
Co-chairs' summary of the Presidencies' informal consultations on mitigation 9 May 2023

As part of our joint effort to support progress towards the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in a transparent and inclusive manner, we, the Presidency of COP 27 and the incoming Presidency of COP 28, convened the fourth in a series of multilateral consultations on 9 May 2023 with the aim of understanding Parties' mitigation priorities for 2023 and expectations for the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme to urgently scale up mitigation ambition and implementation.

We provided Parties with the following guiding questions to facilitate the discussion:

1. What are the key elements of a mitigation outcome at COP 28 to drive ambition in this critical decade of action?
2. How can the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme be implemented in a solution-oriented manner and how can it facilitate the achievement of results on the ground?

We were very pleased with the active engagement of Parties and groups of Parties on the topic, which sent a strong signal on the importance of an ambitious mitigation outcome for the success of COP 28. We are also thankful to the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, Nabeel Munir, and the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, Harry Vreuls, who emphasized the importance of advancing the work on mitigation. In addition, we are grateful to the Co-Chairs of the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, Amr Osama Abdel-Aziz and Lola Vallejo, for sharing their plan on how to organize the consultations. A summary of responses to the two discussion questions is provided below.

1. What are the key elements of a mitigation outcome at COP 28 to drive ambition in this critical decade of action?

Parties emphasized that a mitigation outcome at COP 28, including through the global stocktake, should be informed by the best available science, particularly the latest reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In this regard, some Parties underlined the urgency of ensuring a peak in global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions immediately before 2025 at the latest; addressing the emissions gap between projected emissions in 2030 on the basis of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and the level of emissions reduction needed in modelled pathways assessed by the IPCC; achieving net zero carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 2050; and implementing cost-effective mitigation options, such as solar and wind energy, in order to halve GHG emissions by 2030.

Many Parties highlighted that a mitigation outcome at COP 28 should guide ambitious NDCs covering all GHGs and economy-wide in order to be in line with a 1.5 °C pathway and referred to the request from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) at its third and fourth sessions to revisit and strengthen NDCs and communicate long-term low-emission development strategies. Many Parties reiterated the need for means of implementation, such as finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building, to drive the mitigation ambition of developing country Parties, including implementation of conditional elements of NDCs. Many Parties underscored the need to take into account the principles of equity and of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances, historic responsibility, the pre-2020 gap, the context of sustainable development, and the nationally determined nature of NDCs.

Many Parties indicated the importance of sectoral elements in guiding concrete actions, including promoting energy transition, renewable energy and energy efficiency, phasing out unabated fossil fuels and fossil fuel subsidies, decarbonizing the power sector, promoting transport electrification, hydrogen, and CO₂ capture, utilization and storage, ending deforestation and reducing non-CO₂ GHG emissions, including methane. Many Parties expressed support for global targets on renewable energy and energy efficiency. Some Parties called for follow up on voluntary initiatives.

Some Parties called for a decision at COP 28, including mitigation elements of the global stocktake, which include a road map, milestones for actions, and measurable quantitative metrics and indicators.

Some Parties suggested that the annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition should focus on high-impact sectors informed by the latest available science and by an annual summary report on the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme.

2. How can the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme be implemented in a solution-oriented manner and how can it facilitate the achievement of results on the ground?

Parties welcomed the appointment of the Co-Chairs of the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, Amr Osama Abdel-Aziz and Lola Vallejo.

Many Parties highlighted that the work programme should be implemented through a focused exchange of views, including on solutions to close ambition and implementation gaps, with the active participation of non-Party stakeholders, practitioners and technical experts, rather than negotiators. Many Parties indicated that the work programme should facilitate international cooperation, including voluntary initiatives, and should provide support to developing country Parties in relation to finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building. Some Parties called for sectoral policy pathways, road maps and benchmarks to promote actions, while other Parties emphasized that the mandate of the work programme should be non-prescriptive, non-punitive, facilitative and respectful of national sovereignty and national circumstances including capacity, taking into account the nationally determined nature of NDCs, and should not impose new targets, goals, benchmarks, projections or scenarios.

Some Parties expected that investment-focused events will connect investors with project proponents to transform early ideas into bankable projects, thereby promoting investment planning and sending a clear signal for investment, including in relation to support for developing countries.

Many Parties welcomed the topic of dialogues under the work programme in 2023 and suggested subtopics for discussion, such as renewable energy (the most frequently mentioned subtopic), energy efficiency, the phase-out of unabated fossil fuels, the broader sustainable development context, the power sector, the regional power grid, hydrogen, CO₂ capture and removal technologies, and biomass energy, while some Parties considered that it was not appropriate to focus discussions on one source of energy. Some Parties suggested inputs to the dialogue, including the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC and relevant work of international organizations and the secretariat, such as the NDC synthesis report.

Some Parties expected that the work programme will lead to recommendations for action, including through the annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition. In this regard, some Parties supported the inclusion of an item in the agendas of the fifty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies to consider elements of a CMA decision on the work programme, while some Parties considered the inclusion of an agenda item unnecessary.

Concerns were raised by some Parties that participation in the first global dialogue of the work programme is limited to two people per Party, which could constrain the ability to convene discussions with a diverse set of experts. Some Parties suggested that the second global dialogue should be held in conjunction with other international events so as to encourage the participation of practitioners, investors and financiers, rather than negotiators, while other Parties proposed that the second global dialogue to be conducted in conjunction with COP28 so as to ensure maximum participation and to ensure that it is conducted under the formal process