

Preparing for the sixtieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies

Joint note by the Chairs

27 May 2024

This informal note has been prepared jointly by the SBSTA Chair (Harry Vreuls) and the SBI Chair (Nabeel Munir) under their own authority. It should be read in conjunction with the reports on SBSTA 59 and SBI 59¹ and the provisional agendas and annotations prepared for SBSTA 60 and SBI 60.²

I. Introduction

1. Last year in the United Arab Emirates, the COP 28 Presidency's leadership and unwavering commitment to protecting our planet and its most vulnerable populations united us all. The United Arab Emirates Consensus and the additional decisions adopted at COP 28 have the potential to put us on a path towards a healthy and resilient planet with thriving economies.
2. Now is the time to capitalize and build on the momentum achieved at the end of last year. Parties need to take this opportunity to identify feasible and effective ways of making the UNFCCC process more conducive to serving their needs and interests, with bold and expeditious decision-making, which is absolutely essential to addressing the magnitude of the climate crisis.
3. The UNFCCC process has evolved over the years, increasing in both scale and complexity. The all-encompassing nature of the climate crisis necessitates deep and meaningful action by every sector and every segment of society. At the heart of the process, collective decisions designed to make a real impact need to be taken as a matter of urgency.
4. Time and again, prioritizing collective interests has proven to be key to achieving ambitious outcomes. In this context, SB 60 will be a critical milestone in the lead-up to COP 29. At SB 60, we are committed to guiding Parties in building on the ambitious outcomes of COP 28 and thus laying a strong foundation for achieving equally ambitious outcomes at COP 29. For this, Parties must conclude or significantly advance technical work in Bonn in order to be able to allocate sufficient time and space in Baku to addressing the most pressing issues.
5. Our first endeavor at SB 60 will be to ensure the smooth and swift adoption of the agendas at the opening plenaries to enable work on all agenda items to commence immediately. Efficient time management is more critical than ever, with an unprecedented number of mandated events and a considerable number of agenda items under consideration at these sessions. To this end and in line with sound established practice, we have prepared this informal note under our own responsibility to help Parties to streamline their focus during deliberations and make vital progress towards outcomes.
6. This informal note provides an outlook for SB 60, including background information on and guidance for carving out ways forward for some matters, and presents our proposed approach to the organization of work during the sessions. Any background information or mandates for agenda items and events not covered in this note can be found in the provisional agendas and annotations.

II. Outlook for the sixtieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies

7. At SB 60, a record 30 mandated events³ are scheduled to take place, many of which over the course of a full day so as to ensure meaningful deliberations and progress. Information on the events

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2023/8 and Add.1 and FCCC/SBI/2023/21 and Add.1.

² FCCC/SBSTA/2024/4 and FCCC/SBI/2024/4.

³ For the schedule of events, see <https://unfccc.int/documents/638226>.

can be found in the provisional agendas and annotations for the sessions as well as on dedicated web pages for individual events.⁴

8. The large number of mandated events coupled with the large number of agenda items poses a significant challenge on many fronts – from reduced preparation time during the pre-session period and less time for negotiations during the sessions to an increased burden on small delegations, which have fewer resources for engaging in negotiations. These challenges are exacerbated by lack of optimal space available at and the opening hours of the World Conference Center Bonn.⁵

9. Of the 30 mandated events, approximately 30% are being organized for the first time, while 60% are standing events and 10% are concluding at these sessions. Prior to these sessions, the first dialogue under the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme and the first of the two global dialogues to be held in 2024 under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme will be organized.

10. At SB 60, dedicated exchange on the following is taking place for the first time:

(a) The annual global stocktake dialogue to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and good practices on how the outcomes of the global stocktake are informing the preparation of Parties' next nationally determined contributions;⁶

(b) An expert dialogue on children and climate change;⁷

(c) An expert dialogue on mountains and climate change.⁸ The dialogue is an important opportunity for exploring ways to accelerate implementation of action and provision of support designed to increase the resilience of mountain ecosystems and communities, including downstream communities and in a transboundary context, to climate change impacts. An informal preparatory meeting was convened virtually with Parties and experts to solicit inputs to the organization of the dialogue. Among others, an International Expert Dialogue on Mountains, People and Climate Change was held in Nepal from 22 to 23 May 2024. The expert dialogue at the SBs could build on these previous engagements and the preparatory work.

11. SB 60 will mark the conclusion of the Glasgow dialogue, which has facilitated the sharing of invaluable inputs to negotiations on arrangements for funding for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with adverse impacts of climate change over the past two years. The second dialogue organized in conjunction with SB 58, for example, informed the work of the transitional committee on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage and the fund established in paragraph 3 of decisions 2/CP.27 and 2/CMA.4 and contributed to the adoption of the historic decisions on this matter at COP 28 and CMA 5. The third and final dialogue, taking place at SB 60, will focus on enhancing coherence and coordination of loss and damage support and the role of the funding arrangements in this context, as well as provide an opportunity for technical discussions on progress made and on next steps, namely scaling up or enhancing existing, or developing new, funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage.

12. We invite Parties, observers and non-State actors to come prepared to contribute and engage actively and ensure that the mandated events serve their intended purpose.

13. In addition, we received proposal for two new agenda items from one Party, which have been included in the provisional agendas for SB 60.⁹ We initiated consultations, including on the margins of the 15th Petersberg Climate Dialogue, with that Party and other Parties and negotiating groups to understand the proposals, facilitate an exchange of views thereon and identify potential solutions. We are committed to continuing to listen to Parties and negotiating groups with a view

⁴ The web pages can be accessed at https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-60#mandated_events and https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-60#mandated_events.

⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/sb60/ifp#Venue>.

⁶ Pursuant to decision 1/CMA.5, para. 187.

⁷ Pursuant to decision 1/CMA.5, para. 182.

⁸ Pursuant to decision 1/CMA.5, para. 181. See also <https://unfccc.int/event/expert-dialogue-on-mountains-and-climate-change>.

⁹ In accordance with rule 10(d) of the draft rules of procedure being applied.

to ensuring a positive and productive start of the sessions, facilitating a common understanding of the matters at hand and developing an approach for the way forward. With this in mind, our aim is to ensure the smooth and swift adoption of the agendas so that work across all mandates can commence promptly.

14. Under some agenda items, little or no progress was made at SB 59 – in some cases, little progress has been seen in the last few sessions. We therefore urge Parties to seize this opportunity for effective engagement and to ensure that no more vital time is lost.

15. Under the SBI agenda item titled “Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings”, Parties must build on previous discussions to identify concrete steps for increasing the efficiency of the UNFCCC process. The increasing scale of UNFCCC conferences in recent years has implications for the transparency, inclusiveness and effectiveness of the process,¹⁰ and has at times stymied progress. To help Parties make progress in increasing the efficiency of the process, several documents¹¹ were requested by the SBI and will be made available for SBI 60. In addition, a virtual informal dialogue on enhancing the efficiency of the process was held on 2 May 2024 and submissions were received from Parties on this matter,¹² both leading to innovative suggestions for ways forward. At SBI 60, Parties have an invaluable opportunity to translate those suggestions into action and shape the future of the process, ensuring that it is fit for purpose and meets their needs.

16. Under the joint agenda item titled “Matters relating to the global stocktake: procedural and logistical elements of the overall global stocktake process”, the focus needs to shift from the conclusion of the first global stocktake in the United Arab Emirates to the implementation of the decision taken there. At SB 60, Parties will work on refining the procedural and logistical elements of the overall process based on experience and lesson learned. Further, under the relevant SBI agenda sub-item, Parties will be tasked with developing modalities for the United Arab Emirates dialogue on implementing the global stocktake outcomes. Parties are encouraged to actively engage in discussions on these matters so as to make progress and allow the dialogue to commence at CMA 6.

17. Progress under the following joint SB agenda items and sub-items is critical:

(a) “Matters relating to the global goal on adaptation”. During the intersessional period, Parties and observers submitted views¹³ on the United Arab Emirates–Belém work programme on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards the targets referred to in paragraphs 9–10 of decision 2/CMA.5 and a workshop on the matter was organized in Bhutan from 15 to 17 May 2024. The workshop provided an opportunity for Parties and experts to initiate discussions on mapping of existing indicators and identifying gaps, as well as on the modalities of the work programme. At SB 60, Parties may wish to determine a timeline and structure for work to be undertaken on this matter between SB 60 and COP 30;

(b) “Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme”. At SB 60, it will be critical for Parties to reach a common understanding on the substantive elements to be addressed and the outcomes to be achieved under this item. We hope that Parties can improve their understanding of the convergences and divergences with a view to laying the foundation needed to achieve effective outcomes in Baku;

(c) “United Arab Emirates just transition work programme”. We encourage Parties to engage in meaningful discussions on the elements, and steps for further operationalization, of the work programme.

18. Under the SBSTA, this is a crucial year for deliberations related to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Under Article 6, paragraph 8, good progress was made in the United Arab Emirates, with SBSTA 60 critical to building thereon and advancing implementation of the activities of the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6,

¹⁰ FCCC/SBI/2023/10, para. 136.

¹¹ FCCC/SBI/2024/8, FCCC/SBI/2024/INF.4 and FCCC/TP/2024/5.

¹² Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (in the search field type “arrangements for intergovernmental meetings”).

¹³ Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (in the search field type “global goal on adaptation”).

paragraph 8, and in decision 4/CMA.3. To this effect and as mandated, the 5th meeting of the Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches will be convened at SBSTA 60 to facilitate further implementation of the work programme with an in-session workshop to be held in conjunction therewith. Further, as part of the in-session workshop, Parties, relevant bodies and representatives of institutional arrangements and processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement are invited to take part in a focused exchange of views on finance, technology and capacity-building support available or provided for identifying and developing non-market approaches. Parties are urged to approach deliberations on Article 6, paragraph 8, at SBSTA 60 with a constructive mindset in order to facilitate rich exchanges of views and advance work on the matter.

19. Under Article 6, paragraphs 2 and 4, Parties were unable to achieve outcomes at COP 28. Parties will be supported in overcoming the current barriers to progress to ensure the full operationalization of the cooperative approaches under Article 6, paragraph 2, and the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, in Baku. To this end, consultations under the SBSTA were held with Parties during the intersessional period to understand the positions and concerns that have prevented progress on these items, and a note containing a proposal on how to proceed will be published shortly under the authority of the SBSTA Chair. In the meantime, Parties are urged to take steps to resolve their differences on these matters before the opening of the sessions in Bonn to ensure that a good outcome on Article 6 can be achieved at COP 29.

20. Further, under the SBSTA agenda sub-item titled “Emissions from fuel used for international aviation and maritime transport”, Parties were unable to make substantive progress on this matter in 2023. To facilitate consideration of this matter and identify a way forward, the SBSTA Chair will facilitate the first informal consultation on this issue. Heads of delegations of all interested Parties are also requested to attend this meeting.

21. In addition, there are a large number of other items on the agendas for SB 60, many of them standing agenda items, which facilitate critical ongoing implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. It is crucial to achieve good outcomes for these items.

22. For some agenda items, intersessional technical work between SB 60 and 61 will be essential to ensure that Parties are well prepared to conclude negotiations in Baku. In such instances, we urge Parties to provide the necessary mandates for this intersessional work.

III. Organization of work

23. We will organize our work at SB 60 by following and building on the coordinated approach developed and strengthened by the SBSTA and the SBI over the years.

24. In the light of the heavy workload at these sessions, we have carefully considered the way we organize our work efficiently and effectively. As in previous sessions, we have given clear guidance to the secretariat for avoiding possible clashes of meetings or mandated events on agenda items with similar or closely related substantive content. We are cognizant, however, that some clashes may be inevitable, especially given the significant number of mandated events and agenda items at these sessions. In such cases, we count on the flexibility and support of Parties. On our end, we will work with the secretariat to ensure that adequate time can be allocated for all agenda items and that the intergovernmental process remains transparent and inclusive.

25. As per recently established practice, we will hold the opening plenaries of the SBSTA and the SBI together, in the morning of Monday, 3 June, at which the provisional agendas for SB 60 will be presented for adoption. We propose organizing and launching work at the sessions as follows:

(a) For most agenda items, establishing a contact group or holding informal consultations and assigning two co-chairs or two co-facilitators to guide the negotiations, which may result in draft conclusions and draft decisions;

(b) For items that do not require negotiation, having the relevant subsidiary body take note of the relevant available information;

(c) For a few items, minimizing the consultation time and, as appropriate, deferring consideration thereof to a future session.

26. Following the opening of the sessions, statements from Parties, groups of Parties and observers will be heard. In the interest of time and considering the heavy workload, we request that the statements from groups of Parties be limited to 5 minutes, those from Parties to 3 minutes and from observers to 2 minutes. Full statements can be uploaded on the submission portal. This will allow us to move swiftly to negotiations in the afternoon of 3 June.

27. We will continue to work very closely with the co-chairs and co-facilitators of contact groups and informal consultations, with coordination meetings convened regularly over the course of the sessions to ensure that any issues, should they arise, are addressed in a timely and effective manner.

28. Our guidance to co-chairs and co-facilitators are, inter alia:

(a) Assist Parties in using time efficiently to develop textual proposals, with a view to these being developed as swiftly as possible, and in agreeing on the use of those proposals as a basis for negotiations in Baku;

(b) Encourage Parties to allow informal consultations to be open to observers wherever possible, in accordance with the relevant previous SBI conclusions;

(c) Encourage Parties to extend requests for submission of information and views to observer organizations where appropriate, in accordance with the relevant previous SBI conclusions;

(d) Seek to finalize draft conclusions or recommendations resulting from the negotiations by noon on 12 June at the latest to allow time for them to be made available as L. documents in the six official United Nations languages before the closing plenary, which is scheduled to take place in the afternoon of 13 June;

(e) Refrain from presenting negotiation outcomes of a procedural nature (i.e., continued consideration at the next session) in L. documents so as to reduce the administrative burden, with such outcomes to instead be orally reported back to Parties at the closing plenary and later captured in the report on the relevant session.

29. We intend to convene the closing plenaries of the SBSTA and the SBI together, similar to the approach applied in the last few sessions.

30. As at previous sessions, at SB 60 we will seek to maintain an open communication channel with observers, for example by convening at the sessions a joint briefing with observer organizations on the issues under consideration.

31. Unlike at the past few sessions, at SB 60 participants will not have access to the UNFCCC virtual conference platform owing to the secretariat's current financial challenges. However, plenary meetings and some mandated events will be webcast live and be accessible to participants according to their badge. More information is available on the [SB 60 web page](#).

32. We are as committed as ever to facilitating open exchanges with all Parties on the suggested approach to organizing work at the sessions and are willing to make any necessary adjustments. We intend to hold pre-session meetings, as well as meetings with groups of Parties, as necessary during the course of the sessions, to ensure that any issues are addressed in a timely manner.

IV. Concluding remarks

33. This is a critical year for the UNFCCC process: the year in which Parties will submit their first biennial transparency reports and lay the foundation to submit their nationally determined contributions next year. 2024 is therefore the year for making the shift to enhanced implementation and ensure ambitious actions are front and centre on the agenda of everyone involved in addressing climate change. As the custodians of the multilateral climate process, we need to do the heavy lifting to ensure that implementation is prioritized and supported in every Party. This requires Parties to

approach their deliberations at the sessions with focus and determination to ensure that technical work can advance or conclude, with recommendations forwarded to the governing bodies as appropriate, so that COP 29 can be the ultimate implementation COP.

34. With our collective goals and interests in mind, we also appeal to Parties to make use of the time before the sessions to reflect on their own positions, explore areas in which bridges can be built and compromises made and identify potential ways forward. On our end, as the presiding officers we will make every effort to help Parties achieve positive outcomes in Bonn.

35. We would once again like to convey to all Parties our gratitude for the trust and confidence placed in us and look forward to facilitating the negotiations among Parties to ensure the successful completion of our work at SB 60 sessions on 13 June 2024.