additional 25 million tonnes of carbon. More than 30 governments have officially endorsed the Mangrove Breakthrough and joined its journey, and will work to include specific, measurable and science-based targets for mangroves within the 2025 updates to their NDCs.

The Coral Breakthrough, launched in 2023, is led by the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR). Since its launch, it has been endorsed and supported by all 45 country members of ICRI. In 2024, the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's and ICRI's network of global coral reef scientists confirmed the fourth global coral bleaching event – the second such event in the last 10 years. Without collective action at pace and scale, scientists estimate that 90 per cent of reefs may be lost by 2050, with dire consequences for the communities that they support.

Under the Ocean Renewable Energy Breakthrough Target, the offshore wind country members of the Global Offshore Wind Alliance have committed to include offshore winds in their NDCs by 2025. Notably, 2023 was the second-best year on record for the global offshore wind industry, with a total of 75 GW of operational global offshore wind capacity by the year end.

Air Pollution

In August 2024, the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership on Open Waste Burning Mitigation, with support from the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Africa Regional Office at Nairobi, hosted a webinar to commemorate the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, demonstrating the attainment of this goal through sustainable waste management practices. The session shared the experiences of various African countries in achieving clean air objectives through sustainable waste management via the MSP established for the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) resolution on open waste burning. These experiences included a range of interventions focused upon capacity-building, outreach communication activities, and the identification, adoption and implementation of best practices related to sustainable waste management. The webinar explored solutions to the challenges of financing climate projects, including policy reforms, improved market infrastructure and capacity-building to mitigate the perceived investment risks in the region.

Fresh Water

The Water Initiative for Net Zero (WINZ) has significantly contributed to UN-Water's analysis of the reliance of climate mitigation on water management. WINZ has led roundtable discussions with energy bodies across Europe, North America, and Oceania, focusing on integrating water management into energy planning to accelerate a

just energy transition. Experts have highlighted how NbS such as wetlands restoration can support climate resilience, building on the findings of the report **The Essential Drop to Reach Net Zero** (June 2024).

Now in its third year, the Water Resilience Tracker is being used in 10 countries to strengthen water resilience in national climate plans. This tool aids in creating water-resilient climate actions, thus benefiting ecosystems, economies and communities.

In August 2024, **UNEP** reported that the freshwater ecosystems in half of all countries are degraded. **The Freshwater Challenge** (FWC), a global initiative launched in 2023, aims to restore 300,000 km of rivers and 350 million hectares of wetlands. The FWC is expanding its efforts, supported by 46 countries and the EU, while the United States has launched its own initiative in 2024 (**America the Beautiful Freshwater Challenge**). The FWC has engaged over 60 companies in the last year, securing commitments from two of them.

The Water for Climate Pavilion hosted over 100 events at COP 28, engaging 63 partners and 1,300 participants in the topic of water's role in climate resilience. A **policy brief** was released to guide future climate actions. The Pavilion will continue its efforts at COP 29 in Baku with over 70 partner organizations, ensuring global engagement and promoting water resilience solutions.

World Water Week 2024, hosted by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), gathered 12,000 participants from 198 countries under the theme "Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future". The week featured a strong focus on **Indigenous Peoples** and youth, fostering discussions on water and climate action between COP 28 and COP 29 (**Building progress for Water & Climate Action**).



The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is developing water-climate resilience guidelines with contributions from the water community and international agencies. WINZ is advocating for the submission of proposals for water-related mitigation projects to the GCF and Asian Development Bank (ADB), emphasizing the need for stable policies, regulations and investment to ensure sustainable access to funding, particularly in vulnerable regions such as Africa and South Asia (**Global Water Partnership and UNICEF's Strategic Framework for WASH Climate Resilience**) This approach has been introduced in 35 countries to date, with support from **SIWI**.

In conclusion, significant progress towards addressing the interconnected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss has been demonstrated in the past year, spearheaded by the HLCs and the MP. With approximately 1 billion hectares of land pledged for carbon removal through national climate commitments and over 130 major companies advocating for national climate and biodiversity plans, movement towards sustainable practices has been strong. Looking ahead, the anticipated outcomes from the upcoming COPs, coupled with the increasing involvement of diverse stakeholders in transformative actions, highlight the potential for achieving a more resilient and nature-positive future.



C) Providing equitable finance to climate solutions

Finance enables the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future. Finance is important for implementing national climate plans, including NDCs and NAPs. The climate–nature nexus is increasingly relevant. Despite the convergence of progress towards the climate, development and nature agendas over the last year, significant hurdles remain in terms of ensuring equitable access to finance. Debt is a significant short-term challenge for developing countries and must be addressed to effectively finance climate solutions.

Despite these underlying challenges, non-Party stakeholders from the private sector have engaged with policymakers on national climate plans over the last year, while demonstrating the actions they have taken.

Practical resources from the private sector for investable NDCs and NAPs:

- **Mission 2025**, a coalition of businesses, mayors, investors, cultural leaders, health leaders, scientists, youth activists and finance initiatives supports governments in designing and implementing NDCs that will reduce uncertainty and unlock trillions in private investment.
- IIGCC emphasizes that NDCs can help to identify long-term investment opportunities. Their report, **Making NDCs Investable**, highlights the importance of sectoral pathways backed by robust policies and clear financing strategies as essential components of an investable national climate plan.
- The We Mean Business Coalition, which includes thousands of businesses, has provided guidance, advising that NDCs with sectoral targets, consistent policy frameworks and transparent dialogue with the private sector can accelerate investment in the net zero economy. Their report, **Time to deliver: Business call to action for ambitious and investable NDCs**, outlines this vision.
- The **Regional Platforms for Climate Projects** provides examples of over 70 investable climate projects in developing countries, with project developers having secured funding totalling \$1.9 billion to support climate solutions in developing economies. These include projects for mitigation, adaptation and nature in areas such as renewable energy, e-mobility, food and agriculture.
- The World Bank Private Sector Investment Lab has collaborated with the private finance sector to unlock public–private sector collaboration and de-risking to scale finance. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/unit/brief/private-sector-investment-lab>
- Standards: Regarding company disclosures and data, which are priority areas in the finance community, the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) has continued to roll out the implementation of **IFRS S1** and **IFRS S2**. These will enhance the disclosure of sustainability-linked financial and climate-related information.

Leadership and action in net zero and adaptation finance:

- Six hundred and fifty financial institutions, representing approximately two thirds of all global assets under management, are aligning with the **Race to Zero** campaign. This includes the UN-convened Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance, which has redirected **\$555 billion** in combined investments on climate solutions in 2023, marking a quadrupling since 2020.
- Financial institutions have published **case studies on transition finance** to share good practice.
- The **Global Capacity Building Coalition** has launched an online capacity-building portal for financial institutions, policymakers and project developers focused on climate finance.
- The private sector has aligned around the SAA, which includes a strong focus on financing solutions and collaboration to scale adaptation finance.
- IIGCC's **Physical Climate Risk Assessment Methodology (PCRAM)** is proving to be successful in evaluating and managing climate-resilient infrastructure investments. PCRAM fosters a common language for assessing physical climate risks and facilitates better engagement between stakeholders. Case studies, including resilience efforts at a hydropower facility and a coastal wind farm, demonstrate how this methodology helps to unlock investment opportunities that align infrastructure investments with broader sustainability goals.



Leadership and action in nature finance:

- The **Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures** has announced a 30 per cent increase in adopters, bringing the total to 416 organizations, along with sector-specific guidance to enhance nature-related financial disclosures, improving sustainability reporting and risk management.
- The **Finance Sector Deforestation Initiative**, which represents over 30 financial institutions with more than \$8 trillion in assets under management, has released a progress report amplifying investors' voice and highlighting the global efforts needed to halt and reverse deforestation in this decade.
- The International Capital Market Association (ICMA) is playing a key role in expanding sustainability-linked bonds (SLBs). ICMA's updated registry of key performance indicators (KPIs) now includes areas such as biodiversity, oceans, water, climate change adaptation, waste and social issues. Developed in collaboration with NatureFinance, these KPIs provide governments with a framework for incorporating conservation policies into sovereign SLBs, enabling them to integrate nature-positive projects into their financial strategies. This expansion has helped to boost investor confidence and align sovereign debt instruments with international sustainability commitments.

IIGCC also has developed investor expectations for commercial and investment banks regarding the elimination of commodity-driven deforestation, which accounts for 11 per cent of global carbon emissions. Deforestation poses both environmental and financial risks, and IIGCC's guidance outlines five key expectations and 19 metrics to help investors engage with banks. Similarly, CDP has created a streamlined reporting framework that harmonizes global standards, including those of the ISSB, to facilitate nature-positive investments in their **2024 questionnaire**. CDP is leveraging its **CDP Investor Signatory network** and has partnered with over 700 financial institutions, allowing for better disclosure and transparency and helping corporations and investors to unlock capital for nature-focused projects.

Spotlight on innovative finance solutions: **The Joint Declaration and Task Force on Credit Enhancement for Sustainability-Linked Sovereign Financing**

- Launched at COP 28, this declaration initially aimed to tackle the interconnected crises of debt, nature and climate.
- Over the last year, it has evolved into an MDB-led initiative focused on improving access to credit enhancement tools for nature and climate-linked projects. It is co-chaired by the Inter-American Development Bank and the United States International Development Finance Corporation.
- The task force has worked to make sustainability-linked transactions more efficient and effective by removing institutional silos between multilateral development banks.
- This coordinated effort among MDBs aims to increase the affordability and impact of **credit enhancement** instruments, helping countries to address both financial and environmental challenges.

Looking forward, climate finance must respond to the needs of developing countries with sufficient public finance and must help to create a broad path for private finance. The path towards a sustainable and resilient future will require unprecedented collaboration among diverse stakeholders, from financial institutions to businesses and policymakers. COP 29 and COP 30 will provide opportunities to scale this and further climate and SDG collaborations across mitigation, adaptation and nature.





Chapter 3

Whole-of-society action areas and stakeholder engagement

The HLCs work with a wide variety of non-Party stakeholders such as businesses, including SMEs and those in the informal sector, as well as cities, states and regions.

Through the Race to Zero, over 9,200 SMEs, 1,200 universities and colleges, 80 healthcare institutions, 650 financial institutions, almost 1100 cities and nearly 50 states and regions are taking action to halve global emissions by 2030.

Through the **Whole-of-Society Support For Strong National Climate Plans** report, the HLCs are consolidating insights, priorities and offers of support from businesses, investors, cities and subnational regions and civil society groups, aiming to make these readily available for Parties to use while designing and implementing their NDCs and NAPs.

Businesses and financiers are positioned to invest in and realize highly ambitious national climate plans, sending strong market signals to catalyse inward investment. Cities, states and regions are prepared to expedite the implementation of national climate plans, empowering subnational governments with the necessary tools and fiscal levers to facilitate local climate action. Civil society groups, particularly Indigenous Peoples and youth, are emphasizing the significance of these plans, providing insights into how they can guide a transition that is just and beneficial for the least advantaged. Enhanced national climate plans can empower these actors to advance further and faster in their initiatives.

By engaging all levels of society in the design and implementation of their NDCs, national governments can undertake climate action while simultaneously accelerating sustainable development, job creation and the establishment of more resilient communities.

Additional support and tools for governments are available through the [NDC 3.0 Navigator](#), which was launched this year by the NDC Partnership and UNFCCC secretariat. This platform consolidates a wealth of resources from various sources. Non-Party stakeholders are encouraged to share additional resources to be included on the platform.

To ensure that the implementation of the [2030 Climate Solutions](#) will reflect the contexts and needs of all regions, the HLCs and the MP, in close collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat and its Regional Collaboration Centres, conducted a [regional consultation process on the 2030 Climate Solutions](#), with the overarching objective of accelerating action and progress in each region towards the 2030 targets for mitigation and adaptation. The process included a regional consultation survey to identify relevant dimensions for the 2030 Climate Solutions, as well as a series of regional validation workshops held in LATAM and the

Caribbean (28 August – virtual), APAC (29 August – virtual) and Africa (31 August – hybrid, on the sides of the UNECA 12th conference on Climate Change and Development in Abidjan), bringing together over 250 stakeholders across regions. The inputs from this engagement process will be fed into a Regional Outlook of the 2030 Climate Solutions to be published ahead of COP 29.

Equality and Inclusion

In the [Global Stocktake outcome](#) of COP 28, governments reaffirmed the importance of meaningful and effective social dialogue to ensure the participation of all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth and governments. These groups have contributed valuable insights and acted as stewards of both social and ecosystem resilience in the design and implementation of national climate, adaptation and biodiversity plans.

Impact Makers, one of the two flagship initiatives launched by HLC for COP 29, Nigar Arpadarai, is a [global campaign](#) dedicated to shining a light on effective climate action, highlighting diverse innovators and tangible solutions across regions, industries and communities. From social entrepreneurs and community leaders to startups, this global campaign has selected a range of impactful projects, proving that reducing greenhouse gas emissions and helping people adapt to the realities of climate change are possible actions and that change is already underway at speed and scale. Up to 50 Impact Makers will be selected on a rolling basis and profiled both at COP 29 in Azerbaijan and online via a dedicated webpage and exhibition.

The following resources provide an overview of how inclusively designed and implemented NDCs can empower civil society, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples, accelerating a just and equitable transition.

The Climate Action Network (CAN), a global network of over 1,300 environmental non-governmental organizations from more than 130 countries, emphasizes the critical role of NDCs in promoting climate-safe, just, equitable and sustainable pathways. For more details, refer to CAN International's [Guidelines for NDCs 3.0: Delivering on the GST outcome](#).

Additionally, various tools, case studies and analyses have been developed to promote a gender-just transition, with women and gender-focused groups guiding policy makers on how to develop NDCs that prioritize gender justice. The Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) provides a comprehensive resource, [Towards gender-just](#)

[NDCs](#). Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN) offers recommendations to help NDCs accelerate a just transition towards a healthy and equitable future that respects the rights of women and Indigenous Peoples, while also addressing socioeconomic inequalities. For further details, see WECAN's [Climate Justice Recommendations for NDCs](#).

The WWF emphasizes the importance of inclusively engaging civil society, businesses, financiers, subnational governments, citizens and Indigenous Peoples in national climate plans. It argues that such an inclusive approach can significantly improve the quality and implementation of policy measures. See WWF's [Checklist for the NDCs We Want](#) for more information.



Indigenous Peoples

Several key outcomes from COP 28 highlight the increasing inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in climate discussions. Notably, the UAE Consensus included nine references to Indigenous Peoples. COP 28 UAE hosted an Indigenous Peoples (IP) Day as part of the Presidency Action Agenda, with strong representation across multiple events. Additionally, a Presidency Just Transition Dialogue was held at COP 28, engaging Indigenous Peoples from the seven socio-cultural regions. The COP 28 Presidency also mobilized funds for a Global Data Study for Indigenous Peoples. HE Razan Al Mubarak convened a dialogue on direct access to finance for Indigenous Peoples at the Business and Philanthropy Forum COP 28 to create a roadmap to ensure direct access to finance from COP 28 to COP 30 from a variety of sources and mobilizing stakeholders active on the issue.

In 2024, several significant achievements were made to advance Indigenous Peoples' involvement in climate action. Both HLCs held a productive meeting with the Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPO) constituency at SB 60 in Bonn, acknowledging their key demands. Representatives of IPO were also invited to share their expectations for the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' rights and knowledge in the next round of NDCs during an HLC flagship event.

Indigenous Peoples' demands for NDCs have also been raised through the NDC dashboard. At the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), the HLCs, alongside the incoming COP 30 Presidency representatives, convened another dialogue on direct access to finance for Indigenous Peoples, aiming to drive momentum towards delivering aligned pledges for Indigenous Peoples at COP 30.

The Global Data Study for Indigenous Peoples, led by HE Razan Al Mubarak and funded by the COP 28 Presidency, is making progress, with 40 per cent of its budget already disbursed based on its first

deliverables. The data study will produce a set of recommendations, aiming to support Indigenous-led climate action through finance and resource allocation.

Indigenous Peoples' rights were also emphasized in the Africa Critical Minerals Paper, and an **op-ed with Mafalda Duarte**, Executive Director of the GCF, was published in Reuters on 8 August 2024, amplifying the need for more direct access to finance for Indigenous Peoples, including through multilateral funds.

The Race to Resilience campaign is making progress, with the International Land and Forest Tenure Facility becoming the first Indigenous Peoples-led initiative to join the campaign. The Tenure Facility is a leading financial mechanism that specializes in supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities in securing and sustaining their land and forest rights, aiming to support the resilience of 15 million people across 60 million hectares of forests and land.

As part of the global climate action programme at for COP 29, the HLCs will again highlight direct access to finance for Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Peoples' data and knowledge as part of the Race to Resilience activities.

Women and gender

At COP 28, key outcomes highlighted the critical roles of women and gender-responsive climate action. The COP 28 Presidency mobilized resources for the Women and Gender Pavilion and provided training for future women climate negotiators at the Women's Night School. Women's leadership and gender-sensitive policies were strongly recognized in the GST. The **COP 28 Gender Responsive Just Transitions and Climate Action Partnership**, endorsed by 83 governments, was launched and represents a significant step forward.





Additionally, a **Global Call to Action** was initiated to produce and utilize gender–environment data, aiming to drive progress on gender-responsive climate commitments. Access to quality gender-disaggregated data was a primary focus, with the HLC and COP 28 Presidency co-organizing the Counting on a Sustainable Future: Gender and Environment Data Conference. This event was intended to ensure that women, especially those on the frontlines, would be included in the discourse and that their experiences would inform policy and action. The conference concluded with a call to action, appealing to world leaders and policymakers to utilize gender–environment data to drive gender-responsive climate commitments.

In 2024, several important milestones were achieved. Two virtual workshops focusing on advancing gender-responsive climate action were curated and delivered through the MP. A partnership was formed with IRENA to support their General Assembly Women in Diplomacy Event, centred on the COP 28 Gender Just Transitions Partnerships. In Africa, efforts were made to engage with **clean cooking initiatives** at the regional level, addressing the essential role of women in energy transition.

The HLCs co-hosted a Women and Gender Dialogue with the Women and Gender Constituency at SB 60, where key demands for meaningful gender engagement at COP 29 were noted. Additionally, an in-person workshop for MP partners was held at SB 60, focusing on advancing gender-responsive climate action. Consultations with partners are ongoing, aiming to conceptualize an alliance on gender-responsive finance, which may result in a roundtable dialogue at COP 29.

Furthermore, the **Whole-of-Society rallies to support strong National Climate Plans** report includes frameworks to develop NDCs that centre gender justice, curated by partners such as WEDO and WECAN.

Gender–environment data will also be a priority at the UNFCCC’s mandated event on Gender Day at COP 29. Building on the COP 28 Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data’s Call to Action and GST, a working session, The Power of Gender Data for Prioritization and Transparency: Workshop focused on NDCs and BTRs, has been scheduled. This event will leverage Gender and Environment Data Alliance (GEDA) members’ expertise to accelerate the use and uptake of gender–environment data, ensuring more gender-responsive NDCs and monitoring, including BTRs.

On 20 October, Women4Biodiversity curated and hosted a CBD COP 16 SPECIAL: **Advancing Gender Equality Through Strategic Data Insights: Gender and Environment Data Conference** in Cali, Colombia. The conference aimed to support the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework’s implementation and align with the CBD objectives, sharing and exploring strategic and practical actions for integrating gender perspectives in environmental data collection and analysis. This conference was intended to build on the Global Conference on Gender and Environment Data, held prior to COP 28 in Dubai, and its Call to Action and aimed to address some of its ambitions. This was a unique opportunity to align the efforts of the Rio Conventions on this crucial issue.

Resilient lives and livelihoods

NDCs have been expanded to emphasize the acceleration of both mitigation and adaptation efforts aimed at building resilience across sectors and communities. These actions, when aligned with supportive adaptation policies and financing mechanisms, are vital for reducing risk and vulnerability. For instance, the **Race to Resilience campaign**, which now includes more than 41 partners across 164 countries, has concrete plans to cover the resilience of more than 2 billion people and has pledged to support 3.2 billion people by 2030.

Various resources have showcased how strengthening national climate and adaptation strategies can support the resilience of vulnerable communities globally.

Clarity on what to measure and how to track progress towards adaptation and resilience is critical for catalysing further action. Through the two-year UAE–Belém Work Programme, established as part of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, indicators and methodologies for measuring progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation and its global targets will be developed to enable accountability. The HLCs’ contribution will lie in the tracking of adaptation implementation and enhancement of the resilience of non-Party stakeholders’ actions through the Race to Resilience campaign and the SAA.

The Race to Resilience campaign serves as a pivotal global platform that places people at the centre of climate action. It unites non-Party stakeholders, including investors, businesses, cities, regions and civil society groups, around a shared goal of enhancing the resilience of 4 billion people, particularly those most vulnerable to the climate crisis, by 2030. The **SAA** has complemented this shared goal by setting more than 40 adaptation solutions with specific outcomes and targets by 2030; these span critical systems such as food and agriculture, water, nature, oceans and coastal systems; health and infrastructure; and enablers such as finance and planning.

The Race to Resilience campaign uses a structured reporting process known as the 4Ps: Pledge, Plan, Proceed and Publish. In 2024, the Race to Resilience made a significant leap forward by advancing to the Proceed phase. This phase focuses on tracking the progress towards implementing resilience-building plans and tracking their impact on beneficiaries in terms of climate change adaptation. In this way, the initial pledges are turned into meaningful actions.



Private sector entities, women's groups and marginalized communities have been included in the design and implementation of national adaptation finance strategies, increasing their buy-in and mobilizing essential resources to implement adaptation plans. The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) provides guidance in its **Guiding Principles for the Preparation of Financing Strategies for Climate Change Adaptation in Developing Countries**.

In Africa, governments have worked alongside communities through participatory approaches to raise ambition, increase finance and accelerate food systems adaptation plans. These actions are outlined in WWF and Climate Focus' report, **Scaling and Accelerating Adaptation in Food Systems in Africa**. Additionally, efforts to improve water-related targets in NDCs have successfully attracted private sector investment in water resilience solutions, as demonstrated in the Stockholm Water Institute's work, **Putting water at the centre of ambitious NDCs**.

A global network representing regional development banks, private sector actors and international organizations has collaborated with local governments to drive innovative solutions for water

and climate resilience. The Alliance for Global Water Adaptation detailed these actions in **Watering the NDCs**, emphasizing the importance of community-driven approaches to strengthen resilience.

Significant strides have been made to strengthen health systems' resilience to climate change, particularly in health finance. Although finance gaps remain, evident progress has been made towards mobilizing funds for climate-resilient health systems. Multi-sectoral heat action plans and health-sector initiatives have been developed to protect vulnerable populations exposed to extreme heat, including older adults, workers and marginalized groups. Programmes such as EWS4All and the Call to Action on Extreme Heat reflect this growing momentum. During COP 28, 151 national governments committed to advancing climate-resilient health systems as stated in the **COP 28 Declaration on Climate and Health**. The UAE Global Resilience Framework includes health as a key thematic target to be met by 2030. Financial commitments, including \$300 million from the Global Fund and \$100 million from The Rockefeller Foundation, are pivotal outcomes of the WHO's launch of its **Guiding Principles on Financing Climate and Health Solutions**.

The impacts of climate change have been particularly devastating in informal settlements, where an estimated 1 billion people reside, and this figure is expected to double by 2050. To mitigate the escalating climate crisis and empower those most affected, rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions must be prioritized alongside inclusive adaptation measures. Over the past year, the HLCs have supported key programmes, including the Roof Over Our Heads campaign and the RPI. As a Race to Resilience partner, Roof Over Our Heads is focused on providing resilient housing solutions in India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Latin America, with plans for expansion into Africa. This initiative emphasizes the importance of collaborating with local communities to develop cost-effective, climate-adaptive housing solutions that can withstand environmental challenges.

The Resilient Planet Initiative has addressed the fragmented and inaccessible nature of climate risk data and adaptation solutions. It has launched three interconnected digital platforms: the Data Hub, which aggregates global climate risk data; the Solutions Hub, which compiles community-based adaptation actions; and the Exchange Hub, a smartphone app that provides access to climate risk and adaptation

information. This work, supported by a consortium of non-Party stakeholders, including the Global Resilience Partnership, Universities of Chile and Oxford and Google.org, has empowered communities to increase their climate resilience by consolidating climate impact data and information on adaptation measures.

Additionally, HE Razan Al Mubarak, the HLC for COP 28, has convened two roundtables focused on empowering people living in informality, particularly those engaged in informal jobs such as displaced individuals and migrants. These discussions highlighted the roles of informal SMEs and service providers in addressing climate challenges. The outcomes were designed to inform a special event at COP 29, with plans to scale these efforts by COP 30, reflecting the collective commitment to inclusive and multi-level climate action.

Business engagement

The private sector played an important role in the first GST. As the Parties concluded the first GST, 400 companies, representing an energy demand larger than France, were taking action to source 100 per cent of their electricity from renewable sources through The Climate Group's RE100 initiative, and 128 companies had implemented energy efficiency measures through EP100.

Businesses have welcomed the sector-specific and near-term signals of the GST and have strengthened their engagement with governments, financiers and their value chains throughout 2024 to accelerate their climate action. Businesses also have created and shared policy solutions to accelerate business climate action at an unprecedented level of granularity and specificity, including solutions focused on **procurement, disclosure and financial policy incentives**. Leading businesses have demonstrated that fossil fuel subsidies remain a key barrier to scaling renewable energy through the **Move the Money** initiative. Recognizing their influential role in climate policy, **leading businesses** are ensuring that the business associations in which they are members support policy agendas that will help them to deliver on their climate transition plans, in line with the **Business Associations Climate Action Guide**.

Increasingly, large businesses are recognizing the importance of engaging and supporting their entire value chains. COP 29 HLC Nigar Arpadarai is making larger companies' insights and resources available to SMEs through the **Climate Proofing SMEs campaign**. Despite their crucial role as engines of development and their importance in achieving a resilient, net zero economy, many SMEs are disproportionately exposed to climate risks: **66 per cent in emerging markets are already affected**. This campaign is focused on increasing SMEs' access to support through diverse channels, providing tailored resources and fostering collaborations. The

campaign aims to climate-proof SMEs, ensuring that they are not left behind in the transition to a resilient, low-carbon economy by improving access to finance and building capacity and showcasing SME leadership in the Race to Zero and the Race to Resilience.

With the launch of the Africa Business Leaders Coalition (ABLC) at COP 27, the HLCs have strongly advocated for the coalition to advance climate action and sustainable growth. During the Global Africa Business Initiative (GABI) in September, the HLCs held a session with ABLC titled Voices from African Businesses on Climate Action. The session was intended to contribute to the COP 29 HLC's priority on business and obtain the ABLC members' insights and capture their expectations regarding the road to climate action.

Increased action and financing from the private sector will be crucial in building a climate-resilient world. Beyond helping to close the adaptation and resilience finance gap, **currently estimated at \$194–366 billion per year in developing countries** alone, the goods and services that businesses provide are vital to the resilience of communities, economies and natural systems. Businesses drive much of the world's GDP and livelihoods, and increasing their resilience to climate impacts will help to ensure that essential goods and services such as food, transport, health and communications remain available and that workforces are protected amid climate disasters. In addition, businesses are key innovators of the technologies and solutions needed to adapt and build resilience worldwide. In February, the SAA published the **Business Adaptation Paper** to reflect on how the solutions already being implemented by businesses are helping to deliver the SAA targets.

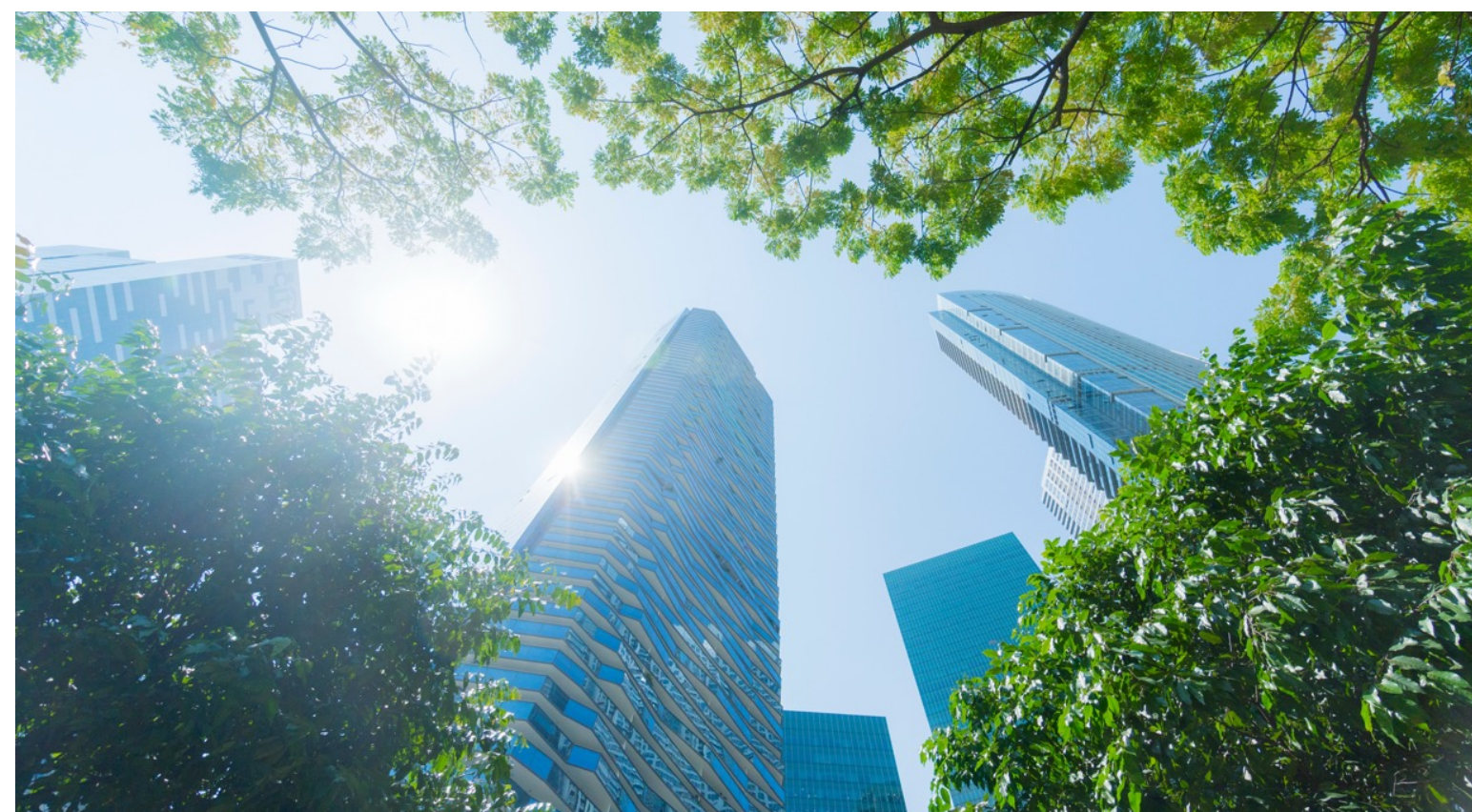
Under the COP 29 Presidency and the leadership of the HLCs, engaging the private sector in adaptation and resilience action has become a key priority. The SAA Private Sector Community, which comprises

companies, financiers, NGOs and coalitions, is mobilizing businesses to support the SAA. This community has convened to share success stories, build networks and address barriers to private sector action and finance to support adaptation and resilience. Further details about the rationale for private sector adaptation and resilience action and how companies can get involved with the SAA, including examples of actions already taking place, can be found in the SAA Business White paper to be published in November of this year.

Other key initiatives have focused on adaptation and resilience include the Global Resilience Partnership, which led the **PREPARE Call to Action** and encouraged new business commitments to adaptation and resilience. Taxonomies and tracking frameworks have been developed to improve private adaptation finance, such as the **Climate Bonds Initiative** and the Climate Policy Initiative's (CPI) **private finance tracking framework**. Additionally, guidance tools such as the **World Business Council**

for Sustainable Development's (WBCSD) Business Leader Guide for A&R and the **Working Principles for Corporate Resilience Leadership** from the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, Resilience First and Resilience Rising have helped businesses to enhance their planning capabilities.

Lastly, a **call for collaboration**, launched at COP 28, aimed to scale private finance for adaptation and resilience by fostering partnerships across academia, civil society and the public and private sectors. This initiative has defined actionable steps towards making adaptation targets investable, enhancing collaboration between ministries and private sectors, harmonizing standards for managing climate risks and expanding access to blended finance and insurance products. Investments in NbS and emerging climate adaptation technologies are also key components of this coordinated approach, which has sought to accelerate global efforts to scale private finance for adaptation.



Cities and subnational engagement

Over the last year, cities, states and regions have provided critical support to national governments in agreeing a strong outcome on the first GST, accelerating the implementation of GST outcomes throughout 2024.

In the lead up to COP 28, cities and local governments convened 26 **Local Stocktakes** with businesses, communities and academia, aiming to identify and scale successful local climate action in support of the first GST; 16 of these Local Stocktakes were led by Cities Race to Zero and Cities Race to Resilience members. Forty cities have announced actions towards ensuring highly liveable, walkable and people-oriented cities, with the potential to significantly reduce emissions and improve residents' health through the **Green and Thriving Neighbourhoods programme**. Nineteen cities are piloting ecosystem restoration projects in urban areas to accelerate the adoption of 15-Minute Cities. Methane emissions from waste are being tracked across 20 global megacities through the Waste Map.

As part of the Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS) at COP 28, which convened over 250 mayors and governors from across 60 countries, national governments committed to enhance their cooperation with subnational governments in the design and implementation of NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs and LT-LEDs through the **Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships for Climate Action (CHAMP)**.

Since COP 28, CHAMP has made several advancements towards enhancing coordination, strengthening commitments and implementing effective climate strategies across various levels of government. The United Kingdom and Finland, the most recent endorsers of CHAMP, have committed to working closely with their city and subnational governments through this initiative. The Colombia Ministry of Environment has engaged regional and city representatives in designing its NDC, and the Association of German Cities (DST) in Germany, National Front of Mayors (FNP) in Brazil and United States Conference of Mayors (USCOM) have initiated engagement with their respective national governments to enhance NDCs.

In addition, Race to Resilience has welcomed three new regions through its partner RegionsAdapt: Assam in India, Louga in Senegal and Pernambuco in Brazil. As a result, RegionsAdapt has reached 75 signatory regions and six regional associations, representing over 435 million people.

While cities in India continue to advance their resilience actions, one partner, **The Climate Centre for Cities (C-Cube)** at the National Institute of Urban Affairs, has developed climate action plans for four new Indian cities: Leh, Jamnagar, Junagadh and Pune. These plans aim to achieve net zero emissions and enhance climate resilience in alignment with the national Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF), the first nationwide initiative to assess climate considerations at the city level. C-Cube is finalizing its third assessment phase (CSCAF 2023), with expansion to 226 cities. **CSCAF 2023 data are publicly available**, providing insights for researchers and solution providers aiming to develop city-specific strategies.

The following resources provide an overview of how NDCs, accompanied by supportive environmental measures, can accelerate the whole-of-society implementation of national climate plans.

ICLEI–Local Governments for Sustainability, a global network of cities that collaborates with over 2,500 local and regional governments in more than 125 countries, illustrates how to incorporate subnational governments into the design and implementation of NDCs in its publication, **Meeting climate commitments: Transforming cities and nations**. Additionally, a global coalition of nearly 100 mayors has drawn on their experiences in implementing local climate projects to identify how NDCs can strengthen partnerships between national and subnational governments and amplify actions across various sectors, including energy, transport, buildings, waste, construction and urban planning. Details can be found in C40's **NDC Ambition Handbook**. Moreover, a covenant representing over 12,500 cities and local governments, accounting for more than 1 billion people, highlights exemplary cases involving the scaling of high-impact areas for multi-level climate action. This is discussed in the Global Covenant of Mayors' **Multi-level Playbook** and **Multilevel Climate Action Guide for Decision-makers**.



Youth engagement

Several outcomes at COP 28 highlighted the meaningful inclusion of youth in decision-making processes. The GST at COP 28 included a Youth Stocktake report that acknowledged the positive impact of partnerships in supporting youth initiatives. The report also called for a more streamlined fundraising approach involving multiple stakeholders. The UAE Consensus committed to appointing a Presidency Youth Climate Champion (PYCC), ensuring that future COPs will engage meaningfully with young people.

Additionally, the UN Summit of the Future, held in September 2024 in New York, produced several outcomes that will address future generations. These include the Declaration on Future Generations where, for the first time, many countries at the highest political level made the commitment to prioritize the needs of future generations in policy and decision-making, as well the Pact for the Future, which includes measures to expand and strengthen youth participation in global decision-making.

Youth insights are critical for inclusive climate action; for this reason, the HLCs are committed to continue to meaningfully engage with youth to accelerate global climate action. We are working closely with our partners in the MP to create pathways for inclusive global youth participation across our work.

The **Climate Champions Youth Fellowship Programme**, is a mechanism developed to ensure that our team includes youth perspectives, insights and expertise in directly supporting the delivery of our core work. It also allows us to connect with broader youth networks, including close collaboration with local, regional and global youth organizations to ensure knowledge sharing and exchange of solutions. This year, the Programme includes seven dynamic young professionals aged

20 to 29, hailing from seven countries across four continents and having strong expertise in specific sectors. The Youth Fellows work with department directors and sector leads in building support for the core sectors and campaigns of the HLCs, as well as core partners under the MP. The Youth Fellows were placed within the following teams:

- Core campaigns: Race to Zero and Race to Resilience
- Systems Transformation: critical sectoral work in finance and systems tracking
- Stakeholder Engagement: with a focus on women, gender and Indigenous Peoples
- Communications: with a focus on visual communication and storytelling

The HLCs also believe very strongly in the power of the collective and in showcasing, amplifying, celebrating and supporting the work of youth-led organizations and coalitions across the globe. As such, the Climate Champions have supported the Children and Youth Pavilion since it was first organized at COP 27, committing to serve as a bridge builder to enable different youth movements from around the world to form a unified front. The pavilion is preparing for its third edition at COP 29, a testament to the success of those collective efforts. The MP, since its inception, has been a trailblazer in meaningful youth engagement. From consultations with youth experts across different sectors to ensuring connections with YOUNGO's working groups, MP has ensured that youth policy requirements are reflected not only at COPs but throughout the year. Campaigns such as Race to Resilience and Race to Zero have further championed the role of youth as drivers of change, from analysing locally driven data to regionalizing campaign efforts.





Chapter 4

Non-Party stakeholder engagement in the process

The High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership have been supporting the engagement of NPS into the UNFCCC process, including specifically through the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme (the Mitigation Work Programme), the new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance, the Sharm el-Sheikh Dialogue on Article 2, paragraph 1(c) of the Paris Agreement and its complementarity with Article 9 (the Sharm el-Sheikh Dialogue), the follow-up on the first Global Stocktake, among others.

At COP 27, Parties encouraged the High-Level Champions to support the effective engagement of NPS in the Mitigation Work Programme global dialogues (GD) and the investment-focused events (IFE) organized by the secretariat under the guidance of the co-chairs. At COP 28, Parties decided to enhance the participation of relevant experts and other NPS in these activities.



Responding to the mandate, as in 2023, the High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership have continued supporting the co-chairs of the work programme and UNFCCC secretariat in 2024 by providing substantive expertise, strengthening the integration of the Regional Platforms for Climate Projects into the investment-focused events, offering recommendations and mobilizing NPS to participate, and disseminating, amplifying and considering the outcomes from the discussions in future work.

As such, NPS including members of the Marrakech Partnership actively engaged as experts, facilitators and advisory panel members in the GDs and IFEs this year. The third global dialogue and investment-focused event took place in May in Bonn, Germany. The dialogue focused on i) reducing operational emissions, ii) designing building envelope for efficiency, and iii) reducing embodied emissions. The fourth global dialogue and investment-focused event took place in October in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. The global dialogue focused on i) spatial planning and low-carbon infrastructure, ii) electrification and switching to net zero emission resources, and iii) enhancing carbon storage through green and blue infrastructure. Both investment-focused events included a pitch hub where six projects from the HLCs' project pipeline were invited to present.

In addition, in May this year, ahead of the third global dialogue, the High-Level Champions provided a submission that highlighted the opportunities, best practices, actionable solutions, challenges and barriers relevant to the topic for 2024, "Cities: buildings and urban systems". The key messages include how decarbonizing cities can significantly and positively impact major sectors like concrete, steel, and road transport; and how sustainable urban development can scale innovation and the adoption of greener practices in key industries critical to city functioning and infrastructure development; and how city-level mitigation co-benefits can support a just, equitable transition, through promoting sustainable development; and how cities in emerging markets

present significant private investment opportunities; and how cities as hubs of trade and communication are well-positioned to accrue strengthened means of implementation through international, multi-stakeholder cooperation.

Moreover, non-Party stakeholders have contributed to the UNFCCC workstreams on Finance in 2024 including through submissions and active participation in related mandated events. There is an ever-increasing willingness for private finance institutions to contribute to the UNFCCC process and drive climate action. This year, many private finance institutions that are engaged in the process have been focussing on what their response to the new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance will be and how they will invest in NDCs and NAPs of national governments. The Marrakech Partnership Finance group, for instance, made a submission to the NCQG process ahead of the tenth Technical Expert Dialogue (TED10) with respect to mobilizing the trillions, improving effectiveness and supporting greater access to finance and facilitated the development of private sector guidance on how NDCs can catalyze finance.

In addition, the Champions, working with the Marrakech Partnership, have supported the mobilization of NPS to actively engage in the ninth and tenth TEDs under the ad-hoc work programme on the NCQG in April and June, respectively. Representatives from national governments, NGOs, academia, private sector, and others met to discuss the characteristics of the new climate finance goal during the TEDs.

Non-Party stakeholders have also engaged in the first and second workshop under the Sharm el-Sheikh dialogue on financial flows in June and October, respectively. The workshops aimed to build on concrete examples and actions taken and facilitate a sharing of experiences and best practices among Party and NPS. The first workshop focused on adaptation investments and the consistency of financial flows with a climate-resilient development

pathway, as well as linkages to broader sustainable development co-benefits and impacts. The second workshop discussed the role of the international financial system and of different actors within and outside the Paris Agreement, and on transparency and credibility with a focus on the avoidance of greenwashing and maladaptation.

What's more, non-Party stakeholders, including from the Marrakech Partnership, who were actively involved in the first GST were mobilized to make submissions on experiences and lessons learned in relation to conducting the first GST and has been recently synthesized. NPS also participated in the first Annual Global Stocktake Dialogue in June during SB 60, which provided a platform for open discussions and exchanges between national governments and NPS on lessons, experiences and practical solutions to address implementation gaps in current NDCs by accelerating action; and closing ambition gaps in the next round of NDCs.

Other work streams such as the UAE Just Transition Work Programme received support from non-Party stakeholders, through submissions and event participation in the first two dialogues under the work programme this year. Various Marrakech Partnership stakeholders have been mobilized to support other UNFCCC work streams as well where needed. For instance, the Marrakech Partnership Human Settlements group was involved in providing substantive inputs on buildings and construction to inform the Technology Executive Committee (TEC)'s activities for 2024. To support the work of the response measures forum and its Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI), the Marrakech Partnership transport group supported the organizing of the mandated event on unpacking the positive and negative impacts of low and zero emission transport technologies that took place at SB 60.

NPS coalitions and initiatives from the Marrakech Partnership and broader network contributed to the interagency meetings with development and implementation partners on supporting the next round of NDCs convened by the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC in March and June in Bonn. In addition, non-Party stakeholders engaged in the six NDCs 3.0 Regional Fora organized by UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the NDC Partnership, in collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat from August to October. These Fora targeted government officials responsible for NDCs revisions from all countries in each region.

The HLC for COP 29 participated in the Copenhagen Climate Ministerial and Petersberg Dialogues to provide the Parties with information, ideas and solutions about the non-Party stakeholders' ambitious climate actions towards a 1.5 °C net zero and resilient future. The HLCs believe that through their unique role, they can act as a bridge between Parties and non-Party stakeholders and, most importantly, transmit the needs of the Parties to non-Party stakeholders to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

In June, during SB 60 in Bonn, the HLCs hosted and participated in a series of public events, roundtables and workshops with the MP, partners and government representatives, aiming to share insights and information and discuss the remaining barriers that will require cooperation to overcome. These discussions were intended to further collaboration between governments and non-Party stakeholders and to support the ratcheting of ambition and delivery of ambitious 1.5 °C - aligned and resilient national climate plans in 2025.

The events included a discussion that highlighted real-economy and whole-of-society opportunities to facilitate the implementation of the UAE Consensus, including the outcome of the GST; a dialogue between cities, states and regions, governments and

other stakeholders on how to ensure multilevel partnership towards enhancing NDCs, including through initiatives such as the Coalition for High Ambition Multi-Level Partnership (CHAMP); a showcase of progress and discussion of next steps on the nature-positive call for action; and the acceleration of adaptation and resilience actions in line with the Global Goal on Adaptation and the Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda 2030 Solutions. Also included were engagements with representatives of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform; a workshop on mainstreaming gender priorities ahead of COP 29; and a session with representatives of the finance and business community on their contributions to a successful COP 29 and the delivery of ambitious NDCs.

The HLC for COP 29, Nigar Arpadarai, participated in events at the pre-COP meeting held on 10 and 11 October in Baku, Azerbaijan. She delivered a keynote address on enhancing international cooperation at the Roadmap to Mission 1.5 Troika High-Level Dialogue, hosted by the Troika of UNFCCC COP Presidencies (the UAE, Azerbaijan and Brazil). She highlighted that “non-State actors are leading the charge and proving that ambitious climate action is possible” and that “they should be viewed as key delivery partners for NDCs”. She also engaged in a panel discussion on the role of human development in climate action, emphasizing that “only by investing in people we can prepare the next generation to be competitive and resilient in the world that comes”. In addition, the HLC participated in a panel discussion, Galvanizing Global Support for Universal Climate Transparency, in which she spoke about the importance of non-Party stakeholders in climate transparency.

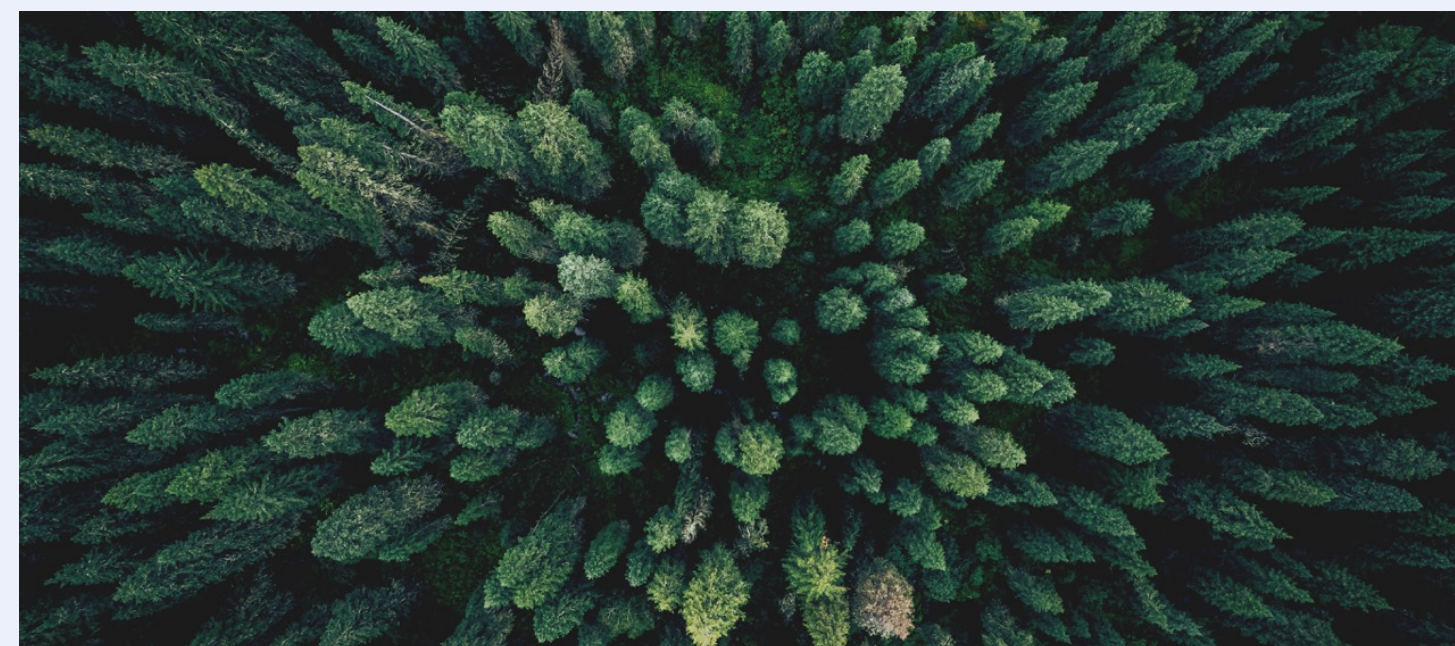
Conclusion

As we look towards COP 29 and beyond, the Yearbook of Global Climate Action 2024 demonstrates that significant strides have been made to advance climate solutions across diverse sectors. The Race to Zero and the Race to Resilience campaigns have grown stronger, with more stakeholders and more proof of their impact. These and many other multi-stakeholder campaigns have joined in the collective effort to accelerate climate action. Non-Party stakeholders, including businesses, financial institutions, cities, regions and civil society, have been instrumental in driving progress towards the ambitious goals set by the Paris Agreement and, especially, the more recently agreed upon UAE Consensus.

The challenges ahead remain formidable, particularly in terms of mobilizing equitable finance for adaptation and resilience, scaling decarbonization and preventing losses of nature. However, the increased engagement of non-Party stakeholders and the continued impact of frameworks and initiatives such as the 2030 Climate Solutions,

Breakthrough Agenda and SAA provide a solid foundation for continued progress. These initiatives are fostering the international collaborations needed to close adaptation and finance gaps and enable transformative climate action by 2030. In 2024, a critical focus has been the revision of NDCs, which play a key role in the global climate agenda at COP 29. Strengthened NDCs will be essential for bridging the gap between current commitments and the action needed to stay on track to meet 2030 goals.

Looking ahead, focus will be placed on scaling successful models and enhancing collaboration between national governments and subnational actors. A just transition that ensures the protection of vulnerable communities in the shift to cleaner energy sources, will be crucial. The achievement of a resilient, net zero future will depend on sustained efforts to integrate climate action into all levels of society and across every sector of the global economy. The road to 2030 will be shaped by inclusive actions that prioritize equity, resilience and whole-of-society action.



Appendix 1

High-Level Champions campaigns, agendas, engagement, and events

Launched at COP 28, the **2030 Climate Solutions** are a unique, holistic, action-oriented and inclusive roadmap intended to make the energy, transport, industry, urban and natural systems sectors net zero, resilient, nature-positive and equitable by 2050. This integrated framework brings together the 2030 frameworks and tools of the HLCs, the MP and an extended network of partners and initiatives (e.g., the **Climate Action Pathways, 2030 Breakthroughs, Breakthrough Agenda, Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA)** and the **Race to Zero** and the **Race to Resilience** campaigns), forming a comprehensive and coherent roadmap for accelerating climate action through specific real economic and on-the-ground solutions by 2030.

The **Race to Zero Campaign** has expanded its network to 26 Partner initiatives, mobilising over 15,500 non-Party stakeholders and brought on board seven new Accelerators in emerging markets such as Indonesia, Kenya, and Ghana to build capacity for net zero commitments. This multi-stakeholder initiative collaborates with Partners from the finance, business, subnational, academic, health and other sectors to support all actors decarbonize their sectors.

The **Race to Resilience Campaign** aims to improve the resilience of 4 billion people by 2030. Its 41 partners across 164 countries have reached a significant milestone: more than 2 billion people are covered by action plans designed to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of those most vulnerable to the climate crisis. These partners are now committed to scaling up their efforts with pledges to increase the resilience of 3.2 billion people by 2030 and targeting over \$40.88 billion to be mobilized in adaptation finance to implement their Resilience Action Plans.

The **Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA)** was launched at COP 27 to drive large-scale adaptation actions in support of resilient system transformations across vital systems such as water, agriculture, health and infrastructure. This agenda has convened and strengthened partnerships between cities, regions, businesses, financiers, non-governmental organizations and governments to close the adaptation action and finance gaps and build resilience. With inclusive action at its core, the agenda has outlined a set of clear, actionable 2030 targets for the near term, including finance and planning enabling solutions.

The **2030 Breakthroughs** build on the Climate Action Pathways produced by the MP, providing specific, actionable targets for 2030 and outcomes needed to drive decarbonization in each sector. These goals typically mark a critical new level of technology deployment, cost reduction or improved health of a natural ecosystem. The initiatives and coalitions working towards the goals are recognized as Delivery Partners.

The **Breakthrough Agenda** was launched at COP 26 to help the world close its collaboration gap and accelerate international action on climate change, aiming to meet the Paris Agreement's global net zero targets. The agenda has convened initiatives and countries to strengthen international collaboration and to make clean technologies and sustainable solutions the most affordable, accessible and attractive options in key sectors and all regions by 2030.

Appendix 2

Feedback to HLCs and MP

Feedback to the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership on how to accelerate climate action and drive implementation

Approaching the midpoint of this decisive decade and the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, which recognizes the role of non-Party stakeholders as crucial for accelerating and enhancing global climate action and supporting Parties in implementing the Agreement’s goals, the HLCs, in collaboration with the MP, called for inputs from both Parties and non-Party stakeholders on how to accelerate climate action and drive implementation.

Twenty-seven responses to the letter were received in June, including five responses from Parties and groups of Parties (representing 38 Parties); the remainder were from non-Party stakeholders. The feedback was clustered in a secretariat synthesis report based on the structure and questions outlined in the HLC letter. The following overarching themes emerged.

On adding value and complementing existing efforts:

- i. Act as a unifying space that encourages diverse approaches and enables the sharing of best practices, success stories and proven solutions to inspire further action, inform the UNFCCC process and support implementation;
- ii. Strengthen collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders and facilitate alignment and integration with national strategies and plans by convening focused dialogues, identifying synergies and catalysing partnerships and the co-creation of solutions;
- iii. Further support stakeholders in developing countries by strengthening capacity-building efforts, and explore innovative ways to unlock finance and investment;
- iv. Enhance communication, simplify messages and use storytelling to raise awareness, reach new stakeholders and make climate more accessible and relatable.

- v. On enhancing collaboration to advance the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake:
- vi. Convene and formalize regular and structured dialogues to enable meaningful collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, aligned with the GST outcomes and NDC development and implementation;
- vii. Ensure an inclusive approach with a focus on under-represented groups when supporting the follow-up to the GST, including at the regional and national levels;
- viii. Provide tailored training and capacity-building opportunities for non-Party stakeholders on how they can best contribute and support Parties regarding implementation and in the follow-up to the GST;
- ix. Develop clear narratives and communication strategies for collectively achieving the GST outcomes, amplify successful collaborations between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, highlight investment opportunities and enhance understanding and opportunities for non-Party stakeholders’ contributions.

On enhancing support to Parties:

- i. Build on existing initiatives, avoid duplication of efforts and focus on creating synergies and delivery;
- ii. Strengthen the accountability and transparency of non-Party stakeholders action and initiatives to build trust by encouraging clear indicators and regular reporting and leveraging the Global Climate Action Portal;
- iii. Enhance the governance and structure of the MP to ensure consistent, effective and inclusive collaboration throughout the year; broaden its geographic reach and understanding of regional and local contexts; facilitate access to finance; and enable continuous improvement, experimentation and innovation.

Appendix 3

List of Cooperative Climate Initiatives whose participation in the 2024 GCAP survey supported the analysis in Chapter 1 of the Global Climate Action Yearbook

24/7 Carbon-Free Energy



Business Declares



EXPONENTIAL ROADMAP INITIATIVE



Health Care Climate Challenge



JAPAN CLIMATE INITIATIVE



Net Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA)

NET ZERO CARBON EVENTS

Net Zero Investment Consultants Initiative (NZICI)



Paris Aligned Asset Owners (PAAO)

Planet Mark Net Zero Programme

