

Preparing for the sixty-third sessions of the subsidiary bodies

Joint note by the Chairs

The Chairs of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) (Adonia Ayebare and Julia Gardiner) have prepared this informal note to provide an overview of their proposed approach to SB 63. It should be read in conjunction with the reports on [SBSTA 62](#) and [SBI 62](#) and the provisional agendas and annotations for [SBSTA 63](#) and [SBI 63](#).

I. Outlook for the sixty-third sessions of the subsidiary bodies

1. SB 63 takes place at a critical juncture for the multilateral climate process. At the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Belém, Parties must agree on substantive negotiated outcomes that respond to mandates across the agendas.
2. As SB Chairs, we are committed to working in close partnership with Parties and the COP 30 Presidency to make effective and efficient use of time during SB 63, allowing delivery of strong outcomes in Belém.
3. We were encouraged by progress at SB 62. Even on complex issues, Parties demonstrated willingness to move work forward. However, much work remains to reach consensus outcomes. A pragmatic focus on resolving the remaining differences is needed to enable success at COP 30.
4. Since SB 62, a large amount of intersessional work has been undertaken: mandated workshops have been conducted under the United Arab Emirates–Belém work programme; dialogues have been convened under the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, the United Arab Emirates just transition work programme, and on response measures; and technical events relating to gender, transparency and technology have been held. Parties and observers have also made submissions that will inform deliberations in Belém. Informal discussions held by the COP 29 and the incoming COP 30 Presidencies have also helped Parties to deepen their understanding of each other's positions on key negotiation points.
5. This joint note provides an outline of our proposed approach to the organization of SB 63. We look forward to discussing these ideas during pre-session consultations with Parties and invite any interested Party to meet with us.

II. Working efficiently, effectively and transparently

6. With five bodies meeting in parallel during the first week and more than 145 agenda items across agendas, time available for negotiations under the subsidiary bodies will be extremely limited. We are also conscious that several Parties plan to have smaller delegations in Belém compared with previous conferences, further constraining negotiators' capacity. We therefore urge Parties to utilize the limited time available with the utmost efficiency and focus.
7. The secretariat is carefully preparing the schedule for the conference to minimize clashes between negotiations on related topics and mandated events.¹ Where clashes are inevitable, we kindly request flexibility and understanding from Parties.

¹ The overview schedule is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/649532>.

8. For efficiency, the SBSTA and SBI opening plenaries will be convened together on 10 November. A smooth adoption of the agendas and an efficient launch of work for the sessions is crucial and we call on all Parties' support to achieve this.
9. Following the opening of the sessions of the five bodies, statements by groups of Parties, Parties and observers will be heard in a joint plenary. Strict time limits will be applied – five minutes for groups, three minutes for individual Parties and two minutes for observer organizations. Microphones will be cut off once time limits have been reached. Full statements can be uploaded to the UNFCCC submission portal.²
10. Negotiations will launch swiftly after statements have been heard. We propose adhering to the standard approach to agenda items, namely:
 - (a) For most agenda items, establishing a contact group or informal consultations and assigning co-chairs and co-facilitators respectively to facilitate negotiations;
 - (b) For agenda items that do not require negotiation, inviting the relevant subsidiary body to take note of the relevant available information;
 - (c) For some agenda items, to minimize consultation time, and with Parties' agreement, deferring consideration to a future session and taking note of reports rather than establishing a negotiation group to consider them.
11. In line with the Party-driven process, we plan to seek Parties' views during pre-session consultations on agenda items to be noted or deferred, as set out in the annex.
12. We will hold daily coordination meetings with co-chairs of contact groups and co-facilitators of informal consultations to address emerging issues and ensure that work progresses smoothly. Our guidance to co-chairs and co-facilitators includes the following:
 - (a) Start and end meetings punctually – negotiations will end strictly at 6 p.m. each day;
 - (b) Support Parties in maximizing the time available for developing textual proposals at early stages of the negotiations, building, where possible, on work from the intersessional period or previous sessions;
 - (c) Finalize the work of the negotiation groups by noon on 14 November at the latest in order to allow sufficient time for conclusions to be made available as L documents in the six official United Nations languages before the closing plenary on the morning of 15 November;
 - (d) Continue the practice of publishing negotiation outcomes of a procedural nature on the SBSTA 63 or SBI 63 web page(s) under the respective agenda item, reporting orally at the closing plenary and including in the report on the session(s), in place of producing an L document;
 - (e) Be clear to Parties that technical work not concluded at SB 63 will not automatically be carried over to the second week – only matters requiring political engagement, as determined by the Presidency, will be considered for continuation in the second week. Other matters will be considered at a future session of the subsidiary body concerned.
13. We attach great importance to openness and transparency in the work of the subsidiary bodies and recognize the valuable contributions of observer organizations to the UNFCCC process. We encourage Parties to make informal consultations and invitations

² <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx?cfsid=1509>.

for submission open to observers.³ We are committed to meaningful engagement with observers and will maintain open communication with them throughout SB 63, including at a joint briefing session to provide an update on the negotiations.

14. We intend to convene the closing plenaries of SBSTA 63 and SBI 63 together on the morning of 15 November.

III. Negotiations at the sixty-third sessions of the subsidiary bodies

15. The provisional agendas for SBSTA 63 and SBI 63 cover a range of critical matters. While all agenda items are important, several require urgent attention at these sessions. Below, we highlight our intended approach on a selection of matters. The list is not exhaustive and does not suggest any prioritization of agenda items.
16. For clarity, this note organizes agenda items under the following headings: adaptation and loss and damage; cross-cutting and science; mitigation; means of implementation; and transparency. The organization of this note in no way prejudices or limits any approach by Parties.

Adaptation and loss and damage

17. *Global goal on adaptation* (SBSTA and SBI) – Parties are expected to finalize the list of indicators under the United Arab Emirates–Belém work programme and agree modalities for the Baku Adaptation Roadmap. We encourage Parties to build on the work of the experts, progress made at SB 62 and intersessionally to reach consensus on a fit-for-purpose indicator set and road map.
18. *National adaptation plans* (SBI) – National adaptation plans (NAPs) are enablers of implementation. A draft decision proposed at SBI 63 will contribute to ensuring that adaptation efforts align with the long-term goals of the Convention and the Paris Agreement and have timely, real-world impacts for communities already affected by climate change.
19. *Matters relating to the least developed countries* (SBI) – The Least Developed Countries Expert Group provides vital support to the least developed countries for the process of formulating and implementing NAPs. Given the many developments in adaptation, we are confident Parties will quickly settle on terms of reference for the stocktake of the Group's mandate next year.
20. *Loss and damage* (SBSTA and SBI) – Support for loss and damage is expanding. There is a need to update the role of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM). SB 63 should finalize guidance that strengthens support for loss and damage and supports vulnerable countries by concluding the third review of the WIM.

Cross-cutting and science

21. *United Arab Emirates just transition work programme* (SBSTA and SBI) – At SB 62, Parties progressed in building a shared understanding of the elements of a decision. At SB 63, we urge Parties to provide bridging proposals from the start of the session, building on the progress made at SB 62, and drawing on the annual summary report on the dialogues.

³ See documents [FCCC/SBI/2011/7](#), para. 167, [FCCC/SBI/2014/8](#), paras. 222–225, and [FCCC/SBI/2004/10](#), para. 104.

22. *Modalities of the United Arab Emirates dialogue on implementing the global stocktake outcomes, referred to in paragraph 97 of decision 1/CMA.5 (SBI)* – It is important to finalize the modalities of the dialogue at SB 63 ahead of the second global stocktake (GST), which is to commence at CMA 8. Significant progress was made at COP 29 and an effort to find common ground on divergent viewpoints was made at SB 62. We urge Parties to conclude the work under this agenda item in Belém and operationalize the United Arab Emirates dialogue in 2026.
23. *Procedural and logistical elements of the overall global stocktake process (SBSTA and SBI)* – With the second GST set to begin at CMA 8, CMA 7 is the final opportunity to refine the process for conducting the second GST. At SB 63, much remains to be agreed, including how to align the process with the inputs from the seventh assessment cycle of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and potential evolution of thematic areas. While differing views remain on the overlap of the technical and political phases of the stocktake and the scope of inputs, we encourage Parties to consider possible solutions to ensure a robust and inclusive GST process.
24. *Gender and climate change (SBI)* – At SBI 63, Parties are expected to finalize the development of a new gender action plan. This is highly technical work, requiring dedicated, focused effort. Parties are urged to work towards consensus on a forward-looking gender action plan that reflects realities on the ground, supports effective implementation at the subnational, national, regional and international level, and drives gender integration into all aspects of the Convention to promote inclusive and effective climate action.
25. *Research and systematic observation (SBSTA)* – At SBSTA 63, Parties will consider systematic observation, informed by presentations at Earth Information Day 2025 and work by the scientific and systematic observation communities. As part of ensuring that the Convention and the Paris Agreement continue to be guided by the best available science, I ask Parties to engage actively and consider the value and contribution of systematic observation in supporting mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and transparency efforts across the UNFCCC process.

Mitigation

26. *Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme (SBSTA and SBI)* – We expect Parties to work constructively, using the informal note prepared at SB 62, and to consider the outcomes of the global dialogues held under the work programme in reaching agreement on actionable messages and improvements to the work programme.
27. *Matters relating to the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures serving the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement (SBSTA and SBI)* – Progress under this agenda item is important for advancing robust action and cooperation. We expect Parties to work constructively, using the conference paper prepared at SB 62 as the basis for negotiations, and to consider the annual report of the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures in concluding their consideration on matters related to this agenda item, including the annual workplan of the forum and further consideration of global dialogues.
28. *Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement (SBSTA)* – I encourage Parties to advance the work programme for non-market approaches (NMAs) under Article 6.8, by working to gain a better understanding one another's positions and strive to reach consensus on a draft decision, including to support the review process ahead of CMA 8. I also urge

Parties to continue to actively engage in the spin-off group discussions and in-session workshop to share experience and ensure that the work programme delivers tangible outcomes.

Means of implementation

29. *Matters relating to technology development and transfer* (SBSTA and SBI) – Four technology-related matters will be considered this session: the review of the functions of the Climate Technology Centre (CTC), the technology implementation programme, the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and Financial Mechanism, and the joint annual report of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN). Recognizing that bold advances in technology development and transfer can catalyse the transformative climate action needed to deliver on the goals of the Paris Agreement, we call on Parties to:
 - (a) Reach an agreement on extension of the term of the CTC and a pathway for ensuring the uninterrupted operation of the CTCN beyond 2026;
 - (b) Clearly define the scope, modalities and sources of support for the technology implementation programme, including the roles of the Financial Mechanism and the CTC - Parties should come to Belém ready to propose concrete options to elaborate the programme and ensure it delivers the needed support for technology deployment in developing countries.
30. *Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund* (SBI) – Parties are further elaborate the arrangements for the Adaptation Fund to exclusively serve the Paris Agreement, the membership of the Adaptation Fund Board and the fifth review of the Fund. Timely preparation of a draft decisions at SBI 63 are important to enable the Fund to access new resources and deliver on its mandate to support adaptation in developing countries.

Transparency

31. The nineteenth workshop for the facilitative sharing of views under the international consultation and analysis process for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and the second working group session of the facilitative multilateral consideration of progress under the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement (ETF) will be convened in Belém. Parties are encouraged to participate actively and share lessons learned.
32. Additionally, SBI 63 will advance work on the Consultative Group of Experts, including its term, composition and updated terms of reference alongside support to developing countries in implementing the ETF. Parties will also discuss the provision of financial support to developing countries for implementing the ETF and recommend draft decisions for consideration and adoption at COP 30 and CMA 7.

Implementation of Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement

33. As part of the understanding reached on the adoption of the agendas for SBSTA 62 and SBI 62, we held substantive consultations on Article 9, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement to consider substantive elements regarding implementation thereof and we will report back on the outcomes of those consultations at SB 63 for Parties' consideration with a view to determining a way forward, including potentially a standalone agenda item on this matter.

Mandated events

34. Several mandated events will take place at SB 63. Information on the events can be found in the provisional agendas and annotations for SBSTA 63 and SBI 63 and on the web pages for mandated events at the sessions.⁴ We invite Parties, observers and non-Party stakeholders to engage actively in the events.

Concluding remarks

35. SB 63 must deliver clear, actionable results to enable a successful outcome of COP 30 in Belém. Progress will depend on Parties engaging early, negotiating with focus and prioritizing solutions. We urge Parties to approach SB 63 with clarity, purpose and a commitment to outcomes that reflect the urgency of the moment.
36. We have limited time in more ways than one – our time in Belém will be short, and our time to keep 1.5° C of global warming within reach and respond to climate impacts in an effective, equitable way is expiring. All of our efforts must accelerate. As Chairs of the subsidiary bodies we look forward to guiding Parties in making the most of the time we have.

⁴ For SBSTA events, see https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-63#mandated_events, and for SBI events, see https://unfccc.int/event/sbi-63#mandated_events.

Annex

Agenda items considered for deferment and reports proposed to note at the sixty-third sessions of the subsidiary bodies

Proposal	Agenda item
Defer	SBSTA 5(c) / SBI 12(c) Matters relating to adaptation: Review of the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Adaptation Committee
Defer	SBSTA 13 Methodological issues: emissions from fuel used for international aviation and maritime transport
Defer	SBI 15(b) Matters relating to technology development and transfer: Linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism
Defer	SBI 16(b) Matters relating to finance: Second review of the functions of the Standing Committee on Finance
Note	SBSTA 5(b) / SBI 12(b) Matters relating to adaptation: Report of the Adaptation Committee
Note	SBSTA 14 Annual report on technical reviews: technical review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention
Note	SBI 3(b) Reporting from and review of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention: Report on national greenhouse gas inventory data
Note	SBI 4(c) Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: Summary reports on the technical analysis of biennial update reports