



Conference of the Parties, twenty-seventh session
High-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition
Sharm el-Sheikh, 14 November 2022

08 December 2022

First annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition

Informal note by the President

Summary

This informal note, prepared by the President of the Conference of the Parties with the support of the secretariat, is a non-exhaustive summary of the first annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition held during the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of Parties (COP 27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, at its third session, decided to convene an annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition, beginning at its fourth session (decision 1/CMA.3, para. 31).

B. Context

2. The COP 27 Presidency convened the first annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition on Monday, 14 November 2022, from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., during COP 27.¹ A summary of the proceedings is available in the annex.

3. The first annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition provided a unique opportunity to help set the global direction on pre-2030 mitigation ambition and implementation and served as a platform for discussing ways to put the global community firmly on the pathway towards achieving the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, which was especially important in the context of resolving to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C at COP 26.

4. This first round table took place at a critical time, with the most recent IPCC report, released earlier in 2022, underlining that global greenhouse gas emissions need to peak before 2025 if the 1.5 °C or 2 °C goals are to be achieved. It was therefore imperative for this first round table to lay the foundation for immediate action.

5. The round table was attended by over 100 high-level representatives of Parties, including ministers, climate envoys and heads of delegation.

6. The round table was co-facilitated by H.E. Barbara Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South Africa, and H.E. Dan Jannik Jørgensen, Minister of Climate and Energy and Public Utilities, Denmark.

7. The Presidency had identified a number of guiding questions to facilitate the discussions during the round table. These questions are available in the annex.

C. Summary

8. Ministers engaged actively during the round table, presenting their views on the guiding questions. The following summary aims to provide a non-exhaustive overview without prejudice to the various views expressed.

9. **Sense of urgency:** Many Parties highlighted the extremely urgent need for action in this critical decade, as informed by science, with a number of Parties emphasizing the essential role of the 1.5 °C goal at COP 27, the achievement of which is an existential necessity for many countries. The targets to be met are clear: reach peak emissions by 2025, halve emissions by 2030 and achieve net zero by 2050. At COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, the view was that Parties should not backslide from commitments made under the Paris Agreement and the Glasgow Climate Pact. Some Parties pointed to the particular responsibility of developed countries and major economies.

10. **Opportunities for increased ambition:** Both Parties and presenters emphasized the availability of solutions for accelerated action in this decade that would make it possible to achieve the 1.5 °C goal. There is a need to continue to call for Parties that have not submitted an updated nationally determined contribution (NDC) or a long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategy to do so. The European Union confirmed that it will not be stepping away from its ambition because of the war between the Russian Federation and Ukraine; on the contrary, efforts will be doubled. Many Parties highlighted renewable energy as a cost-effective tool for reducing emissions. Some Parties mentioned alternative pathways, enabled by, for example, carbon capture, utilization and storage; hydrogen technologies;

¹ Further information is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/high-level-ministerial-round-table-on-pre-2030-ambition>

removal and abatement technologies; and strengthening of ecosystems. However, many Parties stressed the need for adequate finance, technology and capacity-building to accelerate the roll-out of mitigation measures at the scale and speed required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

11. **Just transition:** Several Parties highlighted that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities should be considered. Most Parties emphasized the importance of just transitions. Many Parties stressed the need to increase renewable energy production and decrease fossil fuel consumption in association with enabling just transitions and ensuring vulnerable workers and communities, including women and youth, benefit from opportunities, and that no one is left behind.

12. **Reform of financial systems:** Many Parties highlighted the importance of unlocking financial resources from various sources, without overlooking the responsibility of developed countries, including public and multilateral development institutions and private investors. Some Parties called for clarity on the delivery of finance at the scale and the speed needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. The views that targets must be accompanied by implementation plans, finance is crucial for the transition, and financial institutions should address the debt burden of developing countries were expressed. Many developing countries highlighted the fact that means of implementation, especially finance, is needed to be able to increase ambition.

13. **Ambition in mitigation implementation:** Many Parties highlighted that the Paris Agreement provides a suitable framework to move forward, including on implementation. Several Parties emphasized that the implementation of climate action is as important as having ambitious targets. Furthermore, implementation at the speed and scale required must be supported by finance, technology and capacity-building, especially to implement the conditional components of NDCs. Several Parties also highlighted the importance of mobilizing the private sector for the scaling up of climate finance.

14. **Linkages between the mitigation work programme and the high-level round table on pre-2030 ambition:** There was a call for clear, ambitious and concrete implementation of the mitigation work programme to increase ambition, action and implementation, provide a space to share experience and enable Parties to “tap into” the green future. Many Parties called for clear benchmarks, a timeline up until 2030 and, a clear link to the political process.

15. **Glasgow Climate Pact:** Some Parties noted that the mitigation work programme could provide the content for the framework created by the Glasgow Climate Pact and in order to do so successfully, it is important that the mitigation work programme be robust and lead to concrete action. Ideas expressed by Parties included the need to:

- (a) Focus on the right sectors;
- (b) Provide a space to share experience and raise ambition;
- (c) Prepare an annual report containing specific concrete policy recommendations;
- (d) Enhance collaboration and engagement with stakeholders.

16. **Linkages between the mitigation work programme and other processes:** Many Parties linked higher ambition to greater support for developing countries, including new and scaled-up finance for implementation, adaptation, and loss and damage. Several Parties highlighted the urgency of accelerated mitigation as delays would lead to unaffordable adaptation costs and increased loss and damage.

Annex

Proceedings of the first annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition

A. Opening remarks

1. The President of COP 27, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol at its seventeenth session and CMA 4, **H.E. Sameh Shoukry**, welcoming participating ministers and high-level representatives, urged them to engage in candid discussions on the key guiding questions on ways to take the mitigation agenda forward. Moreover, he asked Parties to explore how they can work together to find opportunities and enablers while removing the barriers towards achieving the 1.5 °C goal. He emphasized the importance of delivering strong political messages through the round table that are urgently needed to shape climate action in this critical decade. The President assured Parties that the Presidency will spare no efforts in reaching a balanced and satisfactory outcome from COP 27, adding that he would issue an informal note to capture the different views expressed by Parties during the first annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition .

2. The Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, **Simon Stiell**, emphasized in his opening remarks the importance of sending a clear signal from COP 27 that ambitious climate action, in line with the best available science, was indeed taking place. One key step to achieving this would be the launch at COP 27 of an ambitious mitigation work programme that aims to have significant impact, with a strong commitment to bring emissions down faster and increase momentum towards significant climate action, and assurances from key Parties to raise their ambition.

B. Scene-setting presentations

3. The secretariat presented the key outcomes from the 2022 NDC synthesis report, which shows that implementation of the current NDCs by national Governments would increase emissions by 10.6 per cent by 2030 and put the world on track for a global temperature 2.5 °C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century.

4. **Jim Skea**, co-chair of Working Group III of the IPCC, building on the presentation by the secretariat on the emissions and implementation gap, stated that cost-effective mitigation options are available in all sectors that could be deployed immediately to put the world on the path towards closing those gaps. Moreover, these solutions have the potential to halve emissions from 2019 levels by 2030 and cost less than USD 100 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent.

5. **Hong-Thuy Paterson**, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), presented the various areas where the GCF was supporting the implementation of countries' NDCs in order to highlight implementation taking place on the ground. She highlighted a GCF multi-country project which was successfully supporting eight countries in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region to enhance their capacity to deploy renewable energy by mobilizing finance. This presentation was complemented by the presentation of Allassane Ba, General Director of the Environment and Sustainable Development Agency of the Ministry of Environment, Mali, who shared his country's experience as one of the beneficiaries of the GCF's multi-country project, of engaging with various partners and of enhancing collaboration to successfully facilitate implementation of mitigation action on the ground.

C. Round table discussion

6. Following the scene-setting presentations, the ministerial co-facilitators, H.E. Barbara Creecy and H.E. Dan Jannik Jørgensen, introduced the round table discussion.

7. They reminded participants of the guiding questions set by the COP27 Presidency, which were:

(a) What are the opportunities for increasing ambition and how can we capitalize on such opportunities to advance the implementation of NDCs and increase ambition?

(b) What are the barriers to accelerated implementation that are interlinked with increased ambition by Parties and how can we remove such barriers to ensure that we can implement action at the scale and speed needed to close the gap towards achieving the Paris Agreement goal?

(c) Is the operationalization of Article 4, paragraph 11, of the Paris Agreement, on updating NDCs, alone sufficient for achieving the mitigation goals envisaged by science and as agreed in decision 1/CMA.3? How would operationalizing other elements in Article 4, especially paragraph 5, and other relevant Articles of the Paris Agreement contribute to required outcomes for increasing ambition?

(d) How can we scale up implementation of mitigation ambition while ensuring a just transition that is in line with Parties' sustainable development priorities and targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable within the current global economic and political context?

(e) What do you see as the role of this round table and its linkage to the work programme for urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation and how can it help advance the ambition and implementation agenda?

8. The ministerial co-facilitators then opened the floor to the participants.

9. At the conclusion of the round-table discussion, the ministerial co-facilitators presented a brief summary of discussions. **Amr Osama Abdel-Aziz**, representing the COP 27 Presidency, then closed the first annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition, taking the opportunity to emphasize the key points on ambition and implementation made during the round table.
