



Conference of the Parties, twenty-eighth session
High-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition
Dubai, 10 December 2023

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2023 annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition

Summary by the President

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This is a summary prepared by the President of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, with the support of the secretariat, of the 2023 annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition, held during the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties in Dubai.

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, at its fourth session, decided to convene an annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition, beginning at its fourth session.¹

B. Context

2. The Presidency of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) convened the 2023 annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition on 9 December 2023, from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., during COP 28.² A summary of the proceedings is available in the annex.

3. The round table built on the technical phase of the first global stocktake (GST) and the first year of the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme and provided ministers with a platform for discussing ways to ramp up pre-2030 ambition, including on accelerating the just energy transition.

4. The round table took place at the start of the second week of COP 28. It was designed to bridge the technical work undertaken during the fifty-ninth sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the political work in the second week with a view to contributing to an ambitious mitigation outcome at COP 28.

5. The round table was attended by more than 100 high-level representatives of Parties, including ministers, deputy ministers, climate envoys and heads of delegation.

6. The round table was co-chaired by Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment of Singapore, and Espen Barth Eide, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway.

7. The Presidency had identified two guiding questions to facilitate the discussions during the round table, which are available in the annex.

C. Summary

8. Ministers engaged actively during the round table, presenting their views on the guiding questions. The following summary is aimed at providing a non-exhaustive overview without prejudice to the various views expressed.

9. **Just energy transition:** Most Parties emphasized the importance of the energy transition being just. They stressed that the energy transition should be equitable and take into account different starting points and national circumstances, as well as energy security, affordability and access, considering the needs of workers, communities and marginalized groups. Some Parties called for adequate, accessible and appropriate funding and support mechanisms that support a just energy transition, including on access to technology and finance, especially for developing countries, ensuring that no one is left behind.

10. **No ‘one-size-fits-all’ solution:** Parties underlined that there is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ solution that is suitable for all pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. With regard to enhancing mitigation ambition in this critical decade, Parties highlighted that equity considerations need to guide action when addressing the way forward in order to ensure that the transition is just, fair and leaves no one behind. Parties have different national circumstances, capabilities and responsibilities when acting on climate change. Several Parties called on developed countries to take the lead in immediate, rapid and sustained reductions in emissions, reaching net zero earlier to provide others with the space that is needed.

11. **Linkages with sustainable development:** Parties highlighted that mitigation strategies and actions should be aligned with broader sustainable development objectives,

¹ Decision 1/CMA.3, para. 31.

² Further information is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/2023-annual-high-level-ministerial-roundtable-on-pre-2030-ambition>.

ensuring that climate action also contributes to poverty reduction, health improvements and economic development.

12. **Transparency:** Some Parties stressed that ensuring transparency of climate-related data and planned and achieved mitigation ambition and action is necessary in order to understand progress and a corresponding way forward.

13. **1.5 °C target, urgency of climate action and emission reductions in alignment with science:** Many Parties reaffirmed that the 1.5 °C target under the Paris Agreement is crucial and acknowledged the urgency with which climate change must be addressed. Parties emphasized the need for deep, rapid and sustained emission reductions to limit temperature rise and reduce the multi-dimensional impacts of climate change, particularly for vulnerable countries. Many Parties mentioned the importance of global greenhouse gas emissions to peak by 2025 reduced by 43 per cent by 2030 and by 60 percent by 2035 compared with 2019 levels. Some Parties highlighted the link between mitigation and adaptation and pointed out that increased mitigation ambition would result in a reduced need for adaptation.

14. **Global solidarity, cooperation and opportunities in climate action:** Parties shared examples of successful national climate action taken to date, highlighting the realized and potential opportunities related to mitigation action. Several Parties mentioned that there is a need for stronger global solidarity and cooperation in sharing technology and financial resources in order to unlock further action, and that developed countries should play a pivotal role in providing the necessary support to developing countries.

15. **Finance for enhanced mitigation action:** Many Parties urged developed countries to fulfil their financial commitments towards developing countries and to enhance mobilization of and access to finance. Parties also stressed that making financial flows consistent with 1.5 °C pathways and redirecting investments towards emission reduction actions and technologies are crucial elements in terms of unlocking timely and just implementation of mitigation action and of mitigation ambition. Parties called for the enhancement of public-private partnerships and highlighted the role of the private sector in mitigation.

16. **Technologies to enable energy transitions:** Parties highlighted the important role that all technologies and technological innovations can play in enabling energy transitions. Some Parties highlighted the role of abatement technologies, especially for hard-to-abate sectors. Means of implementation beyond technology were also underlined, such as capacity-building, enabling policy environments, trade barriers, and others.

17. **Ambition in the first GST:** Parties highlighted that COP 28 could represent a turning point in global ambition for mitigation and other areas. For many, COP 28 outcomes need to signal the highest possible level of ambition to the outside world, including through the first GST and beyond.

18. **Global collective milestones:** Many Parties proposed global collective efforts such as tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030, doubling energy efficiency improvements by 2030 and reducing emissions of non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gases, including methane, in this critical decade. Many Parties also stressed the importance of addressing emissions from unabated fossil fuels, including through their phasing-out or phasing-down, depending on the type of fossil fuel. Parties also proposed the scaling up of zero- and low-emission technologies and rapid deployment of zero-emission vehicles, and halting and reversing forest loss and deforestation. Some noted that global milestones must reflect the context of equity, due consideration of different national circumstance, and respective capabilities, and the need for sustainable development and poverty eradication, while respecting the nationally determined nature of nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

19. **The role of the GST in the next round of NDCs:** Parties emphasized that the GST needs to inform and guide the next round of NDCs, which will be submitted in 2025. Parties recognized the need for increased ambition in these NDCs in order to effectively address the urgent challenges of climate change. Many Parties mentioned that Parties should strive to include in their next NDCs economy-wide targets, covering all sectors and gases, and that the NDCs should be aligned with 1.5 °C pathways and ensure comprehensive and holistic action aimed at achieving all aspects and goals of the Paris Agreement. In this effort, Parties

highlighted, the GST can provide a valuable opportunity to course-correct and identify areas where further efforts are needed to enhance ambition and accelerate implementation in the transition to a sustainable and low-carbon future.

Annex

Proceedings of the 2023 annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition

A. Opening remarks

20. Sultan Al Jaber, the President of COP 28, the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, welcomed participating ministers and high-level representatives, highlighting the urgent need to address the topic of pre-2030 ambition given that the midpoint of this critical decade is approaching and there is still a long way to go to deliver the highest level of ambition. He emphasized the importance of working collectively to reach a consensus at COP 28 and remove barriers to achieving the 1.5 °C goal. He also urged Parties to capitalize on the momentum built during the first week of COP 28. The President also made it clear that the level of mitigation ambition should send messages agreed collectively by Parties on fossil fuels, renewable energy and energy efficiency on the basis of evidence and by applying the principles of just energy transition and equity. New zero carbon technologies such as hydrogen should also be incentivised. The President urged Parties to continue to work flexibly, cooperatively and with determination, led by the best available science, to bring about the paradigm shift needed to keep the 1.5 °C target alive.

21. The Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, Simon Stiell, emphasized in his opening remarks the need to shift from the ‘what’ to the ‘how’ in the context of COP and climate action. He emphasized that focusing on concrete action and detailed plans can turn ambition into real-world outcomes, including through the development, submission and implementation of more robust and ambitious NDCs. He highlighted the upcoming COPs, particularly COP 29 (November 2024) and COP 30 (November 2025), as critical milestones for setting ambitious financial goals, achieving highly ambitious outcomes and putting in place bolder, more ambitious and holistic NDCs. This, he said, would need to be delivered by building on the foundation set at COP 28, including through the outcomes of the GST, which will set the course for ambition and provide tools for accelerating climate action and translating ambition into tangible outcomes.

B. Scene-setting presentations

22. The opening session was followed by the scene-setting session, which consisted of three presentations that framed the round table discussion.

23. In the first scene-setting presentation, Amr Osama Abdel-Aziz and Lola Vallejo, the Co-Chairs of the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, shared key outcomes from the annual report of the work programme³, which contains findings from the two global dialogues organized in 2023 on the topic of accelerating the just energy transition, with the second dialogue focusing on the transport sector. The Co-Chairs also highlighted the role played by the investment-focused events, which were organised with the support of the high-level champions, in bringing together various financial actors with a view to unlocking finance for clean energy investment at both the international and regional level for mitigation action.

24. This was followed by a presentation by Mary Burce Warlick, Deputy Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, on the key priorities for pre-2030 mitigation for the energy sector and emerging messages from the COP 28–International Energy Agency energy transition dialogues. She highlighted that while real progress has been made in reducing projected warming levels under current policy settings, more progress is needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. She further indicated that some key technologies,

³ Available here : <https://unfccc.int/documents/631986>

such as those involving solar and wind power, and electric vehicles, have recently seen strong growth in development spurred on by policies and market competition; others such as carbon capture and storage will require much more rapid progress to ensure alignment with net zero pathways. She concluded by stressing that a comprehensive energy package at COP 28 must drive growth in clean energy, support emerging and developing economies in the transition and recognize the need to reduce fossil fuel demand.

25. Finally, Farhan Akhtar, co-facilitator of the technical phase of the first GST, presented notable findings from the technical dialogue, highlighting the following key messages from the dialogue:

(a) .Global emissions are not in line with modelled global mitigation pathways consistent with the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, and there is a rapidly narrowing window to raise ambition and implement existing commitments in order to limit warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels;

(b) Much more ambition in action and support is needed in implementing domestic mitigation measures and setting more ambitious targets in NDCs to realize existing and emerging opportunities across contexts, in order to reduce global GHG emissions by 43 per cent by 2030 and further by 60 per cent by 2035 compared with 2019 levels and reach net zero CO₂ emissions by 2050 globally.

(c) Achieving net zero CO₂ and GHG emissions requires systems transformations across all sectors and contexts, including scaling up renewable energy while phasing out all unabated fossil fuels, ending deforestation, reducing non-CO₂ emissions and implementing both supply- and demand-side measures.

(d) Just transitions can support more robust and equitable mitigation outcomes, with tailored approaches addressing different contexts.

(e) Economic diversification is a key strategy to address the impacts of response measures, with various options that can be applied in different contexts.

C. Round table discussion

26. Following the scene-setting presentations, the ministerial Co-Chairs, Grace Fu and Espen Barth Eide, introduced the round table discussion.

27. They reminded participants of the guiding questions set by the COP 28 Presidency, which were:

In the light of discussions before and during COP 28 and the mandate of this round table:

(a) How should a COP 28 mitigation outcome be framed to accelerate both individually and collective action to keep 1.5 alive in line with the bottom-up structure of the Paris Agreement?

(b) How do we ensure that everyone has access to technology and finance to ensure the implementation of zero- and low-emission solutions that are needed to enhance ambition by all, and how should this be reflected in a COP 28 outcome?

28. The ministerial Co-Chairs then opened the floor to participants for the round table discussion.

29. Following the round table discussion, the ministerial Co-Chairs concluded the round table.