

U.S. Submission on the Draft Guiding Questions for the Technical Assessment of the First Global Stocktake

The United States appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the draft Guiding Questions for the Technical Assessment of the first Global Stocktake (GST). We recognize that the Guiding Questions are intended to facilitate, rather than constrain, the assessment. At the same time, we think it is important to adjust them in a few ways.

- First, given that the questions were prepared before Glasgow, they need to be updated to **factor in the Glasgow outcome**.
- Second, the questions should be **structured in a two-tiered manner** so that there are general, cross-cutting questions that cut across all thematic areas and more specific questions that capture unique aspects of particular topics. Relatedly, because considerations of “equity” and “the best available science” will be relevant throughout the GST process, this point should be stated at the top rather than selectively embedded in certain questions.
- Third, recognizing that there is already a broad awareness that collective efforts are not currently sufficient to achieve the long-term goals, the technical assessment should include a significant focus on **identifying opportunities and solutions** for accelerating action and support.
- Fourth, while we recognize that it is debatable whether certain provisions of the Paris Agreement are or are not “long-term goals” within the meaning of the GST mandate, we think that, as a practical matter, the GST will be less diffuse and therefore more effective if it **concentrates on the provisions that appear to be consensus long-term goals**, i.e., Article 2.1(a) to (c) and Article 7.1.
- Fifth, given the mandated assessment of “collective” progress, the questions should also address **commitments/implementation efforts of a wide range of stakeholders** across national and subnational governments, civil society, and the private sector; their actions support progress towards the Paris long-term goals.
- Finally, for those less steeped in Paris Agreement terminology/mandates, it would be more **promote wider accessibility to use clear language**.

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**Draft guiding questions by the SB Chairs for the Technical Assessment component of the
first Global Stocktake
(US Suggested Edits)**

Participants should consider the following questions during the technical dialogue, taking into account that the Global Stocktake is to be conducted in the light of equity and best available science:

Cross-cutting questions to be considered within each thematic area:

1. What are good practices, opportunities, and challenges to enhance action and support to achieve the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, including in the short term?
2. Recognizing that progress towards the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement is advanced by the actions of a variety of stakeholders through different fora and initiatives, what are the contributions towards collective progress that have been made through:
 - a. Parties commitments and actions under the Paris Agreement, including the Glasgow Climate Pact and other outcomes of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement and as reflected in nationally determined contributions, adaptation communications, national adaptation plans, and biennial reporting;
 - b. Initiatives of Parties outside the Paris Agreement process;
 - c. Actions or initiatives conducted through other international fora or international organizations;
 - d. Commitments and actions of non-party stakeholders, including subnational governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector;
 - e. Multi-stakeholder initiatives involving both Parties and non-Party stakeholders?
3. What opportunities are there for enhancing the actions and contributions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders to support accelerated progress in achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement?

Mitigation:

6. What is the collective progress made towards holding the temperature increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels?
7. Taking into account NDCs and relevant commitments and initiatives, what are projected global greenhouse gas emissions? When is the peaking of global greenhouse gas emissions projected to occur, and is it expected that collectively we are on track to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases on a timeframe consistent with achieving the temperature goal described in Article 2 paragraph 1 of the Paris Agreement?

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Adaptation:

8. What is the collective progress made towards increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas development?
9. What is the overall progress in enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change?
10. What adaptation efforts have developing countries undertaken to address their adaptation needs?
11. How adequate and effective are current adaptation efforts and support provided for adaptation? What efforts have countries made to establish monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems to inform and improve adaptation planning and implementation?

Finance flows and means of implementation:

12. What is the collective progress made towards making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development?
13. How have efforts regarding the mobilization and provision of support, including finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building contributed towards implementation of the Paris Agreement and collective progress towards its purpose and long-term goals?

Guiding questions related to efforts referred to in decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 6 (b),¹ that:

Address the social and economic consequences and impacts of response measures:

14. What efforts to address the social and economic consequences and impacts of response measures are relevant to the work of the global stocktake?

Avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change:

15. What efforts to enhance understanding, action and support towards averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change are relevant to the work of the global stocktake?

¹ According to decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 6, the technical dialogue will: ... “(b) organize its work in line with taking stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving its purpose and long-term goals, including under Article 2, paragraph 1(a–c), in the thematic areas of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support, noting, in this context, that the global stocktake may take into account, as appropriate, efforts related to its work that: (i) Address the social and economic consequences and impacts of response measures; (ii) Avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change”.