



**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and
Technological Advice**

Sixtieth session

Bonn, 3–13 June 2024

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Matters relating to the global stocktake: procedural and
logistical elements of the overall global stocktake process**

Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Sixtieth session

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Item 5(a) of the provisional agenda

Matters relating to the global stocktake

**Procedural and logistical elements of the overall
global stocktake process**

**Experience and lessons learned in relation to conducting the
first global stocktake**

Synthesis report by the secretariat*

Summary

This report, prepared by the secretariat under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, synthesizes information submitted by Parties and non-Party stakeholders on experience and lessons learned in conducting the first global stocktake with a view to informing the refinement of the procedural and logistical elements of the overall global stocktake process, consideration of which is to commence at the sixtieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies and conclude at the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

* This document was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline in order to take into account delayed submissions from Parties and groups of Parties, made after the deadline of 29 March 2024.



Abbreviations and acronyms

ACE	Action for Climate Empowerment
AR	Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NDC	nationally determined contribution
SB	sessions of the subsidiary bodies

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. Following the conclusion at CMA 5 of the first global stocktake with the adoption of decision 1/CMA.5, CMA 5 invited Parties and non-Party stakeholders to submit information on experience and lessons learned in relation to conducting the first global stocktake and requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report thereon in time to inform the refinement of the procedural and logistical elements of the overall global stocktake process, consideration of which shall commence at SB 60 and conclude at CMA 6.¹

B. Background

2. Article 14 of the Paris Agreement provides that the CMA shall periodically take stock of the implementation of the Agreement to assess collective progress towards achieving its purpose and long-term goals, with such a global stocktake to be undertaken first in 2023 and every five years thereafter, unless otherwise decided by the CMA; that the stocktake shall be undertaken in a comprehensive and facilitative manner, considering mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support, in the light of equity and the best available science; and that the outcome of the stocktake shall inform Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their relevant action and provision of support as well as in enhancing international cooperation on climate action.

3. CMA 1 decided on the modalities for conducting and the sources of input for the global stocktake, including that it shall consist of information collection and preparation, technical assessment, and consideration of outputs; be conducted in a comprehensive, facilitative, effective and efficient manner, avoiding duplication of work and taking into account the results of relevant work conducted under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, and be a Party-driven process conducted in a transparent manner and with the participation of non-Party stakeholders, considering equity and the best available science.²

4. The first global stocktake, a mechanism for encouraging scaled-up climate ambition and accelerated action in this critical decade, was conducted with the assistance of the subsidiary bodies, who established a joint contact group on the matter. CMA 1 requested the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to organize the stocktake in a flexible and appropriate manner; work on identifying opportunities for learning-by-doing, including for assessing collective progress; and take the necessary steps for the consideration of inputs as they become available.³

C. Scope and methodology

5. This report synthesizes information submitted by Parties and non-Party stakeholders as per the mandate referred to in paragraph 1 above covering aspects of the first global stocktake process such as governance framework, components and modalities, sources of input, nature of the outcome, cross-cutting elements, follow-up, and the engagement and role of stakeholders. The report's structure reflects the components of the first global stocktake, its mandate and thematic areas, and the content of the submissions.

6. The following terms are used to denote the share of Parties or non-Party stakeholders whose submissions mentioned particular information:

(a) For Parties, “a few” for less than 10 per cent, “some” for 10–40 per cent, “many” for 41–70 per cent, “most” for 71–90 per cent and “almost all” for more than 90 per cent. For submissions from groups of Parties, each Party in the group was counted, and

¹ Decision 1/CMA.5, para. 193; see also decision 19/CMA.1, para. 15.

² See decision 19/CMA.1.

³ See decision 19/CMA.1, paras. 4 and 16.

double counting was avoided for Parties belonging to more than one group but submitting similar information;

(b) For non-Party stakeholders, “some” for up to 50 per cent and “many” for more than 50 per cent. Most submissions from non-Party stakeholders were made on behalf of a network, alliance, coalition or constituency, but all such submissions were considered as being from one non-Party stakeholder.

7. As at 1 May 2024, 36 submissions⁴ had been received: 20 from Parties or groups of Parties⁵ and 16 from non-Party stakeholders,⁶ including United Nations agencies, totalling 157 pages (98 from Parties and 59 from non-Party stakeholders).

II. Synthesis

8. Almost all Parties affirmed that the first global stocktake, which concluded at CMA 5, was successful and that the outcome reflected in decision 1/CMA.5 is a historic achievement and step towards a collective resolve in providing a rallying point for global climate action in this critical decade and beyond. According to some Parties, the outcome provides a comprehensive assessment of collective progress towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement while highlighting significant gaps in ambition and implementation and the urgency of accelerating action to close them.

9. The outcome of the first global stocktake includes both a backward-looking assessment of collective progress to date and forward-looking recommendations and opportunities for informing action and enhancing international cooperation. Many Parties supported these approaches and, commending the balance between these approaches and across the provisions of the Paris Agreement, noted that this balance should be maintained in future global stocktakes.

10. Almost all Parties underscored that equity and the best available science, as well as ambition, should continue to be considered in a cross-cutting manner throughout the global stocktake. The inputs from the IPCC, which facilitated implementation of the first global stocktake on the basis of science, were widely acknowledged. A few Parties emphasized that assessment of progress has to be based on equity and reflect the leadership of developed countries in climate action and support, while a few supported an approach to equity consideration that contributes to enhancing, rather than constraining, ambition.

11. Many Parties expressed appreciation to other Parties for demonstrating flexibility in conducting the first global stocktake and embracing the learning-by-doing approach. Many Parties considered that, with some improvements, the modalities set out in decision 19/CMA.1 provide a good basis for future global stocktakes. Some Parties stressed that deliberations at SB 60 concerning the global stocktake should not involve renegotiating the modalities. Any refinement of the procedural and logistical elements of the global stocktake process was regarded by many Parties as being for the purpose of making allowances to accommodate future developments as the importance and impact of subsequent global stocktakes likely grows.

⁴ Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (in the search field, type “global stocktake”, and select “2024”).

⁵ African Group; Alliance of Small Island States; Arab Group; Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay; Australia; Canada; China; Environmental Integrity Group; European Union and its member States; Group of 77 and China; Iceland; Independent Association for Latin America and the Caribbean; India; Japan; least developed countries; Like-minded Developing Countries; Norway; South Africa; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and United States of America.

⁶ ACE Observatory, Africa NDC Hub, Carbon Disclosure Project, Climate Action Network, farmers and agricultural non-governmental organizations, Global Resilience Partnership, Independent Global Stocktake, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change, International Cryosphere Climate Initiative, local government and municipal authorities, Ocean and Climate Platform, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, We Mean Business Coalition, women and gender constituency, and WWF.

12. Most Parties supported future global stocktakes being a Party-driven process conducted with the engagement of non-Party stakeholders, resulting in outcomes that are facilitative, non-punitive, non-policy-prescriptive and aligned with efforts under other international cooperation frameworks. Many Parties recommended streamlining the global stocktake process, including its components and inputs, to ensure efficient use of time and resources.

13. Some non-Party stakeholders considered that the outcome of the first global stocktake sent a signal to countries to enhance their climate ambition and strengthen their collaboration with non-Party stakeholders. They saw the process and outcome as ambitious, transparent, inclusive and representative of best practice for multilevel action. Many non-Party stakeholders supported the scientific foundation of the stocktake and reiterated the critical need to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 °C. Many also supported the balance achieved in consideration across the themes of the stocktake, and its forward- and backward-looking approaches, and encouraged a similar approach to future global stocktakes as well as raising climate ambition in a manner that is fair, equitable and respectful of human rights. Some non-Party stakeholders emphasized that, in the next global stocktake, consideration of cross-cutting issues, such as gender, equity, human rights and social inclusion, and ensuring synergies with international cooperation frameworks and relevant multilateral agreements outside the Paris Agreement should be prioritized.

A. Governance framework

14. The high-level committee, consisting of the CMA 4 and 5 Presidencies and the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, which was established to chair the high-level events of the consideration of outputs component of the first global stocktake,⁷ was viewed by some Parties as key to facilitating the transition between the technical and the political phase of the stocktake and bringing clarity to the consideration of outputs. A few Parties recommended that the high-level committee convene earlier during the stocktake process and not only for the consideration of outputs. In regard to the composition of the committee, many Parties were of the view that its membership should include three CMA Presidencies (former, incumbent and incoming) and be regionally balanced, including representation of the five United Nations regional groups.

15. For future global stocktakes, a few Parties envisioned the committee as having a strong mandate to set out clear steps for ensuring the effective engagement of Parties and non-Party stakeholders, which is required for considering the broad range of inputs to the stocktake and collectively agreeing on appropriate corresponding responses and recommendations. Some Parties highlighted the need to clearly define the role of the high-level committee, including in the high-level political process, and its relationship with the joint contact group. Some Parties encouraged the high-level committee to undertake regional and cross-regional consultations. A few Parties recommended that efforts be made to achieve gender balance in leadership of all the stocktake components.

16. Some non-Party stakeholders called for strengthened coordination among the CMA 5–7 Presidencies to support the high-level political leadership, enhanced multilevel action and international cooperation needed to enable an increase in ambition and alignment of ambition with the 1.5 °C goal by CMA 7.

Guiding questions

17. Guiding questions were developed for each of the global stocktake components by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies⁸ and together with the high-level committee for the consideration of outputs component. Some Parties noted that there were too many guiding questions, which were thus not fully addressed. Many Parties recommended that the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies develop a common set of guiding questions for the information collection and technical assessment, and, according to a few Parties, for the consideration of

⁷ See decision 19/CMA.1, para. 33.

⁸ As per decision 19/CMA.1, para. 7.

outputs, to foster synergies between the components and promote consistency of and coherence among themes and conclusions drawn from the stocktake process.

18. Some non-Party stakeholders mentioned the need for the guiding questions to be specific and targeted in order to ensure that information provided in submissions is comparable and easily analysed and can serve as relevant input to the global stocktake.

B. Nature of outcome, scope and thematic areas

19. According to paragraph 34(c) of decision 19/CMA.1, the outputs of the consideration of outputs component of the global stocktake should be referenced in a CMA decision and/or declaration, which some Parties viewed as demonstrating flexibility in terms of the stocktake outcome. Some other Parties highlighted that the first stocktake demonstrated the value in focusing efforts on a consensus-based decision and recommended that this practice be continued in future stocktakes. Conversely, a few Parties pointed out that a political declaration can be useful for sending a clear statement of intent and should be considered for the second global stocktake.

20. Most Parties supported the use of the structure and thematic areas outlined in paragraph 6(b) of decision 19/CMA.1, with some Parties supporting alignment of the outcome with Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement. Many Parties advocated for applying the headings used in the outcome of the first global stocktake (i.e. decision 1/CMA.5) in future stocktake outcomes and a few stressed that the global stocktake outcome should not be treated as a cover decision.

21. A few Parties stressed that the mandate for the global stocktake should not be reinterpreted or renegotiated. Some highlighted that, for future global stocktakes, the mandate and focus should retain flexibility so that emerging priorities can be included as thematic areas; hence the structure of the first global stocktake outcome should serve as a reference but not a precedent for future stocktakes. Most Parties indicated that cross-cutting issues such as implications of mitigation policies, unilateral measures, multilateralism and just transition should continue to be considered under subsequent global stocktakes. A few Parties recommended that future stocktakes consider recent developments in the United Nations climate change regime alongside retaining integrated and holistic approaches as a key topic. Many Parties emphasized that loss and damage should be treated as a stand-alone theme distinct from adaptation, in line with the global recognition of the need to urgently address it. For the second global stocktake, a few Parties recommended including consideration of progress in other efforts related to the Paris Agreement goals, including progress towards implementing the enhanced transparency framework.

22. Overall, many Parties emphasized that identifying issues under the stocktake and reaching clarity on themes and scope thereof should take place early in the global stocktake process to guide discussions under later components. Some Parties expressed disappointment about the lack of clarity on the expected nature of the outcome early in the first stocktake. A few Parties recommended transparently developing and drafting a concise decision text that does not repeat other decisions and that avoids overlap with discussions under other agenda items.

23. Some non-Party stakeholders stressed that the nature and structure of the outcome must be defined early in the stocktake process to facilitate effective decision-making and its implementation. They emphasized the need to give greater consideration to the loss and damage theme, given its significance to developing countries and the intensifying effects of climate disasters.

Linkages with other workstreams

24. During the first global stocktake, there were no formal means of coordination with work programmes under mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, finance and just transition that did not exist when, or have evolved significantly since, the modalities for the global stocktake were developed. Almost all Parties reiterated the need for the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to put in place mechanisms for coordination between the global stocktake

and other workstreams and their respective relevant work programmes without creating additional levels of bureaucracy. Some Parties elaborated that the linkages with workstreams and context must be facilitative and productive, with minimal overlaps and contradictions, and cautioned against the global stocktake outcome infringing other or dictating new mandates.

25. Many non-Party stakeholders highlighted the need to increase coordination between the global stocktake and other workstreams during the negotiation process to reduce the burden on negotiators and achieve a balance in consideration across thematic areas. Many non-Party stakeholders recommended prioritizing the clarity and transparency of both the process and the nature of outputs of the global stocktake.

C. Sources of input

26. Almost all Parties affirmed that the list of sources in paragraph 37 of decision 19/CMA.1 remains comprehensive and that inputs from those sources should be considered in future global stocktakes. However, many Parties highlighted that sources of input from developing countries are largely underrepresented in the contributions and called for this disparity to be addressed. According to a few Parties, all inputs considered for the global stocktake should have complete consensus among Parties.

27. Many Parties expressed that special attention should be given to inputs derived from UNFCCC processes, including national communications, biennial update reports, biennial reports, biennial transparency reports, NDCs and adaptation communications, and relevant reports of the constituted bodies and under the subsidiary bodies as appropriate. A few Parties recommended that the list of synthesis reports to be prepared for the second global stocktake include a synthesis of the information submitted by Parties in their biennial transparency reports.

28. Many Parties suggested that inputs provided under mechanisms through their respective committees and frameworks should support the assessment of overall progress in implementing the Paris Agreement and the assessment of support provided to developing countries. Specifically, a few Parties mentioned including as sources of input the aggregate climate finance provided by developed to developing countries (to be obtained from the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism); the report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts; technology needs assessments reflecting needs and recommended actions; and information on cumulative historical emissions and fair use of the carbon budget. Some Parties recommended the inclusion of inputs on how the Global Climate Action Agenda and non-Party stakeholders have contributed to collective progress.

29. Many Parties welcomed and appreciated the contribution of the AR6 towards the first global stocktake and supported the AR7 informing the second global stocktake. A few Parties emphasized the need for balance between inputs from IPCC and non-IPCC sources, where for instance Parties should identify and agree on scientific studies from other sources and the findings therein.

30. Many Parties emphasized that as a follow-up to the first global stocktake Parties should already be identifying information and knowledge gaps in order for them to be filled ahead of the second. Many Parties recommended the continuation of calls for submissions to Parties and non-Party stakeholders with a view to collecting comprehensive inputs to the next global stocktake. To avoid information overload, a few Parties suggested that adequate time be allocated for synthesizing large amounts of data, and that submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders should include a one-page summary.

31. Many non-Party stakeholders recommended providing specific guidance for submission of inputs to the global stocktake from Parties and non-Party stakeholders to ensure efficiency, including word or page limits, more focused guiding questions, and themes and/or semi-structured templates. Some non-Party stakeholders recommended using gender-disaggregated data and recognizing differentiated impacts of climate change to enhance gender equality.

D. Timeline and components

1. Timeline

32. Most Parties expressed that inadequate time represents the primary challenge for the global stocktake, namely that there is not enough time within the five-year cycle to implement the outcomes of the two-year stocktake in order to implement the recommended pathways to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. To ensure efficiency and effectiveness of the process, most Parties recommended reviewing the global stocktake timeline and preparing a road map outlining the schedule of work.

33. Many Parties suggested that, for the second global stocktake, 2027 be considered the year of the technical dialogue and 2028 the year of the consideration of outputs. Some Parties recommended reducing the time allocated for meetings of the technical dialogue from across three sessions of the subsidiary bodies to two, that is SB 66–67, and holding one meeting of the technical dialogue intersessionally in 2027 or 2028 depending on the timing of publication of relevant IPCC reports. Some other Parties proposed retaining the time allocated for the technical dialogue but starting the consideration of outputs before its conclusion or around the time of the second meeting of the dialogue, with the flexibility to revisit outputs of previous meetings. Also, the consideration of outputs could take place earlier, in late 2027, and/or be held over SB 68 and 69 and overlap with the third technical dialogue. Most Parties proposed holding intersessional workshops under the consideration of outputs before CMA 10, possibly prior to and after SB 68.

34. A few Parties with small delegations and limited institutional capacity were in favour of meetings and workshops under the global stocktake being held in conjunction with the regular sessions of the subsidiary bodies. Many Parties proposed that high-level events be held earlier in the stocktake process, throughout the year ahead of CMA 10 possibly during the pre-COP or intersessional period.

2. Information collection and preparation

35. The information collection and preparation component of the first global stocktake was focused on gathering, compiling and synthesizing information for conducting the technical assessment. Almost all Parties considered the component to be successful and well managed and noted that a considerable amount of inputs and a wealth of information was gathered from relevant sources from both Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

36. Many Parties highlighted the significance of the engagement of the IPCC and its scientists, who provided comprehensive information and insights on the latest available scientific findings from the AR6, including providing comprehensive and accurate science regarding the action necessary to keep 1.5 °C within reach. Those Parties recommended that the second global stocktake draw from the AR7. Some Parties highlighted the valuable inputs from specialized organizations such as the International Energy Agency and International Renewable Energy Agency in specific thematic areas. The contribution of inputs from UNFCCC constituted bodies and workstreams under the Convention and the Paris Agreement was also highlighted as valuable and relevant for informing Parties and stakeholders on the status of implementation of relevant decisions and outcomes.

37. Some Parties recommended that additional guidance be provided to constituted bodies and other workstreams during the preparation of inputs, specifically synthesis reports, to ensure that specific inputs related to gaps in their mandates and work to raise ambition to the required level are received. Most Parties recommended reconsidering the number of synthesis reports for the second stocktake and examining whether the information from the inputs can be made available to Parties in a different format. Further, many Parties recommended that the identification of potential information gaps start early, with some Parties specifying that it focus on improving data accessibility, enhancing regional consultations and strengthening capacity-building initiatives tailored to the needs of least developed countries.

38. Some Parties encouraged the secretariat to streamline written submissions, including by summarizing their key points and maintaining access to all submissions made and the

wealth of information collected on the UNFCCC website. On the basis of their experience with the global stocktake explorer tool,⁹ some Parties suggested exploring the use of artificial intelligence for making information available and accessible. Many Parties recommended continued engagement on the content of the technical annex or repository of solutions providing a menu of concrete options for Parties to consult in preparing and updating their NDCs. A process could be put in place well in advance for Parties to agree on the criteria for inclusion of information in the technical annex. Likewise, many non-Party stakeholders recommended exploring avenues for using submissions, such as by compiling information into factsheets.

39. In future global stocktakes, some Parties recommended that information be collected on progress under relevant initiatives launched under COP Presidencies and by the United Nations Secretary-General, as well as on how non-Party stakeholders have contributed to collective progress.

3. Technical assessment

40. Almost all Parties asserted that the three meetings of the technical dialogue of the first global stocktake were robust and inclusive and fulfilled their mandate. The dialogues included innovative approaches to engagement, such as world cafés that were rich in facilitating information-sharing, discussion and exchange of views among Parties and non-Party stakeholders and were elevated by the participation of the high-level champions. Some Parties highlighted that the dialogues were evidence-based and included consideration of equity and the best available science. The co-facilitators, who had scientific knowledge and political experience and were identified early in the global stocktake process, were highlighted by some non-Party stakeholders as being key to the success of the dialogue.

41. Over the course of the dialogue, the co-facilitators convened regular informal consultations and took into account feedback for improving subsequent meetings. Many Parties were in favour of continuing such practices for future technical dialogues. In addition, many Parties proposed reducing the number of events held under the dialogue to avoid clashes and overlap with negotiations, and overburdening developing country delegations as well as to ensure efficient use of resources.

42. Regarding the scope of the technical assessment, a few Parties highlighted that discussions during the technical dialogue were not always directly related to the global stocktake, with forward-looking elements being overemphasized, gaps in the stocktaking being overlooked, and key aspects of equity and historical responsibilities being neglected. Further, the guiding questions for the discussions were considered by some Parties to be policy prescriptive and beyond the scope of the stocktake.

43. The outcomes of the technical assessment, namely summary reports and a synthesis report, were considered by some Parties to be of high quality, comprehensive, balanced, scientifically grounded, thorough and accurate in identifying key messages and providing valuable input for the political phase of the global stocktake. The format of the synthesis report, which presents key findings followed by further elaboration on them, was considered by a few Parties to be effective and easy to reference; however, these Parties recommended that the summaries of each meeting of the technical dialogue be shorter and focused on key findings.

44. Conversely, some Parties highlighted that the summary and synthesis reports did not completely fulfil the mandate in paragraph 13 of decision 19/CMA.1 to summarize lessons learned and good practices and at times went beyond its mandate while not fully reflecting divergent views. Accordingly, they felt that the outcomes of future global stocktakes should be comprehensive and balanced. Many Parties expressed the need for the synthesis report to be delivered earlier in the stocktake process, for instance at the end of 2027, in order to serve as the foundation for the political considerations.

45. Many Parties highlighted that the technical assessment was not fully or well integrated with the other components of the first global stocktake. Specifically, the information from the information collection and preparation did not feature significantly in or frame

⁹ Available at <https://gst1.org/>.

discussions during the technical assessment, nor did the outcomes of the technical assessment fully inform the consideration of outputs. This led to gaps in understanding how the synthesis report would be taken forward into the political phase; hence, in future stocktakes it should be clear how the outputs of each component will be used and the synthesis report should be given due consideration.

46. Many non-Party stakeholders commended the co-facilitators of the technical dialogue for effectively engaging non-Party stakeholders. To strengthen the technical assessment in future stocktakes, they recommended reducing the political nature of the discussions during the dialogue and establishing a representative team of stakeholders to support the preparation of the synthesis report. Some non-Party stakeholders stated that the synthesis report failed both to note specific growing climate risks due to insufficient climate action in the first five-year global stocktake cycle and to emphasize the urgency of taking such action, including protecting the cryosphere. Some non-Party stakeholders recommended that a summary for policymakers be prepared as an output of the technical assessment, which would be adopted as part of the CMA decision.

(a) Technical dialogue and world café stations

47. The variety of formats used for the technical dialogue, particularly world café, was applauded by some Parties as it encouraged informal conversation, promoted genuine discussion and exchange of views and was more productive than formal settings. The world cafés provided the opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding of scientific information, appreciate the interconnected nature of themes of the global stocktake, and bring common knowledge to Parties. For future dialogues, some Parties recommended continuing to engage diverse stakeholders and experts to address gaps in representation, and to use multiple formats but prioritize plenary format for round-table discussions.

48. While commending the approach of the co-facilitators of the world cafés, some Parties expressed the need to ensure the linkage of the world cafés to the round-table discussions. Highlighting that the small tables, large number of participants, limited time allocation per table and difficulty of capturing views reduced the value of the world café discussions, some Parties recommended improving facilitation and employing structured formats to maximize engagement, as well as recommending that the aim of the guiding questions, communicated well in advance, should be to focus the discussions and highlight opportunities for enhancing collective ambition of action and support.

49. Many Parties noted that the organization and format of the technical dialogue could be improved and easier to follow and that it should focus on the technical assessment of the actions of Parties and key actors and actions under mechanisms in response to the commitment to enhance the ambition and implementation of NDCs and international cooperation. A few Parties recommended that the first dialogue prioritize identifying gaps and acknowledging progress made, and the third meeting discuss the way forward or future action, as much of the discussion during the technical dialogue of the first global stocktake focused on backward-looking assessment.

50. Many Parties highlighted that the substantial time required for the three meetings of the technical dialogue across sessions of the subsidiary bodies led to clashes with other events, such as IPCC special events, the research dialogue and Earth Information Day, and with negotiations, thus overburdening negotiators. To avoid this, Parties recommended that the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, the secretariat and the co-facilitators consider:

(a) Mandating intersessional meetings of the technical dialogue to prevent conflicts with related negotiations and events and to enable an earlier start of the political phase and wider stakeholder engagement;

(b) Providing dedicated space and time within the technical assessment to discuss advances in research and systematic observation;

(c) Streamlining and keeping lean the provisional agendas of the negotiating bodies during the global stocktake process;

(d) Improving coordination with co-facilitators for mandated work programmes and agenda items to better align schedules and optimize available time;

(e) Exploring an innovative format for the technical dialogue that combines inclusiveness (such as of round tables) with effective exchange of views among a large number of participants.

51. Many non-Party stakeholders commended the world café format, which allowed for greater interaction and engagement among participants and was conducive for collaboration and fostering partnerships. For future global stocktakes, some non-Party stakeholders proposed reducing the number of meetings of the technical dialogue to two to provide more time for each round table, including holding some round tables intersessionally, reconceptualizing the round tables to embrace the ‘dialogue spirit’ by limiting prepared statements, and exploring innovative means of facilitating the world cafés that promote uptake of their outcomes.

(b) Themes under the technical dialogue

52. The themes under the technical dialogue of the first global stocktake were mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and support, and integrated and holistic approaches. Some Parties appreciated the themes, including the consideration of science, equity, response measures and loss and damage, and encouraged co-facilitators to consider covering them under future technical dialogues. A few Parties mentioned that the dialogues did not provide adequate insights into barriers to and opportunities for enhancing international cooperation or fully address matters related to pre-2020 ambition and implementation.

53. Some Parties suggested that technical dialogues should focus on assessing equity and progress towards its operationalization; enhancing international cooperation on climate action; reviewing progress under constituted bodies and their mandates under the Convention and the Paris Agreement; assessing ambition and implementation of action and provision of support towards achieving the Paris Agreement goals; and assessing relevant gaps, challenges, opportunities and solutions on the basis of the best available science. Some Parties recognized that the dialogue meetings were primarily structured to align with IPCC global pathways and hence did not address the assessment of means of implementation, costs associated with different pathways, response measures, the global goal on adaptation, joint mitigation and adaptation approaches, assumptions related to modelled pathways, equity, and contexts shaped by global affairs.

54. Some Parties stressed that technical dialogues should focus on specific measures and actions to inform the updating of NDCs, and hence ministries, NDC experts and planning agencies at the national level should be increasingly involved. Many Parties recommended that technical dialogues draw on relevant national and regional processes.

4. Consideration of outputs

55. This component was intended to focus on discussing the implications of findings from the technical assessment with a view to achieve the global stocktake outcome of informing Parties in updating and enhancing their action and support. Almost all Parties expressed the need to improve the transition between the technical assessment and consideration of outputs to ensure outcomes of the technical assessment inform the global stocktake outcome and develop a joint understanding of options for elements of the decision. A few Parties highlighted that this component was distinguished by a lack of clarity.

56. Almost all Parties identified the limited time availed for this component, which was essentially six months including negotiation of the CMA decision, as a key bottleneck in the stocktake process. Noting that the factual synthesis report was published in September 2023, many Parties mentioned the insufficient time to consider and discuss the implications of the findings from the technical assessment. According to a few Parties, discussions were hence superseded by political negotiations based on Parties’ priorities. A few Parties expressed that the negotiations on the CMA decision text would benefit from guidance from heads of delegation through meetings, distinct from ministerial consultations and facilitated by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies.

(a) **Joint contact group and negotiations**

57. Many Parties pointed out the need for more time for and clarity on the process leading up to the global stocktake outcome, specifically around negotiating the CMA decision text. This could entail setting out key milestones of the political phase and their respective outputs or products fostering in-depth discussion in order to identify common ground. Some Parties expressed that determining the nature of the outcome, that is decision and/or political declaration, and commencing this process earlier in the year would enable Parties to spend more time discussing the context. Many Parties recommended early and more engagement with the draft decision text, by commencing the joint contact group earlier and conducting several rounds of intersessional workshops to prepare more iterations of draft elements for the decision text. Some Parties recommended that the co-chairs of the joint contact group should serve for two subsidiary body sessions during the final year of the stocktake.

58. Many non-Party stakeholders reiterated the time constraints during the political phase of the first global stocktake and the ineffective transition from the technical assessment. To address this, they recommended highlighting technical findings throughout, and allocating adequate time for, the political phase and structuring discussions for consensus-building guided by a robust, transparent and inclusive political process.

(b) **Intersessional workshops**

59. Almost all Parties expressed support for conducting the political phase of the global stocktake through both intersessional and in-session workshops and meetings. Many Parties advocated for intersessional workshops being held before and after the June sessions of the subsidiary bodies, with some indicating that they should focus on bridging the technical assessment and consideration of outputs, allowing for more detailed consideration of the findings from the technical assessment and facilitating consensus on the building blocks of the CMA decision. Some Parties highlighted that holding a workshop before the June sessions of the subsidiary bodies would enable the joint contact group to advance preparation of the draft decision text. Some Parties noted that the workshops could be informed by submissions and result in reports by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies aimed at informing in-session negotiations. A few Parties stated that the virtual consultations held following the October 2023 intersessional workshop were redundant and could have been replaced by a call for submissions.

(c) **High-level events**

60. Many Parties expressed the significance of the high-level events during the global stocktake, noting, however, that the events did not meaningfully contribute to the outcome of the first global stocktake. Some Parties mentioned the limited time for messages from the events to be fully considered in relation to the negotiated outcome, and that holding them during negotiations detracted from their political significance. Some Parties noted the value of establishing links with other high-level events and dialogues, such as the ministerial round table at the United Nations General Assembly and those organized by COP Presidencies and specialized agencies such as the International Energy Agency.

61. Most Parties recommended that, to ensure their effectiveness, the high-level events should be undertaken with a high degree of transparency in terms of process and expectations, be convened in time to support the work of the joint contact group, focus on unlocking difficult political issues and employ various formats of engagement. For instance, dialogues on the 1.5 °C goal and ensuring that all NDCs contribute to it and ministerial engagement on raising the profile of adaptation domestically could be considered. Also, the logistical arrangements, guidelines and timeline for the events should be shared well in advance and the expected outcomes made clear. A few Parties reiterated the need for the high-level committee to regularly report on the progress of the events.

62. Many Parties considered the early engagement of ministers in the global stocktake process to be necessary to add weight to and build ownership of an ambitious outcome. Ministerial engagement could also help Parties to anticipate the steps they will take in preparing their NDCs, and some Parties considered that the first global stocktake would have benefited from the positive momentum created by requesting Parties to share preliminary

plans for NDC targets. A few Parties encouraged consultations co-facilitated by pairs of ministers to be held on the margins of other meetings and events. Some Parties pointed out that the ministerial consultations led by the CMA Presidency, pairs of ministers and the high-level committee should be aimed at supporting the negotiations under the joint contact group.

63. Some non-Party stakeholders noted that the high-level events could be improved by holding them prior to a COP session in order to provide adequate time for consideration of their outcomes and ensuring cooperation with related political processes, such as the Group of 20.

(d) Local, regional and global engagement and events

64. During the first global stocktake, regional activities included climate weeks. Many unofficial activities were also undertaken, including national preparations for the stocktake, independent stocktakes, and local stocktakes by local government and municipal authorities. Many Parties expressed the need for activities focused on regional challenges and solutions to be encouraged systematically to support the global stocktake process, considering them as essential to creating space for the participation of diverse experts who identify action for implementation on the ground, encourage deeper discussion and help build ownership of the global stocktake outputs.

65. Highlighting progress, trends, barriers, challenges and opportunities related to climate action at the regional level was underlined by many non-Party stakeholders as a way to enrich discussions under the global stocktake as regional perspectives are crucial to understanding differentiation in the progress of climate action. Regional climate weeks and local stocktakes, including the Global People's Assembly, where opportunities to enhance multilevel action are identified help in integrating critical perspectives from the ground into the global stocktake.

E. Contribution and role of non-Party stakeholders

66. Almost all Parties acknowledged the efforts made by co-facilitators, co-chairs and the secretariat to engage and include non-Party stakeholders, including international organizations, throughout the global stocktake. Specifically, they mentioned that their engagement during dialogues and through submissions, which identified progress in climate action and opportunities to strengthen action and cooperation, thus contributing to the success of the first global stocktake, should be replicated and enhanced in future global stocktakes. Some Parties recommended that the capacity of non-Party stakeholders to provide targeted inputs in a useful format should be strengthened.

67. Some Parties supported the continuation of the role and engagement of the high-level champions in global stocktakes to assist in facilitating and supporting the effective participation of non-Party stakeholders. They encouraged the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and non-Party stakeholders to consider the global stocktake outcome with a view to scaling up, strengthening and encouraging transparency in voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions for ambitious climate action. The participation of company executives, especially from industries with significant emission levels and capacity for climate action, during the first stocktake was applauded by some Parties, which recommended for future stocktakes a specific forum be set up for the private sector to share insights and showcase lessons learned and pledges.

68. Many non-Party stakeholders commended the engagement efforts under and high level of inclusivity of the first global stocktake, particularly during the technical assessment. To strengthen this engagement and provide more room for non-Party stakeholder voices, they recommended:

(a) Having representatives nominated by the Marrakech Partnership across the seven thematic areas;

(b) Assessing the progress of non-Party stakeholder initiatives to provide an accurate picture of global ambition across existing and future campaigns and through action agendas such as Race to Resilience, Race to Zero and Ocean Breakthroughs;

- (c) Having a transparent process for selection of and adequate notice for non-Party stakeholders to participate in various events, in order to counter logistical challenges;
- (d) Ensuring the participation of non-Party stakeholders from developing countries so as to prevent unequal representation in the discussions and ensure balanced consideration between Global South and Global North centric themes and issues;
- (e) Facilitating the active engagement of co-facilitators with diverse constituencies, thereby fostering trust and collaboration, including during the political phase, contributing to fair and equitable outcomes;
- (f) Engaging experts in diverse areas to reflect the multidisciplinary nature of climate governance;
- (g) Encouraging Parties to collaborate with and consider input from non-Party stakeholders in developing and updating NDCs.

III. Cross-cutting areas for consideration

69. Many Parties supported continuing consideration and mainstreaming under the global stocktake, in a cross-cutting manner, of human rights, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the rights of workers, gender equality, social inclusion, youth and intergenerational equity. Many Parties recommended that linkages be considered for future global stocktakes with other cooperation frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and the Convention on Biological Diversity to address the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

70. Recognizing the inextricable link between the Convention and mandates from Article 2, paragraphs 1(a–c) and 2, and Article 14, paragraphs 1–3, of the Paris Agreement, many Parties stressed that the connection between the Convention and the global stocktake must be respected throughout the stocktake process.

A. Views on the first global stocktake outcome

71. Some Parties saw the outcome of the first global stocktake as fulfilling its mandate and offering a balance between backward- and forward-looking elements and providing specific policy outcomes across its themes. Conversely, some other Parties felt that the outcome was not balanced between past, present and future considerations as it excessively focused on future action and neglected a thorough analysis of past action.

72. A few Parties expressed that the first global stocktake was not fully consistent with Article 14 of the Paris Agreement owing to the failure to adequately consider collective progress related to Article 2, paragraph 1(c), of the Paris Agreement, that is, the outcome does not fully cover progress towards aligning finance flows with low-emission and climate-resilient development. Hence, they recommended holistic coverage of progress towards the Paris Agreement goals in future stocktakes, including efforts of governments, the private sector and others. This would complement and not detract from the importance of climate finance, technology, capacity-building and other means of support to developing countries.

73. Some Parties noted that, during the first stocktake, some thematic areas were addressed in less depth than others and therefore lacked similar substantive and detailed outcomes. According to those Parties, this occurred in part owing to lack of information resulting from gaps in scientific knowledge in these areas and in different regions and duplicated efforts within the broader context of the UNFCCC process. Some Parties highlighted the deficit in trust reflected in the outcome owing to the failure of developed countries to fulfil their obligations, the shift in the burden of mitigation, and the lack of clarity on the provision of commensurate support for implementing outcomes.

74. According to some Parties, discussion on implementing and following up on the outcome was accorded limited time, and hence they recommended that sufficient time, and space, be allocated for such discussion in future stocktakes and that the approach to tracking

implementation of the outcome, such as using common indicators or resources, be duly considered.

75. Many non-Party stakeholders provided reflections on the first global stocktake outcome by recognizing its contribution to strengthening climate action and cooperation, including with other multilateral environmental agreements. They further highlighted gaps in the outcome related to gender-responsive approaches and women's participation, farmers' engagement and the role of agriculture, ocean-based climate action, risks and limitations of zero- and low-emission technologies, and the absence of a commitment to phase out fossil fuels.

B. Effective participation of developing countries

76. While acknowledging the secretariat's efforts to ensure the participation of developing country experts and facilitate regional engagement, most Parties highlighted that relevant arrangements should be significantly strengthened for future global stocktakes and adequate funding and technical support for participation made available to developing country Parties. Many Parties indicated that a wider pool of stakeholders and experts, particularly from vulnerable regions, should be supported to engage in intersessional activities and discussions. A few Parties stressed that the team supporting the global stocktake within the secretariat needs to be resourced adequately.

C. Role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

77. Most Parties emphasized that equity and the best available science, including IPCC inputs, should continue to be considered under the global stocktake in assessing progress and the direction for future action and in relation to keeping 1.5 °C within reach. A few Parties expressed concern that the seventh IPCC assessment cycle is not aligned with the second global stocktake and requested the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to seek alternative ways of integrating IPCC input, such as through oral presentations by lead authors. Still, most Parties encouraged the IPCC to deliver the contributions of its three Working Groups to the AR7 and the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities¹⁰ and other relevant material by 2028 to inform the technical assessment component of the second global stocktake.

78. Parties welcomed the mandate¹¹ from the sixtieth session of the IPCC for the AR7 to use diverse literature and knowledge, including that of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and encouraged the IPCC to redouble efforts to assess all relevant forms of knowledge, including literature in languages other than English and Indigenous knowledge and research and scientific papers from Africa and other developing regions. Many Parties invited the IPCC to assess equity in relation to all themes under the global stocktake and to consider data on the carbon budget for all Parties and historical cumulative emissions. Some Parties encouraged full use of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice–IPCC joint working group to enhance communication and collaboration and support implementation of the outcome of the first global stocktake.

D. Next steps and follow-up on the outcome

79. As the test of the outcome of the first global stocktake lies in its implementation, most Parties stressed the need for robust implementation and adequate follow-up and tracking. Many Parties reiterated the significance of Parties and non-Party stakeholders in translating the guidance from the outcome into action, including in preparing and updating NDCs and long-term low-emission development strategies. A few Parties requested clear communication on operationalizing guidance and follow-up from the first global stocktake outcome at SB 60 and CMA 6, including synergies with other workstreams. Such guidance

¹⁰ See <https://www.ipcc.ch/2024/01/19/ipcc-60-ar7-work-programme/>.

¹¹ See https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2024/02/IPCC-60_decisions_adopted_by_the_Panel.pdf (p.9).

could consider the implications of the outcome at the international, national and subnational level.

80. Almost all Parties emphasized that the first annual global stocktake dialogue¹² should create space for mutual learning from best practices and sharing knowledge on how the global stocktake is informing NDCs. Some Parties highlighted that the structure, purpose and outputs of the annual dialogue, which should include information gaps from the first stocktake, components of the technical annex and linkages with reports under the enhanced transparency framework, should be decided at the earliest opportunity.

81. In highlighting immediate follow-up to the first stocktake, some Parties noted that negotiations on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance in 2024 should transition to developing a draft negotiating text for consideration at CMA 6 and addressing the urgent need for support for implementation of NDCs and national adaptation plans. In addition, some Parties stressed that implementation of action aligned with the 1.5 °C goal should not be reinterpreted to undermine efforts towards achieving a peak in emissions by 2025 and a reduction in global emissions of 43 per cent by 2030 and 60 per cent by 2035. Those Parties supported the follow-up and regular assessment of voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions launched at COP 28 and previous sessions.

82. Many Parties emphasized that the follow-up on and implementation of the outcome of the first global stocktake should be undertaken in a manner that ensures provision of adequate means of implementation, in particular to small island developing States and the least developed countries.

83. Many non-Party stakeholders encouraged Parties to take immediate and urgent action to reduce emissions and enhance resilience as the highest possible ambition is vital for maintaining trust and momentum and safeguarding the integrity of the mechanism for enhancing ambition towards the Paris Agreement goals. They acknowledged that adequate means of implementation are levers for increased action. Further, some non-Party stakeholders emphasized that for future global stocktakes the guidance and way forward section of the outcome should address features of NDCs and long-term low-emission development strategies, and the guidance from the global stocktake outcome should inform the revision of the information necessary for clarity, transparency and understanding of NDCs.

¹² Decision 1/CMA.5, para. 187.