

AILAC

GST – Reflections on the Non-Paper presented by the Chairs
UNFCCC virtual SB sessions June 2021

*SB Chairs Information Event on their GST non-paper
15 June, 7:00h CEST*

Thank you Chairs,

1. AILAC would like to associate itself with the statement provided by the G77+China. Additionally, we would like to frame our reflections on the “[SB Chairs non-paper \(Preparing for the first Global Stocktake\)](#)” 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.
2. Decision 19/CMA.1 provides guidance on the inputs and modalities of the GST. We note that it tasks of the SBSTA and the SBI to organize the GST in “*an appropriate and flexible manner*”, across all three components. As we set out on this important the task, we pause to consider a crucial question “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.
3. The Technical Assessment component is a critical enabler to deliver towards purpose of the GST. For this assessment to work, **the stocktake must be not only a factual endeavour, but ultimately a thorough analytical exercise**. It is precisely the analytical nature of the assessment that will generate additional outputs and insights to the final component of the GST, beyond merely listing pre-existing information. Hence this analytical assessment will largely determine the manner in which the GST will inform Parties with regards to their updating and enhancing their ambition in terms of both action and support in line with Articles 4 and 14 of the Paris Agreement.
4. Therefore, establishing an analytical approach for the Technical Assessment, that refers to the best available science to frame guidance about future action, is a pressing task for the adequate preparation of the GST so that it ultimately fulfils its purpose. This approach must balance backward-looking fact gathering with forward-looking analysis that asks critical questions framed by the latest scientific and technical understanding of the transformational changes we must all undertake.
5. We note with concern that the design of the GST presented in the non-paper is largely circumscribed to decision 19/CMA.1. The SB Chairs have failed to integrate within this design, accepted scientific concepts that that would enable the GST to deliver elements to guide us towards a vision of transformational change. This lack of forward-looking perspective is reflected in the guiding questions that primarily focus on action-to-date, with limited focus on what actions must be taken in future. In this light, the guiding questions for information gathering in their current form are not up to our expectations of the GST.

6. The clear outlining of the **unprecedented systems transformations set forward by the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C provides a potential framework for consideration, as does their presentation of diverse development pathways linked to different emissions scenarios and levels of climate resilience. In addition, many presentations from experts during SED 1.1 and 1.2 have further provided concrete examples of how system-wide questions regarding policy, planning, and coordination can help establish enabling conditions for the changes we need.** AILAC has not had time to generate exhaustive recommendations on how best to include scientific analytical thinking into the GST design, but we hope these examples illustrate the ways in which you may wish to broaden the scope of thinking within the non-paper. We invite the SB Chairs to reflect upon these considerations as they prepare their next iteration of the non-paper, and we will endeavour to provide a written submission in due course.

7. In summary, we welcome the effort by the SB Chairs to include the provisions of decision 19/CMA.1 so thoroughly within their first attempt at the preparatory plans for the GST. However, in order to ensure the GST can deliver on its objective to enhance collective ambition in line with the challenges we face, the Chairs should **give appropriate consideration of science as an input to the design and framing of the GST in all its components – including the guiding questions – and not merely as a source of information** to be subjected to a pre-determined framework. We respectfully suggest that the SB Chairs may wish to seek advice from trusted scientists on this important matter. We trust the SB Chairs to display the flexibility requested by Para 6 of decision 19/CMA.1 as they further develop this non-paper.

Thank you.
