

EIG statement for the GST Roundtable on Adaptation

The EIG is pleased to give its views in this roundtable since Adaptation is part of the main objectives of the Paris Agreement. First of all, we'd like to reiterate that limiting warming to 1.5°C is also crucial for the adaptation and loss and damage agenda.

We have seen and documented dramatic changes in EIG's member countries and all regions' Ecosystems. If the current degradation and the loss of ecosystems trend are maintained, it will increase the population vulnerability and our socio-economic activities, such as tourism and agricultural sectors; while energy and communication infrastructures show high exposure to extreme rain, winds, and temperature conditions.

We shouldn't forget the impact in the Cryosphere and our mountains. Even if we limit carbon emissions to zero today, we will still face the loss of many glaciers, research in the Arctic, on Greenland and Antarctica as well as in the Himalayas and Andes, scientists have shown that dramatic changes in the Cryosphere are increasing in scale and speed and this will mean serious water scarcity for farmers and communities downstream, especially in the summer months.

This highlights the urgency of enhancing ambition and action in relation to adaptation, mitigation, and finance in this critical decade.

The Global Stocktake must address the gaps between current efforts and science-based pathways that can prevent the crossing of additional, essentially permanent thresholds in the coming five-year period. It also should assess and show the challenges of implementation of adaptation, on the short-term and long-term, including the stocktake of the process, through the adaptation policy cycle, the risk assessment, the political commitment and follow-through, institutional frameworks, policies and instruments with clear goals and priorities, enhanced knowledge on impacts and solutions and monitoring, evaluation and learning; as well as means of implementation such as mobilization of and access to adequate financial resources, needed capacities, and technologies to accelerate systems transformation towards a more resilient world.

The GST also should support Parties to submit their Adaptation Communications noting that several documents can serve as AdComs, and recalling that one of the listed purposes of AdComs is to *Provide input to the global stocktake* (e.g. in 9/CMA.1). The GST should support efforts to improve monitoring & evaluation of adaptation action.

It should show how different adaptation measures can boost action and drive ambition. In that regard, we would like to highlight the importance of Nature-Based Solutions with an ecosystem-based approach, in particular those actions that aim at protecting and conserving ecosystems, that yield immediate benefits, without overlooking restoration efforts. The IPCC in its latest report recalls that healthy ecosystems are more resilient to climate change and provide life-critical services such as food and clean water.

Additionally, the GST should be inclusive governance processes that include different stakeholders, and inform the work conducted under existing processes under the UNFCCC and beyond, including the newly adopted Adaptation GGA Framework.

The GST could highlight best practices to avoid maladaptation and to promote climate resilient development strategies. The GST should also support efforts in strengthening the global community's management of transnational risks, namely regional or global risks which could be missed at the national level, where adaptation planning usually takes place.

Human rights, like the right to drinking water, food, and health, depend strongly on the natural ecosystem's health and functionality, soils and biological diversity found on them. In this sense, GST should promote the implementation of adaptation measures to reduce the vulnerability to climate change that considers the needs of gender groups, as well as institutional arrangements to consider the needs and participation of some vulnerable groups to climate change (women, children, indigenous peoples, youth and elderly people) and promoting inclusion and recognition of scientific knowledge and its overall application with the expertise of indigenous peoples under the principle of intergenerational equity.

Loss and Damage needs to be addressed as a continuum; therefore, the GST should recommend solutions to ensure synergies between adaptation, disaster risk management and other approaches to avert, minimize and address loss and damage.

The GST can highlight the urgent need to scale up prevention efforts, in order to make countries and communities more resilient to the adverse effects of climate change and to reduce the scale of both economic and non-economic losses and damages.

It should give specific recommendations on key actions that should be taken across the spectrum of actions to avert, minimize and address loss and damage, including with regards to comprehensive risk assessment and management, early warning systems, emergency preparedness, post-disaster relief and reconstruction, including building back better and recommend scaling up promising approaches, such as anticipatory action.

Given the significant institutional developments on L&D since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, with inter alia the establishment of the Santiago Network, the establishment of several expert groups under the Executive Committee of the WIM and the recent decisions on funding arrangements for L&D, the GST could take stock of the advances made in terms of the L&D governance/architecture, and it should provide recommendations on how to ensure a holistic, effective and efficient institutional architecture for L&D, with a view to informing the WIM Review in 2024. By taking stock of the existing funding flows as well as gaps in the ecosystem of funding for loss and damage under and outside UNFCCC, the GST can feed into the deliberations on the new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage and point to areas requiring greater attention in the Glasgow Dialogue.