



OECD/IEA Climate Change Expert Group Submission to the First Global Stocktake

The OECD/IEA Climate Change Expert Group (CCXG) is a group of government delegates and experts from developed and developing countries. The aim of the group is to promote dialogue on and enhance the understanding of technical issues in the international climate change negotiations and support implementation of the Paris Agreement. More information on the work of the OECD-IEA CCXG can be found at: <https://www.oecd.org/env/cc/ccxg/>.

The CCXG is providing this submission in response to the [call for inputs to the first Global Stocktake from the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies](#). This submission focuses on cross-cutting issues and guiding questions relating to the global stocktake (GST), in particular how to reach the desired outcomes of the GST to inform updates of national actions and enhance international co-operation for climate action. The present submission builds on relevant information from a recent CCXG publication, namely:

- Jeudy-Hugo, S. and L. Charles (2022), "[Translating outputs to outcomes under the global stocktake of the Paris Agreement](#)", *OECD/IEA Climate Change Expert Group Papers*, No. 2022/01, OECD Publishing, Paris.

The submission also draws on discussions at the [CCXG Global Forum on the Environment and Climate Change](#) in March 2022 and the [CCXG side event on Promoting effective outcomes of the global stocktake](#) at the UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference in June 2022.

Executive summary

Translating the outputs of the global stocktake (GST) into an outcome that informs and enhances national and international actions as intended in the Paris Agreement is critical but not straightforward. This submission synthesises key messages from recent [CCXG analysis on how to reach the desired outcomes of the GST](#). This CCXG analysis concludes that achieving the outcomes of the GST requires a well-designed process that effectively engages Parties and non-Party stakeholders in separate but sequenced technical and political discussion tracks. The CCXG paper also finds that specific, actionable outputs that target different actors can facilitate subsequent follow-up. The paper identifies different enabling factors that could support the translation of GST outputs formulated at the collective level into national processes to update and enhance actions and support. It also highlights the importance of leveraging different political moments and building linkages with parallel processes, both within and outside the UNFCCC context, to maintain momentum on the GST and ensure operational action follows over time so that collective efforts are in line with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

Key messages

A successful GST would be one that achieves its agreed outcome as set out in the Paris Agreement, i.e. to “inform Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support..., as well as enhancing international co-operation for climate action”. Unpacking the question of how to translate the outputs of the GST into intended outcomes could facilitate focused discussions, guide the modalities of the process, clarify expectations, and help to ensure the GST meets its aims and can support the goals of the Paris Agreement.



Designing a GST process to support subsequent action

How the GST process is organised can influence its success in translating outputs into desired outcomes. Previous experiences with international review and assessment processes highlight different modalities that can facilitate subsequent operational action. This includes engagement of Parties and non-Party stakeholders throughout the process to strengthen ownership of GST outputs and facilitate follow-up. Other important considerations include the role played by science in informing discussions and decision-making; the format, focus, sequencing and inclusiveness of technical and political discussions; as well as the incorporation of learning-by-doing in the process. Table 1 provides insights on how modalities of the GST process could facilitate translation of outputs to outcomes.

Table 1: Modalities to facilitate the translation of GST outputs to outcomes

Modality	Comment
Engagement of Parties in the process	Effective engagement of all Parties in the GST can help to generate a sense of ownership and build trust among participants. This could facilitate the translation of outputs to outcomes as Parties may be more willing to take forward outcomes they have had a strong role in shaping.
Engagement of non-Party stakeholders in process	Active engagement of non-Party stakeholders throughout the process can facilitate subsequent take-up of outputs and trigger enhanced ambition and action among these actors.
Role played by science in informing discussions and decision-making	Making a link with the latest available science can inform and advance longer-term policy-making. The process can also help to identify knowledge gaps in key areas and strengthen partnerships between experts and organisations to close identified gaps.
Format and organisation of discussions	Well-organised, targeted and iterative discussions at the technical and political levels can influence the formulation of outputs and subsequent follow-up by different actors. Interactive exchanges between participants, allocating sufficient time for discussions, and sharing targeted questions in advance can facilitate efficient discussions.
Separate but sequenced technical and political tracks	Separating the technical assessment phase from the political phase of the GST can help to maintain the integrity of technical recommendations and increase buy-in. At the same time, it is important that the political component effectively captures and engages with conclusions of the technical discussions to provide strong political recommendations that can be carried forward.
Flexibility and learning-by-doing	Maintaining flexibility in the organisation of the process can help to ensure effective engagement by Parties and non-Party stakeholders throughout the process. Similarly, incorporating learning-by-doing will be important so that the modalities of the overall process can be revised/refined on the basis of experience.

Source: S. Jeudy-Hugo and L. Charles (2022)

Formulating GST outputs to facilitate follow-up

Reaching the intended outcome of the GST will depend on the package of outputs produced, who they target (e.g. Parties, non-Party stakeholders, UNFCCC processes, other relevant bodies), and whether the outputs are followed-up over time. Specific, actionable outputs can facilitate follow-up by different actors. Table 2 summarises potential elements the final package of outputs could contain to help improve the signalling function of the GST in informing Parties' updates of national actions and enhancing international co-operation. These potential elements target different actors and cover different timelines during the GST process (e.g. links with work programmes on mitigation and adaptation), or after the GST has concluded through processes within the UNFCCC (e.g. via the technical expert reviews of BTRs) or outside (e.g. non-Party stakeholder initiatives on key sectoral pathways).



Table 2: Potential elements of a final package of GST outputs to facilitate follow-up

Element	Detail	Target actors
Technical information	Technical annexes to the outputs from the 'Technical assessment' component could set out opportunities in different sectors, identify drivers and barriers for accelerating ambition, potential options that could be scaled up and replicated, links to new/existing initiatives such as the Breakthrough Agenda, Climate Action Pathways of the Marrakech Partnership, efforts to take forward sectoral initiatives launched at COP26.	Parties and non-Party stakeholders
Recommendations of possible follow-up actions by Parties, UNFCCC processes and relevant bodies	Parties could be "invited" to indicate how subsequent NDC submissions have been "informed" by the outcome of the GST, in line with Article 4.9 of the Paris Agreement and guidance in Decision 4/CMA.1 to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs. There is a precedent in the outcome, inputs and outputs of the Talanoa Dialogue being referenced to in this way in Decision 1/CP.24 (UNFCCC, 2019 ^[48]).	Parties
	Relevant bodies such as the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), Technical Expert Groups, Consultative Bodies, etc. could incorporate GST recommendations in their work, e.g. prioritising capacity building to update NDCs, develop LT-LEDS, align NDCs and LT-LEDS, improve monitoring and data collection to inform subsequent GSTs.	Relevant bodies
	A dedicated window in existing facilities, bodies and programmes could be established to provide support to developing countries in strengthening their enabling environments and capacities to implement GST recommendations. Such support could address different factors depending on the domestic context, e.g. strengthening human capacity and institutional frameworks, addressing gaps in data and technical information, capacity building and public awareness raising activities, etc.	Financial Mechanism of the Convention
	Technical expert reviews of biennial transparency reports (BTRs) could consider whether a Party has reported information on if/how their NDC has been informed by the outcomes of the GST in line with Article 4.9 of the Paris Agreement and the guidance in Decision 4/CMA.1 to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs.	UNFCCC
	Activities under new work programmes on mitigation and adaptation could be designed to complement the GST process. If the work programmes are extended beyond their envisaged timeframe, they could become a platform to carry forward the outcomes of the GST in 2024-25 period.	COP Presidency and UNFCCC
	UNFCCC secretariat could consider preparing a report on lessons learned from the GST1 process to be made available at COP29 to inform preparations for GST2.	UNFCCC
Recommendations of possible follow-up actions by non-Party stakeholders	Regional Climate Weeks could include sessions dedicated to discussing the GST and implications for climate policy implementation at the regional level.	UNFCCC and non-Party stakeholders
	Non-Party stakeholders could incorporate GST recommendations in their work, e.g. to support NDC planning processes in different countries, to implement relevant initiatives such as the Breakthrough Agenda, Climate Action Pathways of the Marrakech Partnership and efforts to take forward sectoral initiatives launched at COP26.	Non-Party stakeholders

Source: S. Jeudy-Hugo and L. Charles (2022)

Enabling factors to translate GST outputs into national action

Translating GST outputs formulated at the collective level into outcomes that can inform Parties in updating and enhancing national action is not automatic or straightforward and there is no guidance on how this could be done. The take-up of international guidance and recommendations in national policies and processes depends on different contextual factors, such as national political commitment and domestic enabling environments.

Enabling factors, including institutional setup and capacities, ambitious NDC commitments, and follow-up processes under the UNFCCC, could facilitate translation of collective GST outputs into national action. The GST process could explore such enabling factors in the 'Consideration of outputs' component as part of a discussion on facilitating the achievement of outcomes. Challenges to translating GST recommendations at the national level and potential enabling factors to address them are summarised in Table 3. For example, GST outputs could encourage enhanced support is channelled through a dedicated window in existing facilities, bodies and programmes to create a more favourable environment for operationalising the GST at the national level. Another option could be for GST outputs to highlight potential mechanisms and practices that could facilitate translation of GST outputs into national processes and share lessons from current experiences in this regard.



Table 3: Overview of challenges and potential enabling factors for translating GST1 outputs at the national level

Challenge	Enabling Factor	Key Actors	Timing for GST1
Formulation of clear, specific GST output	Effective participation in GST processes by all Parties and relevant non-Party stakeholders Developing countries may need support to enable effective participation (as included in 19/CMA.1) Format and sequencing of discussions	All Parties and non-party stakeholders	GST process 2022 – 2023
Mobilising global political advocacy and momentum	Advocacy by leaders in high-level fora of the UN, G7, G20, spotlighting countries taking the lead and urging others to implement GST recommendations	UNSG, Heads of state, ministers, leaders of global and regional organisations	Post-GST to NDC submission 2023 – 2025
National political commitment – Political importance of climate action – Stakeholder and societal ownership of climate action	Advocacy at national level to secure political buy-in Stakeholder engagement activities Public education	Senior government officials Civil society stakeholder organisations International funding agencies e.g., GCF Bilateral partners	Post-GST to NDC submission 2023 – 2025 GST and post-GST processes 2022-2025
Weak enabling environments for climate action – Institutional frameworks – Lack of human capacities – Limited data and technical information – Limited awareness and understanding	Provision of technical and financial support to address specific challenges Capacity building Improved public awareness	Senior government officials with external support	2022 and ongoing as part of NDC implementation process
Requirements to take GST outcomes into account in national processes	Legal obligation as done by some Parties (e.g. European Union, Fiji, Luxembourg)	Senior government officials	Post-GST to NDC submission 2023 – 2025

Leveraging political moments to maintain attention on the GST

To maintain momentum behind the GST it will be important to leverage and co-ordinate with other technical and political processes. This includes leveraging parallel processes and events within the UNFCCC. For example, activities in the work programmes on mitigation and adaptation could be designed to complement the GST process by providing inputs to the ‘Technical assessment’ component (e.g. if they are structured to produce interim outputs before GST1 concludes). These processes could also provide a parallel forum for more in-depth discussions on certain issues (e.g. on sector-specific emission trends, mitigation potentials, technologies, investment patterns, policy options and best practices) which could in turn inform the ‘Consideration of outputs’ component of the GST. Furthermore, if the work programmes are extended beyond their envisaged timeframe, they could become a platform to carry forward GST outcomes post-2023.

Political moments could also be leveraged outside the UNFCCC. For example, recommendations of the GST could help frame discussions at relevant G7 and G20 meetings, the world leaders summit convened by the UNSG, and High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Such efforts could be further encouraged by the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC and organisations like the IMF, the World Bank and the MDBs, which could provide support to facilitate take-up of GST recommendations. At the regional level, events could be organised in co-operation with regional bodies (e.g. UNESCAP, UNECLAC) and alongside UNFCCC Regional Climate Weeks. At the level of non-Party stakeholders, there could be opportunities to leverage initiatives such as the Marrakech Partnership to facilitate an “ambition loop” between efforts by non-Party stakeholders and governments.



Conclusions

The GST has a mandate to assess collective progress towards the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement. Given growing recognition of the near-term implementation gap and the need to urgently scale up climate action to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, GST1 could focus on how to fill the gaps and identify specific opportunities to do so. This would also support the agreed outcome of the GST to inform Parties in “enhancing” their national actions and “enhancing international co-operation”.

The GST has the potential to engage with a broader audience beyond the UNFCCC negotiating process and could help to structure engagement and discussions on climate action in an impactful way. Realising this potential requires a well-designed process that effectively engages Parties and non-Party stakeholders; specific, actionable outputs targeted at different actors; and various enabling factors to facilitate follow-up at the national level. There is also a need to leverage and co-ordinate with parallel processes and political moments within and outside the UNFCCC process to ensure subsequent operational action in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.