

## GST Interconnected Issues – 10 June 2023:

- Appreciate the opportunity to focus on the integrated and wholistic approaches this afternoon.
- I will focus primarily on the second point, particularly regarding ‘in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication’, both of which are extremely important topics to Australia and key points of focus for our development programme.
- I want to make some reflections on the connections between sustainable development and climate action, and make the case that climate action is an enabler of sustainable development, and conversely that the severe changes that we will experience above 1.5 degrees will be a significant impediment to parties’ development.
- The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report clearly states that ‘accelerated and equitable action in mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts is critical to sustainable development. Mitigation and adaptation actions have more synergies than trade-offs with Sustainable Development Goals.’
- Transitioning to net zero and implementing ambitious policies and programs to do so has a range of co-benefits that can enhance development outcomes and reduce poverty. Some examples:
  - Transitioning to clean sources of energy has significant health benefits and will significantly reduce the over 7 million premature deaths caused by pollution globally per year (World Health Organisation).
  - Mass deployment of renewable energy and the necessary enabling infrastructure can improve energy access to vulnerable populations, while giving countries more control of their energy supply and reducing reliance on often volatile fossil fuel supply chains.
  - Embedding effective and equitable adaptation and mitigation in development planning can reduce vulnerability, conserve and restore ecosystems, and enable climate resilient development – for example, in industry, electrification and circular material flows contribute to reduced environmental pressures and increased economic activity and employment.
- And further that eradicating extreme poverty, energy poverty and providing decent living standards in low emitting countries in the context of achieving sustainable development objectives in the near term can be achieved without significant global emissions growth.
- I also highlight the risks posed by climate change to sustainable development. As the IPCC highlights, climate change has reduced food and water security, hindering efforts to meet sustainable development goals. While agricultural productivity has increased, climate change has slowed this growth and ocean acidification has adversely affected food production from fisheries and aquaculture.
- Ambitious climate action in this critical decade is the most effective way to avoid the worst impacts of climate change by limiting global warming and supporting climate resilient development. To again quote the IPCC ‘the choices and actions implemented in this decade will have impacts now and for thousands of years’.
- The close linkages between climate change adaptation, mitigation, ecosystem health, human well-being and sustainable development is clear. I suggest the next summary report and the synthesises report should do more to unpack these linkages.
- I would also like to say a few words of overshoot. Along with the messages from Malawi on behalf of LDCs around the importance of planning for overshoot scenarios, we would see the key message here being that impacts increase with every 0.1 degree of warming and that some of the impacts of overshoot, if it happens, will be irreversible
- Quoting from the synthesis report: Compared to pathways without overshoot, societies would face higher risks to infrastructure, low-lying coastal settlements, and associated livelihoods. Overshooting 1.5°C will result in irreversible adverse impacts on certain ecosystems

with low resilience, such as polar, mountain, and coastal ecosystems, impacted by ice-sheet, glacier melt, or by accelerating and higher committed sea level rise.