



Co-chairs' summary of the Presidencies' informal consultations on the Global Stocktake

9 March 2023

Introduction

We, the Presidency of COP 27 and the Incoming Presidency of COP 28, in collaboration with the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, reiterate our commitment to continue the tradition of providing Parties with informal spaces to exchange views on critical issues to be delivered this year. Therefore, as agreed during the first virtual consultation held on 9 February 2023, we had the second virtual Heads of Delegation consultation on 9 March 2023 purposely to focus on the delivery of the first Global Stocktake (GST).

Background

The GST is the central element of the Paris Agreement to ratchet up ambition and to drive climate action. Every five years, the GST allows us to take stock of the implementation of the Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving its purpose and long-term goals considering mitigation, including response measures; adaptation, including loss and damage; means of implementation and support; taking into account equity and on the basis of best available science. The outcome of the GST shall inform Parties' nationally determined contributions and the updating and enhancing of their actions and support, as well as enhancing international cooperation for climate action. The GST process is divided into three phases: 1. Information collection and preparation, 2. Technical assessment, and finally 3. Consideration of Outputs.

Approach

We provided discussion questions and invited the Heads of Delegation to address them in their interventions while focusing on elements of greatest importance to them. Below, we provide a summary of responses to each of the three questions.

- 1. What elements included in the GST outcome across the different thematic areas would be most effective in enabling enhanced climate action and support to deliver on implementation and ambition by 2030, and inform the next round of NDCs?*

Mitigation

Parties emphasised that the GST outcome should provide clear and concrete actions, and solutions to accelerate ambition and support for the transformation of global systems to keep 1.5^o C within reach. In this respect, Parties are looking to the IPCC for clarity on the levels of emissions needed in 2035 and 2040 as countries look to strengthen their overall efforts over this critical decade and prepare for the NDCs to be submitted in 2025. While some Parties pointed out the need to scale up ambition through swift and significant reductions from all, particularly from major emitters, others expect the developed countries to take the lead role in reducing emissions and providing support to the developing countries in line with CBDR-RC and historical responsibility.

It was also desired by some Parties that the GST outcome provides clear ways on how to move away from fossil fuels to renewables in a just manner as well as call on countries to announce their near-term actions especially in this decade. Furthermore, some Parties expect the GST to guide them in bringing forward or updating their Long-Term Strategies, aligned with updated NDCs. Some Parties stressed the need for scaled investment and support to enable the implementation of enhanced mitigation action.

Adaptation, including loss and damage

Generally, Parties are highly expectant of the GST Outcome to highlight the scale of adaptation efforts required, identify ways to enhance adaptation and monitoring and evaluation systems and to avoid maladaptation.

Parties raised the need of a clear methodology on how to assess the gaps in the implementation of adaptation in GST 1, especially with the GGA delivering post the first GST outcomes, equally this issue was raised in the forward looking approach of the coming GST, with some Parties called for clear global targets that can inform the next round of NDCs in 2025. Additionally, some Parties expect that the GST Outcome should contribute to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation.

Some Parties suggested having specific recommendations in the GST outcome on key actions that should be taken across the spectrum of climate actions to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including with regards to comprehensive risk assessment and management, early warning systems, emergency preparedness, and post-disaster relief and reconstruction, including building back better. Several Parties emphasized that the GST outcome should contribute to raising ambitions regarding the new funding arrangements and the establishment of the relevant fund.

Regarding adaptation finance, Parties cited the AR6 and referenced the gap between climate finance for mitigation and that for adaptation, as well as the significant barriers to accessing different multilateral, regional and bilateral financing. They underscored that it was impossible to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement without addressing this unprecedented financial gap in adaptation.

Finance and support

Recognizing the relevance and challenges of funding, Parties expressed a need for the GST Outcome to provide clear guidance on mobilization of resources in line with the investment needed and in line with the 1.5 °C climate-resilient pathway. Some Parties reiterated the urgency in addressing the need for a long-term process to fully articulate definitions and requirements for making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development as per Article 2.1c of the Paris Agreement, and set clear direction to multilateral development banks (MDBs) and international financial institutions (IFIs) about the reforms they need to make.

It is also important, according to some Parties, to provide guidance on what is needed for the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) to act as a catalyst for ramping the scale and quality of finance required while some Parties suggested that financial flows be consistent with the NetZero future. Indeed, some aspire that in response to the GST Outcome financial flows be mobilized at an unprecedented scale to implement ambitious mitigation and adaptation actions.

Many Parties saw merit in taking into account how to best support ambitious outcomes across all thematic areas as well as other areas of climate action, for example, supporting the global commitment to phase out subsidies that are not aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, including inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

Several Parties highlighted the importance of addressing finance, technology transfer and capacity-building as crucial cross-cutting enablers for implementation, and raising ambition in mitigation and adaptation.

The GST Outcome is viewed by some Parties as an opportunity to inform the work of the Just Transition Work Programme, noting that the SCF Forum in 2023 will focus on financing the just transition.

Equity and science

On equity: Parties reiterated that the GST work be guided by the principle of equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), in light of different national circumstances. Furthermore, they emphasized the need to frame equity in a way that spurs ambition and that the GST should review climate action in light of human rights, gender, and intergenerational justice.

On science: Parties also found it imperative to emphasize that the best available science, as embodied by the IPCC AR6 synthesis report, be at the center of the GST work. Some Parties recommended that the GST calls on the scientific community and in particular the IPCC to fill research gaps, for example on tipping points in the global climate system.

Balance, inclusivity and transparency:

Parties addressed the importance of a balanced GST outcome, with a common view that it should be ambitious and be able to generate political messages that support progress and enhance implementation across all thematic areas of the Paris Agreement in an inclusive manner, considering mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and support, as well as response measures and loss & damage.

Some Parties highlighted that the political consideration of outputs should follow its mandate in being global, transparent, party-driven, and consensus-based.

2. What steps should be taken ahead of and at COP28 either inside or outside the UNFCCC process to facilitate arriving at outcomes that are solutions-oriented, forward-looking and lead to systems transformation?

In response to this question, some Parties recommend that consensus on the meaning of GST Outcome be built

ahead of COP 28. They suggested that such discussions should be carried out throughout the year starting with the upcoming April consultation prior to the technical session in June 2023. Some Parties reiterated the need for the current and incoming Presidency through the High-Level Committee (HLC), among other endeavors, to lead the process of building on the political momentum for the realization of an ambitious outcome and expressed their wish to issue a roadmap on the political track as soon as possible.

Parties expressed their belief that convening severally throughout the year in the context of the UNFCCC—including various climate Ministerials and HODs meetings, in the context of the June SBs such as the Joint Contact Group, regional climate weeks etc. – could effectively solicit responses to address the ambition and implementation gaps shown by the GST process so far.

Some Parties reiterated the need to ensure the various pre-COP engagement events are done in coordination and should build up on a political process leading to COP28 while others saw merit in leveraging on other forums like G20 and G7 and IMF/World Bank meetings, SDG summit and UNSG Climate Summit (in September) to advance work on solutions needed to accelerate climate action and support.

Some also expressed support for the UNSG’s objective to convene a “Climate Solidarity Pact” during the Climate Ambition Summit in September, to encourage all key players, in particular those that have the most to contribute to emission reductions, to work collaboratively to build trust and to enhance their emission reduction objectives. Involvement of High-level Climate Champions was highlighted as one way for the Presidencies to bring on board the private sector and secure buy-in and inputs from non-Party stakeholders (NPS) in the implementation of the Paris Agreement goals. Capacity building within the GST process was also highlighted especially targeting NPS to maximize their contribution to climate action.

While Parties share a common view on the importance of global consultations, some Parties believe regional workshops of countries with similar characteristics would further stimulate collective action to achieve long-term goals. With regards to representativeness, Parties encouraged the Presidencies to ensure that the GST reflects contributions from civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and the scientific community.

3. How can processes of relevance to the GST’s thematic areas best contribute towards a successful GST outcome at COP28, including the Mitigation Work Programme, the Global Goal on Adaptation, Loss and Damage funding arrangements, the NCQG and the Sharm el-Sheikh Dialogue on the Scope of Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the PA, the Just Transition Work Programme, among others?

There was a general consensus among Parties that the GST’s thematic areas appropriately build on relevant processes including: the Mitigation Work Programme, the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation, work on Loss and Damage funding arrangements, the ad hoc work programme on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, the Sharm el-Sheikh Dialogue on the Scope of Article 2.1(c) of the Paris Agreement, the Just Transition Work Programme – for a strong outcome at COP28 with a view to closing the ambition and implementation gaps.

Parties also suggested exploring synergies where the GST could leverage on discussions from all related processes and that the GST outcomes be carried forward post-COP28, through the relevant work programmes that already exist. This could be done through highlighting the state of current efforts, gaps identified in the technical assessment and the recommendations to bridge the identified gaps and as well as the opportunities available for doing so. With close coordination, existing processes and programmes could support the implementation of the outcomes of the GST.

There was also a suggestion to strengthen the implementation of other international agreements that aim at reducing vulnerability as well as pursuing low-carbon and sustainable development, for example the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the other Rio Conventions, as well as the International Maritime Organization, International Civil Aviation Organization and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Some Parties urged the HLC and Parties to be aware of timelines of the respective processes so as to appropriately reflect their results in the output of the GST outcome. Other Parties suggested summarizing key political messages and enhancing greater complementarity between the various processes to avoid duplication.