

CarbonCare InnoLab's Submission in Response to Call on:

Issue: The first global stocktake

Title: Call for inputs from Parties and observer States, UN Agencies and other international organizations and non-Party Stakeholders and observer Organizations, to the first global stocktake

Mandate: Decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 19: requested the Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to issue a call for the inputs referred to in paragraphs 36 and 37 of the same decision, taking into account that such inputs should be submitted at least three months before their consideration in the technical assessment

Accelerate phase-out of fossil fuel and scale-up of renewable energy, and a just and inclusive transition and climate change adaptation

CarbonCare InnoLab (CCIL) welcomes the opportunity to submit our views on the first Global Stocktake via the UNFCCC submission portal.

CCIL pays a particular attention to the cities' carbon footprints and the climate impacts that the city dwellers, especially among the most vulnerable people, are experiencing. According to UN Habitat, cities consume 78 per cent of the world's energy and produce more than 60 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, cities only account for less than 2 per cent of the Earth's surface.¹ In this regard, CCIL urges tracking the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from cities' activities, and tracking the pledges and actions the cities make towards achieving Paris Agreement goals.

Regarding the Decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 36 (a), there are a few general questions on mitigation and emissions reductions in the guiding questions of the Global Stocktake, prepared by the chairs of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) in September 2021. Based on the [Paris Watch report](#) that CCIL launched in December 2021², CCIL finds that the mitigation efforts for the abatement of greenhouse gas emissions in East Asian cities including Hong Kong, where CCIL is originated in, very much rely on accelerating an immediate, substantial phase-out of fossil fuel, accompanied by the scale-up of renewable energy, while CCIL welcomes the commitments and pledges for phase-out of fossil fuel made by these cities.

As part of the Global Stocktake exercise (GST), CCIL suggests taking stock of a wide range of policy, financial and technical tools that can be or are being applied in cities, which might vary in different countries' context, to speed up the deployment of renewable energy. For example, many Asian countries and cities like Singapore, Tokyo, Seoul and Shenzhen make investments, through mandatory disclosure of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) data, emission trading and carbon

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/climate-solutions/cities-pollution>

² <https://www.ccinnolab.org/zh/TheHongKongClimateActionReport>

pricing, and developing green bond markets, in research and development of renewable energy. In addition, the governments of both Japan and Hong Kong SAR even adopt Feed-in Tariff policy to incentivize the installation of distributed renewable energy utilities like solar panels in buildings. Besides, to accommodate the uptake of variable renewable energy, such as solar and wind energy, in the power grid, research³ has been conducted to enhance the flexibility of power grid through sector coupling, such as coupling of building, transport and heating/cooling sectors.

With all these research and policy tools, CCIL calls on UNFCCC to take stock of the climate action plans of cities' governments that phase out fossil fuel and scale up renewable energy. CCIL also suggests tracking the divestment from and ending of all fossil fuel finance, production and expansion at the same time.

Noting Decision 1/CP.26 paragraph 20 that calls for the phase-down of unabated coal and the phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. CCIL calls on UNFCCC to take advantage of Global Stocktake for countries and cities to communicate and report the progress against the goals and targets in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Decarbonisation Strategies.

A Just, Inclusive Transition by means of Talanoa Dialogue approach

The Working Group II of the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) recognised that adaptation has emerged as a central area in climate change research, in country-level planning, and in implementation of climate change strategies. It also emphasised the importance of assessing synergies between social protection, disaster risk reduction, and social development, highlighting the opportunities of strengthening social protection schemes for a just transition and connecting them to the existing social welfare system.

Regarding 19/CMA.1, paragraph 36 (a) and (c), CCIL asserts that climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts have to be implemented through a just transition and a human-rights based approach that respects the rights of the vulnerable groups. The preamble of Paris Agreement underlines the importance of climate actions with a human-right based approach, which was again acknowledged in the preamble of Glasgow Climate Pact (Decision 1/CP.26). However, CCIL realises a discrepancy that remains between this vision and the reality, which blocks the effective implementation of climate change adaptation and actions and constrains the results that the vulnerable communities can enjoy.

CCIL suggests tracking the climate adaptation actions taken by the cities, especially in the post-COVID world, ensuring that change happens with and for the most vulnerable people - not against their interests. Nevertheless, this is a new challenge which cities around the world are early in the process of resolving.⁴

³ <https://www.irena.org/publications/2021/Oct/Sector-Coupling-in-Cities>

⁴ https://www.c40knowledgehub.org/s/article/Exploring-the-Just-Transition-South-Africa-United-States-and-Europe?language=en_US

The Talanoa Dialogue concept stems from a traditional problem-solving practice in the South Pacific island communities, and was introduced and acknowledged by the United Nations when Fiji was official host of the 2017 COP23 climate summit, as outlined in the Informal note by the Presidencies of COP 22 and COP 23 (Annex II to Decision 1/CP.23). Since then, Talanoa represents a participatory and transparent discussion process based on story-telling and designed to foster a non-accusatory and supportive way to address problems.

CCIL demonstrates, through Paris Watch's Community Dialogue project, how Talanoa Dialogue approach is being localised in Hong Kong's local community and used to achieve a just, inclusive transition and social protection. The Hong Kong's Talanoa brought together academics, business, finance and NGOs to address the guidance questions put forward by the United Nations climate summit: Where are we now? Where do we want to get to? How do we get there? So far, the Community Dialogue project, which adopted the Talanoa approach, has enabled discussion of the impacts on the most vulnerable people in Hong Kong, such as [the residents of subdivided housing](#),⁵ the elderly, the people with disabilities, [the people in vulnerable situations](#)⁶ and [the outdoor workers](#).⁷

With this example, CCIL recommends taking stock the application of Talanoa Dialogue approach in the public engagement of the climate actions, making sure the realisation of the principle of a just, inclusive transition.

Backgrounders and References:

- Message to Parties, Observer States and Observer Organizations – Calls for Submissions arising from work in Glasgow
- [Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement](#)
- [Paris Agreement \(English version\)](#)
- [Glasgow Climate Pact \(Decision -/CMA.3\)](#)
- [UNFCCC Submission Portal](#)
- [Preparing for the First Global Stocktake – Revised Non-paper by the Chairs of the SBSTA and SBI](#)
- [Guiding questions for the Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement](#)
- [CAN-International guiding questions for the Global Stocktake](#)
- [Promoting Human Rights in Climate Action: A Global Stocktake Informed by Human Rights](#)

⁵ <https://www.ccinnolab.org/en/AhTanBlogPost/ahtanblog18>;
<https://www.ccinnolab.org/en/EnergyCareCommunityActionKwaiChung>

⁶ <https://www.ccinnolab.org/en/AhTanBlogPost/ahtanblog23>

⁷ <https://www.ccinnolab.org/en/AhTanBlogPost/ahtanblog26>