



Consultation on Net Zero Recognition and Accountability Framework - Newsletter #1

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to share our first newsletter for the consultation on the Net Zero Recognition and Accountability Framework, taking place in October and November.

The aim of this newsletter is to share some context and practical information on the consultation. In short - the what, why, where, when and how.

As this consultation is about listening and learning, we would also like to use future editions of this newsletter to update you about our progress.

In this first newsletter, you will find:

- A short introduction to the consultation, its context and purpose, from us, the two Co-Chairs:
 - Sarah Bloom Raskin, former Deputy Secretary of the United States Treasury and currently Distinguished Professor of Law at Duke University, and
 - Dr. Bing Leng, member of the International Sustainability Standards Board.
- Frequently Asked Questions, with guidance including:
 - Who we are seeking to consult: namely, senior leaders from the private sector and municipal governments, key institutions and civil society experts
 - The main output we are anticipating from the consultation: namely, a set of operational guideposts that we aim to provide at or around COP28 in Dubai
 - An Information Note on the consultation, recently published ahead of New York Climate Week and linked [here](#)
 - Formats of the consultation – including virtual town hall meetings, written submissions, one-on-one meetings, an on-line survey – and how to participate
- The membership of the consultation’s Advisory Group

To each of you, thank you for your interest in this important consultation. Your expertise, your perspectives and ideas are vital and deeply valued.

We encourage you to start planning your participation as soon as possible, given the short two-month consultation period.

We look forward to hearing from you, and will be happy to answer any initial questions you might have.

Sarah, Bing and the consultation team

1. Introduction from the Co-Chairs - Sarah Bloom Raskin and Bing Leng

This shift to a net zero global economy has started, and now needs to move to a higher speed. While more ambition is needed on all fronts, firms and municipalities have never been more crucial.

We know that many first movers are leading groundbreaking innovations and helping to catalyze the global transition to net zero. We also know that many businesses, banks, investors, cities and regions are making fuzzy claims, or face barriers that are limiting their ambition or slowing their progress. These barriers include: navigating amidst conflicting standards, definitions and accounting rules; sorting through a cacophony of reporting frameworks; dealing with poor quality or inaccessible data; and reconciling voluntary requirements and regulations.

To enable more firms to accelerate their net zero transitions, it's crucial to identify these obstacles, so that they can be addressed and ultimately dismantled. Through this consultation, we want to hear what you believe is needed to do this. In particular:

- What is needed to inspire more businesses, banks, investors, cities and regions to raise their ambition, and bring net zero solutions to the market?
- What will drive more robust and transparent pledges, interim targets and transition plans?
- What are the pain points that are restricting more real economy players from engaging?
- What are the most pressing bottlenecks to higher ambition, and what role can the United Nations play in alleviating them?
- Is there sufficient work being done regarding the availability and quality of transition data? If not, what other work is necessary?
- Should there be a set of factors to consider in determining which standardized reporting frameworks should be used for which purposes?

- What is the right intergovernmental or international body to engage in governance issues? Does or should the UNFCCC (also known as UN Climate Change) play a role in catalyzing progress? What other United Nations bodies play a role?
- To what extent is the UNFCCC's Global Climate Action Portal (GCAP) a useful vehicle for delivering transparency? For it to meet this purpose, what kind of changes need to be made? Should there be a set of factors to consider, or rules to be established, to facilitate digital consumption of climate-related data?
- What processes should be considered for addressing related issues relevant to equity, distributional impact, the participation of small and medium businesses, and geographical contexts?

These are the types of questions on which we are seeking your perspectives, and which will be included in a public survey we will share in the weeks ahead, as one way you will be able to participate in this consultation.

This consultation builds on the work of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Expert Group on the Net Zero Pledges of Non-State Entities (the "Expert Group"). The Expert Group's report - launched at COP27 and entitled *Integrity Matters: Net Zero Commitments by Businesses, Financial Institutions, Cities and Regions* - sets a clear and ambitious direction of travel for credible net zero pledges.

This consultation is not intended to re-open the findings of the Expert Group, which has now concluded its work. Nor will this consultation address all aspects of the *Integrity Matters* report. Rather, this consultation follows the *Integrity Matters* report, with a focus on those elements relevant to the UNFCCC's work ahead related to developing the Net Zero Recognition and Accountable Framework.

As this consultation is about listening carefully and learning, we intend to have honest discussions. We seek your candid and constructive perspectives and your practical, solutions-oriented ideas.

As we listen, we will be taking your feedback on how to enable and unlock net zero leadership focused on rapid decarbonization and supply chain transformations.

We won't answer every question or solve every problem, and the United Nations certainly cannot be the entity that imposes solutions. Our aim is to provide a set of operational guideposts for recognition and accountability, at or around COP28 in December. For issues we can't address by then, we aim to propose a roadmap to navigate these obstacles as quickly as possible.

We hope you will join this consultation and share your ideas to help the net zero transition move into a higher speed.

2. Frequently Asked Questions

Please click on this [link](#) to find Frequently Asked Questions.

This document may be updated as we hear more questions over the course of the consultation.

3. Advisory Group

An Advisory Group will provide advice to the Co-Chairs in terms of undertaking the consultations, and assist in the finalization of the outputs of the consultation.

We are pleased to share that the following individuals have agreed to serve on the Advisory Group. We are in the process of confirming the participation of a few other potential members for broader representation.

- Ms. Razan Al Mubarak, High Level Climate Champion
- Mr. Rodrigo Buenaventura, Chair, International Organization of Securities Commissions - Sustainable Finance Task Force
- Ms. Tariye Gbadegesin, CEO, ARM Harith Infrastructure Investments Limited
- Ms. Irene Heemskerck, Head of Climate Change Centre, European Central Bank
- Dr. Ma Jun, President, Institute of Finance and Sustainability China
- Ms. Rachel Kyte, Dean Emerita, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University
- Ms. Sherry Madera, CEO, Carbon Disclosure Project
- Ms. Maria Mendiluce, CEO, We Mean Business
- Mr. Michael McRaith, Vice Chair, Insurance Solutions, Brookfield
- Ms. Surabi Menon, Executive Director, Partnerships, COP28
- Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, High Level Climate Champion
- Mr. John Schindler, Secretary General, Financial Stability Board
- Mr. Eric Usher, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative
- Mr. Manuel Pulgar Vidal, Global Leader Climate & Energy, WWF
- Mr. Daniel Wang, Chair, Sustainable Insurance Forum
- Mr. Mark Watts, CEO, C40 Cities

The Co-Chairs and UNFCCC thank the members of the Advisory Group for sharing their valuable time and expertise.