

EU ‘icebreaking’ intervention roundtable GST (Bonn, 5 November)

Dear APA co-chairs, dear facilitators, dear colleagues,

Thank you very much for setting up this roundtable and for offering the EU and its 28 Member States this opportunity to provide an ice-breaker. As you will be aware the EU has introduced a submission on the Global Stocktake and the points from this introduction are explained in greater detail in the submission.

You invited for a presentation on a ‘start-to-finish operational model’ for the GST and we really think this is what we should begin to focus on.

Most of the essential elements necessary to run the ambition and the GST are set out in the Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP21.

The CMA decision as we see it should bring these agreed elements together and add specifically those additional elements that are necessary to make the GST operational and fit for purpose.

The challenge ahead of us is to define these additional elements and ideally this should be done in the form of elements that can form and constitute an outline of a draft decision.

The start-to-finish operational model as we see it has 5 building blocks that need to be captured. This operational model would need to be contextualized in the Decision, reiterating Article 14 as well as interlinkages between relevant Articles of the Paris Agreement.

The first building block structures the technical phase

Article 14 provides that the GST will assess collective progress towards achieving the long-term goals of the Agreement which we know are mitigation, adaptation and shifting finance flows, and it should do so considering mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support and do this in the light of equity and the best available science.

Given the unique nature of each of these challenges, the EU sees the technical phase comprising of three distinct workstreams:

- i) mitigation,
- ii) adaptation, and
- iii) finance flows and means of implementation and support.

Furthermore, we see 3 framing questions on which the technical phase needs to reflect:

- i) where are we collectively,
- ii) where do we need to be in relation to the specific long-term goals for each of the 3 workstreams and
- iii) how do we get there in terms of enhanced climate action and international cooperation.

We think the 3 workstreams and the framing questions for the technical phase need to be captured in the CMA decision.

The second building block organises work during the technical phase

The EU is of the view that the technical phase could be jointly organized by SBI and SBSTA during the May/June session of 2023 and every 5 years thereafter in the form of 3 focused technical dialogues.

Also we suggest that the SBI and SBSTA chairs could appoint for each of the technical dialogues co-facilitators, who contribute to the organization for the respective dialogues and, with support of the Secretariat, draft the summary of each of those dialogues.

Each dialogue should operate under a substantial guidance that translates the 3 framing questions into issues to be addressed by each dialogue.

To address the relationship between mitigation and adaptation and the financial flows and means of implementation underpinning them, each dialogue should take due account of cross-cutting elements. Furthermore, we think that each dialogue should discuss opportunities to enhance international cooperation.

The third building block deals with the sources of input

Para 99 of Decision 1/CP21 sets the basis for broad categories of sources of input.

We would expect that a list of sources of input, both for overarching issues and specific information needs for each of the 3 workstreams, would be annexed to the 2018 CMA decision as a non-exhaustive list that could be reviewed by SBSTA at its session in May/June 2021.

For each of the inputs it should be specified who is expected to provide the input. This could be for instance the Secretariat (see synthesis report of overall effect of NDCs), IPCC or a constituted body.

The CMA decision should than invite these bodies and actors, and also Parties and non-Party stakeholders contributing to these inputs, to prepare and provide these inputs in a timely manner. This could mean the year preceding the technical phase.

At the technical dialogues these bodies and actors should than present the inputs.

The fourth building block is the design of the political phase

The outputs from the technical phase, and we see this in the form of summaries of each of the 3 technical dialogues, will inform and serve as the basis for the political phase.

The EU understands the political phase as a dedicated ministerial segment at the CMA session in 2023 and every 5 years thereafter.

The political phase should be designed so as to raise political awareness of the collective progress, taking stock where we are in relation to long-term goals and promote a shared understanding of the key challenges and opportunities identified in the technical phase and thus create momentum for enhanced climate action and support as well as enhanced international cooperation. The design of the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue might serve here as inspiration.

The output of the political phase could be captured in the format of a political declaration and/or CMA decision.

The fifth and final building block is about the outcome of the GST

In accordance with Art 14.3 the outcome of the GST shall inform Parties in updating and enhancing in a nationally determined way their actions and support as well as in enhancing international cooperation.

This means that the GST shall be followed by action through domestic planning processes and implementation. The preparation of the communication of subsequent NDCs as well as further action and efforts on adaptation, finance and means of implementation are obviously what we have in mind here.

To further spur and incentivize climate action and political leadership and momentum, the EU considers that events held outside the Paris

Agreement process and during the course of the ambition cycle could make important complementary contributions. Therefore we could refer to such events in the CMA decision.

Finally, it is important that the CMA decision allows for refinement over time based on the experience gained.

Dear colleagues, we'll keep our introduction to this. Let me finally say that the EU really looks forward to the upcoming discussions. We are very much convinced, and the submissions document this, that there is a great deal of convergence amongst us that we could build upon today and during the upcoming session.

Thank you.