



Global Stocktake

Submission by Iceland on the third meeting of the technical dialogue of the first global stocktake.

June 23, 2023

Iceland was pleased to take part in the third and final Technical Dialogue of the first Global Stocktake.

We are grateful for the leadership of the co-facilitators through the process which was carried out in an open and inclusive process. We appreciated the innovative approaches taken to facilitate the discussion.

The Global Stocktake process, including the technical dialogues, have improved our understanding of our collective progress towards reaching our common goals under the Paris Agreement. The outputs of these discussions should be forward looking and focus towards guiding the political phase, supporting all parties in taking concrete climate action and delivering clear political messages on the urgency to increase ambition to achieve our collective long-term goals.

Iceland emphasises the important role science must play in guiding us towards our common goals. The global stocktake shall be based on best available science, where the IPCC plays a leading role in providing the best available science for informed policy making.

The reports of the technical phase therefore need to address the urgency we face and drive the critical response we need in this critical decade to keep 1.5 degrees within reach. Iceland considers current and future changes in the cryosphere and the ocean to be of great concern. Melting ice and permafrost and their vast global consequences as well as changes in oceans are impacts that should be clearly taken into consideration under the GST. We reiterate how many parties emphasized these issues and expect these issues to be duly reflected in the report.

Iceland would like to emphasize the importance of taking stock of collective progress toward research and monitoring of oceans and marine ecosystems. Progress towards understanding better the specific vulnerability and risk associated with ocean acidification, temperature changes and circulation.

We must also invest early in ambitious adaptation. It is critical to find gripping ways to map out progress across the four stages of the adaptation policy cycle and draw attention to gaps and achievements that can clearly exemplify the need for a stronger response. Under each of those stages, identifying key sites or narratives to assess work on adaptive capacity, reducing vulnerability, and building resilience. For instance, by recording our collective progress to enhance knowledge of our ecosystems, specifically, complicated systemic tipping points for ecosystems and the human societies that are a part of them.

The addendum to the synthesis report talks specifically about transboundary risk, which is important, but there has been less mention of the broader IPCC vocabulary of complex risk, associated with compound and cascading risks. It may be a useful framing for parts of the GST. Impacts can have many different societal consequences which can be difficult to model. We urge the GST to take stock of engagement with complex risk more broadly. With questioning along the lines of: How are Parties and



non-state actors analysing the complicated implications of climate change with reference to for instance tipping points, slow onset events and worst-case scenarios? Recent research states that worst-case scenarios may be a dangerously unexplored topic.

While dark, such questioning can inspire and be a practical exercise on our way to enhance transformational adaptation. For instance, assessing knowledge of complex risk as an enabling condition for planning transformational adaptation, may be a way to get at how sound and holistic our approach to risk assessment and planning currently is.

Iceland has specifically supported research on marine ecosystems with regards to rapid ocean acidification in arctic seas, but more research is needed, and much is to be gained by researching such impacts in areas where changes are happening rapidly.

Looking forward, we see the GST as having the potential to assess regional collaboration on understanding impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation measures, like through regional platforms, regional research programmes and regional knowledge sharing and assessments. In the Nordic countries there is collaboration on adaptation knowledge exchange, through conferences, networks, and publications, to give an example of regional enabling activities. Taking stock of such activities can also involve crosscutting elements such as the involvement of different stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples and their knowledge.

Lastly, finding ways to link assessment of adaptation to progress on mitigation is also important. The GST should strengthen ambitions to act in ways that keep us under the 1.5 degree mark and protect ecosystems around the world. Iceland believes the GST, through this third and last part of the technical dialogue, can help us identify clear options for effective measures and enabling action for adaptation and mitigation.