



“Keeping 1.5C alive” – Key issues raised during the informal bilateral conversations

Following the recent release of a number of reports on the state of both climate change and climate change action, the consultations reflected a keen sense of urgency similar to the rich discussion on the issue at both Pre-COP in Milan and at the July Ministerial in London.

All parties engaged constructively in the conversations. Many Parties opened by underscoring the importance of recognizing the latest scientific findings including the need to reduce emissions by 45% in 2030 as highlighted by the IPCC as the robust basis for all action, while further emphasizing the need to deliver a clear response in Glasgow that would recognize the gap between the mitigation ambitions flowing from the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement and keeping 1.5 degree within reach and what current cumulative nationally determined contributions (NDCs) add up to. Many also underlined the need to acknowledge actions taken to reduce GHG emissions already in attempting to close this mitigation gap, including from non-state actors in reducing fossil fuels, although more needs to be done.

Parties stressed the importance of finalizing outstanding elements of the Paris Rulebook to support mitigation efforts, with many referencing the need to ensure an outcome on common timeframes, article 6 and the Enhanced Transparency Framework. There was also acknowledgment among Parties that finance will be an important part of any decision text, with reference to the 100bn USD commitment, the need to scale up action and finance for adaptation as well as language on article 2.1.(c).

In light of the ambition gap most Parties stressed the need for a renewed commitment to submit – ahead of the Global Stocktake – updated mid-century long-term low-emission development strategies (LEDS) towards carbon neutrality / net zero aligned with NDCs, and to set a new deadline for which such strategies should be communicated in line with Paris Agreement article 4.19. Many expressed a need for dedicated support for parties in developing their LEDS.

Some noted that it could be useful with some form of platform or forum to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices on the design and implementation of LEDS and NDCs. The need for capacity building and support in this regard was mentioned as well.

In the short term, many also suggested a need to return to 2030 ambition by annually reviewing NDCs and encouraging parties, that have not yet done so, to submit enhanced, ambitious NDCs in line with article 4.2 and 4.11 until the mitigation gap has been closed. Specific proposals in this regard included a high-level summit or ministerial meeting possibly at the UNGA or COP27, ahead of the Global Stocktake, focusing on enhancing ambitions of NDCs towards closing the mitigation gap, a possible NDC synthesis report in 2022, or a structure/mechanism/platform for recurring review. This could be organised by the UNFCCC e.g. mandated through a COP decision, to ensure that NDCs are reviewed and assessed. Some parties suggested that implementation of targets should also be reviewed.

A number of parties emphasized that short-term action should be complimentary to existing provisions of the Paris Agreement, including the ambition mechanism and the Global Stocktake. As such, some added that there should be no attempt at renegotiating the Paris Agreement, including the temperature goal of the Agreement. What is needed, some stressed, is rather the political will and mutual trust to implement it.

Several Parties also highlighted the need to continue to develop NDCs in line with the Paris temperature goal, and some suggested that it could be requested that all Parties explain how their NDC is 1.5 degrees compatible in accordance with point 7 in the *'Information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of nationally determined contributions, referred to in decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 28'*.

Several Parties highlighted the need to ensure finance for loss and damage and adaptation and the need to strive for a balance between support for adaptation and mitigation. Furthermore, some parties highlighted the importance of initiating negotiations on the new climate finance goal from 2025.

Some Parties called for the need to recognize the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances, the need for a just transition, and the important role of technology in achieving agreed goals.

Other elements explored included the need to recognize activities outside UNFCCC, including discussions on carbon markets and prices and further efforts to phase down fossil fuels (in line with the IEA Net Zero by 2050 roadmap) and coal and fossil fuel subsidies, as well as relevant multi-stakeholder initiatives, declarations and coalitions.