



## **Report on the workshop on the work programme on just transition pathways referred to in the relevant paragraphs of decision 1/CMA.4**

### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. Mandate**

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) decided, at its fourth session, to establish a work programme on just transition for discussion of pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement outlined in Article 2, paragraph 1, in the context of Article 2, paragraph 2.<sup>1</sup> The CMA further requested that the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) recommend a draft decision on this matter for consideration and adoption at CMA 5, with the work programme to be implemented in a manner that builds on and complements the relevant workstreams under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation.<sup>2</sup>

2. At SB 58, the SBSTA and the SBI took note of the constructive discussions held at those sessions under the joint agenda item on matters relating to the work programme on just transition pathways and agreed to continue work thereon at SB 59 with a view to recommending a draft decision thereon for consideration and adoption at CMA 5.<sup>3</sup> The SBSTA and the SBI invited Parties to submit via the submission portal<sup>4</sup> views on the work programme and requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on Parties' submissions with a view to informing Parties' further discussions on the work programme.<sup>5</sup>

3. The SBSTA and the SBI further requested the secretariat to organize, under the guidance of their Chairs, a workshop to be held before SB 59 on the work programme to inform further work thereunder, based on the submissions and synthesis report referred to in paragraph 2 above, ensuring broad participation of Parties and observers, and to prepare, under the guidance of their Chairs, a summary report on the workshop.<sup>6</sup>

#### **B. Proceedings**

4. The mandated workshop on the work programme on just transition pathways referred to in the relevant paragraphs of decision 1/CMA.4 took place in hybrid format on 27 November 2023 at the COP 28 venue. It provided an opportunity for Parties and observers (hereinafter referred to as participants) to gain a better understanding of one another's views on the work programme.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 1/CMA.4, para. 52.

<sup>2</sup> As footnote 1 above.

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2023/4, para. 69.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

<sup>5</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2023/4, para. 70.

<sup>6</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2023/4, para. 71.

5. The workshop was attended by 132 participants and was broadcast live on the SB 59 website.<sup>7</sup>
6. The workshop opened with welcoming remarks from Harry Vreuls, Chair of the SBSTA, and Nabeel Munir, Chair of the SBI, followed by a discussion moderated by the SBSTA Vice-Chair, Nathalie Flores, and the SBI Vice-Chair, Gonzalo Guaiquil.
7. The workshop was divided into two sessions (see the annex for the agenda). The first focused on expectations for the work programme and the second on its implementation. Each session opened with two short icebreaker interventions, followed by discussions on the guiding questions. The second session was divided into two parts, each with two guiding questions.
8. The Chairs of the SBSTA and SBI closed the event by highlighting the importance of this exchange of views among Parties for the progress to be made in the negotiations at SB 59 session.
9. The sections below provide a summary of the workshop discussions.

## II. Summary of discussions

### Session 1: Expectations for the work programme

#### **Question 1.a: How do you see the work programme contributing to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement outlined in Article 2, paragraph 1, in the context of Article 2, paragraph 2?**

10. Many participants stressed that the work programme should be used to discuss pathways for achieving the objective of the Convention and the purpose and goals of the Paris Agreement that ensure the broad and active participation of all members of society and that no one is left behind.
11. A number of participants emphasized that climate justice needs to be discussed under the work programme; that the work programme should send a message of hope that this is an opportunity for a just transition that enables countries and societies to continue developing in a sustainable matter; and that the work programme should ensure affordable finance to support the transition.
12. Some participants underlined the importance of incorporating just transition in climate strategies, noting that the work programme is important for achieving net zero by 2050 and that its objective is to enhance understanding of transition pathways with a view to improving the quality of actions and raising climate ambition.
13. Some participants highlighted the importance of recognizing that just transition pathways should be defined by each Party in the light of its national circumstances, with no 'one-size-fits-all' solution.
14. Some participants mentioned that the three pillars of Article 2 of the Paris Agreement (mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation) are critical elements of just transition pathways and should be covered by the work programme.

#### **Question 1.b: What should be the scope of the work programme and potential areas of work to achieve this, covering social, economic and environmental aspects of just transition?**

15. Participants expressed a range of views on the scope of the work programme, such as:
  - (a) The work programme should have a holistic approach (involving all sectors) that is just, inclusive, equitable, sustainable and affordable;
  - (b) The vulnerability to climate change of Parties should be considered in the discussions under the work programme;

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<sup>7</sup> The webcast recordings are available [here](#)

(c) The just transition and its operationalization needs to consider the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, with developed countries leading by example, in order to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

(d) The concept of 'just transition' has evolved over the years and continues to do so; Parties have different starting points, just transition pathways, timelines and development priorities;

(e) Effective implementation should consider elements on promoting gender, social and environmental equality and climate justice; eradicating poverty; promoting decent work and skills training; and advancing intergenerational equity and climate resilience;

(f) The work programme is an enabler for enhanced ambition and should seek to support economic transition in an approach underpinned by partnerships and access to finance;

(g) The work programme should ensure inclusivity by engaging non-Party stakeholders and observer organizations, and avoid duplication of work;

(h) The work programme should address all aspects of Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement and include all the topics addressed under the UNFCCC process.

16. Some participants indicated specific thematic areas that should be prioritized, such as sustainable development and poverty eradication, adaptation and resilience, and food production and sustainable agriculture.

## **Session 2.1: Implementing the work programme on just transition pathways**

**Question 2.1: What are the key elements in terms of modalities, institutional arrangements, time frame and decision-making that would need to be in place in order to implement the work programme?**

### **A. Modalities**

17. Many participants were of the view that the modalities of the work programme should be conducive to improving collective understanding of just transition pathways and actions for facilitating implementation, and the sharing of knowledge, experience and lessons learned while ensuring broader participation of Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

18. The following options for modalities of the work programme were mentioned:

- a) Pre-sessional or intersessional workshops or dialogues in hybrid format to allow both in-person and virtual participation. One Party mentioned that no more than two such dialogues or workshops should take place per year;
- b) Regional dialogues or workshops during the regional climate weeks with the objective of fostering wider regional participation;
- c) Inviting Parties, non-Party stakeholders and observers to suggest topics for the above-mentioned workshops or dialogues with a view to ensuring inclusivity;
- d) A platform containing actionable tools and information;
- e) A synthesis report or annual reports, which could include a summary of Parties' submissions, a summary of the discussions at the workshops and dialogues, opportunities and challenges identified, and a compilation of case studies and lessons learned on implementing just transition pathways.

19. Some participants highlighted the importance of holding high-level events, including a high-level ministerial round table on just transition pathways, to support further political engagement.

### **B. Institutional arrangements**

20. Several participants indicated that the work programme on just transition pathways should be operationalized through a joint contact group under the subsidiary bodies, which would provide the necessary guidance for implementing the work programme. Some Parties mentioned that the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies could identify the topics for the dialogues or workshops on the basis of Party submissions. One Party mentioned that the joint contact group could prepare draft conclusions and/or draft decisions.

21. Parties also mentioned that the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies could appoint co-chairs or co-facilitators to operationalize the workshops or dialogues under the work programme.

22. Participants expressed divergent views on the suggestion to use the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI) to conduct technical work under the work programme on just transition pathways. One Party mentioned that the KCI could conduct such technical work, whereas other Parties noted that the KCI is a separate workstream, distinct from and less broad in scope than the work programme on just transition pathways because it focuses more on the workforce, capacity-building and mitigation.

23. One group of Parties mentioned that is too early to discuss institutional arrangements, as there are still many issues regarding the understanding of the applicability and context of the work programme and the concept of just transition.

### **C. Time frame**

24. Different views were expressed on the time frame of the work programme. Some Parties stated that it should be a long-term programme with regular review. Others mentioned a time frame of between two and three years, with a review to consider continuation, if needed. One Party expressed the view that the work programme should have no time frame and another Party that the time frame should be aligned with the purpose and goals of the Paris Agreement as well as its implementation.

25. One Party mentioned that sufficient knowledge has not yet been accumulated to formulate a long-term plan for the work programme; therefore, a short-term work programme could be adopted with a view to considering its continuation when its initial time frame ends.

### **D. Decision-making**

26. In terms of decision-making, one Party highlighted that the annual decisions of the CMA could provide substantive inputs to the work programme. Another Party mentioned that a high-level ministerial round table on just transition pathways could encourage countries to follow the just transition pathways and provide political guidance for action.

## **Session 2.2: Implementing the work programme on just transition pathways**

### **Question 2.2.a: What are the potential inputs, outputs and outcomes for the work programme?**

#### **A. Inputs**

27. Participants discussed various sources of information as inputs for the work programme, such as submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders, synthesis reports, mandated events such as regional workshops and dialogues, technical papers and summaries of high-level ministerial round tables on just transition pathways.

28. With regard to inputs from non-Party stakeholders, participants referred to the work of relevant stakeholders such as other United Nations organizations (e.g. International Labour Organization), the private sector, trade unions, international financial institutions (including multilateral development banks), and organizations representing Indigenous communities, women and youth.

29. Participants indicated that efforts under the work programme should also consider relevant information that has already been elaborated under other relevant UNFCCC constituted bodies and/or workstreams (e.g. the global stocktake, the work of the KCI, the

Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme, the gender action plan, the ad hoc work programme on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance and the Adaptation Committee).

## **B. Outputs and/or outcomes**

30. Various potential outputs and/or outcomes from the activities of the work programme were identified by the participants, including workshop reports, annual reports, draft decision texts and political declarations, as well as the development of a web-based resource platform to share experience, best practices and lessons learned on the implementation of just transition.

31. Participants also indicated that the proposed outputs and/or outcomes of the work programme could feed into other relevant UNFCCC constituted bodies and/or workstreams such as the global stocktake, in particular the second and subsequent stocktakes.

32. One Party highlighted the difference between outputs (more tangible products produced under the work programme) and outcomes (less tangible, higher-level results).

### **Question 2.2.a: What are the possible linkages and complementarities of the work programme with relevant workstreams under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and with relevant activities by non-Party stakeholders, including organizations in the United Nations system?**

33. Participants identified the linkages with other relevant UNFCCC constituted bodies and/or workstreams and stressed the need to build on and/or complement their work while avoiding duplication of effort. Participants also mentioned the linkages of the work programme with the work undertaken by non-Party stakeholders, including United Nations organizations and financial institutions.

## Annex

## Agenda of the workshop on the work programme on just transition pathways

Time	Session
15:00 – 15:10	<p><b>Opening and welcome remarks</b></p> <p><b>Harry Vreuls</b> – Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)</p> <p><b>Nabeel Munir</b> – Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)</p>
15:10 – 15:15	<p><b>Introduction to the workshop and format</b></p> <p><i>SBI or SBSTA Chairs</i></p>
<b>Session 1: Expectations for the work programme</b>	
15:15 – 16:15	<p>Icebreaker interventions (10 min):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simon Cardy (G77 and China)</li> <li>• Catherine Windey (European Union)</li> </ul> <p>Discussion, clarifying questions and interactive session</p> <p><b><u>Guiding question for the session</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How do you see the work programme contributing to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement outlined in Article 2, paragraph 1, in the context of Article 2, paragraph 2?</b></li> <li>• <b>What should be the scope of the work programme and potential areas of work to achieve this, covering social, economic and environmental aspects of just transition?</b></li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <i>SBI or SBSTA Chairs</i></p>
16:15 – 16:25	Break
<b>Session 2.1: Implementing the work programme on just transition pathways</b>	
16:25 – 17:25	<p>Icebreaker interventions (10 min):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gonzalo Guaiquil (Chile)</li> <li>• Steven Brine (Australia)</li> </ul> <p>Discussion, clarifying questions and interactive session</p> <p><b><u>Guiding question for the session</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What are the key elements in terms of modalities, institutional arrangements, time frame and decision-making that would need to be in place in order to implement the work programme?</b></li> </ul> <p>Moderator: <i>SBI or SBSTA Chairs</i></p>
17:25 – 17:35	Break
<b>Session 2.2: Implementing the work programme on just transition pathways</b>	

Time	Session
17:35 – 18:35	Icebreaker interventions (10 min): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abdulaziz Alomarey (Arab Group)</li> <li>• Catherine Goldberg (United States of America)</li> </ul> Discussion, clarifying questions and interactive session  <u><b>Guiding question for the session</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What are the potential inputs, outputs, and outcomes for the work programme? explain with linkages and complementarities of the work programme with relevant workstreams under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, and with relevant activities by non-Party stakeholders, including organizations in the United Nations system.</b></li> </ul> Moderator: <i>SBI or SBSTA Chairs</i>
<b>Session 3: Closing</b>	
18:35 – 18:55	In this session, representatives of Parties and groups of Parties will have the opportunity to reflect on what has been discussed.  Moderator: <i>SBI or SBSTA Chairs</i>
18:55 – 19:00	<b>Closing</b>  <b>Harry Vreuls</b> – Chair of the SBSTA  <b>Nabeel Munir</b> – Chair of the SBI