



Frequently Asked Questions

LIST OF QUESTIONS

Q: Why is this consultation taking place? ↵

Q: Who are you aiming to consult with? ↵

Q: What is the Net Zero Recognition and Accountability Framework and Implementation Plan? ↵

Q: How does this relate to the work of the UN Secretary-General's Expert Group on Net Zero Pledges of Non-State Entities? ↵

Q: Is the consultation only seeking views on Recommendation 8 of the Integrity Matters report (on Transparency and Accountability), or are views on other Recommendations, or matters not in the Integrity Matters report, open for discussion in the consultations? ↵

Q: Does the consultation aim to help in holding all firms and municipalities to the same standards? ↵

Q: What are the expected deliverables? ↵

Q: Who might these guideposts apply to? ↵

Q: What type of obstacles is this consultation seeking views on? ↵

Q: What are the formats and timelines of the consultation? ↵

Q: Why is the United Nations doing this? What is the relevance of the United Nations in non-state entities' climate ambitions? ↵

Q: How does this consultation relate to the UNFCCC's Global Climate Action Portal and The Net Zero Data Public Utility? ↵

Q: Why is this consultation taking place?

- There is growing progress and innovation towards a net zero and clean energy economy by many firms, cities, and regions around the world – decarbonizing value chains, moving operations to rely only on clean energy, and developing low carbon investment funds, among many other actions.
- At the same time, it is vital that all of this work is credibly matched to a 1.5 degree celsius, climate-resilient trajectory, backed up by credible near-term actions.
- While many businesses, cities and regions have set their sights on net zero emissions, many face barriers limiting their ambition or slowing their progress. What is needed now are steps to identify and address these obstacles, so that more firms and municipalities can take stronger, more transparent actions to arrive at ambitious net zero goals faster.
- To do this, it is essential to listen carefully to as many voices as possible – to learn about their progress, show others what is credible, and also understand what is holding them back. In particular, there is a need to understand how to refine approaches to transparency to promote greater ambition, and enable more consolidation, standardization and comparability.
- This independent stakeholder consultation will address these issues, and inputs to the consultation will help inform the development of the UNFCCC's Net Zero Recognition and Accountability Framework and Implementation Plan.

Q: Who are you aiming to consult with?

- We intend to speak directly with leading CEOs and other corporate executives, mayors, governors, and a range of leaders and experts from across sectors and regions, key institutions including Multilateral Development Banks and civil society groups.

Q: What is the Net Zero Recognition and Accountability Framework and Implementation Plan?

- The Framework's main objective is to set out the principles of engagement, governance, and data management to recognize net zero leadership and ensure greater accountability for climate actions by 'non-state' actors - that is, by businesses, investors, and city and regional governments.

- The Framework covers individual entity's net zero pledges and goals as well as voluntary alliances, coalitions and initiatives. It aims to provide assurance to Parties (that is, nations that are party to the Paris Agreement) and the public regarding:
 - The integrity of voluntary commitments, their alignment with the Paris Agreement and a 1.5 degree celsius trajectory;
 - Credibility, leadership and recognition of progress toward commitments made by non-Party stakeholders;
 - Identification of systemic barriers faced by non-Party stakeholders in undertaking climate action;
 - Transparency regarding the systemic impact of those who have not taken, or are not delivering on, their voluntary climate commitment.

- Once the principles are established, non-Party stakeholder contributions and progress toward the Paris Agreement will be regularly recognized on the Global Climate Action Portal (GCAP).

Q: How does this relate to the work of the UN Secretary-General's Expert Group on Net Zero Pledges of Non-State Entities?

- This consultation builds on the work of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Net Zero Pledges of Non-State Entities. 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 does it relate to all aspects of the Integrity Matters report. Rather, this consultation is the next logical step following from the Integrity Matters report, with a focus on those elements relevant to the UNFCCC's work ahead developing the Net Zero Recognition and Accountable Framework.

Q: Is the consultation only seeking views on Recommendation 8 of the Integrity Matters report (on Transparency and Accountability), or are views on other Recommendations, or matters not in the Integrity Matters report, open for discussion in the consultations?

- As the consultation will help inform the development of the Net Zero Recognition and Accountability Framework, Recommendation 8 is one that we would anticipate will be in focus.
- Recommendation 8 also touches on a vast range of other issues which are discussed elsewhere in the Integrity Matters report, so it is possible that participants in the consultation might wish to discuss other recommendations, or matters not covered in the Integrity Matters report.
- The consultation is not intended to examine progress, obstacles and solutions across all Recommendations in the Integrity Matters report. There are a range of processes on other fronts focused on various elements of the report, which processes should be respected. This consultation is primarily to inform the development of the Net Zero Recognition and Accountability Framework.

Q: Does the consultation aim to help in holding all firms and municipalities to the same standards?

- It is clear there are many net zero pathways already being traveled, with varying degrees of progress, as well as a wide range of obstacles holding back progress.
- In different parts of the world, and in different sectors, firms and sub-national governments are operating in very diverse and complex conditions. These different contexts translate into different pledges, transition pathways and implementation plans, which represent important initial steps forward.
- It is also clear that many firms and subnational governments are eager to move faster to align with the Paris Agreement and 1.5 degree trajectories, with many facing barriers to doing so.
- The rising costs of climate impacts to people, businesses and economies in every country mean we can no longer afford any firms sitting on the fence.

- The consultation will help to take stock of all of these data and perspectives, so as to help enable higher ambition and credible progress aligned with the 1.5 degree global trajectory that the world urgently needs.

Q: What are the expected deliverables?

- Our aim is to provide a report including key findings and potential pathways forward, expected in the early months of 2024.
- For elements that cannot be addressed by then, we aim to propose a roadmap for navigating around these obstacles as quickly as possible.

Q: Who might these guideposts apply to?

- This is a genuine consultation with the central purpose of listening and learning from the many experts in the private sector, and in city and regional governments. As a result, we do not intend to pre-empt the consultation by predicting its outcomes, or whom they might apply to, before the consultation is concluded.

Q: What type of obstacles is this consultation seeking views on?

- We have seen rapid growth in net zero initiatives and transition plans, as well as growth in different standards for disclosure in different analytical platforms to assess progress towards net zero pledges. These are necessary first steps, however their proliferation is creating confusion and duplication of efforts. There is often a lack of common metrics or unified reporting systems.
- Also, entities around the world are able to move at very different speeds, and are operating in very different economic, political and commercial environments. So, it is essential that all entities have access to practical frameworks and tools that can help them make and deliver credible, robust net zero pledges, and be recognised for their efforts.
- Many businesses, investors, cities and regions also face policy bottlenecks that are holding back their transitions, but are not yet connected to policy solutions that can help speed up their transitions, and unlock capital and technological innovation.

Q: Could this result in more reporting and obligations on businesses or municipalities?

- No, the recommendations are not expected to create new or additional reporting or compliance requirements.
- This is not about reinventing the wheel or creating additional new reporting requirements on top of existing voluntary and compliance net zero obligations.
- On the contrary, this is about taking stock of the progress made so far, along a range of different pathways, as well as identifying obstacles and exploring possible solutions to help address and ultimately dismantle them.
- In particular, there is a need to understand how to refine approaches and unlock barriers to transparency to promote greater ambition, and enable more consolidation, standardization and comparability.

Q: What are the formats and timelines of the consultation?

- Town hall format consultations are expected to take place in October and November, in a virtual format. Specific dates of these town halls are being finalized and will be added to this webpage.
- A public survey will also be distributed widely to complement the formal written submission process previously launched by UNFCCC. The purpose of this survey is to seek feedback from a wide range of stakeholders around the world and gather data in a comparable format. This survey will be open to all interested in participating. It will be posted online on this webpage and shared widely in the coming weeks.
- The consultation will also engage directly with leading CEOs and senior executives, mayors, governors and other private sector and municipal executives, a diverse range of leaders and experts representing various sectors and regions across the globe, as well as Multilateral Development Banks and civil society organizations.

Q: Why is the United Nations doing this? What is the relevance of the United Nations in non-state entities 'climate ambitions?

- The UN has always encouraged climate actions by non-state entities. The Paris Agreement and subsequent UN climate conferences and initiatives mobilized an unprecedented number of businesses, financial institutions, cities and regions to develop climate action

plans and engage with their governments to support the global goals of limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees celsius and building climate resilience.

- Non-state climate ambition cannot be divorced from the pledges and transition plans of national governments, and decarbonization is not only a responsibility of national governments. Collaboration between national governments, subnational governments and central actors in the real economy – particularly businesses, financial institutions and entrepreneurs – is essential to bending the global emissions curve downwards urgently to protect communities, businesses and economies everywhere from the worst impacts of the climate crisis.
- The UN is the largest intergovernmental organization in the world and has a responsibility to provide platforms for non-state entities to bring forward their commitments, highlight bottlenecks they face, and devise solutions in collaboration with national governments.

Q: How does this consultation relate to the UNFCCC’s Global Climate Action Portal and The Net Zero Data Public Utility?

- The Net Zero Data Public Utility (NZDPU) is part of the UNFCCC’s Global Climate Action Portal (GCAP) upgrade efforts. Bloomberg Philanthropies and partners are developing the NZDPU platform to be provided to the GCAP.
- The Global Climate Action Portal and the Net Zero Data Public Utility, based on a well-functioning data governance architecture, aim to make high-quality, comparable global climate transition data freely available in order to ease the data and reporting burdens on government and non-state entities’ climate progress, and uncover current blind spots in net zero reporting – particularly supply chain data.
- This consultation will engage businesses, financial institutions and municipal governments about the bottlenecks they are facing with regards to access to high-integrity data on their operational and supply chain emissions. It aims to provide a report including key findings and potential pathways forward, expected in the early months of 2024. That information could ultimately be incorporated into the next iteration of the Global Climate Action Portal.