

AILAC

SBSTA agenda item 9 – Sources of input for the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement
UNFCCC virtual SB sessions June 2021
– June 7 23:00 CEST

Thank you Co-facilitator,

I. Brief framing of AILAC's expectations from the GST

- 1. AILAC would like to associate itself with the remarks made by the Chair of the G77 + China on behalf of the Group. On the specific matters of the sources of input as identified under decision 19/CMA.1, as our Chair indicated, the sources of inputs listed in para 37 of decision 19/CMA.1 are broadly comprehensive and would be adequate in terms of being able to generate the information identified in paragraph 36 of decision 19/CMA.1 for the GST.**
2. We wish to kick off our discussions by stating our main objective for the GST, which is fully in line with decision 19/CMA.1: “enhancing the collective ambition of action and support towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement”. We highlight this objective because in situations of high technical complexity, it is useful to keep our eyes on our overall reasons for doing things, and letting that be our guiding light.
3. As we all know, decision 19/CMA.1 provides extensive guidance on inputs. As per that decision, the task of the SBSTA and the SBI that occupies us here today is to organize the GST in an appropriate manner, including, identifying information gaps and take the appropriate steps for the consideration of inputs as they become available, calling for additional inputs taking into account the information gaps identified in the reports of the IPCC and their impacts in relation to the purpose and Long-term goals of the PA. As we set off on this enormous task, let us recall we are talking about two key concepts: *INFORMATION* and *AMBITION*.
4. Therefore, as we have developed our view on this matter, AILAC countries have been asking ourselves “What information do we need to best enhance ambition”? This refers to the ambition of all countries, including our own, since we will only achieve Paris goals if we all attain the highest level of ambition. And this is question that we must bear in mind as the ultimate frame of reference in addressing and providing for concrete guidance with regards to the sources of input for the GST.
5. We recognise and fully support the crosscutting role that Science must play in this work. And we believe we should turn to the Science as we ask ourselves how we can best enhance ambition. We recognise at least three roles for Science in this process:
 - a) *Science can provide information*; regarding progress made, as well as impacts and vulnerabilities, and many of the other topics to be covered in the GST
 - b) *Science can assist us as we set our targets*. We all know that our contributions are nationally determined, but we also know that we must play our part, and Science will be a great help us as we decide what exactly that means for each of us, in a nationally determined manner and in light of our own circumstances.

- c) *Science can guide us as we weave the story.* The non-paper from the Chair pointed out the need for Narratives, and we fully subscribe this view. In fact, the IPCC tells us that we can only reach the Paris goals if we undertake deep simultaneous transformations of all our major systems including energy, industry, urban infrastructure, and food. And we also know this will require unprecedented changes in finance, technology, and capacity building. So let us use what we learn through the GST to tell this story of unprecedented change. With Science as our guide, no Party will be able to shy away from their responsibilities.
6. Since we agreed the Katowice package, AILAC countries have learned a lot about climate ambition. We have started the implementation of our NDCs, engaged with the process on NDC updates, and many of us are at different stages of formulating our Long-Term Strategies of Para 19 of Article 4. As we have done this work, we have encountered the information challenges required to enhance ambition, both of actions to take and of support needed, in many forms. So we look forward to engaging in the identification of additional and complementary inputs for the GST.
 7. Another core idea permeating the GST which we have done a lot thinking about within our countries is that of Barriers. And to generate outputs that can overcome barriers, we have found that *complementary measures or policy packages* are often needed. As a simple example, a technology measure may not make sense without a finance measure, or capacity building measure to help it succeed. Therefore, we look forward to leveraging the very structured approach to information gathering and processing which was summarised in the non-paper, and to further enhance it by proposing guiding questions that are cross-cutting and holistic in nature, so as to enable the outputs of the GST to gain as much insight as possible of how we can enhance our cross-cutting ambition to overcome barriers.
 8. Of course, a paramount concept throughout the GST is that of Equity. For us, the key to success will be to align the requirements of Equity with the needs of Science. To do so, we will have to be flexible and intelligent, but I am sure we can do it, insisting that all countries must reach zero emissions as soon as technically possible so the IPCC 1.5C no overshoot scenario can be obtained, but ensuring that the shifts that underpin this transformation drive the economic and social development of our countries, in a manner resilient to the impact of climate change, and with no one left behind.
 9. Our final point in these initial comments is an invitation to Parties to look ahead and think about the best manner in which all this information can be put together in a way that tells the story which ensures ALL Parties enhance their ambition in action and support. While there is a formal aspect to this addressed in the modalities of the GST, there is also a set of technical questions about ensuring that the right mix of skills and perspectives works in a representative manner to deliver functional and balanced outputs that will support us in enhancing our ambition.
 10. To this last point and to sum up, in addressing the specific Task of pinpointing the sources of input we will like to stress that for AILAC beyond the list of inputs per se, the question that should occupy us is what story the inputs identifies tell together, in light of overall progress towards the LTG in all its dimensions – mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation - and thus we must put a lot of emphasis in the mandate or modality to consider the inputs so that they are not

thought of in silos, silos that relate to tracks, but that fail to as we stated in the beginning, deliver an outcome that serves the GSTs ultimate purpose of progressively enhance ambition.

II. Reflections on the sources of input as identified in Paragraphs 35 – 37 of Decision 19/CMA.1

11. **AILAC would like to associate itself with the remarks made by the Chair of the G77 + China on behalf of the Group. On the specific matters of the sources of input as identified under decision 19/CMA.1, as our Chair indicated, the sources of inputs listed in para 37 of decision 19/CMA.1 are broadly comprehensive and would be adequate in terms of being able to generate the information identified in paragraph 36 of decision 19/CMA.1 for the GST.**
12. AILAC is of the view that the information collection and preparation component of the GST must be guided by the ultimate objective of the GST, which is to drive the progressive enhancement of collective ambition of action and support in line with the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.
13. The heart of the GST lies in this purpose, and as such, its Technical Assessment, as described in Para 3b) of decision 19/CMA.1 is a critical enabler to deliver towards this end. Therefore, the stocktake must be not only a factual endeavour, but ultimately a thorough analytical exercise. It is precisely this analytical assessment that will generate outputs that are additional to existing information - as opposed to simply re-packaging what we already know from multiple sources - which will provide insights to the final component of the GST, the consideration of outputs and the manner in which these effectively inform Parties in updating and enhancing their ambition in terms of both action and support.
14. The central role of this analytical assessment within the overall GST process means we need to give it full consideration as we turn to the matter of the sources of input for the information collection and preparation component. Therefore, we require greater clarity on how the analytical assessment component is to be carried out before we can progress further on the sources of input.
15. To summarise our concern, **AILAC is of the view that the GST must balance backward-looking fact gathering with forward-looking analysis that uses this fact base and asks critical questions – motivated by the latest scientific and technical understanding of the transformational changes we must all undertake as presented in the latest IPCC reports – to extract new insights not only about what has worked well and what has not, but also about what must be done differently to ensure we can succeed in the achievement of our long term collective goals.**
16. Para 7 of decision 19/CMA.1 requests the Chairs of the SBs to develop guiding questions for all components of the global stocktake. Clearly, these guiding questions will play a crucial role in shaping the analytical outlook of the inputs that will feed into the analytical assessment. We seek visibility of these questions to inform our deliberations on the inputs that the Technical Assessment phase will require.
17. Since we do not have that visibility, we are reluctant to think we are in a position to conclude our consideration on the sources of input, as we believe that the development and deliberation of guiding questions for this information gathering phase must be shaped by the broader role it plays towards the subsequent components of the GST, and thus in itself set out requirements of the sources of input.
18. We note that Section 3 of the SB Chair’s non-paper on “Preparing for the first global stocktake” (27 May) presents 23 guiding questions for the first component of the GST (pages 7, 8). We

appreciate the efforts of the SB Chairs in compiling this list, and we note that the content of these questions essentially builds upon the factual considerations highlighted in Para 36 of decision 19/CMA.1. These questions are thus a helpful starting point, but **they do not yet strike the right balance between backward-looking factual questions and forward-looking analytical questions.**

19. AILAC believes the guiding questions for the collection and preparation of inputs should contain more forward-looking questions in light of the outcome of the GST and the role it has to play in driving the ambition mechanism. These questions should be more granular in nature and framed in terms of the specific transformations our countries must undertake according to the best available science, as well as direct implications for ambition in both action and support needed to do so. This is particularly important since these guiding questions will not only inform the gathering of information, but also the elaboration of synthesis reports, which must be driven by the core analytical expectations of the Technical Assessment component
20. Concretely, we need to have greater clarity on the overall approach to the guiding questions across the three components of the GST, and how they relate and/or affect the manner in which the inputs set out in Section II of Decision 1/CMA.19 will be prepared – including who shall prepare them - and how they can ensure that the analytical work focuses on what is needed to achieve the final objective of the GST. **Noting the importance of the clarity on this critical framing, we would advise that we progress on this matter under the Informal Consultations with the SB Chairs as we progress in the information collection and preparation component of the GST.**

III. Reflections on the efficient consideration of inputs

21. With regards to how we can consider efficiently the potentially large number of submissions referred to in paragraphs 37(i) of decision 19/CMA 1, AILAC again recalls the ultimate objective of the GST and the need to provide forward-looking analysis that can guide future action.
22. We must therefore reflect upon the important challenges required to do justice to all inputs, not only the submissions under paragraph 37 (i) from Non – Party stakeholders and UNFCCC observer organizations, as we consider them in light of how the Technical Assessment component will inform future ambition in action and support. Concretely, we see at least two areas for concern at this time:
- a) Ensuring that the gathering, compiling, and synthesizing of information is carried out effectively with the **right technical skills and awareness** of the cross-cutting and forward-looking implications of the information, and not in silos, in a manner that recognises the need to provide elements for forward-looking outputs
 - b) Ensuring that **sufficient resource of the right capabilities is available to work in a coordinated manner** to give due consideration to inputs, as opposed to filtering inputs due to logistical reasons of insufficient bandwidth within the team doing the work
 - c) When addressing these challenges of skills and resources, due consideration should be given to a balanced approach regarding representativity from developing and developed country Parties.
23. This leads us to significant questions about who and how will perform the information gathering and collection component of the GST. We must not play down these challenges and questions, and we cannot allow our consideration of inputs to be restricted by considerations that are primarily administrative in nature: the GST is simply too important for that.
24. Therefore, in this matter, we look forward to greater clarity from the SB Chairs regarding their overall analytical approach to ensure the GST lives up to the expectations of the Global Community as the primary driver of enhanced ambition within the architecture of the Paris Agreement.

Thank you.