



Summary of the informal consultation on preparations for the consideration of outputs component of the first global stocktake under the Paris Agreement

Informal note by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies

I. Introduction

1. The global stocktake is central to supporting Parties to the Paris Agreement in ratcheting up ambition and driving climate action and support. The stocktake, which will be carried out every five years, is an opportunity to take stock of collective progress in implementing the Paris Agreement, including achieving its purpose and long-term goals, in terms of mitigation, including response measures, adaptation, including loss and damage, and means of implementation and support, taking into account equity and on the basis of best available science. The outcomes of the global stocktakes will inform Parties' nationally determined contributions, including updates and enhancements to their actions and support, as well as facilitate enhanced international cooperation on climate action.

2. The Chairs of the subsidiary bodies were requested by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) to organize the global stocktake in a flexible and appropriate manner and to work on identifying opportunities for learning-by-doing.¹ This note summarizes the proceedings and discussions at the informal consultation on preparations for the consideration of output component.

3. The CMA decided that the global stocktake will consist of the following components:²

(a) **Information collection and preparation**, focusing on gathering, compiling and synthesizing information and preparing for conducting the technical assessment referred to in paragraph 3(b) below;

(b) **Technical assessment**, focusing on taking stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, as well as opportunities for enhanced action and support to achieve its purpose and goals;

(c) **Consideration of outputs**, focusing on discussing the implications of the findings of the technical assessment, with a view to achieving the outcome of the global stocktake of informing Parties in updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support, in accordance with relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, as well as in enhancing international cooperation for climate action.

4. The CMA also decided that the consideration of outputs component will consist of high-level events where the findings of the technical assessment will be presented and their implications discussed and considered by Parties, and that the events will be chaired by a high-level committee consisting of the Presidencies of the CMA and the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies.³

¹ Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 16.

² Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 3.

³ Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 33.

5. It further decided that the outputs of this component of the global stocktake should:⁴
 - (a) Identify opportunities for and challenges in enhancing action and support for collective progress in relation to the thematic areas of the global stocktake (mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and support, response measures and loss and damage), as well as possible measures and good practices and international cooperation and related good practices;
 - (b) Summarize key political messages, including recommendations arising from the events referred to in paragraph 4 above for strengthening action and enhancing support;
 - (c) Be referenced in a decision for consideration and adoption by the CMA and/or a declaration.
6. At their fifty-seventh sessions (SB 57), the subsidiary bodies took the following action to support the consideration of outputs component in 2023:⁵
 - (a) Invited submissions by 15 February 2023 on views on the approach to the consideration of outputs component;
 - (b) Requested their Chairs to hold an intersessional consultation, taking into account the submissions referred to in paragraph 6(a) above, on preparations for the consideration of outputs component;
 - (c) Invited the high-level committee referred to in paragraph 4 above to provide an update during SB 58 on progress in planning their high-level events;
 - (d) Requested their Chairs to convene an intersessional in-person workshop in October 2023 to develop elements for the consideration of outputs component, to inform the work of the joint contact group of the SBs on matters related to the global stocktake.

II. Proceedings

7. The consultation was conducted as a two-day hybrid event, with the in-person element taking place in Bonn from 27 to 28 April 2023.⁶
8. The informal consultation was co-chaired by Nabeel Munir (the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation) and Harry Vreuls (the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice), who opened the informal consultation workshop with welcoming remarks. This was followed by a presentation by the co-facilitators of the technical dialogue under the global stocktake, Harald Winkler (South Africa) and Farhan Akhtar (United States of America), who provided an overview of the status of work under the technical dialogue, and a presentation by the secretariat on the submissions received pursuant to paragraph 6(a) above. The secretariat also outlined the proceedings for the informal consultation to set the scene for participants.
9. Facilitated discussions took place over the course of the two-day informal consultation, which concluded with a summary by the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, reflections by Mohamed Nasr (Egypt), a representative of the COP 27 Presidency, and Hana AlHashimi (United Arab Emirates), a representative of the incoming COP 28 Presidency, and closing remarks by Simon Stiell, the UNFCCC Executive Secretary.

III. Summary of discussions

10. The Chairs of the subsidiary bodies invited Parties and non-Party stakeholders to express their views on the following areas, with the aid of guiding questions, which served to guide the focus of the discussions at the consultation. Participants thanked the Chairs and the secretariat for the information note⁷ prepared in advance of the consultation, which

⁴ Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 34.

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2022/20, paras. 52–54, and FCCC/SBSTA/2022/10, paras. 30–32.

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/event/global-stocktake-april-consultation>.

⁷ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/GST_Info%20note_April_Consultations_20230425.pdf.

synthesized submissions of views received,⁸ and expressed their agreement with the approaches identified therein.

A. Timeline and scope of activities for the consideration of outputs

11. The discussions were guided by the following questions:

(a) What is the most efficient overall timeline for implementing activities under the consideration of outputs component that would allow for a smooth transition from the technical to the political phase of the global stocktake?

(b) What could be a logical sequence of those activities?

(c) How can we make best use of high-level events under and outside the UNFCCC process, including the United Nations Secretary-General Climate Ambition Summit, with a view to ensuring an ambitious outcome for the global stocktake?

1. Transition from the technical to the political phase of the global stocktake

12. Participants called for a strengthening of international cooperation to facilitate a smooth transition to the consideration of outputs component, with a logical sequencing of events, with some asking for the component to be viewed as a connection between the technical and the political phases. Some Parties believe in building political momentum through both “inside” and “outside” events, while others think referring to “outside” events in decision-making will undermine the UNFCCC process.

13. There was also a call for the continuation of an open and transparent stocktake process, without prejudging the outcome of the technical assessment phase before it has been concluded. The third and final meeting of the dialogue is scheduled to take place at SB 58, with all related documents and draft texts to be shared as soon as possible thereafter.

14. With regard to the timing of the synthesis report of the technical dialogue, a number of participants requested that this be made available well in advance of the workshop referred to in paragraph 6(d) above so as to ensure sufficient time for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to exchange views, create shared expectations and deliver on substantive outcomes.

15. Most participants highlighted the importance of the continued participation of non-Party stakeholders in the global stocktake process, in the transition from the technical assessment component to the consideration of outputs component, and beyond that into implementation.

16. Participants stressed the need for the consideration of outputs component to be comprehensive but focused and concise, be both backward- and forward-looking, reflect all thematic areas of the global stocktake, be applicable to all levels of governance and real-world situations, and address issues of equity, just transition and the right to development, while respecting differing national circumstances.

2. Joint contact group at the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the subsidiary bodies

17. With regard to the joint contact group at SB 58, some participants expressed the need to have substantive work on the GST outcome start as soon as possible to secure ownership and buy-in of the outcome, including its subsequent implementation. Other participants, however, would prefer to wait for the technical assessment component to be concluded before commencing any substantive discussions. Others suggested further elaborating on guidance for the technical dialogue’s synthesis report and the structure and format of the global stocktake outcome.

18. Many Parties suggested inviting submissions of views ahead of the workshop referred to in paragraph 6(d) above from both Parties and non-Party stakeholders, which could be framed by the guiding questions from the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies for the consideration

⁸ See chap. II of the information note referred to in footnote 7 above.

of outputs component. It was further suggested that these views could be synthesized by the Chairs, with the support of the secretariat, in the form of an information note in advance of the workshop, addressing such areas as:

- (a) Implications of the findings of the technical assessment;
- (b) What ambition means for different countries/regions and how it is interpreted;
- (c) The possible content of a CMA decision;
- (d) Possible elements of a political declaration.

3. October workshop

19. Many participants stressed that, in line with the mandate from SB 57, the workshop referred to in paragraph 6(d) above should result in the development of elements for a CMA decision on the global stocktake. Some participants suggested that the co-facilitators of the technical dialogue kick off the workshop with a presentation of their synthesis report.

20. The results of this workshop could then inform the considerations of the high-level committee and feed into the work of the global stocktake joint contact group at SB 59.

4. High-level events before and during the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

21. Several participants recognized the value of promoting the global stocktake at informal non-UNFCCC high-level events provided these do not prejudice the outcome of the global stocktake. Such events could build momentum towards COP 28, allow for the engagement of senior policymakers, raise awareness, socialize key messages from the synthesis report and foster the development of shared expectations for the political phase of the first global stocktake. Others highlighted the value of holding regional high-level events to focus on regional needs and constraints.

22. Some participants highlighted that the UNFCCC's primary role as the de facto multilateral platform for international discussions and decision-making on climate change continues to be respected.

23. Other participants mentioned using high-level events prior to COP 28 to advance discussions in relation to the global stocktake and its outcome – which the high-level committee should have a role in coordinating – such as at the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Ambition Summit, the regional climate weeks in the latter half of this year and the pre-COP. Additional suggestions were having the co-facilitators of the technical dialogue share the results of the dialogue with ministers at high-level events as a springboard for discussions.

24. Many participants, while seeing the value of building momentum towards the conclusion of the global stocktake process at CMA 5, expressed a preference to have the bulk of related high-level events take place at COP 28 and CMA 5, as envisioned in decision 19/CMA.1, and for them to be combined with other thematic high-level events, with a view to ensuring inclusiveness given that not all Parties would be able to attend non-UNFCCC events. In keeping with the way in which the technical assessment has been structured, participants suggested keeping the three thematic pillars (mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and support) for any high-level event as well as including the key messages from the technical dialogue.

25. A further suggestion was to move the high-level events to the middle of the sessions, after the work of the subsidiary bodies has been concluded, as this would give Party delegates time to focus on the negotiations before refocusing on their ministers and heads of State.

B. Mapping of and roles in the consideration of outputs

1. Chairs of the subsidiary bodies

26. Many participants recalled that, in line with decision 19/CMA.1, the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies are tasked with issuing guiding questions for each component of the global stocktake one session ahead of the start of that component. Hence, some proposed that the Chairs issue their guiding questions for the consideration of outputs phase at SB 58, while others expressed a preference to wait for the delivery of the synthesis report on the technical assessment so that it can adequately inform the process to be followed and thus the work of the high-level committee. Some participants asked for a draft round of questions to be issued by the Chairs at SB 58 which Parties could then provide input on.

2. Joint contact group

27. Participants thought that the global stocktake joint contact group should set expectations for the rest of the year, focusing on identifying the substantive elements of the output, with a view to developing the basis of a draft negotiated decision and/or political declaration at SB 58 and continuing this work at SB 59 in time for consideration at CMA 5.

28. Any discussions on the format of the outcome that the joint contact group may have at SB 58 should not prejudge the substantive outcomes and key messages of the technical assessment, which will only become clear once that phase been concluded and the factual synthesis report published; such discussions could be held at the workshop referred to in paragraph 6(d) above.

3. High-level committee

29. Many Parties were of the view that the high-level committee should schedule and coordinate attendance at global stocktake related high-level events. This would help to ensure consistency and harmonization across events happening under and outside the UNFCCC and to identify the format they should take in order to best be able to contribute towards discussions on the global stocktake.

30. Participants also acknowledged the crucial role of the high-level committee in moving the political outcome forward, as well as in joining up the dots between various events and discussions and sharing all information throughout the final phase of the global stocktake to ensure transparency.

31. According to some participants and in line with decision 19/CMA.1, the high-level committee has a further role in terms of summarizing key political messages from the high-level events for strengthening action and enhancing support.

4. Presidencies

32. The current and incoming COP Presidencies were encouraged to continue conducting informal consultations with Parties and non-Party stakeholders to consider elements of the outcome of the global stocktake.

33. The COP Presidencies pledged to continue working closely with Parties and the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to deliver an outcome that is aligned with the expectations of Parties and respects the goals and purpose of the Paris Agreement.

5. High-level champions and non-Party stakeholders

34. While recognizing the need for the process to remain Party-driven, most participants called for the continued engagement and participation of non-Party stakeholders throughout the political phase at the workshop referred to in paragraph 6(b) above, at CMA 5 and beyond.

35. Participants recognized the importance of the contributions from non-Party stakeholders for the successful delivery of the first global stocktake.

6. Other workstreams

36. Parties called for greater synergy between the global stocktake and other workstreams, such as the Sharm el-Sheikh mitigation ambition and implementation work programme and the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation, suggesting that the Presidencies hold more intersessional meetings on this issue.

C. Format of the outcome

37. Participants emphasized that the content of the outcome should be both forward- and backward-looking, comprehensive, holistic, realistic and achievable, and should highlight the opportunities and challenges related to closing both ambition and implementation gaps.

38. Additionally, participants stressed that the content should be clear and refer to the main pillars of mitigation (including response measures), adaptation (including loss and damage) and means of implementation in the light of equity and the best available science, while others highlighted the benefits of adopting a systems or sectoral approach, especially relating to systems transformation. Some also stressed that, whatever decision is prepared should respect human and Indigenous Peoples rights, and ensure that no one is left behind on the path to development.

39. Many participants were of the view that a CMA decision on the global stocktake would be sufficient to demonstrate political willingness and momentum. Some participants also called for a political declaration that would speak to all stakeholders and enhance the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

40. Some participants called for a technical annex to the decision or political declaration that would comprise a menu of options that Parties and non-Party stakeholders could draw from to advance and scale up climate action. Some thought that the summary reports from the first two technical dialogue meetings should form part of the technical annex.

41. Most participants expressed their support for the technical dialogue co-facilitators to develop a technical annex organizing information compiled over the past few months, ensuring greater accessibility for Parties and non-Party stakeholders, and could see the potential for a digital version that would increase the utility of such an annex.

42. Some concerns were raised about the feasibility of having a technical annex, which would need to be negotiated and may represent a duplication of efforts at a time when resources are constrained.

D. Follow-up process

43. Many participants mentioned the need for a follow-up on the outcomes of the global stocktake, which should not involve creating new mechanisms but make use of existing ones, such as the nationally determined contribution process, the enhanced transparency framework and the process for biennial transparency reports, as well as the high-level meetings planned in 2024 and 2025 to discuss the new round of nationally determined contributions and raising ambition. Many also stressed the importance of continuing to follow up with non-Party stakeholders and ensure regional engagement on the global stocktake.

44. A number of participants also noted that the first global stocktake should not only serve as an assessment of progress made so far, but also provide clear and adequate tools for conducting monitoring and ensuring accountability, thus facilitating international cooperation and serving as a benchmark for subsequent global stocktakes.