

**CALL BY MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE
ACTION TO NON-PARTY SHAREHOLDERS
FOR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT ON MARRAKECH
PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE AMBITION**

SUGGESTIONS

BY

ASABE SHEHU YAR'ADUA FOUNDATION

THEME:

**LESSONS FROM PARIS: BUILDING ON THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE
PARIS AGREEMENT TO ENHANCE AMBITION OF THE MARRAKECH
PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION**

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The Awareness of Climate Change

The adoption of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 has set a precedent in the fight against climate change by establishing as a goal to **“stabilize GHG concentrations at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”** (The United Nations, 1992). Later on, with the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol in 1998, an international agreement linked to the UNFCCC, the international community recognized the responsibility of developing countries on **“the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity,”** and established internationally binding emission reduction targets (The United Nations, 1998).

LESSONS FROM PARIS: BUILDING ON THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

The twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (known as COP21), marked a historic turning point in global action on climate change. On December 12, 2015, 195 countries adopted the Paris Agreement, a universal agreement that sets the world on a course to a zero-carbon, more resilient, and hopeful future. Building on the foundation of national climate plans, known as intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) from 188 countries, the success of COP21 and the Paris Agreement is a reflection of the combined ambition of nations as well as unprecedented momentum from cities, companies, civil society organizations, including faith-based communities, and others that have grown significantly since the first international conference on climate change in 1992. Following Paris, it is essential to recognize that the achievements of the international process have provided a robust foundation on which to build. Now, to fully achieve the long-term goals of the Agreement, many critical UNFCCC decisions must be made to implement and realize the ambition of the Agreement’s provisions in a timely fashion. The effective design of these rules, guidelines, modalities, processes, and institutions will be vital to:

- a. Establishing a process to effectively catalyze the necessary climate actions over time;
- b. Ensuring the credibility and environmental integrity of the Agreement, including the effective implementation, tracking reporting, and verification of countries’ commitments;
- c. Enhancing international support for implementation of both mitigation and adaptation action.

The successes of the Paris Agreement

At its core, the Paris Agreement provides a framework for developing robust international rules that apply to all countries; it moves beyond the bifurcated approach of the Kyoto Protocol, which required binding action only from the Annex I group of developed countries. Yet, the Partnership is nuanced in ways that convey the principles of the Convention, allowing all Parties to play their part in accordance with their capabilities. The outcome in Marrakech Partnership fulfilled the mandate from the Durban COP that the Marrakech Partnership be **“applicable to all.”** Because Marrakech Partnership includes action by every country, it needed to accommodate different development stages and national policies. The Partnership strikes a delicate balance between obligations that are legally binding and those that are framed in more discretionary terms. It enables broad participation by providing adequate flexibility to Marrakech Partners, while still requiring effective action domestically and ensuring accountability on the part of all Partners. Specifically, although Partners are not bound to achieve their mitigation targets, all Marrakech Partners are required to prepare, communicate, and maintain their individual determined contributions and pursue domestic measures to achieve them. This subtle arrangement, rooted in national policymaking, was essential to achieving a universal agreement. The Agreement also applies universally to adaptation action, requiring all Marrakech Partners to engage in adaptation planning processes.

Encouragingly, many Parties included adaptation in their INDCs, submitted prior to Paris. The Marrakech Partnership Agreement universal approach to international climate action reveals that the key elements of the Partnership have broad global implications.

In the lead-up to Paris, the ACT 2015 consortium⁴ examined a set of core functions that the Agreement could achieve. In the following eight key takeaways, we describe how the Paris Agreement fulfills these functions and which are still very much applicable to the Marrakech Partnership Agreement. The Marrakech Partnership Action on Climate Change should adopt the Paris Agreement principles in order to create a robust foundation that should we sustained and motivate climate action across a wide range of countries and achieve a fair transition to a zerocarbon, climate-resilient economy.

The Recommendations Of The Paris Agreement And Its Relevance To The Marrakech Partnership Goal For Enhancing Ambition For Global Climate Action

1. Connect the global agreement to the “real economy” and “real people” and enhance sustainable development.

The Paris Agreement was fundamentally rooted in policies and measures that countries should put in place at the national level, and the INDCs submitted by countries were grounded in national priorities and policy processes. Moreover, the Partnership Agreement requires countries to “pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.”⁶ Framing the obligations in this way anchors them in national laws and regulations. Partners were also provided a sense of momentum to efforts made by a wider range of country-level stakeholders to address climate change on the ground. Cities, regions, business, investors, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders have embraced the Marrakech Partnership and have declared themselves ready and willing to stand shoulder to shoulder, alongside governments, to implement strong and effective climate action.⁷ The preamble in Marrakech Partnership emphasized the “intrinsic relationship that climate change actions, responses, and impacts have with equitable access to sustainable development and eradication of poverty” as well as with food security. It acknowledges the challenges and “imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities.”⁸ The preamble also highlights the important role that sustainable lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production play in the fight against climate change.

2. Demonstrate fairness, equity, and justice in climate actions and outcomes.

The Paris Agreement provides for universal action, but the Convention’s principle of equity still plays an essential role in the design of the Paris Agreement. The Agreement incorporates equity both as a framework for the Agreement as a whole and as a principle within a wide range of specific issues. In its overarching objectives, the Agreement clearly states that it “**will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances**” (CBDR-RC-NC).¹⁰ The Agreement’s preamble also notes the importance of “**climate justice,**” a “**just transition,**” and human rights when taking action to address climate change.¹¹ The Agreement acknowledges the differences in levels of development and national policies among countries, and the special circumstances of least developed countries and small island states are taken into account. In the case of mitigation, adaptation, transparency, and finance, and for the global stocktake, the Agreement incorporates distinct ways of ensuring an equitable regime.

3. Incentivize action.

As noted previously, the Paris Agreement sends signals to accelerate the shift, mobilization, and alignment of broader financial flows with long-term goals. Throughout the various provisions of the Agreement, there are commitments to provide support to developing countries to fulfill their new requirements. There has also been greater emphasis on strengthening the enabling conditions, in particular capacity building, to put in place the facilitative processes that promote implementation and compliance with the provisions of the Paris Agreement. Finally, the Agreement includes incentives for countries to go farther and faster on their commitments than they might otherwise intend, allowing countries to cooperate with each other through the use of market and non-market mechanisms “for higher ambition in their mitigation and adaptation actions” and also in the areas of technology development, innovation, and knowledge transfer. A “mechanism to contribute to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and support sustainable development” was established to incentivize and facilitate participation by public and private entities.

4. Ensure that vulnerable communities have the capacity to build resilience, manage, and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Paris Agreement places adaptation and climate resilience at its core, making clear that responding to serious impacts and ensuring that vulnerable communities have the capacity to build resilience, manage, and adapt to climate change is a vital part of climate action. The Agreement’s goals included **“increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience.”** The Agreement also articulated a global adaptation goal of **“enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change.”** It explicitly places this goal in the context of the Agreement’s temperature targets, thereby suggesting that adaptation and resilience need to be undertaken based on the extent to which temperature change exceeds that goal. Adequate finance for adaptation will be essential to achieving these goals. The Paris Agreement and the accompanying COP decisions outlined a framework for action covering relevant climate change issues.

Each of these issues, described below, has specific tasks that must be painstakingly undertaken in order to successfully continue in fulfilling the key functions of implementing the Paris Agreement and to effectively enhance ambition of The Marrakech Partnership For Global Action on Climate Change.

Recommendations For Effective Implementation Of The Marrakech Partnership:

- a. ADAPTATION:** The Marrakech Partnership and Non-Party Stakeholders should set a goal to enhance Partners' capacity to adapt to climate change, strengthen their resilience, and reduce vulnerability.

All Marrakech Partners and Non-Party Stakeholders should undertake adaptation planning and communicate their actions to the UNFCCC to inform the global stocktake. They should develop methodologies, reporting requirements, and modalities for the recognition of adaptation efforts and aligned same through effective coordination among the various bodies mandated to draft these guidelines. Marrakech Partners and Non-Party Stakeholders should be guided by the Adaptation Committee, and should provide additional clarity concerning an effective adaptation cycle of improvement, including the way in which the UNFCCC will draw on countries' adaptation communications to assess adaptation needs and determine the support needed to facilitate resilience.

- b. GLOBAL STOCKTAKE:** The Paris Agreement encouraged parties to increase their ambition as regards to climate actions and continue in their support over time, the Agreement and accompanying COP decisions establish a collective moment for countries to reflect on the current state of implementation and inform future actions and support. The moments start in 2018 with a facilitative dialogue, then continue with global stocktakes every five years from 2023-this measure should be sustained. Many of the details regarding how these stocktaking processes will operate, including how the inputs and outputs will be used to drive further ambition, must still be decided. In developing these modalities, Parties should ensure that these moments provide an opportunity to pause and take stock, identify shortcomings, reflect on the latest science, leverage new technology and best practices, and ultimately facilitate greater cooperation. Lessons from existing review processes within and outside UNFCCC can help in designing more effective modalities.

- c. LOSS AND DAMAGE:** The Marrakech Partnership and Non-Party Stakeholders should elevates the complex issue of loss and damage and establish a dedicated framework, separate from adaptation, to address this issue. By making the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage permanent, Parties should create a space for improving their understanding of what constitutes loss and damage and the nature of appropriate responses. However, Parties must go further to define this concept and determine how best to support countries that experience the unavoidable effects of climate change. Particular focus will be required on ways to addressing issues such as insurance and risk transfer schemes, as well as integrated approaches to avert, minimize, and address climate-related displacement. Enhanced collaboration between institutions within and outside UNFCCC will be essential to advance this agenda

- d. **FINANCE:** The finance goal articulated in the Paris Agreement sends a clear message to shift financial flows away from activities that contribute to climate change and toward zero-emission and climate-resilient development-this the Marrakech Partnership should adopt-while developed countries must continue to take the lead in providing financial support, support from developing countries should also be encouraged on a voluntary basis. However, Parties will need to provide more details regarding how finance will be scaled up, tracked, and reported on both by donors and recipients. This will include details regarding the goal of mobilizing \$100 billion annually, ensuring an increase in the share of adaptation finance, and undertaking clear reassessment of the finance target in the context of future needs.
- e. **COMPLIANCE:** Marrakech Partnership should establish a mechanism consisting of an expert-based committee, to facilitate implementation and promote compliance. Much is to be decided before the committee is operational. In particular, Partners will need to further clarify the scope of issues to be addressed by the committee, the type of facilitative measures that will be taken, together with potential links with the transparency framework and the global stocktake, while ensuring that the committee has the authority and ability to support countries that need help with fulfilling the obligations of the Agreement.
- f. **COOPERATIVE APPROACHES:** The Paris Agreement recognizes that some Parties will cooperate in the implementation of their climate actions through market and non-market initiatives, as well as through other cooperative arrangements. Parties agreed to promote sustainable development and environmental integrity in these approaches and will need to clarify how this cooperation will be managed and assessed. Accounting rules will need to be developed to monitor the transfer of emissions reductions between Parties to avoid double counting, and the mechanism to contribute to mitigation and sustainable development, and the framework for non-market approaches will need to be elaborated.

CONCLUSION

This paper has shown that the specific focus on climate Change emerged in negotiations during the Paris Agreement and the achievements of the Agreement are still very much relevant-especially in this year 2020 when the Corona Virus Pandemic is causing havoc, endangering economic activities and causing business uncertainties the world over - more effort is required at this time-more than ever before, for Marrakech Partnership and Non-Party Stakeholders to bring into focus questions of responsibility and collective burden-sharing – questions that had been weakened in the negotiations process on loss and damage. Depending on the position one takes regarding the moral relevance of climate change, specific privileges should be granted to climate-displaced people, and the specific duties for adequate recognition of – and restitution for – irreversible losses should fall on international community, and specifically big emitters. Systematic approach should be considered in other to assist developing countries recover from losses of COVID-19 pandemic and to reduce the threat of poverty post be this general enemy of the world.

About Us:

Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation was established in the year 1998 by Hajiya (Dr) Ambassador Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua, wife of the late Tafida Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, to uphold the lofty legacy of her late husband. She has over the years been using her foundation in touching many lives in special ways and building futures.

ASYARF is a non-governmental organization with its headquarters in 214 Amity Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut, USA. The organization operates in the United States of America with an Identification Number (EIN) 20-8811423, Nigeria with a Certificate of Incorporation CAC:/IT/NO: 23968/03, Germany with Germany Registration Code: 20681 (Segment Freiwillige Gerichtsbarkeit), Ghana with Ghana Registry of Companies Code: G27, 163. With branches in thirty six states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.asyarfs.org>

Our Mission:

Is to add more value to the world and revive the dying values towards a strong United and more focused HUMANITY; and to emphasize the need for everyone to be His/Her brother's keeper for the promotion of HUMANITY and create a Healthy and secure future for All.

The Foundation engages in selfless services to humanity and advocacy for the vulnerable groups in the society, including Women, Youths, Children, the victims of Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery.

Advocacy:

Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation is an accredited Observer to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), observer to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in Incheon South Korea.

Political Activism:

Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation has also been engaged in political advocacy for electoral integrity as an accredited local elections observer by the Independent National Electoral Commission. The Asabe Shehu Yar'Adua Foundation as an accredited civil society observer in elections in line with the United Nations' policy framework on election transparency has observed Presidential, Governorship and Local Government Elections in Nigeria over the years as well as in some ECOWAS countries, particularly Liberia, Ghana etc.

Membership/Affiliates:

- UNITED NATION DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (UNDP/DPI)
- UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)
- ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)
- AFRICAN UNION
- EUROPEAN UNION
- UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)
- UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
- OFFICE TO MONITOR AND COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, U.S DEPARTMENT OF STATE
- GLOBAL MODERN SLAVERY
- GLOBAL FUND TO END SLAVERY
- WORLD ASSOCIATION OF NGOS (WANGO) AS A REGULAR MEMBER, USA
- WORLD CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT FOR NGOS
- UNICEF USA IN THE FIGHT FOR CHILD SURVIVAL
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION WITH ID NO: NG-2009 FUI-3110223990
- NIGERIAN NETWORK OF NGOS (NNGO)
- NIGERIA – FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS AND THE 36 STATES
- MINISTRIES OF WOMEN AFFAIRS
- NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHILD RIGHTS ADVOCATES OF NIGERIA (NACCRAN)
- NIGERIA – NATIONAL AIDS CONTROL AGENCY AND STATE AGENCIES ON AIDS
- ROTARY CLUB INTERNATIONAL
- ECOSOCC AFRICA
- NATIONAL POPULATION COMMISSION
- NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
- INEC OBSERVER FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE
- UNESCO
- FEDERAL MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
- FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
- UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL (MDGS)
- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)