



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Submission by South Africa on Belém Mission to 1.5°C

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South Africa is pleased to provide inputs to the Belém Mission to 1.5 °C, responding to the call for inputs by COP Presidencies. South Africa welcomes the practical focus on implementation in the Belém Mission to 1.5°C. Accelerating ambition requires accelerating implementation. The Mission was launched together with many other outcomes, and it is critical to understand how they are aligned.

In offering inputs on this particular Mission, South Africa is mindful that there are many parallel processes, aimed at shifting decisively to implementation, and yet, there are many overlaps, and hence the need to streamline. We need to work more effectively in negotiations and, in the action agenda. Thus, in offering our views on Belém Mission to 1.5°C ('the Mission'), we also reflect how it might best relate to the Global Implementation Accelerator (GIA), and the role of various initiatives under the action agenda.

At the outset, South Africa wishes to indicate that Belém Mission to 1.5°C must implement climate action and support in a balanced and comprehensive manner. Ambition without implementation is not credible, and implementation is required across all areas, which require the means to do so. Action and support under Belém Mission to 1.5°C must be informed by the best available science, on the basis of equity and in the context of sustainable development.

In the following, we offer our initial views on the topics suggested by the Presidencies. Given that the Mission cannot be understood in isolation, we focus on the GIA under the first heading, and the Mission under the second heading.

1 High-impact action areas and means to overcome barriers

South Africa is of the view that the Global Implementation Accelerator (GIA) must be an instrument to accelerate delivery. In the Global Mutirão decision, the GIA has a clear focus on national action, implementing our nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and National Action Plans (NAPs). In the climate crisis, we need to increase the ambition of our national actions on mitigation and adaptation, and indeed to address loss and damage. We see implementation as integral to real ambition. The GIA can help to ensure that international cooperative initiatives (ICIs) support the implementation of national plans, which remain country-driven and nationally determined.

The GIA can serve as an instrument to accelerate delivery, focused on supporting the implementation of NDCs and NAPs. It should focus on how all actors can support country-driven implementation, recognising that implementation is nationally determined but enabled through international cooperation.

A very large variety of ICIs have emerged, many of which are referenced in the action agenda. ICIs include good ones, but also others that engage in greenwashing, without accountability. The GIA should have a primary role to streamline, and contribute to accountability and transparency by non-state actors. South Africa suggests a process to identify a few ICIs that really make a difference, across mitigation, adaptation, addressing loss and damage, economic diversification, as well as provision of means of implementation, including on finance, technology development and transfer as well capacity-building. We think that the current process of ‘mandate and report back’ as led by the champions is essential to accountability. We recommend a serious and enhanced engagement between Parties and the champions for any endorsement (mandate) to ICIs. This has to be inclusive and agreed to in a fully multi-lateral process. An essential criterion will be that ICIs support countries.

In establishing the GIA (decision 1/CMA.7, paragraph 41), we made reference to all actors. We see a key role for non-state actors in implementation. South Africa is also of the view that all actors need to be accountable and transparent. We expect ICIs to report back, hold themselves accountable, and report to at least as high a standard as Parties, implementing the TACCC principles. The GIA should track implementation

outcomes of selected initiatives, including delivery of means of implementation, to support accountability and “mandate and report back

A concrete suggestion is that the GIA should facilitate structured matchmaking between country-identified NDC/NAP implementation needs and finance, technology, and capacity providers to directly address implementation bottlenecks. In the context of mitigation, such ideas have been developed under the Mitigation Work Programme. South Africa considers that, it is equally important to match adaptation needs with grant-based finance at adequate scale. Hence, we suggest the GIA work on closing the adaptation finance gap.

The GIA should build on the excellent work by the COP30 Presidency in restructuring the action agenda to be consistent with major axes and priorities of the Global Stocktake (GST). That structuring is key to connecting informal processes to the agreed process under the Paris Agreement, for assessing collective progress, the GST. The GST informs countries as they prepare their next NDCs, and thus country implementation priorities should always be front of mind. The GST outcomes inform enhanced international cooperation, which we see as focus for the Mission.

2 Strengthening international cooperation through Belém Mission to 1.5°C

Belém Mission to 1.5°C should focus on strengthening international cooperation. South Africa is of the view that the Mission is best understood as a system-level reflection on how international cooperation can be strengthened to enhance climate action and support. Whereas we see the GIA focused on national action (NDCs and NAPs), the Mission should focus on the international scale.

1.5 °C relates to mitigation, adaptation, and support. Those who frame 1.5 °C as solely a mitigation issue, misunderstand the science and what we agreed in Paris.

South Africa highlights that the Global Goal on Adaptation in Article 7.1, explicitly refers back to “the temperature goal referred to in “Article 2”, and thus any Paris, compatible Mission 1.5 must address adaptation on an equal footing with mitigation. We recall that, in Paris in 2015, we all recognised “that the current need for adaptation is significant and that greater levels of mitigation can reduce the need for additional

adaptation efforts, and that greater adaptation needs can involve greater adaptation costs.” As breaching 1.5 °C, on a multi-decadal basis, is imminent, we therefore know that climate impacts will be even worse, resulting in increasing adaptation needs and associated costs. Hard and soft limits to adaptation are being exceeded, loss and damage is being experienced in all regions, and poor communities suffer the most.

The connection of 1.5°C to the long-term mitigation goal must be read in the full context of Article 4.1. Our common global mitigation goal has been set “in order to achieve the long-term temperature goal”. The Paris language is clear that we all aim at global peaking as soon as possible, recognising that peaking will take longer for developing country Parties, an instance of nuanced differentiation. Those who have already peaked should reduce emissions as rapidly as possible, in line with their responsibilities and capabilities. We must avoid over-reliance on global sinks in the future. Balancing GHG emissions and removals to reach net zero in the second half of this century must be based on equity and the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances. South Africa thus stresses that global net zero by 2050, does not mean the same timing in every country. Very importantly, yet often omitted, the long term global goal on mitigation is on the basis of equity, as well as in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

To implement requires means; thus, means of implementation are *sine qua non* for the Belém Mission to 1.5. Key barriers to implementation are inadequate means of implementation on finance, technology and capacity building. The Belém Mission to 1.5 °C must implement a step-change in increasing each of these.

We need finance commensurate with 1.5°C. International cooperation includes finance, though not limited to finance. The Mission should relate to broader processes to fundamentally reform the international financial architecture, as current systems as not fit for finance to implement climate action. As a practical matter, South Africa considers it of the highest importance to reduce the cost of capital in developing countries. Reducing the cost of borrowing is a practical solution, explored during South African G20 Presidency. Belém Mission to 1.5°C must implement practical actions, to redress the unfair situation where developing countries face higher costs, even as we

are asked to do increasingly more. Reducing the cost of capital is one of the most effective ways of accelerating climate action. South Africa is deeply concerned by the inadequate provision of adaptation finance by developed countries. Doubling and tripling of very low levels is the wrong benchmark. Mission 1.5 needs to frame the benchmark for adaptation finance as the needs of developing countries. Furthermore, we must collectively take concrete steps to close the adaptation finance gap.

Thus, Mission 1.5°C is key to climate action and support. South Africa emphasises that, as we are about to overshoot 1.5°C, it is imperative to do more on all fronts, mitigation, adaptation, addressing loss & damage and increasing support in all its forms. The Mission is about ambition, implying more rapid and deeper action and support.

South Africa also sees potential to increase international cooperation on food and agriculture. Article 2.1 (b) of the Paris Agreement, is about increasing capabilities for climate resilient and low GHG emission development “in a manner that does not threaten food production”

Although the Mission is time-bound, reporting to CMA8, we encourage the Presidencies to reflect in, on how international cooperation can better support national action in relation to current and future GST outcomes.

The call for inputs makes a strong call for science, and South Africa fully concurs that science is a fundamental basis for multilateral negotiations. Science and equity must together guide our collective response to the climate crisis. In this regard, we request the COP30 Presidency to strengthen the consideration of equity in Belém Mission to 1.5 °C. South Africa stands ready to discuss with all Parties how to implement equity and nuanced differentiation, as agreed in Paris.

On process, we understand Belém Mission to 1.5°C is primarily a Party-driven process. While the GIA paragraph refers to “all actors”, paragraph 42 of the Global Mutirão decision, establishing the Mission does not. We always welcome inputs from observer constituencies, yet think it is useful to be clear on the different roles of participants in the Mission, GIA, and across negotiations and the action agenda.