

Concept note by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies on the mandated workshop under the UAE – Belém work programme on indicators

8 May 2024

I. Introduction and Mandate

1. CMA 5 adopted the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, including seven thematic and four dimensional targets. It also launched a two-year UAE–Belém work programme on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards the targets referred to in paragraphs 9–10 of decision 2/CMA.5 with a view to identifying and, as needed, developing indicators and potential quantified elements for those targets. The work programme is to be carried out jointly by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).
2. Paragraph 43 of the decision requested the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to organize a workshop to consider the matters in relation to the work programme. The workshop is to take place from 15 to 17 May in a hybrid format, with the in-person element taking place in Thimphu, Bhutan.
3. Paragraph 41 of the decision invited Parties and observers to submit views on matters related to the work programme, modalities of the work programme, including organization of work, timelines, inputs, outputs and the involvement of stakeholders and as of 8 May, 60 submissions had been received. Paragraph 42 requested the secretariat to synthesize these submissions, which was published on 8 May 2024¹. It is suggested that participants use the submissions received and their synthesis as the primary substantive input to this workshop.

II. Substantive overview of the workshop

4. As this workshop will be the first occasion where Parties and observers can come together under the work programme, the agenda is designed to give space for discussions across a range of topic areas in relation to indicators for the targets in paragraphs 9 and 10 of decision 2/CMA.5, and how to achieve an ambitious outcome.
5. The first substantive session will consider existing indicator processes, noting that this was highlighted in many submissions. Rather than going into a deep dive on possible indicators for certain targets, this session will focus on how the UAE-Belém work programme can learn lessons from other bodies experiences², what practical challenges may arise and how these can be negated (both in the development of indicators and reporting on them), as well as ensuring that the outcome at the end of the two years can ensure progress towards the targets in decision 2/CMA.5 can be assessed. There will be a range of expert presentations and an opportunity for open discussion and to ask questions, which although somewhat similar to a session in the sixth workshop under the previous work programme, will now have the added value of being specifically linked to indicators for the targets that were agreed in Dubai.
6. The second session will focus on unpacking targets and identifying linkages and synergies. In numerous submissions, there were calls for detailed unpacking of the targets, especially noting that even within one thematic area (e.g. water) there are multiple facets to

¹ Available at: <https://unfccc.int/documents/638384>

the target. Although there will be insufficient time in this session to go deep into every target, this will provide an opportunity for having a substantive discussion across some of the thematic areas and identifying synergies between them, with input from technical experts and practitioners. This session will also be useful as participants go on to consider inputs, outputs, and modalities for the work programme later in the workshop.

7. Many submissions called for the inclusion of a wide range of stakeholders in the work programme with others highlighting that indicators should be disaggregated, and that it is important that vulnerable groups and indigenous people's perspectives are included. Therefore, the third session will consider how the different indicators that are eventually decided upon can be meaningful, and can integrate social information systems perspectives and those of diverse and disadvantaged groups. Vulnerable groups are mentioned numerous times within the targets in decision 2/CMA.5, and many of the suggested indicators that are included in annex 1 of the synthesis also focus on the most vulnerable communities. With inputs and presentations from technical experts working with these groups, participants can explore ways in which these needs and vulnerabilities can be continually mainstreamed in resilience initiatives under the UAE Framework, and how progress towards this can be appropriately measured.

8. The fourth session will focus on what considerations can guide the design of indicators process. In submissions, numerous suggestions for criteria for indicators were proposed, including: not constitute a basis for comparison between Parties; global, but show aggregated information; verifiable and allow data comparability; have a designated custodian or responsible for its tracking; relevant; facilitate institutionalisation; scalable; participatory; relevant to adaptation and resilience building; valid; reliable; measurable; simple; evidence-based; draw on existing monitoring; guarding against maladaptation; human rights-based and equity-centred; geographically representative, with relevance at international and national level; have cost of measurement; practically feasible, with the potential for strengthening over time, non-exhaustive. As well as this, some submissions proposed that a final outcome may include a differentiation between indicators, for example core and sub indicators, or a smaller number of global indicators accompanied by a larger menu of national level indicators which can be reported on depending on country context.

9. At this stage early in the work programme, and prior to any mapping of existing or developing of new indicators, participants will be encouraged to have an open discussion in a breakout group format on what criteria or characteristics should guide the design of indicators process, and whether there should be a hierarchy or weighting of indicators associated with these different criteria.

10. Following on from the discussions on the first two days, and with participants having had the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other processes and to explore how indicators can be meaningful and be decided through an inclusive process, the third day of the workshop and the fifth and sixth sessions will look ahead to the remainder of the work programme. In response to the mandated call, nearly all submissions provided suggestions on the organization of work, with proposals for workshops, expert groups, different stakeholders to be involved, as well as much more. The fifth session will look at what inputs are needed to achieve desirable outputs, with the sixth, considering how this work should be organized in a stepwise or structured approach up until CMA 7 in November/December 2025. Participants are encouraged to discuss in breakout groups, and to learn from one another as to why different proposals on modalities have been suggested, as well as learning from the experiences of organizations and bodies who have gone through similar processes in recent years. It is hoped that this can be a constructive discussion and be approached through a lens of achieving the highest possible outcome for the work programme at CMA 7.

III. Agenda

11. Please find below the provisional agenda. It should be noted that timings may be subject to change.

Day 1

- *10:00 – 11:00 Registration
11:00 – 11:30 Opening: SBSTA Chair, A representative from Royal Government of Bhutan, and UN Resident Coordinator in Bhutan (TBC)
Presentation on the synthesis of submissions by the secretariat

Session 1 – Existing indicator processes: Lessons learned from their development, usage and reporting experiences

- 11:30 – 13:00 Presentations or panel discussions with experts
- Panellists/Speakers (TBC)

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

Session 2 – Unpacking targets and identifying linkages and synergies

- 14:00 – 15:30 Panel discussions/ Breakout groups
- Speakers (TBC)

Coffee

15:30 – 17:00 Breakout groups

17:00 *End of day 1*

Day 2

14:00 – 14:15 Recap of day one

Session 3 – Meaningful indicators: Integrating social information systems perspective and the full diversity and demographic profile in the indicators process

14:15 – 15:30 Presentations and Q&A
- Speakers (TBC)

15:30 – 16:30 Breakout groups

16:30 – 17:00 *Coffee break*

Session 4 – Meaningful indicators: considerations to guide the design of indicators process?

- 17:00 – 20:00 Breakout groups
- What criteria/characteristics should guide the design of the indicators process?
- Should there be a hierarchy of indicators associated with different criteria?

20:00 *End of day 2*

Day 3 – Ensuring good outcomes through inclusive modalities for the indicators process

09:00 – 09:15 Recap of day 1&2

Session 5 – Inputs to and outputs of the indicators process

09:15 – 10:30 Breakout group discussions

10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee*

Session 6 – Stepwise/structured approach to the indicator process

11:00 – 13:00 Breakout group discussions

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch*

Session 7 – wrapping up and concluding remarks

14:00 – 14:30 Wrap up and concluding remarks

14:30 End of day 3