

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q: What are the key findings and recommendations of the independent consultation?**

- You can read the key findings and recommendations in the letter from the co-independent co-chairs to the UNFCCC Executive Secretary [here](#).

## **Q: How did this consultation come about?**

- The consultation – and the recommendations flowing from it – was conducted in response to an invitation from UNFCCC Executive Secretary Simon Stiell on how best to operationalize the Recommendation 8 of the “[Integrity Matters Report](#)” by the Expert Group established by the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres.

## **Q: How will the recommendations be used by UNFCCC?**

- UNFCCC has indicated it will carefully consider the independent recommendations, and will respond in the period ahead.

## **Q: What is the context of the consultation?**

- The consultation co-chairs have discussed the broader context of the consultation in their newsletter updates throughout the process, available [here](#)

## **Q: What were the formats of the consultation?**

- The consultation engaged 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.
- Town hall format consultations took place in October and November 2023, in a virtual format.
- A public survey was distributed widely to complement the formal written submission process previously launched by UN Climate Change. The purpose of this survey was to seek feedback from a wide range of stakeholders around the world and gather data in a comparable format. This survey was open to all

interested in participating – it was posted online and shared widely.

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### **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 1.5 degrees 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 one aspect of the UN Secretary-General's High Level Expert Group (HLEG) on Net Zero Pledges of Non-State Entities – Recommendation 8: Transparency and Accountability.