

**Preparing for the sixty-first sessions of the subsidiary bodies**  
**Joint note by the Chairs**

**25 October 2024**

*This informal note was prepared jointly by the Chair of the SBSTA (Harry Vreuls) and the Chair of the SBI (Nabeel Munir) under their own authority. The purpose of the note is to provide Parties and non-Party stakeholders attending SB 61 with an overview of the Chairs' approach for the sessions, including on programmatic and organizational aspects. It should be read in conjunction with the reports of SBSTA 60<sup>1</sup> and SBI 60,<sup>2</sup> as well as with the provisional agendas and annotations for SBSTA 61<sup>3</sup> and SBI 61.<sup>4</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Available here [SBSTA 60 report](#).

<sup>2</sup> Available here [SBI 60 report](#).

<sup>3</sup> Available here [SBSTA 61 provisional agenda and annotations](#).

<sup>4</sup> Available here [SBI 61 provisional agenda and annotations](#).

## **I. Introduction**

1. It has been nearly a decade since the Paris Agreement was adopted, and action to achieve the goal of limiting long-term global warming to 1.5 °C must be accelerated. The urgency for action is unmatched, but so is the opportunity – not only to address the climate emergency but also to foster economic growth and sustainable development. As the world gathers in Baku for the 2024 climate negotiations, the highest level of ambition, acceleration of action and multilateralism is needed.
2. We were encouraged with the progress at SB 60, which included mandates for intersessional work, submissions and workshops to be carried out under our guidance.
3. To build on the progress at SB 60 and intersessional work, Parties will need to focus on delivering results at SB 61 and lay a solid foundation for ambitious outcomes at COP 29. We remain committed to guiding work in an open, inclusive and transparent manner.
4. This joint note, prepared under our own responsibility, presents an outlook for SB 61 and our proposed approach for organizing work to ensure that negotiations are focused and productive.

## **II. Outlook for the sixty-first sessions of the subsidiary bodies**

5. Work will commence swiftly on Monday, 11 November, upon completion of the SB opening plenaries, and will end on Friday, 15 November, with closing plenaries convened on Saturday, 16 November.
6. During the World Leaders Climate Action Summit on Tuesday 12 November and Wednesday 13 November, it will be challenging to have the full number of negotiations and mandated events. As a result, the workload will be heavy until 15 November. We therefore encourage Parties to show flexibility and readiness to work and make progress in the limited time available.
7. Several mandated events are scheduled to take place at SB 61, including a range of regular events and events specifically mandated for this session. Among these, as mandated at SB 60, the secretariat, under our guidance, will organize an event to provide inputs to the 2024 review of the WIM. A technical event will also take place to share experience and best practices on reporting and informing on efforts to assess and analyse the impact of the implementation of response measures.
8. There are also several mandated events planned to take place only under the SBSTA. Among these, with the secretariat having made available the final version of the reporting tools under the ETF on 28 June 2024, as per the mandate, the last in a series of information events on progress in the development of these tools will take place at this session. These events have facilitated the sharing of valuable inputs to negotiations during the last several sessions.
9. Information on the events can be found in the provisional agendas and annotations for SB 61, as well as on dedicated web pages for individual events.<sup>5</sup> We invite Parties, observers

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<sup>5</sup> The web pages are [https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-61#mandated\\_events](https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-61#mandated_events) and [https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-61#mandated\\_events](https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-61#mandated_events).

and non-Party stakeholders to come prepared to contribute and engage actively and to ensure that these mandated events serve their intended purpose.

10. We are pleased to note that, since SB 60, extensive intersessional work has been carried out on several issues to prepare for work at SB 61:
  - (a) Under the United Arab Emirates–Belém work programme, as mandated, we compiled and mapped existing indicators relevant in measuring progress, as per submissions from Parties and observers and with a contribution by the Adaptation Committee who provided information on indicators contained in national reports and communications. Following this, we convened experts to assist in the technical work under the work programme. A mandated workshop on indicators took place from 8 to 9 October in Sharm el-Sheikh, where technical experts updated Parties on progress. Following the workshop, we provided further guidance to the experts, and the secretariat will publish the refined mapping of indicators as part of a report on the workshop. At SB 61, we urge Parties to leverage this progress to guide this work programme for 2025;
  - (b) The fourth global dialogue and investment-focused event under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme took place from 4 to 5 October in Sharm el-Sheikh. At SB 61, Parties will need to consider progress including key findings, opportunities and barriers, in implementing the work programme and reach a common understanding on the outcomes to be achieved under this agenda item;
  - (c) The second dialogue under the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme took place from 2 to 3 October in Sharm el-Sheikh. At SB 61, we encourage Parties to build on progress made at SB 60, the submissions made via the submission portal, and the outcomes of the dialogues held this year in order to continue meaningful discussions and reach a common understanding on the outcomes to be achieved under this agenda item and the steps for further operationalizing and implementing the work programme.
  - (d) The first hybrid global dialogue on the impacts of the implementation of response measures took place from 9 to 10 September in Accra. We encourage Parties to reflect on the discussions during the dialogue when finalizing the five-year workplan of the forum and its KCI at SB 61.
11. There are also joint SBSTA–SBI agenda items relating to consideration of reports or reviews. We are hopeful that the relevant submissions, annual reports, global dialogue reports, annual compilation reports, technical papers, informal documents, workshops, dialogues and meetings of committees and expert groups relevant to the agenda (sub-)items will assist Parties in focusing their deliberations and making the necessary progress as per the respective mandates.
12. Under agenda items where little or no progress was made at SB 60 and, in some cases, where little progress has been seen in the past few sessions, we urge Parties to seize this opportunity to effectively engage and ensure that no more time is lost.
13. One of the key outcomes in Baku is expected to be the full operationalization of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. At SBSTA 60 Parties made good progress in this regard. The secretariat

organized intersessional workshops, as mandated, from 2 to 4 October in Baku regarding Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement, on elements related to authorization and the mechanism registry, and regarding Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement, on elements related to authorization, the agreed electronic format, sequencing, application of first transfer, addressing inconsistencies and issues relating to registries, based on draft text prepared at SBSTA 60. Discussions during the workshops have assisted Parties in advancing their understanding of each other's position. At SBSTA 61, it is critical for Parties to finalize all technical work under the SBSTA regarding these items with the aim of recommending a draft decision for adoption at CMA 6.

14. Under Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement, Parties and observers have submitted views and information on the progress and outcomes of the first phase of implementing activities of the work programme under the framework for non-market approaches and on how to improve the schedule for implementing the work programme activities in the second phase. At GCNMA 6, which will be held in conjunction with SBSTA 61, Parties will have an opportunity to undertake an expedited and simple assessment of the progress and outcomes of the first phase of implementing the activities under this work programme and participate in an in-session workshop focusing on support available or provided for identifying, developing or implementing non-market approaches. At SBSTA 61, Parties are urged to approach deliberation on this item with a constructive approach to facilitate rich exchanges of views and advance work on the matter.
15. A robust gender work programme and action plan are essential for ensuring women's full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process and for mainstreaming gender through all relevant targets and goals in activities under the Convention. They are also crucial for advancing gender-responsive climate action through implementation of the UNFCCC, the work of Parties, the secretariat, United Nations entities and other stakeholders. Parties are invited to work together proactively at SBI 61 to achieve common ground and provide clarity on the future of the enhanced Lima work programme through a draft decision for consideration at COP 29.
16. Progress is also needed in discussions under the NAPs. SBI 60 initiated the assessment of progress made in NAPs, covering progress in addressing the objectives of the process, support provided and received, guiding principles, best practices and lessons learned, and challenges and needs. SBI 61 will conclude the assessment and will make recommendations to COP 29. Parties that have not yet done so should have in place their national adaptation plans, policies and planning processes by 2025 and progress in implementing them by 2030. A strong push is needed to revamp the NAP support system to accelerate NAP formulation and implementation, to enhance the impact of NAPs in reducing vulnerability and building resilience to the ever-increasing impacts of climate change in vulnerable countries.
17. The facilitative multilateral consideration of progress under the ETF will commence in 2025 following the first round of BTRs being submitted and reviewed. Parties will have a chance to share views on how to operationalize the facilitative multilateral consideration of progress that is fit for purpose, without undue burden, building on experience gained under the Convention through multilateral assessment and facilitative sharing of views.
18. Several mandates on technology development and transfer will be discussed at SBI 61. Parties established the technology implementation programme at COP 28 to strengthen

support for the implementation of technology priorities identified by developing countries. In their discussions of the Poznan strategic programme on technology transfer, Parties will be invited to consider how the technology implementation programme could provide this strengthened support. In addition, under the agenda item on the Poznan strategic programme, Parties agreed at COP 27 to work on a draft COP decision at this session, as most of the climate technology activities under the programme have been completed. Parties also agreed to continue the discussion on linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism, and will, jointly with SBSTA, provide guidance to the Technology Mechanism through their consideration of Joint annual report of the Technology Executive Committee and Climate Technology Centre and Network for 2024.

19. Further, a number of items on the agendas for SB 61 are standing items, including some for which Parties could not conclude considerations at SB 60. These items relate to ongoing implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Positive outcomes on these items are crucial for facilitating this ongoing implementation and to ensure that necessary action is sustained and not further delayed. We urge Parties to come prepared and to approach the deliberations on those items with the sense of urgency required to ensure ambitious outcomes.
20. We encourage Parties to use the remaining time prior to the opening of the sessions to reach out to negotiating partners and to prepare to engage constructively.

### **III. Working efficiently, effectively and transparently**

21. With five bodies meeting in parallel, in addition to the World Leaders Climate Action Summit, time for negotiations under the subsidiary bodies in the first week of the Conference will be extremely limited. Given the time constraints and the heavy workload, the secretariat is diligently preparing the conference schedule paying careful attention to minimize clashes of negotiations on similar or closely related topics, including with mandated events.<sup>6</sup>
22. We are cognizant, however, that some clashes may be inevitable, and we therefore call on the flexibility and understanding of Parties in this regard. We encourage Parties to make as much progress as possible in the limited time available and to ensure that only the most significant issues are left for political resolution in the second week of the Conference. 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.
23. We will continue the efficient practice of convening the opening plenaries of the SBSTA and the SBI together, on 11 November, and we are confident that we will adopt our agendas and launch work swiftly. We propose organizing and launching work at the sessions as follows:
  - (a) For most agenda items, establish a contact group or informal consultations and assign two co-chairs or two co-facilitators to facilitate the negotiations, which may result in draft conclusions or draft decisions;
  - (b) For items that do not require negotiation, invite the relevant subsidiary body to take note of the relevant available information;

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<sup>6</sup> The COP 29 overview schedule is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/640687>.

- (c) For a few items, minimize consultation time and, where appropriate and agreeable, defer consideration thereof to a future session.
24. Following the opening of the sessions of the five bodies, statements from Parties, groups of Parties and observers will be heard in a joint plenary meeting. In the interest of time, we request that statements from groups of Parties be limited to five minutes, those from Parties to three minutes and those from observers to two minutes. This will allow us to move swiftly to negotiations immediately after the opening plenary. Full statements can be uploaded to the submission portal.<sup>7</sup>
25. Our guidance to the co-chairs and co-facilitators of negotiation groups for the sessions includes the following:
- (a) Assist Parties in using time efficiently, developing textual proposals at the earliest stage of the negotiations, and where appropriate building on technical work conducted during the intersessional period and/or at SB 60;
  - (b) Encourage Parties to allow informal consultations to be open to observers wherever possible, in accordance with relevant [previous SBI conclusions](#);
  - (c) Encourage Parties to extend requests for submissions of information and views to observer organizations where appropriate, in accordance with relevant [previous SBI conclusions](#);
  - (d) Aim to finalize draft conclusions and recommendations resulting from the work of the negotiation groups by 6 p.m. on 15 November 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 16 November;
  - (e) Continue the practice initiated at SB 60 of not presenting negotiation outcomes of a procedural nature (e.g. agreement to continue consideration of the matter at a future session) in L. documents, with such outcomes to be orally reported to Parties at the closing plenary. These outcomes will also be presented on the SB session web page under the respective agenda item and later captured in the report on the relevant session(s);
  - (f) Remind Parties that technical work that is not concluded at these sessions will not automatically be carried over to the second week of the Conference under the authority of the COP President. Only issues requiring political engagement will be considered for continuation in the second week. Other issues will continue to be considered at the next (or a future) session of the subsidiary bodies.
26. We will continue to work 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 questions or issues are addressed in a timely and effective manner.
27. We intend to convene the closing plenaries of SBSTA 61 and SBI 61 together, similar to the approach applied at the last few sessions.

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<sup>7</sup> Available here <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

28. We are cognizant of the important role of observers in our process, and we will continue the practice of maintaining an open communication channel with observers and will convene a joint briefing with observer organizations to provide an update on the status of negotiations.
29. At SB 61, a virtual conference platform will be accessible to all registered participants and will indicate which plenary meetings, mandated events and meetings of negotiation groups will be webcast live and be accessible to participants, according to their badge type. More information is available on the [UNFCCC conference web pages](#).
30. As is customary, we will hold pre-session consultations with groups of Parties and make any adjustments needed to our proposed approach prior to the sessions on the basis of the views of Parties. It is our firm commitment to remain available to all Parties during the sessions to ensure that any issues are addressed in a timely manner. We look forward to working with Parties at SB 61 and are confident that with your continued support we will be able to achieve our desired outcome.

#### **IV. Concluding remarks**

31. 2024 is a pivotal year for Parties for submitting their first BTRs, updating their NDCs and crafting NAPs. Parties are on a path towards transitioning to enhanced implementation and ensuring that ambitious actions take centre stage on the agenda of all those engaged in addressing climate change.
32. A successful SB 61 is crucial for achieving the best possible outcomes in Baku in a Party-driven and balanced manner. Engaging constructively on critical issues is not just an opportunity but a responsibility to future generations and the planet. Now is the time to seize the moment, rise above differences and work together to ensure that deliberations at SB 61 lead to real progress in addressing climate change. By approaching the negotiations with a spirit of collaboration and openness, and with a shared commitment to finding solutions, Parties can bridge divides, overcome challenges and create ambitious, practical policies that benefit everyone. We encourage all Parties and groups to start engaging early in order to find a compromise and collectively make the sessions of the subsidiary bodies productive and to lead to a successful COP 29 in Baku.
33. As this marks the final session of our tenure as Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, we would like to use this opportunity to thank the Parties and all stakeholders for their confidence and trust in our leadership throughout this journey. It has been a privilege to serve in this role, and we are committed to dedicating ourselves at SB 61 to ensuring a successful outcome. We also extend our gratitude to the observers for their constructive engagement and invaluable contributions. This session can be a significant step forward in collective efforts towards climate action. The world is watching, and these collective efforts will shape the course of the future.

## Abbreviations and acronyms

BTR	biennial transparency report
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
ETF	enhanced transparency framework
GCNMA	Glasgow Committee on Non-market Approaches
KCI	Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures
NAP	national adaptation plans
NDC	nationally determined contributions
SB	sessions of the subsidiary bodies
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

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