



First Global Stocktake of the UNFCCC

Submission of Information by the Climate Vulnerable Forum

March 2023

I. Mandate

According to Article 14 of the Paris Agreement, the Parties “shall periodically take stock of the implementation of this Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of this Agreement and its long-term goals,” referred to as the Global Stocktake (GST). The first GST will run from 2021 to 2023 and will be repeated every 5 years thereafter.¹

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) welcomes the opportunity to submit inputs to the third meeting of the Technical Dialogue (TD1.3) to be held at the 58th Session of the United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies (SB58) to focus on the scope of the GST as outlined in Decision 19/CMA.1, as follows.

II. Background information on the CVF

The CVF is a South-South cooperation platform enabling countries highly vulnerable to climate change to act together to deal with this historic global challenge across all world regions. The CVF is organised as a voluntary, non-treaty organisation for developing states most vulnerable to climate change and is specifically focused on climate change action and policy. It represents some 1.5 billion people worldwide and is made up of 58 members from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Pacific. The Maldives, along with ten other countries, founded the CVF in Male’ in November 2009. For an ordinary period of two years, the Forum is chaired by a rotating chair, with Ghana currently chairing for the period 2022-2024. The CVF also has dedicated platforms of cooperation for its Ministers of Finance (the V20) and parliamentarians (the CVF Global Parliamentary Group). More information is available on the CVF and V20 websites: www.thecvf.org and www.v-20.org.

¹ UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, 2015: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

The CVF has advocated since its inception for limiting global warming to 1.5°C or below. Since the adoption of the Forum’s Vision in 2016, the year the Paris Agreement entered into force, with its Virtual Summit in 2018, the Madrid Ambition Drive for Survival in 2019, and, finally, the Midnight Survival Initiative for the Climate in 2020, the CVF has consistently advocated the need for all countries to upgrade their Paris Agreement climate targets for the years 2025 or 2030 in order to ensure the 1.5°C goal could be safeguarded.

III. Proposal of outputs of relevant components of the GST

A. Mitigation

The IPCC 6th Assessment Report unequivocally warrants that human activity has irreversibly altered the planetary order. The collective progress in terms of the current implementation of, and ambition in, mitigation actions towards achieving the goals defined in Articles 2.1(a)1 and 4.12 of the Paris Agreement is insufficient. This is clearly stated in the NDC Synthesis Report, published by the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2022. The report synthesises information from the 166 latest available NDCs communicated by 193 Parties to the Paris Agreement, and indicates that the global GHG emissions² taking into account implementation of the latest NDCs are estimated to be 50.8% higher in 2030 than in 1990, and 10.6% higher than in 2010.³

Strengthened collective efforts are required to achieve the goals defined in Articles 2.1(a) and 4.1 of the Paris Agreement. The “Midnight Survival Deadline for the Climate” is an example of a campaign undertaken in 2020 by the CVF to accelerate mitigation action by reminding governments of the obligations they had taken on at COP21. Following this initiative, the Forum monitored in real time each nationally determined contribution (NDC) submitted until the end of 2020, and analysed their alignment with the objectives of the Paris Agreement. The results were published in the CVF Midnight Report.⁴

Nearly all CVF Members have upgraded their own NDC during the period from 2020 through the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP26). However, it is critical that all countries, particularly the major emitting nations, declare ambitious and aggressive NDCs, and then take urgent steps to reach the targets. This was reaffirmed by the CVF in the Accra-Kinshasa Communiqué adopted in 2022, in which the Forum called on “responsible countries, particularly major emitting nations, whose 2030 NDC emissions reductions are not aligned with the 1.5°C goal to review and strengthen these targets”.⁵ Current mitigation efforts are neither adequate nor effective to limit warming to 1.5°C, as highlighted by COP26 which requested “Parties to revisit

² Without land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF).

³ UNFCCC, NDC Synthesis Report, 2022: <https://unfccc.int/documents/619180>

⁴ CVF, Midnight Report, 2022: <https://thecvf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Midnight-Report-27042022.pdf>

⁵ CVF, Accra-Kinshasa Communiqué, 2022: <https://thecvf.org/cvf/accra-kinshasa-communique-of-the-climate-vulnerable-forum-2/>

and strengthen the 2030 targets in their NDCs as necessary to align with the Paris Agreement temperature goal by the end of 2022, taking into account different national circumstances.”⁶

The “Traffic Light Assessment Report” (TLA), a recent research commissioned by the CVF, provides an assessment of current NDC’s alignment with the Paris Agreement target of limiting warming to 1.5°C. The report assesses current NDCs of Parties to the Paris Agreement based on an envelope of emissions or emissions budget based on each Party having an equal responsibility per head of population for the period 1990 to 2100, the former being the base year of the UNFCCC while the latter date relates to the period when temperatures should be stabilised according to the Paris Agreement. The TLA also examines the period 1950 to 2100 by way of comparison and uses the variables of GDP and the Human Development Index to allow for capacity differences between parties. The TLA reaffirms that the Glasgow Climate Pact binds all countries to review their 2030 NDC targets in 2022 for alignment with 1.5°C and to strengthen those that fall short this year.⁷

In order to achieve the goals defined in Articles 2.1(a) and 4.1 of the Paris Agreement, further actions are required and many barriers must be overcome. In particular, financial commitments from wealthier nations are a key element in supporting the more ambitious NDCs of developing countries.⁸

B. Adaptation

As indicated in Article 7.2 of the Paris Agreement, Parties recognize that adaptation is a global challenge faced by all with local, subnational, national, regional and international dimensions and that it is a key component of and makes a contribution to the long-term global response to climate change to protect people, livelihoods and ecosystems, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) is a key component of the Paris Agreement and it is anchored in Article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement. The GGA aims at enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2, of limiting warming to well below 2 or 1.5°C. However, the operationalization of the GGA needs to support the most vulnerable countries not only to survive but also to thrive.

⁶ UNFCCC, Glasgow Climate Pact, 2021:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma3_auv_2_cover%2520decision.pdf

⁷ CVF, Traffic Light Assessment Report, 2022: https://thecvf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/CVF_PTLAReport_2022.pdf

⁸ More on climate finance in section V.

It should be informed by the work of the IPCC and should have a more active role in the GGA's implementation. The GGA likewise needs to catalyse effective support in terms of capacity-building, finance, and technology.⁹ According to the Climate Vulnerability Monitor (3rd Edition), key points on health impacts are below¹⁰:

- Heat-related deaths of people over 65 years of age could increase by 1,540% by the end of the century if no climate action is taken, reaching 3.4 million deaths annually.
- Global Deaths: 91% of the projected increase in heat-related deaths could be avoided by limiting global mean temperature increase to 1.5°C, against just 56% avoided if temperatures are allowed to rise to just below 2°C.
- Heat deaths among vulnerable age groups alone would reach as much as 3.35 million annually by the end of the century if no climate action is taken.
- Without accelerated climate change adaptation and mitigation, India alone could see almost 1 million additional heat-related deaths by 2090.
- Exposure to Days of High Wildfire Danger is projected to increase by 8.5% at 1.5°C. This could triple by end of the century if no action is taken.
- Exposure of vulnerable age groups to life-threatening heatwaves could increase by 350% with temperatures rising to 1.5°C. By the end of the century, this could rise further to 2,510% if temperatures rise to just below 2°C, and to 6,310% if no climate action is taken.
- 218% More Person-Hours Exposed to Heat Stress During Physical Activity if no climate action is taken, posing at least moderate heat stress risk during physical activity of moderate intensity by the end of the century. These at-risk person-hours could be halved by limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C.
- 4.75 Trillion More Person-Hours Exposed to Heat Stress During Physical Activity at just 1.5°C of warming, exceeding moderate heat stress risk during physical activity of moderate intensity.
- 20% of Hours of Heavy Physical Labor Lost by end of the century if no action is taken. Under a 1.5°C scenario, this loss would be 7.6% .

⁹ CVF, Accra-Kinshasa Communiqué, 2022: <https://thecvf.org/cvf/accra-kinshasa-communique-of-the-climate-vulnerable-forum-2/>

¹⁰ CVF, Climate Vulnerability Monitor 3 Report, 2022, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZKX50D8EpQBx1EuR5IKfn_59XQVVC8I/view

- Labour Losses Affect Warmer Latitudes Most: The highest increases in the loss of labour hours are located in the planet’s warmest latitudes – Central Africa, West Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.
- Dengue Transmission: The number of countries with conditions suitable for dengue is projected to increase by as much as 22% by end of the century. This increase would be just 4% if the temperature rise is limited to 1.5oC.

An implementation plan to improve transparency, predictability, and accountability is needed to realise the crucial doubling of international adaptation finance by developed countries by 2025, as agreed upon at COP26, and thus achieve the goals defined in Articles 2.1(b) and 7.1 of the Paris Agreement. The CVF’s Accra-Kinshasa Communiqué restated this point.¹¹ Another challenge that needs to be addressed is to significantly strengthen support for the Adaptation Fund and financial support in the form of grants for the adaptation efforts of the most vulnerable nations.

C. Finance

The CVF is pushing the needs of developing nations at the top of the agenda, with a focus on climate finance. It is imperative that a process is carved out based on increased transparency and inclusiveness taking into consideration the growing needs and priorities of the most vulnerable communities. In this context, the CVF welcomes the report on the “Determination of the Needs of Developing Country Parties” by the Standing Committee on Finance.¹² It found that, as of May 2021, NDCs from 153 parties had identified climate finance needs – ranging from financial and capacity-building to technology development and transfer – of US\$5.8-5.9 trillion through 2030. However, this may be an underestimation, as not all countries have been able to accurately determine the cost of their NDCs.

It is essential to examine the monetary impact of climate change in order to determine what measures to take in the future. As indicated in the CVF/V20 “Climate Vulnerable Economies Loss Report”¹³,

- Climate change has eliminated one fifth of the wealth of the CVF/V20 over the last two decades: initial evidence shows that the CVF/V20 would have been 20% wealthier today

¹¹ CVF, Accra-Kinshasa Communiqué, 2022: <https://thecvf.org/cvf/accra-kinshasa-communique-of-the-climate-vulnerable-forum-2/>

¹² UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance, First report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, 2021: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/54307_2%20-%20UNFCCC%20First%20NDR%20technical%20report%20-%20web%20%28004%29.pdf

¹³ CVF/V20, Climate Vulnerable Economies Loss Report, 2022: <https://www.v-20.org/resources/publications/climate-vulnerable-economies-loss-report>

had it not been for climate change and the losses it incurred for poor and vulnerable economies;

- In aggregate dollar terms, over the 2000-2019 period, CVF/V20 economies have lost about US\$ 525 billion because of climate change already affecting temperature and precipitation patterns;
- For the most at-risk countries (10% of worst affected CVF/V20 economies), economic losses due to climate change are estimated to exceed half (51%) of all growth since the year 2000 (2000-2019): the most at-risk of the world's most climate vulnerable nations would be twice as wealthy today were it not for climate change;
- Economic losses cut GDP growth in the CVF/V20 by one full percent each year on average (minus 0.9% to the percentage of growth which averaged 3.7% in 2019 across the CVF/V20);
- The year-to-year reduction in GDP per capita growth attributable to climate change represents one quarter (25%) of the actual average annual economic growth of the CVF/V20 economies today (2019); for the 10% most at-risk CVF/V20 members the climate change attributable losses to annual growth already significantly exceed the total actual average GDP growth rate (of 0.38% per year, 2015-2019);
- Nearly all CVF/V20 economies have already warmed to mean temperatures that are far beyond what would be optimal for generating economic growth, and thereby instead incur economic losses – additional warming will only carry CVF/V20 economies further from the optimum, greatly increasing the risks of losses in the future;
- Given warming is set to progress to within 1.5°C in the next decade regardless of further mitigation action, even as adaptation accelerates economic losses would continue to increase. Adaptation needs to accelerate at a phenomenal rate both to prevent loss and damage at current levels, as well as to offset the growth in economic losses and damage that will be generated as temperatures continue to rise with hydro-meteorological extremes becoming more pronounced in parallel;
- Because the estimated economic losses due to hydro-meteorological extreme events are higher in the last two decades than the previous two decades, the world's most vulnerable economies are also not adapting fast enough to cope with weather extremes of the changing climate as it currently stands;
- Analysis presented in this report provides initial evidence that international support supplied to CVF/V20 economies affected by hydro-meteorological extremes can diminish

the negative macroeconomic effect that would otherwise have prevailed, underscoring the importance of funding for loss and damage.

Collective progress in terms of the current implementation of the coherence of financial flows to achieve the objective set out in Article 2(1)(c) of the Paris Agreement is insufficient. The delivery of climate finance in the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) should be needs based in terms of scale and volume, and responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable developing countries, including by not increasing indebtedness and through a high and growing emphasis on grant-based funding for adaptation for developing countries particularly vulnerable to climate change. Deliberations on the NCQG must scale up climate finance to developing countries and consider existing obligations of parties under the UNFCCC, lessons learned from the shortcomings of setting and fulfilling the \$100 billion joint climate finance mobilisation goal.¹⁴

Climate finance effectiveness has far to go, beyond a Delivery Plan for the \$100 billion of annual balanced climate finance and too often the victims of climate change do not have access to financial resources. Access to climate finance should be streamlined and facilitated particularly for vulnerable developing countries.

D. Loss & damage

The CVF has been at the forefront of advocating for the recognition and addressing of loss & damage (L&D) caused by climate change. The Forum has been pushing for stronger action on L&D through various international climate forums and negotiations, including the UNFCCC. In this context, the CVF commissioned a report entitled “Climate Vulnerable Economies Loss Report” to enhance understanding of the L&D associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The key findings have shown that climate change has eliminated one-fifth of the wealth of the CVF/V20 over the last two decades and that the CVF/V20 would have been 20% wealthier today had it not been for climate change and the losses it incurred for poor and vulnerable economies.¹⁵

The CVF has also conducted a campaign called “Payment Overdue” at COP27, in a successful effort to advocate for the creation of an L&D fund. Indeed, the international community has made a major step forward by creating an L&D fund at COP27. However, further work is now required to fully operationalize the fund.¹⁶

¹⁴ CVF, Accra-Kinshasa Communiqué, 2022: <https://thecvf.org/cvf/accra-kinshasa-communique-of-the-climate-vulnerable-forum-2/>

¹⁵ V20, Climate Vulnerable Economies Loss Report, 2022: <https://www.v-20.org/resources/publications/climate-vulnerable-economies-loss-report>

¹⁶ CVF, COP27 Delivers Landmark Outcome on Loss & Damage, 2022: <https://thecvf.org/our-voice/statements/chair/cop27-delivers-landmark-outcome-on-loss-damage/>

A further effort accomplished by the CVF/V20 related to L&D is the “Global Shield against Climate Risks”, an initiative for pre-arranged financial support designed to be quickly deployed in times of climate disasters.¹⁷ The Global Shield works with new and existing partners and institutions to systematically analyse countries’ protection gaps and design, fund, and facilitate needs-based pre-arranged and trigger-based financing. It has an important role to play through pre-arranged and trigger-based finance, such as shock-resilient social protection, parametric and forecast-based financing for anticipatory action, risk transfer for regional or municipal risk sharing, climate-resilient debt structuring, debt payment suspension, and business liquidity protection, to name a few mechanisms.

E. Cross-cutting components – Equity

The Forum released the CVF NDC Traffic Light Assessment Report which provides an assessment of the current NDC’s alignment with the Paris Agreement target of limiting warming to 1.5°C. to promote dialogue and understanding of equity. The Traffic Light Assessment Report shows that:

- The G7, with 25% of current emissions, has taken the world on track for more than 3°C of warming with its members’ NDCs having already fully exhausted its 1.5 °C carbon budget on a fair shares basis;
- The CVF, with 5% of global emissions and a 1.5 billion total population, is however fully compliant with the Paris Agreement 1.5°C goal on a fair shares basis;
- Currently, the COP27 negotiations imply that the Africa Group, LDCs, and CVF nations not only already have their atmospheric space taken by richer countries, but will also not be provided sufficient, much-needed adaptation finance and loss and damage funding even as they suffer accelerating climate impacts caused by those who have already long exceeded their carbon budgets;
- COP26’s Glasgow Climate Pact bound all countries to review their 2030 NDC targets in 2022 for alignment with 1.5°C and to strengthen those that fall short this year;
- This report shows that the G7 for example would have to cut its emissions by 82% below current levels immediately, and 91% below its 2030 NDC targets, to be 1.5°C compatible on a fair shares basis;

¹⁷ More information accessible here: <https://www.v-20.org/global-shield-against-climate-risks>

- The Umbrella Group would need to cut its current emissions by 95%, and be 107% below its 2030 NDC targets (i.e. becoming carbon negative), to be 1.5°C compatible on a fair shares basis.¹⁸

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