

The First Global Stocktake Event

Middle East and North Africa Climate Week 2022

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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Summary Report

Prepared by

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#MENA
#CW2022

MENACW2022

Middle East and North Africa
Climate Week

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1. Background

1.1. The Global Stocktake process

The Global Stocktake (GST), aims to take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement¹, to assess the collective progress towards achieving its long-term goals, focused around three themes and in light of equity and the best available science:

- a) Mitigation
- b) Adaptation; and
- c) Means of implementation and support

It may also take into account, as appropriate, efforts related to its work that address the social and economic consequences and impacts of response measures, and avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The outcome of the GST shall inform Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support. This can also advance international cooperation for climate action.



Participants engage in the First Global Stocktake Event at MENA Climate Week 2022.

The first GST was launched at COP26 in Glasgow (CMA3) with the information collection and preparation component and will conclude at COP28 (CMA5) to be held in 2023 in the United Arab Emirates, where the consideration of outputs component will take place.

The GST process aims to enhance ambition and accelerate implementation, engaging a broad range of actors to catalyse action and achieve the Paris Agreement goals included in Article 2.1.²

The first GST technical assessment component will take place over three SB sessions (summer of 2022, winter of 2022 and summer of 2023), based on inputs submitted by Parties, experts, organizations and other stakeholders. During these SB sessions, meetings of the Technical Dialogue (TD) will be organized and facilitated by two co-facilitators (Mr. Farhan Akhtar, USA, and Mr. Harald Winkler, South Africa). The Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), and the TD co-facilitators are the custodians of the GST process. The High-Level Champions also play a key role in the process by enhancing the engagement of non-Party stakeholders.

¹[The Paris Agreement, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(2015\), 21st Conference of the Parties, Paris. Article 14.](#)

²[The Paris Agreement, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(2015\), 21st Conference of the Parties, Paris. Article 2.1.](#)

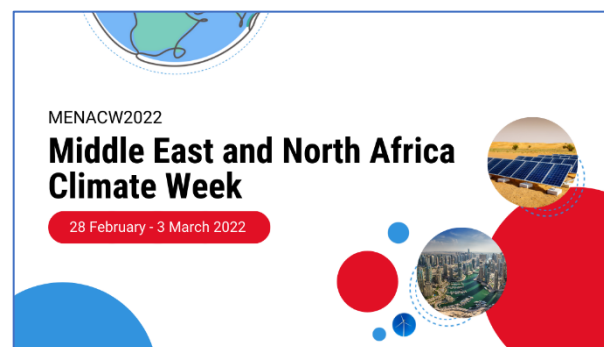
The inputs and engagement of stakeholders from a wide community in the GST process are vital for an equitable, effective, and inclusive GST that empowers greater climate action. Following the first GST process, it will then be performed every 5 years, to ensure on-going assessment of progress toward achieving the Paris Agreement goals.³

1.2. The Middle East and North Africa Climate Week 2022

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has historically relied on domestic fossil fuel resources, with only 1% of total final energy consumption based on renewable energy. The MENA region is also home of some of the world’s first agricultural civilizations, and for millennia communities have been able to adapt and stay resilient. Today the climate is changing at an unprecedented pace, outstretching the ability of countries and communities to cope.

The region has seen some of its worst periods of protracted drought in almost 1,000 years, exacerbating trends of displacement and social vulnerability across the region. Today, the MENA region is the world’s most water scarce and food import-dependent region on the planet, with temperatures rising faster than the world average due to climate change. The region in many ways has seen strong ambition towards resilience in the face of multiple drivers of change in recent years. A need exists to build on this, and craft new nature-based climate resilient paradigms and pathways of development towards 2030 and beyond. The diversity of the MENA region presents both opportunities and challenges for the implementation of action on climate change in this critical decade.⁴

The MENACW 2022, held on 28-31 March in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, provided a platform for governments and other stakeholders to explore climate challenges and to identify opportunities to enhance climate action in the region, and showcase ambitious and innovative solutions.⁵



1.3. Overview and objectives of the First GST MENACW Event

The objectives of the event were to provide information about the process of the first GST, to raise awareness, and to promote engagement among various stakeholders in the MENA region. The event was held on 30 March over three hours, and was structured in three parts – plenary, panel discussion and break-out group discussion. It provided information on the GST process, timelines, sources of input, technical assessment, and expected outcomes. It also provided a space to hold conversations on the GST key themes of mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation (MOI) in the MENA region.

³ More information is available on the [Global Stocktake UN Climate Change webpage](#)

⁴ More information is available on the [MENACW 2022 Programme webpage](#)

⁵ Further information is available on the [MENACW 2022 UN Climate Change webpage](#)

This First GST Event was also an opportunity to discuss possible inputs, at the regional level, on the collective progress made to date, challenges and barriers to achieving the Paris Agreement goals. This provided direction to enhance action and ambition by highlighting effective and innovative solutions in the MENA region.

The event was organized by the Intergovernmental Support and Collective Process (ISCP) Division of UN Climate Change, with the support of the Communications & Engagement (C&E) Division. It was attended by Parties, Non-Party Stakeholders, and experts. Participants took active part in debates and in the breakout group discussions. The presentation included pre-recording video messages by the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies (SBs), as well as the two co-facilitators for the GST technical dialogue (TD). Speakers' details are provided in Chapter 2, below. The event was facilitated by Maria Misovicova, Manager on the UN Climate Change Resources Mobilization and Partnerships team.

2. Key messages

2.1. Keynote speeches

Keynote speeches were given by high-level representatives, with key takeaways from each speech outlined here:

Ambassador Mohamed Nasr, Chief Negotiator and Director General for Climate, Environment and Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, representing the Egypt COP27 Incoming Presidency, provided an overview on the GST process and its importance in the global and regional contexts.

- The GST is part of the ecosystem of the Paris Agreement. It provides the space to assess where we are and how well we have done so far with the Paris Agreement implementation, what are the gaps, where do we need to be, and directions on how to get there – to enhance the different areas of implementation of the Paris Agreement, at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels.
- Climate finance is essential for enabling implementation of mitigation and adaptation, in developing countries. Finance must be made accessible to those who need it most.
- The GST process was designed to be based on equity, sustainable development, and policy space for developing countries is to be taken into consideration.
- The MENA region's engagement in the GST, providing the views, vision, and clear inputs from countries, scientists, civil society, youth, businesses, and other stakeholders of the MENA region, is important for the GST, and will enrich the process.

Ambassador Janet Rogan, COP26 Regional Ambassador for the MENA Region, representing the UK COP26 Presidency focused on the importance of the GST and the Paris Agreement, in the wider context, as an inclusive process, and as linked to the SDGs.

- The Paris Agreement is interlinked with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both launched at around the same time, in 2015. The 17 SDGs (Which include goals such

as justice, sustainable development, means of implementation), were developed through a massive and inclusive global participatory consultation process, around the theme the world we want, and concluded with the overarching message: leave no-one behind.

- Data is crucial to finding out about where the most vulnerable are and where to focus global efforts.
- There is a need to remember the massive link between the climate agenda, the development agenda, and global finance. If the first global stocktake succeeds, there will be a route for transforming global systems and ensuring they are fit for purpose.
- The Global Stocktake must be inclusive both horizontally and vertically, and represent different priorities, with the participation of the private sector and society at all levels, including indigenous people, and with gender, age and geographic balance, across all themes of mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation.

Mr. Nigel Topping, UK High-Level Champion and former CEO of We Mean Business, discussed Non-Party Stakeholder engagement and their essential role in the GST process.

- Non-party stakeholders, represented by the High-Level Champions, as based on the Marrakesh Partnership, have a clear mandate from the Parties, to support the Parties in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. In COP26 the Parties also gave strong mandate to the High-Level Champions to support the effective implementation of the GST, with non-party stakeholders' engagement.
- Non-party stakeholder inputs to the GST can be aggregated at the level of sectors, actors and regions, to converge on the most powerful messages and help raise ambition.
- Non-party stakeholders have the potential to drive countries toward higher ambition, providing the forward-looking approach, based on the most up-to-date data and trends, which provide evidence of potential for more ambition.
- The High-Level Champions will work closely with the SB Chairs and the TD co-facilitators, to ensure that inputs from non-party stakeholders are meaningful and helpful. They will also convene independent dialogues with non-party stakeholders ahead of the TD, to help complement the process.
- The High-Level Champions continue to drive the campaign to race to zero, race to resilience, and enabling achieving the net zero target globally, through the Glasgow finance alliance support.

Ms. Cecilia Njenga, Director of Intergovernmental Support and Collective Process at UN Climate Change, delivered an informative introductory presentation on the GST process;

- The Global Stocktake process is important for enhancing ambition and advocating the urgency, as well as the need for equity and best available science in the climate action process. The GST will facilitate our compliance with the Paris Agreement goals, by identifying the gaps, solutions and best practices that will contribute to enhanced ambition and accelerate implementation.

- It must be inclusive both horizontally and vertically, and represent different priorities, with the participation of the private sector and society at all levels, including indigenous people, and with gender, age and geographic balance, across all themes of mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation.
- Cross-border and regional collaborative approaches should be enhanced, importance of equity. For better collective understanding, it is important to assess the situation of regional realities and the on-ground impact of our responses and involve as many actors as possible. Advert and minimize loss and damage, adverse effects of climate change.
- The technical dialogues will work through a focused exchange of views, information and ideas in session roundtables and other activities on the three thematic areas of mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation. The consideration of outputs will focus on the findings of the technical assessments, with a view to informing parties on updating and enhancing their Nationally Determined Contributions.

2.2 Video messages of the SB chairs and the TD Co-facilitators

The SB chairs and the TD Co-facilitators:

The SB Chairs stressed the importance of the GST and explained their role in overseeing the process. TD co-facilitators provided information on the Technical Dialogue and their role in leading it.

Ms. Marianne Karlsen, Chair of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI):

- The Chairs of the SBSTA and the SBI will be overseeing the first GST process, working with Parties, stakeholders, and the Secretariat, to ensure effective and efficient progress.
- In February the SB Chairs have published the first guiding questions for each of the components of the GST, and they were sent to Parties and stakeholders. They are also available on the UNFCCC website. The SB Chairs also produce non-papers outlining the approach for the information collection and preparation component.
- The first GST will serve to enhance ambition and to bring energy and strength to our collective response to climate change, working together towards a low-emission and climate resilient future.

Mr. Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, Chair of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA):

- The Global Stocktake is at the centre of the Paris Agreement, we need to continue to enhance the role of science within the UNFCCC process.
- Encourage submissions, and the guiding questions and call for inputs can be found on the UNFCCC website SB Chairs will work alongside the UNFCCC on the Global Stocktake.

Mr Harald Winkler, co-facilitator of the first global stocktake:

- The Technical Dialogues are led by two co-facilitators, who have complementary capacities and background - one from a developed country (USA) and one from a developing country (South Africa).
- Harald is a University Professor and has extensive experience in climate science and negotiations, and in interacting with many leading experts and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- Technical dialogue enables a conversation amongst Parties, experts and non-Party stakeholders under the technical component, aiming to take stock in order to move forward while not shying away from the difficult issues.

Mr Farhan Akhtar, co facilitator of the first global stocktake:

- Currently leads the climate science team at the United States Department of State, directing the engagement with the UNFCCC on science issues and at the IPCC, and also spent 5 years on the executive committee on the Warsaw international mechanism on loss and damage
- During the three sessions of the technical dialogue this year and next, the co-facilitators will be drawing on inputs from parties, experts, organizations and stakeholders
- This event, and similar events in regional climate weeks, give an opportunity to learn about the GST, to prepare and to discuss, with focus on regional aspects, and encourage Parties and stakeholders in the region to provide further submissions and inputs.

2.3 Panel discussion

The panel discussion was held around the topic: “How is the MENA region responding to the Paris Agreement goals? Collective progress, ambition, challenges, gaps and opportunities”.

Panellists included leading voices from the region:

- Ms. Hana Al Hashimi, Head, Office of the UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change and UAE Lead Climate Negotiator provided essential information on climate action progress, ambition, challenges, and opportunities in the MENA region, particularly in the UAE.
- Mr. Jamal Srouji, Associate in the Climate Program of the World Resources Institute (WRI), International, as a climate policy expert provided a detailed analysis of several country case studies and approaches, as based on their NDCs, to show-case the overall MENA region response to the Paris Agreement goals, highlighting the positive momentum, gaps and opportunities.
- Ms. Omnia El Omrani, Youth4Climate representative and Lancet-Chatham House Commissioner on Post-COVID Population and Planetary Health, focused on the importance of youth engagement in enhancing ambition and advocating the urgency, as well as highlighting the critical co-benefits of climate action.

The panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Cecilia Njenga.

Key takeaways from the panel discussion outlined MENA region response to the Paris Agreement Goals – progress, ambition, challenges, gaps and opportunities:

- The MENA region is a critical region for the Paris Agreement implementation. The region is under extreme impacts of climate change and related challenges, and many of the countries still rely heavily on hydrocarbons. Some countries in the region also can strengthen institutional and governance framework for climate action, which can encourage implementation in these countries. The MENA region is also the source of many opportunities, especially for the development of renewable energy and sustainable practices, and advancing green technologies, combining tradition and innovation.
- Positive momentum was demonstrated in the MENA regional and country-specific progress and trends, in climate action targets and national commitments, based on the NDCs and long-term strategies, as well as an overall regional analysis, based on the World Resources Institute (WRI) tracking of national and regional progress.
- MENA region countries have put a lot of effort into trying to achieve the Paris Agreement long-term goals on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation. It is evident in the response of MENA countries to the Paris Agreement, and specifically in the NDCs, as well as in progress in the way the MENA countries communicate their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission targets.
- Of 17 countries in the MENA region, from the Gulf countries in the East to Morocco in the West, 12 countries have already put forward their updated NDCs. It is an indication of the seriousness of MENA region on addressing the climate crisis.
- A growing number of countries, in the MENA region, and mainly in the Gulf sub-region, are moving from focusing only on national climate actions, as stated in the NDCs, to economy wide GHG emission targets, prioritizing action in all sectors.
- The NDCs of many of the MENA countries include conditionality of their targets, emphasizing the need for finance support from developed countries to developing countries, to enable them to raise their ambition and move forward on climate action.
- Adaptation and means of implementation, including finance for climate, are prioritized by many MENA countries. All NDCs submitted by MENA region countries have strong adaptation components, as this region is highly vulnerable to climate impacts in terms of rising temperatures, droughts, and effects on agriculture.

Country case-studies and approaches:

UAE:

- The UAE has been selected to host COP28 in 2023, where the first UN Climate Change conference GST session will be delivered. It was also the first country in the MENA region that submitted an updated NDC in 2020. They were also the first country in the MENA region that announced a net-zero target by 2050, followed by Saudi Arabia and Bahrein. The country has enhanced the quality of its GHG emission targets, with economy-wide reduction target of 23% above baseline. The UAE also goes above and

beyond regarding renewable energy targets, prioritizing action in sectors such as water, transport, and buildings, and putting forward some innovations;

- The UAE Lead Climate Negotiator has stated that the UAE government is enhancing its climate response and climate action, aiming to keep the 1.5C target alive, based at the national level on the following overarching principles:
 - Inclusive and cooperative spirit
 - Not only outlining the gaps, but also laying a relevant and actionable roadmap of how to close these gaps, with a real focus on support for implementation and capacity building for developing countries and the most vulnerable
 - Clear communication of the information generated through the GST and associated recommendations, in a way that is useful for a range of stakeholders at both the developing and developed world but also for those outside the UNFCCC process, in order to increase impact
 - Advocating a systemic approach at the international community level, addressing cross-cutting issues, particularly equity, and connecting to mobilize policy makers, civil society, and other stakeholders
- There are people from over 200 nationalities living in the UAE, and the government is priding in cross-cultural and diverse perspectives, enhancing tolerance and inclusivity;

Lebanon:

- Lebanon is a very small country with a small share in the global GHG emissions. It is going through an unprecedented financial and monetary crisis. Nevertheless, Lebanon has raised its climate mitigation ambition and its target of reducing emissions was raised from 15% to 20% by 2030. Lebanon has also raised its targets for renewable energy, adaptation measures, and strengthening adaptation. The government of Lebanon has declared that the economic crisis as an opportunity to push toward green recovery.

Morocco:

- Morocco is leading in climate action, and especially in renewable energy investment. Morocco has raised its climate mitigation targets from 32.5% to 45%, comprising of both conditional (of international support) and unconditional targets, demonstrating the progress of the country in climate action ambition.
- Morocco has also introduced into the country's climate commitments new targets on industrial sub-sectors such as cement and phosphates (Morocco holds almost 75% of the world's phosphate resources), proposing innovative new ways to tackle emissions from these sectors. Morocco has also strengthened its adaptation components, with comprehensive adaptation targets.

Regional collaboration:

- Regional collaboration was highlighted as a key for successful implementation of the Paris Agreement at both regional and country levels, in the MENA region. There is

evident progress in the regional collaboration. Specifically, Saudi Arabia has put forward the Middle East Green Initiative and invited countries to collaborate on climate action, new technologies, new innovations, combining traditional and innovative practices (for example, in agriculture), and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and capacity building.

Youth engagement:

- The importance of the civil society engagement, and particularly of youth engagement, in climate action in the MENA region, as well as of an inter-generation dialogue, was emphasized. The young people are the biggest demographic group on earth, and they are the ones who will live the impact of the lack of urgency in emission reduction.
- Young people in the MENA region are doing impressive groundwork, with communities, and in leading the introduction of innovative solutions for transformative climate action.
- Youth engagement in advocacy and negotiations and their participation, in a meaningful way, in the COPs, SBs and other climate meetings, empowers them, and enables them to bring in their own grass-root perspectives, based on first-hand knowledge of challenges and opportunities, and the most essential aspects that they are exposed to, and thereby to advocate the urgency to act on climate in the national, regional and global dialogues.
- For example, the participation of medical students and young medical doctors in delegations enabled increased awareness on links between climate change and health, and to the understanding of the urgency, as seen in a survey conducted during COP25.
- Youth forums have importance at national, regional and global levels, for young people to identify national priorities and opportunities and work with governments, civil society organizations and UN agencies, and take action. Youth delegation systems, to attend climate conferences, are developed by youth, and in some cases, they are supported by governments (for example, in Morocco). It is important to have more young people in the delegations in the MENA region, to enable them to gain experience in negotiations, get exposure to what is done by the policy makers, and then help build capacity of other youth through peer-to-peer education, empowering one another.

The co-benefits of climate action:

- In 2022 the IPCC report has stated that the climate crisis is a threat to human well-being. Climate change is not only impacting the environment, but it is interlinked with human health and well-being. Climate change and pollution have severe impacts on physical and mental health. They generate respiratory and other diseases, heat stress, mental stress, malnutrition in children, occupational injuries, and negative impacts on labor capacity, water and food security and crop quality.
- These hazards are particularly manifested in the MENA region. Reducing emissions would entail reduced air pollution, improved quality of air and water, and reduced increase in temperatures. It would have clear benefits for human physical and mental health. It would also increase labor capacity, and thereby support a more prosperous economy, and a safe and green sustainable future.

Ambition and urgency:

- To keep the 1.5°C target alive we must cut our emissions globally by half by 2030 below 2010 levels. We also must strive to reach net zero emissions by mid-century. Therefore nations, and all non-party stakeholders must make all effort to reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate impacts. We do have the capacities, technologies, and resources to do that, and we need the will. The MENA region, which is particularly sensitive to climate change impacts, can take a lead on advocating the urgent action.

2.4 Breakout groups

The third part of the meeting included interactive discussions of the participants, held in two breakout groups, moderated by:

- Ms. Omnia El Omrani
- Ms. Guly Sabahi, Senior Adviser, Climate Finance, the NDC Partnership Support Unit

The breakout group discussions were held around the following questions:

1. How is the region meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, particularly considering Article 2.1, as well as goals on mitigation, adaptation and Means of Implementation?
2. To achieve the Paris Agreement goals: What further action is required? What are the barriers and challenges, and how can they be addressed at regional level? What are the opportunities, good practices, lessons learned and success stories?

The following key takeaways were reported by the breakout group moderators and rapporteurs⁶:

How is the region meeting the Paris Agreement goals?

- Despite the vulnerability of the MENA region to climate change, and the many challenges that the region is facing, there is significant progress toward meeting the Paris Agreement goals. The NDC reporting is in line with the international guidelines. Further work on strengthening the NDCs is on-going. In several countries (e.g., UAE, Egypt, Lebanon) substantive progress is enabled through mainstreaming climate actions into holistic government approaches, which is supported by the Arab League.

Barriers and challenges:

- Insufficient access to finance is the main challenge in the region, in particular finance for the needed actions, as defined in the NDCs
- Difficulty to include vulnerable communities in the process and to define their needs
- Lack of sufficient capacities for drafting the NDCs and for drafting the implementation action programs
- Lack of accountability in most countries

⁶ Based on the notes provided by Breakout Groups 1 and 2

Action proposed:

- Broad capacity building for all stakeholders
- Cross border collaboration and sharing success stories and lessons learned from failures
- Linking NDCs actions with government objectives and Key Performance Indicators
- Mainstreaming climate change into higher education and involving faculties and students in the conversation

Specific action proposed for improved access to finance:

- Making an economic case for the action programs of the NDCs
- Raising awareness among investors about the NDCs and NDC-aligned projects and programs that require private sector investment
- Strengthening the capacity of the public sector re private sector investor expectations, business case elements and financing instruments
- Facilitating development of a portfolio of bankable projects, to be financed by sovereign and MDB bonds and large-scale blended funds
- Having greater private sector engagement during climate weeks and COPs, focusing on tested solutions and innovative financing mechanisms
- Capacity support and engagement with policymakers and legislators re an enabling environment (legislation, institutional frameworks, project/PPP frameworks) to align the NDCs with national frameworks, as well as with MDBs' country frameworks, etc
- Ensuring that MDBs and DFIs focus more on leveraging their resources to mobilize the billions of the private sector investment in the region
- Costing of environmental impacts throughout the life cycle of projects
- Regional collaboration through regional investment frameworks, regional climate funds, and regional initiatives fostering peer exchanges

3. Conclusions

Several key principles for a successful GST process were highlighted throughout the meeting speeches and discussions, including:

- The GST enables assessing progress in achieving the Paris Agreement goals over time, and raising ambition on climate action
- Non-party stakeholders can play a key role in supporting the Paris Agreement implementation
- The GST will raise awareness to the urgency and need to enhance ambition to reduce emissions and increase resilience
- An inclusive and balanced process is essential, and including multiple stakeholders, indigenous people and youth engagement
- Equity and fairness are key for a successful process

- Accessible communication, raising awareness, education and capacity building, are key elements
- Financing must be made accessible to those who need it most
- Cross-border, regional and global collaboration is critical

Main conclusions relevant to the MENA Region:

- The NDCs submitted by most countries of the MENA region demonstrate a positive momentum of increased targets on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation
- The MENA region can provide solutions that are based on the combination of tradition and innovation, with youth and other stakeholder engagement
- Enhancing non-party stakeholders engagement, inclusive and balanced participation, equity, and regional collaboration, are all essential for enabling a successful GST process in the MENA region
- Access to finance, especially of the most vulnerable countries in the MENA region, is essential for enabling implementation of the NDCs

Events to support the first Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement are slated to be held at all the Regional Climate Weeks 2022. Visit www.regionalclimateweeks.org for more information.