

Written inputs on GST TD1.3 Roundtable on adaptation and loss & damage

Submitted by Adaptation Working Group of the independent GST¹

The Adaptation Working Group (<https://unepccc.org/project/the-adaptation-working-group-awg-of-the-independent-global-stocktake-igst/>) under the independent GST (<https://www.climateworks.org/programs/governance-diplomacy/independent-global-stocktake/>) is submitting the following two technical messages as written inputs on GST TD1.3 Roundtable on adaptation and loss & damage.

1) Private sector's adaptation action

The first message is related to the non-party stakeholders' adaptation action. In particular, it concerns how private sector's adaptation challenges and efforts could be taken into consideration by the GST.

Currently private sector is reporting on climate data to different stakeholders including: national governments, non-state climate action databases or corporate disclosure platforms. However, those reporting practice is limited in terms of quantity, quality and coverage of data, as well as the unclear pathways for those data being included in the GST.

To address those challenges and to enhance the availability of adaptation data being reported by private sector, actions need to be taken to:

- place greater focus on building capacity for private sector to report on physical risks and their management within corporate disclosures
- establish national reporting systems for private sector, and
- ensure GST remains open to including those data

2) Adaptation adequacy and effectiveness

The second message addresses the GST's function of reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support. Currently there is no commonly accepted understanding of the two concepts. To deliver a meaningful GST, conceptual and operational clarity on these concepts must be achieved.

At the conceptual level, GST should carefully define the objectives, scopes and goals for adequacy and effectiveness, and for this purpose the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) could play a useful role. This can be done by further conceptualizing GGA's three elements with measurable targets and indicators. For example, what is considered as adequate or effective for enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience or reducing vulnerability respectively. Those targets and indicators can be designed against each type of climate hazard, so that to make it feasible to aggregate and compare adaptation outcomes across contexts.

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At the operational level, the three components of the GST will likely require different approaches. For example, to ensure a comparable assessment of adaptation at a global level, a top-down approach to data-collecting through a commonly applied technical guideline might be provided by GST. However, in order to obtain the necessary understanding of adaptation efforts and results in a given context, and to inform the Parties on how to enhance their adaptation planning and implementation, a bottom-up approach would allow the Parties and sub-national actors to add more value to the process.

As climate changes, so will the adaptation adequacy and effectiveness goals. Understanding, assessing and communicating climate impact and how human society is coping with them is a challenging task, which requires both scientific knowledge and political will. Conducting the first GST is a learning by doing process, and accepting this limitation allows us to move away from the idea of having a perfect solution to address the almost 'mission impossible' of quantifying global progress on adaptation to a more realistic road map. We believe our above messages suggest a few directions that the GST could take in considering private sector's adaptation action and in developing approaches for assessing adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation.